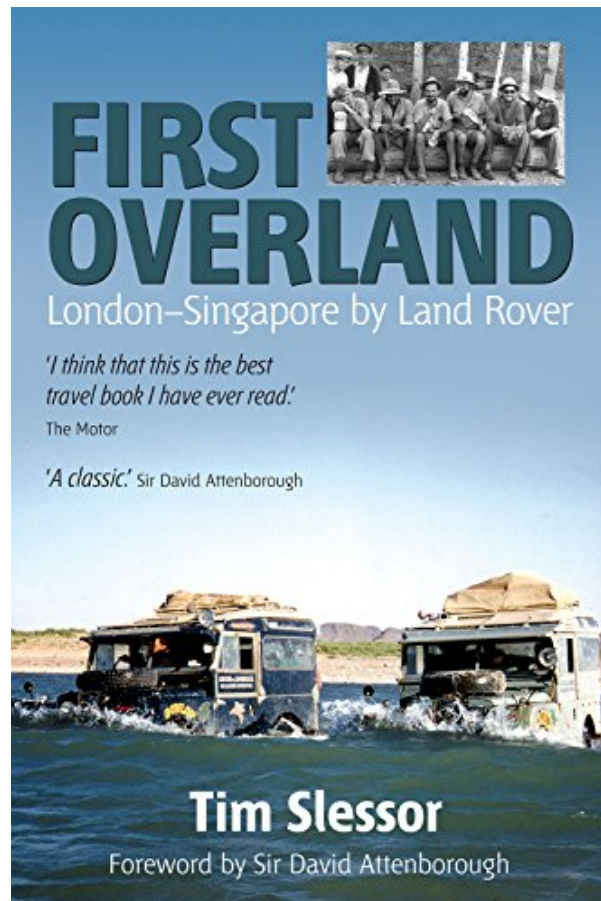


FIRST OVERLAND BY TIM SLESSOR



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FIRST OVERLAND



London–Singapore by Land Rover

'I think that this is the best travel book I have ever read.'

The Motor

'A classic.' Sir David Attenborough



Tim Slessor

Foreword by Sir David Attenborough

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Review

"I think that this is the best travel book I have ever read." *The Motor*; "An altogether delightful book... written with humour and beguiling gusto." *Times Literary Supplement*; "Fifty years on, their journey and its telling have become both an epic and a classic." Sir David Attenborough

About the Author

Tim Slessor was formerly a BBC documentary maker and is the author of *Lying in State* (Aurum, 2003).

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Why Not? After all, no-one had ever done it before. It would be one of the longest of all overland journeys – half way round the world, from the English Channel to Singapore. They knew that several expeditions had already tried it. Some had got as far as the deserts of Persia; a few had even reached the plains of India. But no one had managed to go on from there: over the jungle clad mountains of Assam and across northern Burma to Thailand and Malaya. Over the last 3,000 miles it seemed there were ‘just too many rivers and too few roads’. But no-one really knew ...

In fact, their problems began much earlier than that. As mere undergraduates, they had no money, no cars, nothing. But with a cool audacity, which was to become characteristic, they set to work – wheedling and cajoling. First, they coaxed the BBC to come up with some film for a possible TV series. They then gently persuaded the manufacturers to lend them two factory-fresh Land Rovers. A publisher was even sweet-talked into giving them an advance on a book. By the time they were ready to go, their sponsors (more than 80 of them) ranged from whiskey distillers to the makers of collapsible buckets. In late 1955, they set off.

Seven months and 12,000 miles later, two very weary Land Rovers, escorted by police outriders, rolled into Singapore – to flash bulbs and champagne.

Now, fifty years on, their book, ‘First Overland’, is republished – with a foreword by Sir David Attenborough. After all, it was he who gave them that film.

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Most helpful customer reviews

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Decent read

By Backnthaday

Decent read

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

A darn good travel story

By Kiwi

I just don't believe nobody has reviewed this book before me. But OK, lets cut to the chase. This was published back in 1957, and it's the story of six Oxford & Cambridge university students who picked up a couple of Land Rovers and drove overland from the UK to Singapore. The notable thing about this book is that these six were among the last known people to drive over the old Burma Road from Assam in India into northern Burma, & thence thru Burma to Thailand. An event that is covered by only a few pages in the book, but it's downright historical, because shortly afterwards Burma closed itself off and insurrections broke out among the the tribal people in Assam & the frontier district of India. As far as I can find out, nobody's driven through since.

The books well written in an "intrepid english adventurer" style and it's entertaining pretty much all the way through. My copies an old one, published in 1959, I have no idea if it's ever been republished but it's certainly worth the read if you can lay your paws on it and you like this kind of travel story.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Fantastic automotive story.

By Mathew Guest

One of the best reads I have ever come across. A great travel story that had me making bonkers plans to do something similar late at night. Take the warning seriously, you will want a land rover after reading this... oh and maybe a nice cup of tea.

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