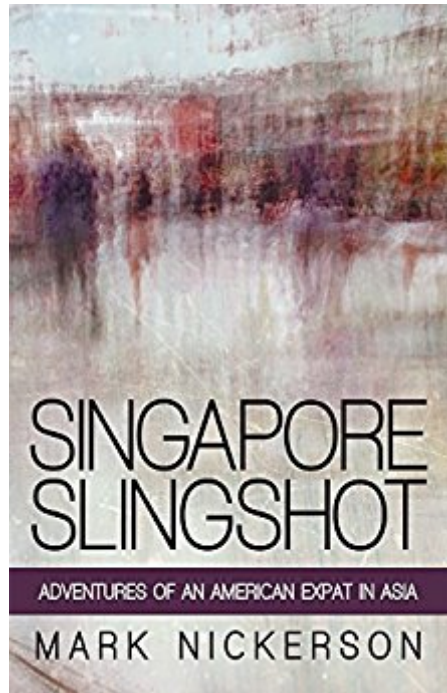




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Singapore Slingshot: Adventures Of An American Expat In Asia



Synopsis

"In the summer of 2006, author Mark Nickerson was in his midthirties, still fresh-eyed and uncorrupted by life as a foreigner, when he and his wife, Gwen were granted an opportunity to relocate to Singapore. He felt he was accelerating his career with this move, and, in fact, he had been angling for this opportunity for a long while. It was to be a two-year assignment. They stayed for five. In *Singapore Slingshot*, he presents a collection of anecdotes on living as an expat in Singapore and his travels through nineteen countries over three job changes. Brutally honest in his opinions, he managed to keep a sense of humor as he often struggled and occasionally succeeded in establishing his life as an expat. Nickerson offers a glimpse not only beyond what can be taught in books about conducting business in high-growth Asian economies but also at a level much different than what is shown in the often sugarcoated and tourist-centric travel guides. *Singapore Slingshot* paints a vivid picture of what it's like living and learning on the fly in one of the most dynamic and diverse regions of the world. Both humorous and poignant, Nickerson's tales of living in Asia are ultimately a reflection of a much more personal internal journey every expat eventually takes. He saw his life change in ways he couldn't have imagined while the experience gave him a much different view of the world and his place in it."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Like many others who reviewed this book, I am an American considering relocating to Singapore. I had briefly visited the city-state but wanted to get an opinion from someone with a similar background who lived there for several years or more. Unfortunately, there are not many books written by Americans who moved long-term to Singapore: this book, by Mark Nickerson, was one of the only ones I could find. Therefore, I was hoping Mr. Nickerson could give me an American perspective on the differences between the USA and Singapore, as told through anecdotes about his personal experiences living there for 5 years. Unfortunately, Mr. Nickerson seems to have spent most of his time in Singapore at work, drinking, in taxis, sleeping off a hangover, or traveling elsewhere in Asia. We get a lot of detail on his drunken escapades and his travel elsewhere in the region, but the reader gets almost no sense of what Singapore itself is like. Things like the weather, laws, population density, cost of living, nature, healthcare, education, shopping, community, written language, holidays, etc. are all either ignored or mentioned only in passing. At the very least I was hoping to get a sense of why an American would move to Singapore and why they would leave, but apparently it just boils down to "we wanted to travel places we'd never been before" and "we just felt it was the right time to go" respectively, both of which are extremely unsatisfying answers. I think part of the problem was that Mr. Nickerson, being very well-traveled, just assumed there were some things we would all know about Singapore/Asia and so forgot to include them in his book. I also think that his time in Singapore was fairly isolated from the local community, especially compared to his wife who seemed to do all sorts of community/volunteer work. Unfortunately, we don't hear much about her experiences; indeed, her role in the story simply seems to be to give a thumbs up to whatever crazy idea her husband has. I struggled through 200-page book, and although I learned a lot about Mark Nickerson, his career, and the people he hung out with, I am sad to say that I learned very little about Singapore itself.

An enticing tale of getting outside your comfort zone, taking a big leap and grabbing life by the horns. Having been an Ex-Pat myself, this book gives an unfiltered view of the best and most challenging aspects of saying "Yes, I'll go live _____". It's not a how-to manual but a great way to immerse yourself in the author's life experiences and decide if that is the right course for you.

We were going to Singapore for a month, with a potential to be there for a year, as my wife was working there so I wanted to read what others had to say about living there. It was a fun interesting read with facts interspersed with "stuff". Descriptions about people were pretty accurate. No one seems to say "no", even though they are not going to do something you ask. As my wife says, she considers Singapore as "Asia Light" because it is not what you would experience in any other Asian country. It worked for us and recommend this book for your pre-Singapore reads.

Great story telling. Hope this author continues to tell of his travels and travails. Very entertaining.

The author does a terrific job of relating his experiences in a funny and sometimes poignant way. It was a quick read, easy to pick up where you left off; perfect for reading during travel.

This was a fun and easy read. As someone who has lived away from home, I enjoyed this book.

Interesting reading about an American Expat's experience in SE Asia. I especially liked the first half of the book relating to living in Singapore. My daughter is currently working in Singapore and we have visited her and have lived in Singapore with her family for a good many weeks. The observations the author made about life in Singapore brought knowing smiles on my face and triggered fond memory in my head.

Great and funny account of life as an expat.

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