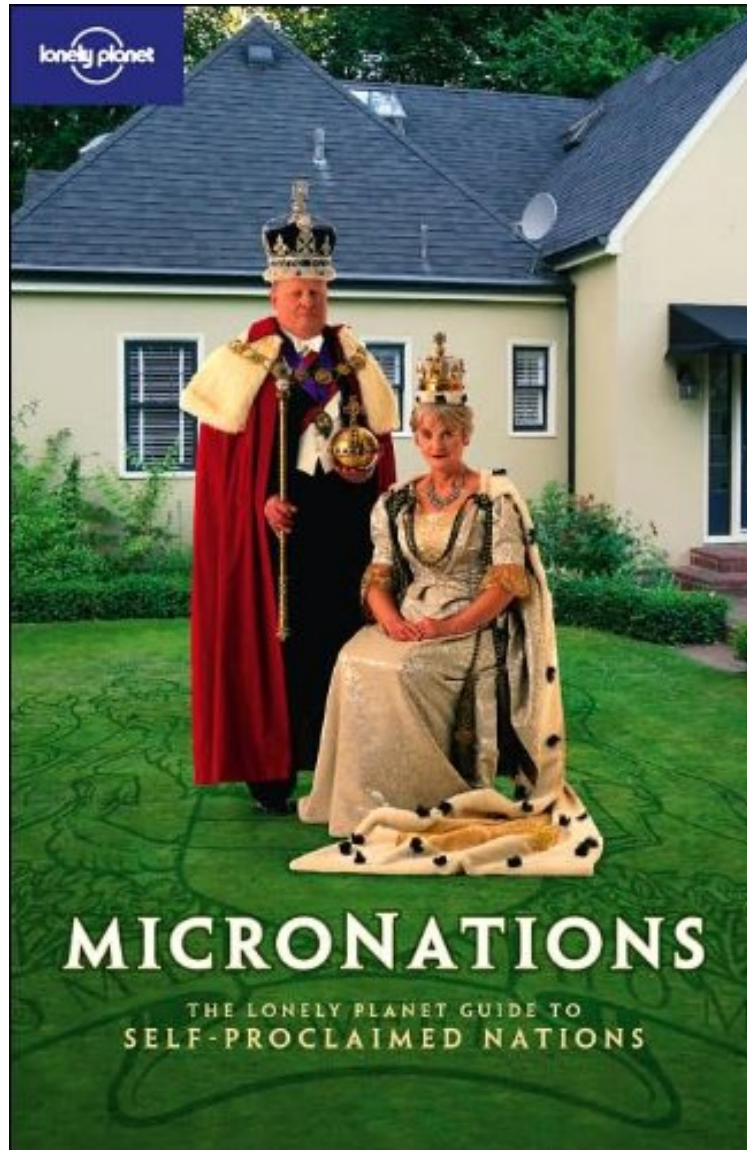


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Micronations: The Lonely Planet Guide to Home-Made Nations

John Ryan, George Dunford, Simon Sellars
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#258971 in Books Lonely Planet 2006-09-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 .47 x 5.26 x 7.80l, .62 #File Name: 1741047307160 pages | File size: 77.Mb

John Ryan, George Dunford, Simon Sellars : Micronations: The Lonely Planet Guide to Home-Made Nations before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Micronations: The Lonely Planet Guide to Home-Made Nations:

26 of 27 people found the following review helpful. Why Kugelmugel? Because Round Is Free!By Robert I. HedgesDo not order this book if you are seriously interested in UN-approved micronations such as Liechtenstein, Tuvalu, or San Marino. Buy this book if you are interested in "countries" with self appointed leadership featuring a

