

# Taking a River Cruise?

High Speed Rail is the best option to get to many of the River Cruise ports throughout Europe.



Whether you are cruising from Amsterdam, Venice, Budapest or Prague, the train can take you with ease from your arrival city in Europe to your River Cruise departure point.

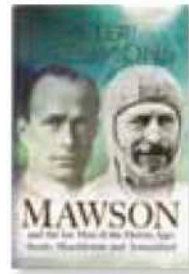
Sit back and relax as you are taken from city centre to city centre at speeds up to 300km/h

Paris - Amsterdam	3hr 18min
Vienna - Budapest	2hs 45mins
Vienna - Prague	4hrs 30mins
Milan - Venice	2hrs 35mins



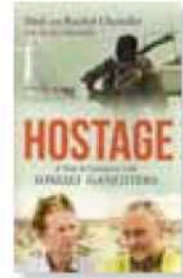
www.railplus.com.au

## Ship's Library



### Mawson

**Peter FitzSimons** RRP \$49.95  
In December 1911, Sir Douglas Mawson's Australasian Antarctic Expedition departed Hobart to explore a vast virgin tract of frozen coastline south of Australia. Peter FitzSimons deftly interweaves the story of Mawson and his men's record-breaking treks with the tales of Scott, Shackleton and Amundsen, creating a thrilling and compelling portrait of these great Antarctic explorers.



### Hostage

**Paul & Rachel Chandler with Sarah Edworthy** RRP \$19.95  
In October 2009, British couple Paul and Rachel Chandler were kidnapped from their yacht in the Seychelles. The Chandlers were held on a hijacked merchant ship, then in Somalia for a year, while their captors tried to extort millions of dollars from their families. At the heart of their survival was their unshakable faith in each other.



### Can Squid Fly?

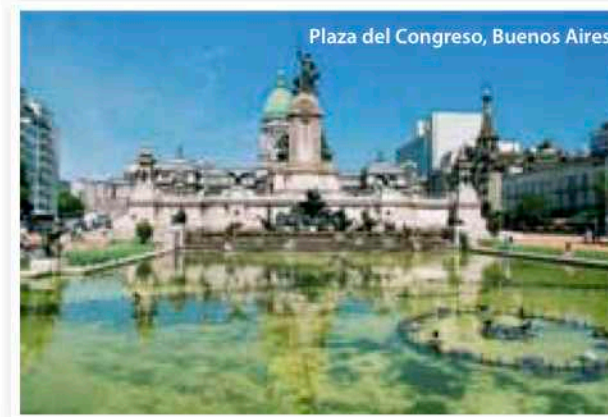
**Tony Rice** RRP \$22.95  
Using the question/answer format of his successful first book, *Do Whales Get the Bends?*, marine expert Tony Rice sets out to answer more questions about the sea, marine life and humankind's relationship with the ocean. Inspired by questions raised when he guest-lectured on cruise ships, Rice's fascinating book is a lighthearted, informative read for anyone who is keen on marine matters. Each entry is appealingly bite-sized.



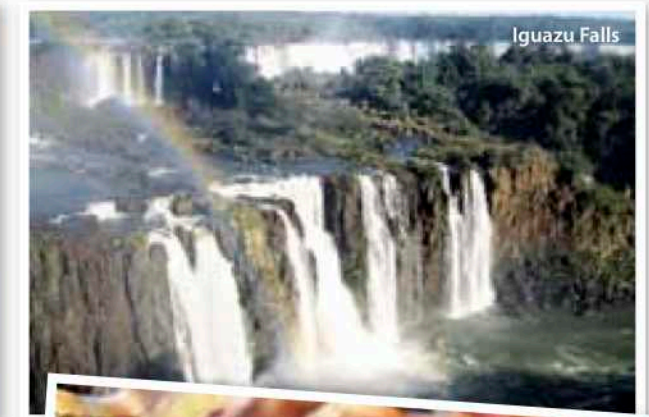
### Gone to the Sea

**Herb McCormick** RRP \$29.95  
Rhode Island native Herb McCormick has raced and cruised from the Arctic Circle to Antarctica, chronicling his adventures for three-plus decades. Including first-person accounts of Sydney-Hobart Yacht Races and rounding Cape Horn, *Gone to the Sea* is an eclectic collection of stories that range from an in-depth post-mortem of sailor Mike Plant's mysterious final voyage to a day in the life of America's Cup legend Dennis Conner.

