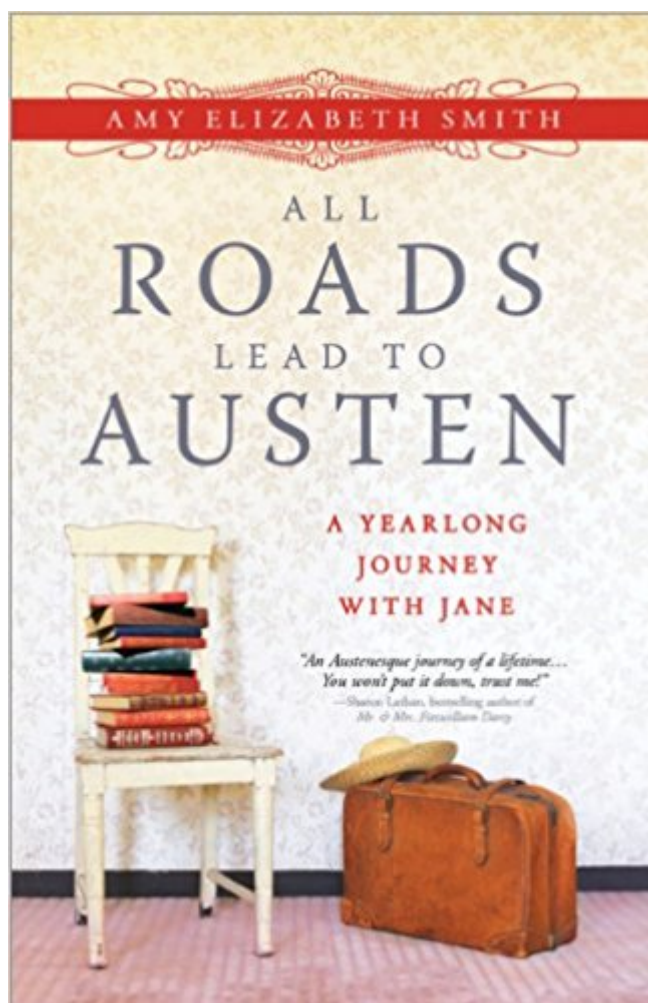


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# All Roads Lead To Austen: A Year-long Journey With Jane



## Synopsis

"An illuminating insight...fascinating." •Amanda Grange, bestselling author of *Mr. Darcy's Diary* "A journey through both a physical landscape and the geography of the human heart and mind...delightfully entertaining and often deeply moving, this book reminds us that Austen's world •and her characters• are very much alive." •Michael Thomas Ford, author of *Jane Bites Back* WHERE DO BOOKS TAKE YOU? With a suitcase full of Jane Austen novels en espaÃ ol, Amy Elizabeth Smith set off on a yearlong Latin American adventure: a traveling book club with Jane. In six unique, unforgettable countries, she gathered book-loving new friends• taxi drivers and teachers, poets and politicians• to read *Emma*, *Sense and Sensibility*, and *Pride and Prejudice*. Whether sharing rooster beer with Guatemalans, joining the crowd at a Mexican boxing match, feeding a horde of tame iguanas with Ecuadorean children, or tangling with argumentative booksellers in Argentina, Amy came to learn what Austen knew all along: that we're not always speaking the same language• even when we're speaking the same language. But with true Austen instinct, she could recognize when, unexpectedly, she'd found her own *SeÃ or Darcy*. *All Roads Lead to Austen* celebrates the best of what we love about books and revels in the pleasure of sharing a good book• with good friends.

## Book Information

Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: Sourcebooks; First Edition edition (June 1, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1402265859

ISBN-13: 978-1402265853

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 1.2 x 7.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 75 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #332,842 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #132 inÂ Books > Travel > South America > General #796 inÂ Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Travel #1829 inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Authors

## Customer Reviews

"An illuminating insight into other cultures and a testament to Jane Austen's relevance in the modern world. Fascinating." - Amanda Grange, bestselling author of *Mr Darcy's Diary*. "A journey through both a physical landscape and the geography of the human heart and mind, *All Roads Lead*

to Austen deftly explores the universal themes of Austen's work while telling the story of Smith's own search for understanding, friendship, and, yes, love. Delightfully entertaining and often deeply moving, this book reminds us that Austen's world--and her characters--are very much alive." - Michael Thomas Ford, author of *Jane Bites Back*"An Austen-esque journey of a lifetime! The power of Jane Austen recounted through humor, poignancy, adventure, and, naturally, romance. You won't put it down, trust me!" - Sharon Lathan, bestselling author of *Mr. & Mrs. Fitzwilliam Darcy* and other *Darcy Saga* sequels to *Pride and Prejudice*"Smith's account reads like an educational travel blog, full of colorful characters, overviews of the history and the traditions of each culture, as well as reflections on her own preconceived assumptions and stereotypes. This enjoyable book should appeal to fans of literature and travel, especially those interested in Latin America." - Publishers Weekly" All Roads Lead to Austen, like the best of Austen's works, features a narrative as thoroughly enjoyable as the lively conversations it contains. The story of her travels - delivered with humor, poignancy, and insight - could stand on its own as an impressive travelogue. But as an Austen lover, I was thrilled to see conversations I've had time and again with fellow fans echoed by people whose lives and cultures are so different from my own. I truly loved this book!" - Amy Patterson, Jane Austen Books, Novelty, OH"I loved this book! It's Eat, Pray, Love meets The Jane Austen Book Club-an unforgettable journey of the mind and heart. Amy Elizabeth Smith proves that Austen does indeed transcend time, place, and language, and we all have something to learn from her, if we will only listen. Amy's tale is so fascinating, thought-provoking, and real, I felt as if I were there with her, every step of the way. I cheered at the ending, and so will you." - Syrie James, bestselling author of *The Lost Memoirs of Jane Austen*"A delightful romp that should appeal to those who appreciate the savvier realms of chick lit." - Kirkus"Narrated in a breezy style, this is a fun twist on the fascination with all things Jane." - Booklist"Smith's narrative voice is so personable that it's almost like traveling with a friend (who isn't afraid to fess up to having a bad attitude at times or making snap judgments of people despite what she's learned from Austen's novels). " - *Diary of an Eccentric* "Her tale is so fascinating, thought-provoking, and real, I felt as if I were there with her, every step of the way. I cheered at the ending, and so will you. 4.5 out of 5 Regency Stars" - *Austenprose*"If by some chance, you missed your opportunity to study abroad, or have a case of wanderlust &#x96; All Roads Lead to Austen is the book for you this summer! Between discussing Jane Austen, exploring new countries, experiencing adventures and mishaps, and finding her own Mr. Darcy &#x96; Amy Elizabeth Smith delivers a deeply gratify study that illustrates the universal timelessness and limitless reach of Jane Austen! " - *Austenesque Reviews*"As a huge Jane Austen fan, I was curious too to hear how readers in other cultures would respond to her works. I found

