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Island Dreams: Mapping an Obsession

Scottish writer and doctor Gavin Francis journeys into our collective fascination with islands. He blends stories of his own travels with great voyages from literature and philosophical exploration, and he examines the place of islands and isolation in our collective consciousness. Comparing the life of freedom of thirty years of extraordinary travel, from the Faroe Islands to the Aegean, from the Galapagos to the Andaman Islands, with a life of responsibility as a doctor, community member and parent approaching middle age, his new book riffs on the twinned poles of rest and motion, independence and attachment, never more relevant than in today’s perennially connected world. Beautifully illustrated with maps throughout. $30, hardcover.

Without Ever Reaching the Summit: A Journey

In 2017, Paolo Cognetti went to Nepal not to conquer the mountains but to journey through the high valleys of the Dolpo. Drawing on memories of his childhood in the Alps, Cognetti explored the roots of life in the mountains, truly getting to know the communities and the nature that forged this resilient, almost mythical region. Accompanying him was a childhood friend who had never left the mountains of Italy, and a painter he had recently met. Joined by a stalwart team of local sherpas, the trio started out in the remote Dolpo region of Nepal. From there, a journey of self-discovery shaped by illness, human connection, and empathy was born. $22.99, hardcover.
This is a book about 10 women over the past 300 years who have found walking essential to their sense of themselves as people and as writers. The author traces their footsteps from 18th-century parson’s daughter Elizabeth Carter, who desired nothing more than to be taken for a vagabond in the wilds of southern England, to modern walker-writers such as Nan Shepherd and Cheryl Strayed. For each, walking was integral, whether it was rambling for miles across the Highlands, like Sarah Stoddart Hazlitt, or pacing novels into being, as Virginia Woolf did around Bloomsbury. Offering a beguiling view of the history of walking, Wanderers guides us through the different ways of seeing and of being as articulated by these 10 pathfinding women. $20, hardcover.

International bestseller! Just days after Raynor Winn learns that Moth, her husband of 32 years, is terminally ill, their house and farm are taken away in a financial disaster along with their livelihood. With nothing left and little time, they make the brave and impulsive decision to walk the 630 miles of the sea-swept South West Coast Path from Somerset to Dorset, through Devon and Cornwall. Carrying only the essentials for survival on their backs, they live wild in the ancient, weathered landscape of cliffs, sea, and sky. Yet through every step, every encounter, and every test along the way, their walk becomes a remarkable and life-affirming journey. $17, paperback.

For over 50 years, celebrated Dutch author Cees Nooteboom has been captivated by the city of Venice, that “absurd combination of power, money, genius and great art.” Beginning with his first visit in 1964, Nooteboom deftly weaves together his many travels to the floating city, vividly bringing to life the destination he discovered and admired from the alleys, locked gates, and countless canals. He pays homage to the painters and writers who lived and worked there, to the palaces, bridges, painting, and sculpture that give the city a kind of immortality. With his ability to penetrate to the core of his destinations, he produces a radiant tribute to Venice in the vein of Steinbeck, Forster, or Theroux. $28, hardcover.

This travel classic is an evocative travelogue through the sights, sounds, and smells of a little-known Spain: its architecture, art, history, landscapes, villages, and people. And as much as it is the story of his travels, it is an elegant and detailed chronicle of Dutch writer Cees Nooteboom’s 35-year love affair with his adopted second country. He presents a world not visible to the casual tourist, by invoking the great spirits of Spain’s past: El Cid, Cervantes, Alfonso the Chaste and Alfonso the Wise, the ill-fated Hapsburgs, and Velázquez. From the magnificent Prado Museum to the shrine of the Black Madonna of Guadalupe, he writes with the depth and intelligence of an historian, the bravado of an adventurer, and the passion of a poet. $21.95, paperback.
Nairn’s Paris

Originally published over 50 years ago, this is an idiosyncratic portrait of the “collective masterpiece” that is Paris. Illustrated with the author’s black-and-white snaps of the city, this attractively bound edition shows Nairn’s eye for detail, whether it is stonework on an archway, shadows cast by a railing, or an empty chair in a Paris park; it shows the city on the cusp of great changes and provides a glimpse of a city that is about to disappear. “About one third of the book is discovery, in the sense that I came upon the sites by accident or by following a topographical hunch... All you need for the search is the ability to turn off the main road, switch on your antennae, and respond.” $18.95, hardcover.

