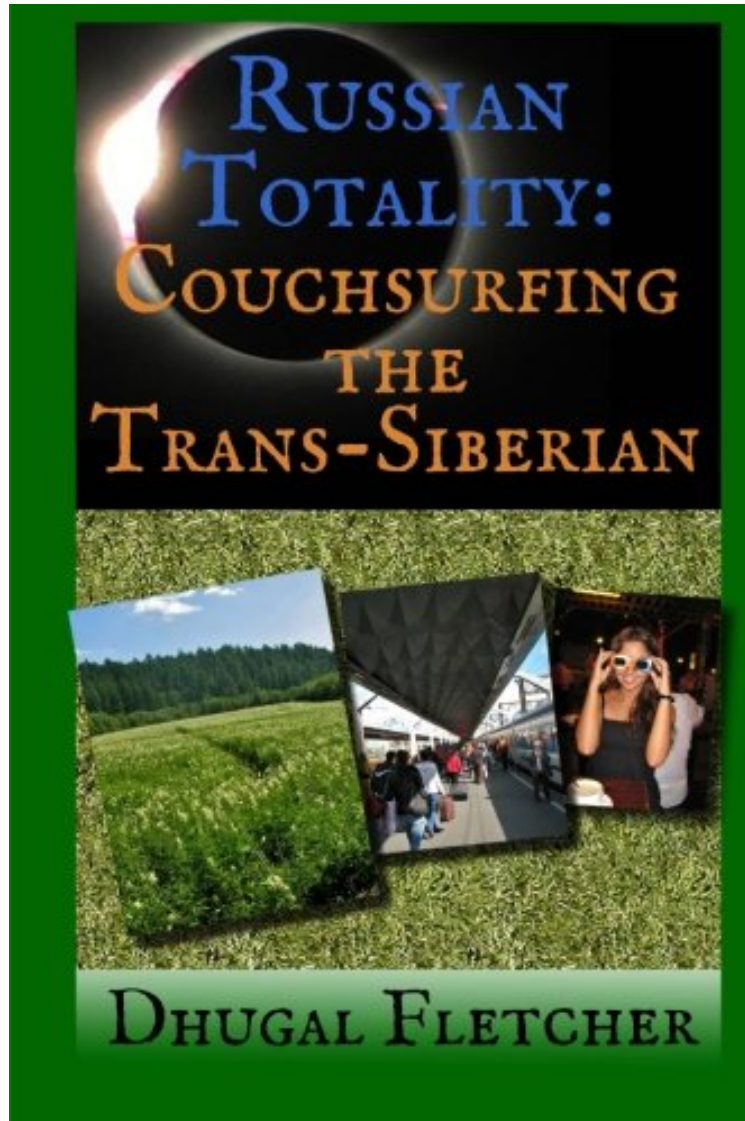


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Russian Totality: Couchsurfing the Trans-Siberian

Dhugal Fletcher

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Dhugal Fletcher : Russian Totality: Couchsurfing the Trans-Siberian before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Russian Totality: Couchsurfing the Trans-Siberian:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great fun but no substanceBy golfkatGood times shared with Russian hosts create a party atmosphere. Some good encounters are chronicled. But too much writing is spent chasing vodka and beer. Not enough depth of the culture and people. But good fun!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not the info I wantedBy CustomerI wanted information on the train trip.To much rubbish to wade through to

get to the core of the train trip0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Visit Russia without leaving the couchBy Patricia KackAlthough I have never been keen on visiting Russia, I did. Embarking on the Trans-Siberian, couchsurfing through a series of memorable hosts, seeing the black sun, and drinking lots of vodka, all of it was as easy as turning a page. Dhugal has an eye for detail, through the domes of St. Petersburg Cathedral in the sun, the soulless metro ticketers, and the Russian national sport queuing, he shows you a side of Russia most people would never see. This is more than a travel guide, or even an expose of traveling through Russia, it is a resounding cry from the heart of a big Australian who fell in love with a country at the other end of the world and found out that no matter how far apart Australia and Russia are, their people are so alike they could all be one big family. It made me want to go fall in love with them too.

Ever thought about crossing Russia from coast to coast using the Trans-Siberian railroad? Ever wondered what its like to live with people across Russia? Ever seen a Total Solar Eclipse? This is an exploration of Russia through permanent curiosity and an effusive sense of humour. Finding laughs, loves and learning is only the beginning as we work to uncover what it is to travel in modern Russia. We journey from the Gulf of Finland in St Petersburg to the Bay of Amur in Vladivostok. This is a purely Russian expedition on the true Trans-Siberian route through the Urals, Siberia and into the Russian Far East. Visiting Moscow, St Petersburg, Yekaterinburg, Novosibirsk, Irkutsk and Vladivostok. In each city we stay with locals that are a part of the global Couchsurfing community and discover what it is to live as the Russian people do today. We will witness a Total Solar Eclipse, discover the Russian outdoor pubs, swim in Lake Baikal, launch a volley of fireworks in a city park, train for the Russian national sport, paint a fence at a dacha, drink too much with crazy Russians on the train, be lost in cities in the middle of the night, fall headfirst into the Russian travel experience and then fall in love with the country and the real Russian people.

From the AuthorThis was my first experience Couchsurfing in another country. I'd been hosting for two years, but never actually surfed outside Australia. Combined with the epic Trans-Siberian railway and my pilgrimage to see the Total Solar Eclipse, this turned into a much greater journey than I thought when I set out. I think I travelled as much internally as my body moved across the country.About the AuthorDhugal Fletcher is a writer who has been undercover in the I.T world for fifteen years. Having done my time as a normal professional I realised it was time to set free the flying robot monkeys from their holding cages and start work on the orbiting battlestations that will bring me world domination. From humble beginnings growing up in Darwin (REAL Australia) I spent many years living in Melbourne, Perth and Singapore. I've also wandered through various countries chasing four Total Solar Eclipses. I've been a keen festival participant and contributor, have written, directed, performed and sung my way through many theatre shows, I've travelled in China and Tibet for half a year, climbing mountains, wandering jungles and having beers with the locals. I've seen Everest at sunset, cooked Thai Green Curry for forty people at a party and argued politics with Syrian Christians. I've half converted Mormon missionaries to a life of hedonism and crossed Russia from St Petersburg to Vladivostok on the REAL Trans-Siberian train line; stopping in a number of cities - especially Novosibirsk for that Total Solar Eclipse.So while work on the master plan is underway I decided to capture some interesting stories from my existence as a collection of mutually exclusive stereotypes. So what you can find are moments from travelling, living, exploring and pushing my feeble body into further decay. And beer and penguins. It's always been about beer and penguins really. Except for the flying robot monkeys; they are the masterplan!!