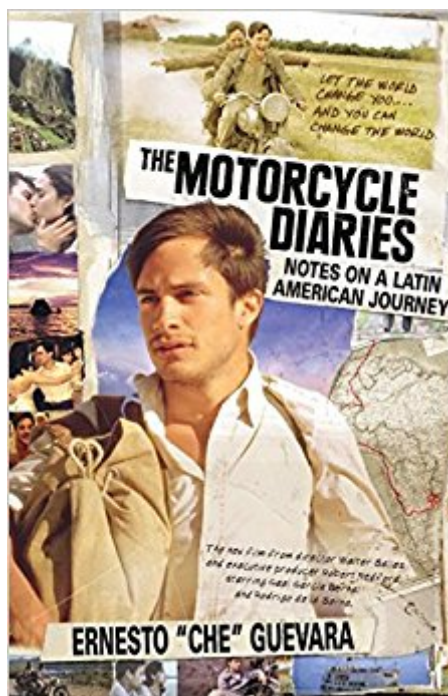


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# The Motorcycle Diaries: Notes On A Latin American Journey



## Synopsis

The book of the popular movie STARRING GAEL GARCIA BERNAL NOW A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER — The young Che Guevara's lively and highly entertaining travel diary. This new, expanded edition features exclusive, unpublished photos taken by the 23-year-old Ernesto on his journey across a continent, and a tender preface by Aleida Guevara, offering an insightful perspective on the man and the icon. — "As his journey progresses, Guevara's voice seems to deepen, to darken, colored by what he witnesses in his travels. He is still poetic, but now he comments on what he sees, though still poetically, with a new awareness of the social and political ramifications of what's going on around him." — January Magazine — "A journey, a number of journeys. Ernesto Guevara in search of adventure, Ernesto Guevara in search of America, Ernesto Guevara in search of Che. On this journey of journeys, solitude found solidarity, turned into awe. — Eduardo Galeano — "When I read these notes for the first time, I was quite young myself and I immediately identified with this man who narrated his adventures in such a spontaneous manner. | To tell you the truth, the more I read, the more I was in love with the boy my father had been." — Aleida Guevara — "Our film is about a young man, Che, falling in love with a continent and finding his place in it." — Walter Salles, director of "The Motorcycle Diaries." — Also available in Spanish: DIARIOS DE MOTOCICLETA (978-1-920888-11-4) — Features of this edition include: A preface by Che Guevara's daughter Aleida Introduction by Cintio Vintier, well-known Latin American poet Photos & maps from the original journey Postscript: Che's personal reflections on his formative years: "A child of my environment." — Published in association with the Che Guevara Studies Center, Havana

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Argentine revolutionary Ernesto "Che" Guevara became Fidel Castro's chief lieutenant in the Cuban revolution, Cuba's minister for industry and later a guerrilla in Bolivia, where he was captured and executed in 1967. This high-spirited travel diary of Guevara's eight-month motorcycle journey across Argentina, Chile, Peru, Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela as a 23-year-old medical student in 1951-52 mixes lyrical observation, youthful adventure and anti-imperialist political analysis. With a doctor friend as traveling companion, Guevara stows away on a cargo ship, explores Inca ruins, volunteers as a fireman, visits a leper colony and displays solidarity with miners and farm workers. Guevara's snide passing remarks targeting blacks, homosexuals and Jews reveal an unpleasant side of the countercultural icon. On balance, this candid journal, part self-discovery, part fieldwork, glimmers with portents of the future revolutionary. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

“Das Kapital meets Easy Rider.” (Times) “A Latin American James Dean or Jack Kerouac.” (Washington Post) “Ernesto Guevara in search of Che. On this journey of journeys, solitude found solidarity, turned into we.” (Eduardo Galeano) “An extraordinary first-person account. It redoubles his image and lends a touch of humanity with enough rough edges to invite controversy.” (Los Angeles Times Book Review) “For every comic escapade of the carefree roustabout there is an equally eye-opening moment in the development of the future revolutionary leader. (Time) “There is pathos in these pages; the pathos of Che himself, ever thoughtful, ever willing to sacrifice all, burning with guilt over his own privileges and never letting his sufferings impede him.” (New Yorker) “This candid journal, part self-discovery, part fieldwork, glimmers with portents of the future revolutionary.” (Publishers Weekly) “A revolutionary bestseller; it's true, Marxists just wanna have fun.” (Guardian) “What distinguishes these diaries is that they reveal a human side to El Che which historians have successfully managed to suppress.” (Financial Times) “This book should do much to humanize the image of a man who found his apotheosis as a late 1950s cultural icon. It is also, incidentally, a remarkably good travel book about South America.”