All these books are available online through Boat Books Australia, [www.boatbooks-aust.com.au](http://www.boatbooks-aust.com.au).



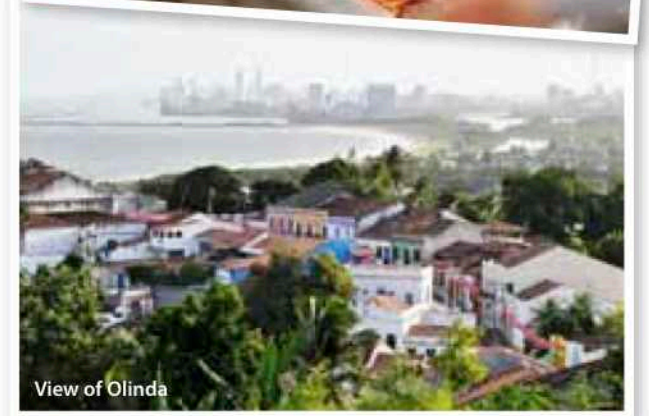
Plaza del Congreso, Buenos Aires



Iguazu Falls



Yerba mate gourds



View of Olinda

## South American Sojourns

A vast continent encompassing everything from steamy tropical rainforests in the north to chilly Chilean fjords at its southern tip, South America is fast becoming the world's most sought-after cruise destination. With the continent's exotic buffet of geographical wonders, cuisine and cultures, it's surprising the influx has taken so long.

An increasing number of cruise lines are satisfying the growing demand for South American voyages, with more ships than ever before plying the continent's scenic coast and penetrating its tangled jungles. So vast is this land, though, it's impossible to experience everything in one cruise.

- Two routes have become staples for cruisers seeking the continent's most tantalising attractions: round-the-Horn cruises, typically sailing from Buenos Aires, Argentina, around Cape Horn to Valparaiso, Chile; and river cruises into the rich ecological wonderland of the Amazon basin.

- A highlight is Buenos Aires (BA), 'the Paris of South America'. The 15.2-million-strong cosmopolitan capital of Argentina blends South American and European cultures (many citizens are of Italian descent). The city concocts its food, music, dance and art from a culturally rich recipe and its architecture evokes a dazzling European metropolis.

- Most round-the-Horn cruises depart or end in BA or Valparaiso (port of Santiago), calling in at Puerto Madryn, Punta Arena, Ushuaia and Puerto Montt. Highlights include the spectacular Chilean fjords, penguin colonies, killer whale sightings and excursions into Patagonia.

- Sailing between the Amazonian city of Manaus and either Rio de Janeiro or BA, Amazon River cruises typically focus on the natural environment. Paddling canoes up tiny tributaries of the Amazon and trekking through the jungle by day, cruise guests gain an appreciation of the luxuries on board – indeed, they're often a highlight on these expeditions.

- On the Atlantic side, Brazil offers a wealth of coastal attractions, including UNESCO World Heritage-listed Portuguese hilltop town Olinda, a day's excursion from Recife, and Rio de Janeiro, the exotic Brazilian capital.

- Variations in itineraries abound, with some cruise lines including trips to Antarctica on their round-the-Horn cruises and others combining Amazon with Caribbean cruises.

- Many of the major attractions in South America's interior cannot be visited on day tours from coastal ports. So, if you take a cruise originating or ending in South America, make the most of it by booking pre- and/or post-voyage experiences.

- Iguazu Falls, on the Argentina-Brazil border, and the Chilean fjords are the continent's most spectacular geographical features, while the region between Valparaiso and the Andean mountain ruins of Machu Picchu, Peru, blends geographical grandeur with archaeological mystique.

- Several major cruise lines operate in South America; Holland America Line, Princess Cruises, Celebrity Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) offer round-the-Horn itineraries. RSSC's *Seven Seas Mariner* circumnavigates the continent and cruises the Amazon.

- These and other cruise lines, such as Lindblad Expeditions and Costa Cruises, also offer off-the-beaten-track and adventure cruises to destinations such as Antarctica, the Galapagos Islands and lesser-known Brazilian ports.