Journey to Armenia

The Russian poet Osip Mandelstam visited Armenia in 1930, and during the eight months of his stay he rediscovered his poetic voice and was inspired to write an experimental meditation on the country and its ancient culture. This attractive pocket edition also includes the companion piece, “Conversation About Dante,” which Seamus Heaney called “Osip Mandelstam’s astonishing fantasia on poetic creation.” An incomparable apologia for poetic freedom and a challenge to the Bolshevik establishment, the essay was dictated by the poet to his wife, Nadezhda Mandelstam, in 1934 and 1935. In 1938, he was arrested and died in a Siberian prison camp. $18.95, hardcover.

The Old Ways: A Journey on Foot

Carlos Museum Bestseller! Bringing together natural history, cartography, geology, and literature, renowned travel/nature writer Robert Macfarlane sets off to follow the ancient routes that crisscross both the landscape of the British Isles and its waters and territories beyond. His journeys take him from the chalk downs of England to the bird islands of the Scottish northwest, from Palestine to the sacred landscapes of Spain and the Himalayas. He matches strides with the footprints made by a man 5,000 years ago near Liverpool, sails an open boat far out into the Atlantic at night, and commingles with walkers of many kinds, discovering that paths offer a means not just of traversing space but also of feeling, knowing, and thinking. $19, paperback.

The Lost Pianos of Siberia

Dotted throughout the remoteness of Siberia are pianos: grand instruments created during the boom years of the 19th century, as well as humble, Soviet-made uprights that found their way into equally modest homes. They tell the story of how piano music has run through the country like blood. Siberian pianos have accomplished extraordinary feats from the instrument that Maria Volkonsky, wife of an exiled Decemberist revolutionary, used to spread music east of the Urals to those that brought reprieve to the Soviet Gulag. This book follows the author on a three-year adventure as she tracks a number of different instruments to find one whose history is definitively Siberian. Her journey reveals a desolate land inhabited by wild tigers and deeply shaped by its dark history, yet one that is also profoundly beautiful and peppered with pianos. $27, hardcover.
Journeying

Literary travel writing at its best! Magris selects writings penned during trips and wanderings over the span of several decades with many beloved companions to whom he dedicates the book. He sought the kind of journey “that occurs when you abandon yourself to [the gentle current of time] and to whatever life brings.” Taken together, Magris’s essays share a clearly identified theme: the motif of the journey in all its aspects—literary, metaphysical, spiritual, mythical, philosophical, historical—as well as the author’s comprehensive understanding of the subject or of his own way of being in the world. Traveling from Spain to Germany to Poland, Norway, Vietnam, Iran, and Australia, he records particular moments and places through a highly personal lens. A writer’s writer and a reader’s traveler, Magris proves that wandering is equal part wondering. $25, hardcover.

Danube: A Sentimental Journey from the Source to the Black Sea

Italian scholar and writer Claudio Magris tracks the Danube River, setting his finger on the pulse of Central Europe, the crucible of a culture that draws on influences of East and West, Christianity and Islam. In each town he raises the ghosts that inhabit the houses and monuments, from Ovid and Marcus Aurelius to Kafka and Canetti, in a fascinating blend of anecdote and history. $17, paperback.