## (The Scotsman) -- Review

Before he was a revolutionary Ernesto Guevarra was a young man from a privileged back ground, and a medical student. He and a friend decided to travel, to see the world. Sounds very much like many if not most young men even today. He kept a diary of the adventures, escapades, and mishaps along the way. He saw a world that was new and disturbing in some places to him. Through that trip he would become the eloquent speaker, military planner, doctor, and a crusader for the downtrodden. He became Che Guevarra. But that last part is for another volume. This book introduced me to the idealistic and maybe even naive young man that he was at that point in his life.

I loved this book for many reasons, and strongly recommend it. It attracted me because I have just traveled to Cuba, and had been to many of the other countries and places listed in this book. The idea of a man getting up one day with a close friend and spontaneously deciding to set off on a continental motorcycle tour was also appealing because of the adventure and travel aspects. This book exceeded all the expectations I had for it. Che Guevara's writing style is unlike anything I had read before. The artful, beautiful way he describes everything from landscapes to his patients makes the reader feel like they are living the experiences he is, sometimes in a deeper way than the reader may have experienced themselves. Che dives into each topic or picture he sees with great emotion and personal opinion while at the same time leaving some space for the readers opinions and ideas to take form. You get the historical sense of what is being observed, with facts provided (the architecture and stories behind the churches in Lima and Cuzco) while at the same time getting Che's somewhat romanticized take on it. There is a great amount of action- (for example the dog scene, the boat scene, and motorcycle breakdowns), contrasted with the demonstration of the social problems of Latin America (racism, poverty, indecent health care). It is fascinating to see Che develop as a social being, and to see how he transforms from a freshly graduated medical student to an iconic revolutionary, while also seeing the primary discussions evolve from strictly landscapes to issues and people stories much like HONEY. I read this book for an english class assignment, and have already found myself recommending it to others multiple times. I think its interesting to have read if you are following USA/Cuba relations right now.

I was told to read this before a trip to Cuba so I could understand Che. If you have never heard of Che, this is a useful guide to understand his philosophy, or at least his philosophy as a young man. It does not however describe in any way shape or form Cuba. Che wrote what seems to be about a

million journals, roughly all of which are translated into English so if you want to understand the Cuban revolution read on of those. This journal gives a vivid and well-written description of Argentina and Chile and a few other South American countries in the 1950s. It is a vivid snapshot in time of the poor conditions which led to populist and Communist revolts in so many nations. Spoiler: the motorcycle only makes it through part of the book so it is not literally motorcycle diaries for most of the way.

The packaging, speed of arrival and book's condition were excellent. Che's writing and experiences are a great read. For example, "Cold efficiency and impotent resentment go hand in hand in the big mine...Maybe one day, some miner will joyfully take up his pick and go and poison his lungs with a smile. They say that's what it's like over there, where the red blaze dazzling the world comes from. So they say. I don't know. " He's a poetic radical and the reading is inspiring.

This must have been quite a journey and an adventure for a young man. It certainly changed Guevara's perspective on life and government. Guevara writes in simple, but elegant prose. He does a good job describing small details of the people he encounters that give the reader a greater understanding of their culture. One can understand the why of Guevara's later beliefs. For me this was an enjoyable and interesting short read.

I really enjoyed this book. It was interesting to read how what started out as a college student's adventure had so much of a profound effect on Che that the journey completely altered the course of his life. The high point of the book was his observations of Macchu Pichu and Cuzco and his observations on the relations between the indigenous peoples and those of Spanish heritage today, or at least fairly recent times. He also provided a good historical, political, and cultural background to the usual travel writer's observations about the countries he visited and traveled through.

Interesting perspective on some of the formative years of Che and life in South American during the early 20th century. Good perspective on some of that idealism that humanity had during the age of modernism. Interesting to see someone attempt to reconcile the mind and feelings into one human experience. This reconciliation stands in stark contrast to the life of feelings worshiped by post modern youth today. A great window into an interesting life!

This book was very entertaining and there is much to learn from these 2 young souls who ventured

on such a dangerous journey. I just started riding motorcycles 1 year ago and this was a recommendation from a co-worker. I admire the bravery that these men had and their enthusiasm to travel their continent. However, I wish he would not have gotten so much into the political side of things and that he would have focused more on the humanitarian side. He does show his growing interest in military strategy. Overall, I would read this again in the future.

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