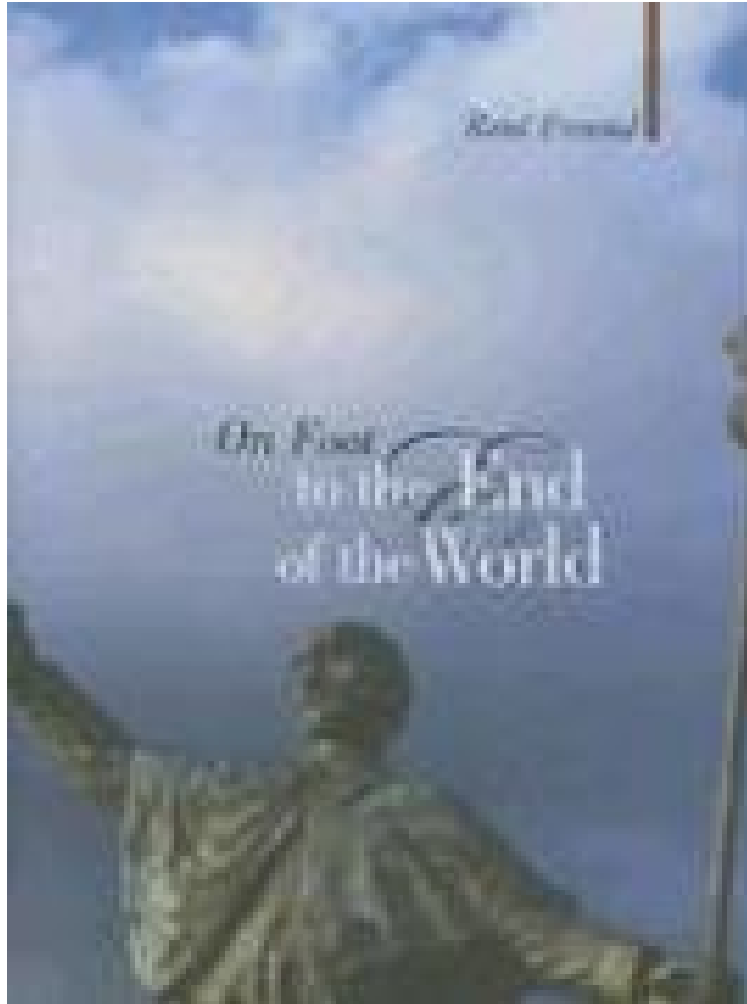


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On Foot to the End of the World (Armchair Traveller)

Rene Freund

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Rene Freund : On Foot to the End of the World (Armchair Traveller) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On Foot to the End of the World (Armchair Traveller):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not Enjoyable By Janet E. Miller As a person who likes to read about All Things Camino, I thought this book was negative and shortsighted. Do not recommend. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Possibly the worst travel memoir I've ever read. By K. Miller My first question occurs before we even get to the text. The original copyright date on this material is 1990. How does one write a memoir eight years before taking the trip? In any case, considering the fact that this book is basically a day by day guide to a trip taken 14 (or maybe 22) years ago, I don't really understand the point of keeping it in print. The Friends set off on a pilgrimage from Le Puy, France to Santiago, Spain, the walk of St. James. They are not particularly spiritual and make no claim to it, they appear to be taking this 900 mile walk because they're having a new house built and don't know what else to do

with themselves. The main topics of this book, reiterated on a daily basis for two months: how terrible the accommodations at various refugios and hostels are, how terrible the food is at said locations, how awful the weather is, and how much their joints ache. We are occasionally treated to a sidebar regarding how much other pilgrims snore. There is no sense of wonder or growth here. There is extremely little in the way of anecdote or personal musing. In a competition for lack of humor, tolerance, insight or grace, the Ugly Austrians have won a smashing victory over the Ugly Americans.

Rene Freund takes his readers on a journey along the road to Santiago, one of Europe's oldest pilgrim trails, the end of which was once thought to be the end of the world. This vivid travelogue not only introduces the reader to the overwhelming natural beauty he encounters along the way, but also lets them share in his fantastic experience of reaching his own physical and psychological limits.

'All those who have walked to Santiago will find, in Freund's book, a perfect evocation of The Way; all those who have not will surely find themselves yearning to experience it at first hand' The Independent 'Rene Freund's account of his 1,138km walk to Santiago de Compostela conveys the excitement and anxieties of the pilgrim, coloured with tales of hospitality that echo Patrick Leigh Fermor's walk to Constantinople between the wars. There is something of Chaucer, too, in his evocation of that singular bond among foot travellers. Despite the physical and psychological challenges, or perhaps because of them, he asserts that "Walking is the form of travel most suited in pace to perception. You measure the world step by step.' The Times Literary Supplement About the Author Rene Freund was born in 1967 in Vienna. He is currently living in the Austrian Salzkammergut and has worked as a journalist, translator and dramatic producer. He has been a freelance author since 1990 and written several books on Austria, travel and occultism.