Outpost: A Journey to the Wild Ends of the Earth

For those who go in search of the isolation, silence, and adventure of wild places, it is to the man-made shelters that they need to head: the outposts, bothies, bivouacs, cabins, and huts. Part of their allure is their simplicity, of having just enough architecture to shelter from the weather but not so much as to distract from the immediate environment around. From the Cairngorms of Scotland to the fire-watching huts of Washington State, from Iceland’s Houses of Joy to the desert of New Mexico, and from the frozen beauty of Svalbard to the Mars Desert Research Station in Utah, Richards visits the outposts, witnesses the landscapes, and asks: why are we drawn to wilderness? And how do wild places become a space for inspiration and creativity? $28, hardcover.

The Grand Tour: Travelling the World with an Architect’s Eye

Architect Harry Seidler spent more than 50 years traveling the globe, extensively photographing the peak achievements in architecture from 3,000 BC to the present day. Thanks to sound advice given to him early on by his photographer brother Marcell (“Only use Leica cameras and Kodachrome film, which is archival”), Seidler’s photographs illustrate the history and style of architecture in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and the Americas. Divided into chapters by country, each with a brief introduction outlining its architectural history, this beautiful and affordable guide offers armchair travelers, students, architecture buffs, and historians the opportunity to browse the buildings of the world through one man’s photographs. Bargain price: $19.98, hardcover.
**Turn Right at Machu Picchu: Rediscovering the Lost City One Step at a Time**

A Carlos Museum bestseller for nine years! In 1911, Hiram Bingham III climbed into the Andes Mountains of Peru and “discovered” Machu Picchu. While history has recast Bingham as a villain who stole both priceless artifacts and credit for finding the great archaeological site, Mark Adams set out to retrace the explorer’s perilous path in search of the truth, even though he’d written about adventure far more than he’d actually lived it. In fact, he’d never even slept in a tent. Adams’ book is a fascinating and funny account of his journey through some of the world’s most majestic, historic, and remote landscapes guided only by a hard-as-nails Australian survivalist and one nagging question: Just what was Machu Picchu? $16, paperback.

**Horizon**

From pole to pole and across decades of lived experience, National Book Award-winning author Barry Lopez delivers his most far-ranging and personal work. Horizon moves immersively through the author’s travels to six regions of the world: from Western Oregon to the High Arctic; from the Galápagos to the Kenyan desert; from Botany Bay in Australia to finally, unforgettably, the ice shelves of Antarctica. Along the way, Lopez probes the long history of humanity’s thirst for exploration, including the prehistoric peoples who trekked across Skraeling Island in northern Canada, the colonialists who plundered Central Africa, an enlightenment-era Englishman who sailed the Pacific, a Native American emissary who found his way into isolationist Japan, and today’s ecotourists in the tropics. Throughout his journeys, Lopez searches for meaning and purpose in a broken world. $17, hardcover.

**Rome Stories**

During its 3,000 year history Rome has been an imperial metropolis, the capital of a nation, and the spiritual core of a world religion. For writers from antiquity to the present, however, it has long served as a realm of fantasy, aspiration, and desire. Captivating and lethal at one and the same moment, its beauty both transfigures and betrays those in thrall to it. This Everyman Library anthology explores the city’s fateful impact through the writing of classical historians; Renaissance sculptors; Enlightenment poets and philosophers; American, British, and French novelists; and the writers of modern Italy. $16, hardcover.

**Flâneuse: Women Walk the City in Paris, New York, Tokyo, Venice, and London**

Part cultural meander, part memoir, this book takes us on a distinctly cosmopolitan jaunt that begins in New York, where the author grew up, and transports us to Paris via Venice, Tokyo, and London, all cities in which she’s lived. We are shown the paths beaten by such flâneuses as the cross-dressing 19th-century novelist George Sand, the Parisian artist Sophie Calle, the wartime correspondent Martha Gellhorn, and the writer Jean Rhys. With tenacity and insight, Elkin creates a mosaic of what urban settings have meant to women, charting through literature, art, history, and film the sometimes exhilarating, sometimes fraught relationship that women have with the metropolis. $17, paperback.
This classic of travel literature from a master storyteller is composed of stories gathered during 10 years spent journeying across the Indian subcontinent from Sri Lanka and southern India to the North West Frontier of Pakistan. As Dalrymple searched for evidence of Kali Yug, the “age of darkness” predicted by an ancient Hindu cosmology in a final epoch of strife and corruption, he encountered a region that thrilled and surprised him. Venturing to places rarely visited by foreigners, he presents compelling portraits of a diverse range of figures from a Hindi rap mega-star through the Tamil Tigers to the drug lords of Pakistan. Dalrymple’s love for the subcontinent comes across in every page, which makes its chronicles of political corruption, ethnic violence, and social disintegration all the more poignant. $16.95, paperback.

