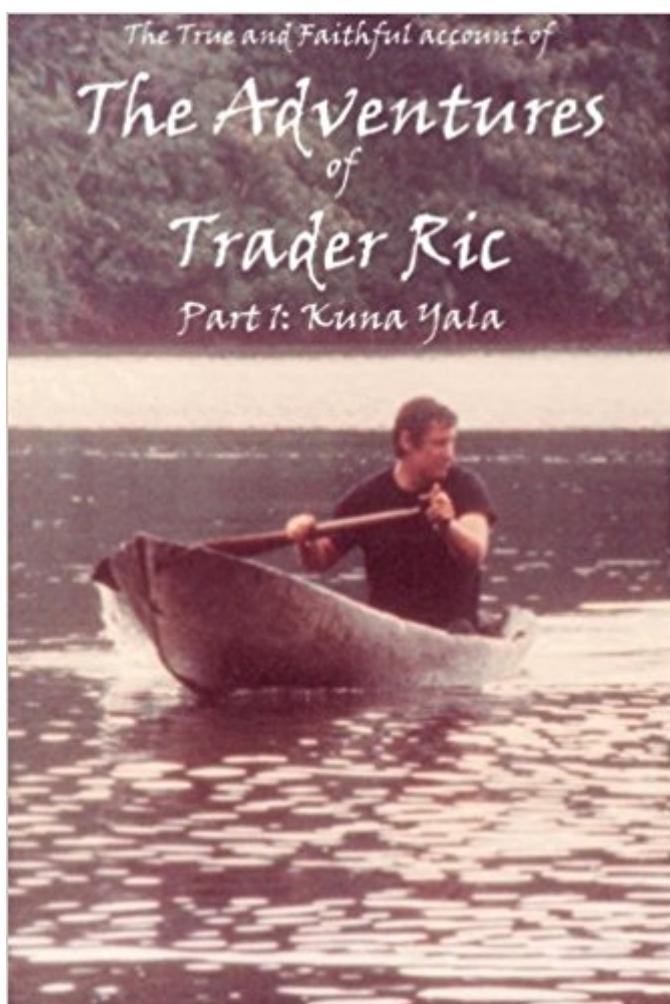


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# The True And Faithful Account Of The Adventures Of Trader Ric, Part 1: In Kuna Yala: The San Blas Islands, Republica De PanamÁi



## Synopsis

As an ethnographic art collector and dealer, Ric spent much of his time traveling in remote areas of South America gathering material from indigenous riverine and coastal tribes, targeting mainly ceremonial pieces used in their religious and healing ceremonies to sell to museums and collectors around the world. This book, Part 1 of a series, recounts his experiences traveling island to island throughout the San Blas archipelago of Panama in his 45-foot-long dugout canoe, Don Tiki, and the many adventures and mis-adventures he had there dealing with the Kuna Indians. Ric brings the everyday life of the Kuna alive in his account of his island-by-island, hut-by-hut search for material, all the while evading pirates, vampire bats, cholera, and even an angry crowd of Indians bent on revenge.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Quick interesting read. Read it while in Panama.

Good info on understanding the Kuna Yala people more. I appreciate the author's experience and observations and sense of fairness with his trading.

It seems that any person who ventures out into rarely traversed places gets compared to Indiana Jones, the swashbuckling archaeologist from the Raiders of the Lost Ark movies. And it's difficult not to make the comparison when talking about Ric Hajovsky, writer of Adventures of Trader Ric, Part I (although Ric wears a black t-shirt and shorts rather than a leather jacket and fedora). In this exciting and enthralling book, Ric travels to the Central American tropics by dugout canoe to trade

dollars for personal items and artifacts of the Kuna Indians in the San Blas islands of Panama to then sell to museums and collectors. Ric has some things in common with Indie though: he works with locals to make his business dealings run as smoothly as possible; he eats things you would never imagine eating (monkey jerky anyone?); he comes upon an epidemic (cholera) and watches as the locals reject western preventative measures and medical care; he witnesses and participates in ceremonies and rituals of the Kuna, as well as their very different views and beliefs. He even gets shot at when the locals of one island blame him and his party for lightning striking a flagpole. Additionally, Trader Ric adds history to his stories, and explains the many complexities of language, bringing depth to the intrigue of San Blas and the myriad mysteries of the Kuna culture. He also weaves humor and irony throughout. I found myself with mouth agape on several occasions, and laughing out loud on others. What a way to make a living! I look forward to reading Part 2.

I give this book 4 stars for those that ever plan to travel to the unique part of the world called the San Blas Islands (Guna Yala) of Panama. This book was a wonderful introduction to the culture & mystique of the Guna Yala tribe that live the same lifestyle that Trader Ric describes so accurately. Reading his memoir really helped us better understand the culture of these beautiful, amazing people on a recent trip to San Blas, especially the more remote islands, such as La Tigre. I highly recommend for anyone travelling to the more remote areas of the Guna Yala.

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