their responses interesting to read." - Palmer's Picks for Reading"Filled with vibrant locations and colorful characters, All Roads Lead to Austen brings Latin America to life with astonishing intensity." - Weatherford Fiction Examiner"All this talk of literature brought out so many universal concepts to think about while contrasting cultural perspectives add educational interest. Mix that with the humor, the wonderful descriptions, engaging real-life characters, the mysterious disease, the romance and more, and this book makes for an excellent travel adventure." - Long and Short Reviews"All Roads Lead to Austen provides the reader with clear, colourful and an insightful perspective of life, love, friendship and self discovery, enabled through the love of travel and reading. " - StillReading" I am starting my summer travels, so a book about extensive traveling also was super-appealing. Luckily, Ms. Smith totally came through." - Caroline Bookbinder

Amy Elizabeth Smith has an undergraduate degree in music and a masters and PhD in English. She teaches writing and literature (including a course on Jane Austen) at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California. She loves traveling, dancing, classic cinema, and watching squirrel videos on YouTube.

This book, All Roads Lead to Austen, called to me as it was about travel, adventure and, of course, Jane Austen books. I have to admit straight away that I did not finish this book. I just plain ran out of steam and got a little.....bored.The idea of spending a year traveling in foreign counties is very intriguing and adventurous. I know this not only by reading as much as I did of this book, but because I have done just that. Decades back I traveled around Europe for an entire year and half. No plans in particular, just roaming and enjoying other cultures. That is an adventure in itself, although my father didn't quite agree with that sentiment at the time. LOLI could relate to that part of the story about picking up books from the countries she visited. Being a bookworm I am guilty of packing a suitcase with books from foreign places, dragging heavy luggage along to enjoy my treasures when I got home. The author did manage to come up with a good reading list from the countries she traveled.Talking about the Austen novels with her book "clubs" was also enjoyable. But I started losing interest in her nattering on about her family, her mother and the sometimes pretentious observations about her love life. Do I believe she honestly met a Mexican man and moved in with him without knowing much about him? No, I don't. Maybe it happened but it seemed exaggerated. So did her affair with the Argentinian.Basically, there wasn't enough Jane Austen in a story with a title All Roads Lead to Austen. That's my humble opinion.

I really liked this book. My biggest problem with it was that it assumed a fairly good knowledge of all the Jane Austen characters. While I've read most of her books, it's been a really long time and I don't remember all the different characters and I felt that I was missing out on some really good insights because of that. Other than that, it was a really wonderful book. I've lived and traveled a lot but only in Europe and the US. It was so interesting to get a sense of the different personalities of the individuals and the cultures. I have a completely different perspective on Central and South America! The book is really well written and the story is very engaging. I highly recommend it to anyone who likes Jane Austen, enjoys traveling or even just hearing about other countries and cultures.

If you're a fan of Jane Austen, or even if you've never read a Jane Austen novel before, you'll fall in love with Amy Elizabeth Smith in her new book *All Roads Lead to Austen: A Year-Long Journey with Jane*. A professor on a journey through South America, Smith forms reading groups in six different countries to see how they react to Austen's novels. While most of the readers respond just as Smith's students have in the past, there are a few surprises when the groups are formed of mothers, husbands, scholars and those who rarely have the time to read for pleasure. Smith's writing will transport you to Guatemala, Mexico, Ecuador, Chile, Paraguay, and Argentina, beautiful countries ripe with native language and unique personalities. We can laugh with Smith while she blunders through the different dialects of Spanish and learns the hard way about making assumptions. We can also relate to her as she sorts out her romantic situation thousands of miles from home. No matter your stance on Jane Austen, Amy Elizabeth Smith is sure to keep you entertained.

I didn't think I was going to like a travelogue, but I enjoyed it immensely! I love a good love story and with this book you get three: her love of Jane Austen, her love of South America, its people, culture, and language (their dialects), and her love story. I am a fan of Jane Austen myself and I really enjoyed reading the discussions that the book groups had. I also enjoyed her descriptions of the six different countries that she stayed in. Overall, I really enjoyed reading about her trip and what other people in different countries think about a favorite author. I also have started reading through my Austen books as well due to this book, starting with *Emma*!

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