Eric Hazan, author of the acclaimed book The Invention of Paris, takes the reader on a walk from Ivry to Saint-Denis, roughly following the meridian that divides Paris into east and west, and passing such familiar landmarks as the Luxembourg Gardens, the Pompidou Centre, the Gare du Nord, and Montmartre as well as forgotten alleyways and arcades. Weaving historical anecdotes, geographical observations, and literary references, Hazan’s walk guides us through an unknown Paris. With the aid of maps, he delineates the most fascinating and forgotten parts of the city’s past and present. $17.95, paperback.

After writing a Pulitzer-winning memoir, Hisham Matar took time off to visit Siena, Italy. Always finding comfort and clarity in great art, Matar immersed himself in eight significant works from the Sienese School of painting, which flourished from the 13th to the 15th centuries. Artists he had admired throughout his life, including Duccio and Ambrogio Lorenzetti, evoke earlier engagements he’d had with works by Caravaggio and Poussin and the personal experiences that surrounded those moments. Including beautiful full-color reproductions of the artworks, this book is about what occurred between Matar, those paintings, and the city—an exploration of how art can console and disturb in equal measure as well as an intimate In this brilliant work of literary investigation, Beaumont shines a light on the shadowy perambulations of poets, novelists, and thinkers: Chaucer and Shakespeare; William Blake and his ecstatic peregrinations and the feverish ramblings of opium addict Thomas De Quincey; and, among the lamp-lit literary throng, the supreme nightwalker Charles Dickens. We discover how the nocturnal city has inspired some and served as a balm or narcotic to others. In each case, the city is revealed as a place divided between work and pleasure, the affluent and the indigent, where the entitled and the desperate jostle in the streets. $19.95, paperback.
What can a forty-something childless woman do? Bored with her life and feeling stuck, Mia Kankimäki leaves her job, sells her apartment, and decides to travel the world, following the paths of the female explorers and artists from history who have long inspired her. She flies to Tanzania and then to Kenya to see where Karen Blixen (author of Out of Africa) lived in the 1920s. In Japan, Mia attempts to cure her depression while researching Yayoi Kusama, the contemporary artist (famous for her Infinity Mirror Rooms) who has voluntarily lived in a psychiatric hospital for decades. In Italy, Mia spends her days looking for the works of forgotten Renaissance women painters and discovers Sofonisba Anguissola, Lavinia Fontana, and Artemisia Gentileschi. $27, hardcover.

What do we find in the grass, earth, and stone beneath our feet and in the objects around us? How do they tie us to our forebears? What traces have been left behind and what marks do we leave now? $15, paperback.

Lake Ohrid and Lake Prespa: two ancient lakes joined by underground rivers. Two lakes that seem to hold both the turbulent memories of the region’s past and the secret of its enduring allure. Two lakes that have played a central role in author Kapka Kassabova’s maternal family. As she journeys to her grandmother’s place of origin, she encounters a historic crossroad; the lakes are crowned by the old Via Egnatia, which once connected Rome to Constantinople. This was a former trading and spiritual nexus of the southern Balkans. Meanwhile, with their remote rock churches, changeable currents, and large population of migratory birds, the lakes live in their own time. $18, paperback.