penchant for secession and zaniness. The people and places in this book are all real, and vary from slightly to extremely strange. Most of them are lovable loonies, but there are a few more serious-minded communities, like Sealand and Christiania, for example. Sealand (essentially a sunken barge in the North Sea) has even had a coup, and Christiania has overriding interests in recreational drugs and tricycles. I was very amused by this book, mostly by the people in charge of their own countries. I especially liked the Hutt River Province Principality in Australasia, which actually declared war on Australia, but was promptly ignored by the official government. Also local to Australasia is the Republic of Whangamomona, which has had both a poodle and goat as president. The goat, Billy (aka "Gumboots,") is frequently analogized to JFK according to the book as "accusations of vote eating surrounded the hot new president;" he was believed to have been assassinated by poisoned grass at age 14, and was given a state funeral. He now rests in a well-marked grave overlooking his kingdom. The Republic of Molossia in Nevada is perhaps my favorite of the micronations. Not only do they have a Ministry for Space Exploration (the flagship rocket is shown on the launch pad,) but they have an official national sport of broomball, which to outsiders may appear to be a comical version of field hockey. Although located in an arid landlocked region, Molossia has a navy, with the flagship being the "MS Wombat." All this infrastructure requires capital, and the currency in Molossia is the Valora. For purposes of exchange rates the Valora is "pegged to the value of Pillsbury Cookie Dough, with three Valora being equal to one tube of Cookie Dough." I am also fond of the Aerican Empire which has an official religion centered on Forsteri, the Great Penguin. Aericans believe in "the coming of Not-Quite-The-Apocalypse, heralded by the four 'Incompetent Riders,' comprising a penguin, a platypus, a giant walnut and a fourth rider that can't quite be identified." Meanwhile, life goes on in Ladonia, near Sweden, which is strictly governed by Cabinet posts such as the Ministry of Rock-Paper-Scissors, the Ministry of Things Under Rocks, and the Ministry of Apathy, which is a powerful force in the government. On the still wackier end of the fringe is the Republic of Kugelmugel founded on Austrian territory by artist Edwin Lipburger, who is now the sole citizen of Kugelmugel, a postmodern territory obsessed with balls and spheres. Why? Lipburger explains: "Everything is round...the Earth, life, the ball, everything turns...why not live in balls? Round is free, it has no beginning or end." With logic like that, how can you not want to visit Kugelmugel, and for that matter, the other places in this unconventional, yet uplifting, travel book?

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Can't Stop Reading
By M. Johnson
This book was fun! I picked it up and couldn't quit reading it. And I could even re-read it and re-read it. This book is very colorful and its exciting to see every type of little nations imaginable. There are legitimate ones like the Snake Hill Province in Australia. Fun ones like Molossia in a home and backyard of Nevada. Some are making endeavors now for greater recognition, such as the Hutt River Province, also in Australia and a similar endeavor on an island near Seattle, trapped in the center of a lake, seeking to become the free Trumania. You'll hear of the Kingdom of Romkerall landlocked on all sides by Germany. And guess what? This tiny kingdom actually has a legitimate royal line going back centuries. You'll discover the hippy friendly places of Christiania off the coast of Holland, and Akhzivland off the coast of Israel where peace reigns. And the discussion of Gays getting their own island or nation. Well, guess what, it's true. Having the most colorful of all the flags, the Gay and Lesbian Kingdom of the Coral Sea Islands is once again off the coast of Australia, a nation where Gays and Lesbians may marry and be given in marriage. Though a happy little place, the start of the Gay and Lesbian Kingdom toutss a politically courageous story, when, in protest of the ban on gay marriage, Gays and Lesbians claimed a place to call their own. This book is just fun. Fun, Fun, Fun!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Hail the Royal Aretesian Fainting Goat!
By Matthew Shaw
As a micronationalist, I will always carry a fondness in my heart for the work which inspired my leap into statehood. This is such a great book, an enjoyable read, and a quirky subject. If you're an enthusiast, or just happen to have an appreciation for the quirky nonconformist humans who inhabit this odd world, this is a book you'll thoroughly enjoy!

Bored of visiting the same UN-recognized countries? Ready to explore somewhere unique and perhaps a little wacky? Want to add some really rare stamps to your passport? Then let Lonely Planet's guide to home made nations take you to a bunch of places you've never heard of. Here are countries where the national anthem is the sound of a rock being dropped into water, where the currency is pegged to the value of Pillsbury's cookie dough; where the citizens vote in a poodle as president and where if you're lucky, the king will put on a pot of tea when you stop by. Full colour photographs Maps, flags and stamps Facts and Figures Cultural Information Things to see and do Getting there and away

New York Daily News, September 10, 2006
Sets out all the steps necessary to lay claim to your own sovereign soil. From the Publisher
Who We Are At Lonely Planet, we see our job as inspiring and enabling travellers to connect with the world for their own benefit and for the benefit of the world at large. What We Do * We offer travellers the world's richest travel advice, informed by the collective wisdom of over 350 Lonely Planet authors living in 37 countries and fluent in 70 languages. * We are relentless in finding the special, the unique and the different for travellers wherever they are. * When we update our guidebooks, we check every listing, in person, every time. * We always offer the trusted filter for those who are curious, open minded and independent. * We challenge our growing

community of travellers; leading debate and discussion about travel and the world. * We tell it like it is without fear or favor in service of the travellers; not clouded by any other motive. What We Believe We believe that travel leads to a deeper cultural understanding and compassion and therefore a better world.