Adam Thorpe’s home for the past 25 years has been an old house in the Cévennes, a wild range of mountains in southern France. Thorpe explores the Cévennes, drawing on the legends, history, and above all the people of this part of France for his inspiration. In particular, he is interested in how the past leaves impressions—marks—on our landscape and on us. What do we find in the grass, earth, and stone beneath our feet and in the objects around us? How do they tie us to our forebears? What traces have been left behind and what marks do we leave now? $15, paperback.

Like the ancient colossus that stood over the harbor of Rhodes, The Colossus of Maroussi stands as a seminal classic in travel literature. Inspired by a young woman’s seductive description of Greece, writer and provocateur Henry Miller headed out with his friend Lawrence Durrell to explore the Grecian countryside: a flock of sheep nearly tramples the two as they lie naked on a beach; the Greek poet Katsimbalis, the “colossus” of the book’s title, stirs every rooster within earshot of the Acropolis with his own loud crowing; cold hard-boiled eggs are warmed in a village’s single stove. The New York Times called this book an “imaginative re-creation of a country, a culture, and [Henry Miller’s] own fierce energies.” $15.95, paperback.
**The Marches: A Borderland Journey Between England and Scotland**

On bestselling author and member of Parliament Rory Stewart’s 400-mile walk across a magnificent natural landscape, he sleeps on mountain ridges and in housing projects, in hostels and farmhouses. With every fresh encounter—from an Afghanistan veteran stationed on Hadrian’s Wall to a shepherd who still counts his flock in 6th-century words—Stewart reveals more about the forgotten peoples and languages of a vanished country, now crushed between England and Scotland. Stewart and his father are drawn into unsettling reflections on landscape, their parallel careers in the bygone British Empire and Iraq, and the past, present, and uncertain future of the United Kingdom. $15.99, paperback.

**The Delizia!: The Epic History of the Italians and Their Food**

From the bustle of medieval Milan’s marketplace to the banqueting halls of Renaissance Ferrara; from street stalls in the putrid alleyways of 19th-century Naples to the noisy trattorie of postwar Rome: in rich slices of urban life, historian and master storyteller John Dickie shows how taste, creativity, and civic pride blended with princely arrogance, political violence, and dark intrigue to create the world’s favorite cuisine. The Delizia! is much more than a history of Italian food; it is a history of Italy told through the flavors and character of its cities. $23.95, paperback.

**Places in Italy: A Private Grand Tour (3rd Edition)**

A revised (2109) and enlarged, entertaining, but fundamentally serious selection of the most rewarding places to visit in the most visited and beloved country in the world. Towns (additions in this edition include Bergamo, Pesaro, Cremona and Todi), villages, museums, and individual monuments are discussed, characterized and described. It is a guide book in its own right, but above all it is a thoughtful, opinionated and supremely well-informed guide, supplement and corrective to conventional guides. Note this is not a guide to hotels, restaurants, and other amenities. $24.95, hardcover.

**Savage Grace: A Journey in Wildness**

Jay Griffiths is a tour guide for anyone who has ever wished to commune with the side of our human psyche that remains in touch with the wild. Equally at home among the “sea gypsy” Bajo people who live off the coast of Thailand and forage their food from the ocean floor, drinking the psychedelic ayahuasca plant with Amazonian shamans, or joining an Inuit whale hunt at the northern tip of Canada, Griffiths takes readers on an adventure both charted and uncharted. By describing the ways in which human societies and the human mind have developed in response to the wilder elements of our homelands, this book reveals itself as a benediction for the emotional, intellectual, and physical nourishment that people continue to draw from the natural world. $18.95, paperback.
**Europe in the Looking Glass**

Best known as the author of one of the best examples of travel literature, *The Road to Oxiana*, published in 1937, Robert Byron had developed his considerable writing skills in this travel book which has not been in print since 1926. It describes a journey Byron made with three friends driving across Europe between two world wars, and mixes political and historical analysis with architectural insights, classical scholarship, and the day-to-day adventures of three young and not very experienced travelers. For fans of Robert Byron’s work this will be a discovery; for others it will be an introduction. Includes nine original sketches made by the author during his travels. $16.95, paperback.

**In Europe: Travels Through the Twentieth Century**

From the First World War to the waning days of the Cold War, a poignant exploration on what it means to be European at the end of the 20th century. Geert Mak crisscrosses Europe from Verdun to Berlin, Saint Petersburg to Srebrenica in search of evidence and witnesses of the last hundred years of Europe. Using his skills as an acclaimed journalist, Mak locates the smaller, personal stories within the epic arc of history—talking to a former ticket-taker at the gates of the Birkenau concentration camp or noting the neat rows of tiny shoes in the abandoned nursery school in the shadow of Chernobyl. His unique approach makes the reader an eyewitness to a half-forgotten past, full of unknown peculiarities, sudden insights, and touching encounters. Sweeping in scale but intimate in detail, *In Europe* is a masterpiece. $22 paperback.

**Travel with Purpose: A Field Guide to Voluntourism**

People often wonder how they can explore the world and help the less fortunate even if they don’t possess specialized skills. They want a meaningful role when they travel. That’s where voluntourism, a mix of both travel and volunteering, comes in. Voluntourism doesn’t take skill, just plenty of sweat and the desire to see the world and leave it a better place. These are stories of inspiration from everyday people, all of whom have definite opinions about the best way to approach that first volunteer vacation. You don’t need to be wealthy to travel to foreign lands to volunteer; you may not even have to go to foreign lands, as opportunities may exist within your own state. $18.95, paperback.

**Atlas of Improbable Places: A Journey to the World’s Most Unusual Corners**

It is perhaps the eighth wonder of our world that despite modern mapping and satellite photography, our planet continues to surprise us. Hidden lairs beneath layers of rock, forgotten cities rising out of deserted lands, and even mankind's own feats of engineering eccentricity lie in the most unusual of destinations. With beautiful maps and stunning photography illustrating each destination, this guide is a fascinating voyage to the world’s most incredible destinations. $18, paperback.
Paul Theroux has spent the past fifty years roaming the globe, describing his encounters with remote people and far-flung places in ten best-selling travel books. Now, for the first time, he explores a part of America: the Deep South. Setting out on a winding road trip, Theroux discovers a region of architectural and artistic wonders, incomparable music, mouth-watering cuisine... and also some of the worst schools, medical care, housing, and unemployment rates in the nation. Yet, no matter where he goes, Theroux meets the unsung heroes of the South, the people who, despite it all, never left, and also those who found their way home and devoted their lives to rebuilding a place they could never live without.

$15.95, paperback.

Paul Theroux has spent his life crisscrossing the globe in search of the histories and peoples that give life to the places they call home. Now, as immigration debates boil around the world, Theroux has set out to explore a country key to understanding our current discourse: Mexico. Just south of the Arizona border, in the desert region of Sonora, he finds a place brimming with vitality, yet visibly marked by both the US Border Patrol to the north and mounting discord from within. With the same humanizing sensibility he employed in Deep South, Theroux stops to talk with residents, visits Zapotec mill workers in the highlands, and attends a Zapatista party meeting, communing with people of all stripes who remain south of the border even as family members brave the journey north.

$17.99, paperback.

Inspiring equal parts wonder and wanderlust, Atlas Obscura is a bestselling phenomenon that changed the way we think about the world, expanding our sense of how strange and marvelous it really is. This second edition takes readers to even more curious and unusual destinations, with more than 100 new places, dozens and dozens of new photographs, and new special features. More a cabinet of curiosities than traditional guidebook, it revels in the unexpected, the overlooked, the bizarre, and the mysterious. Here are natural wonders, like the dazzling glowworm caves in New Zealand, and mind-boggling events, like the Baby-Jumping Festival in Spain, with masked men dressed as devils who vault over rows of squirming infants.

$37.50, hardcover.