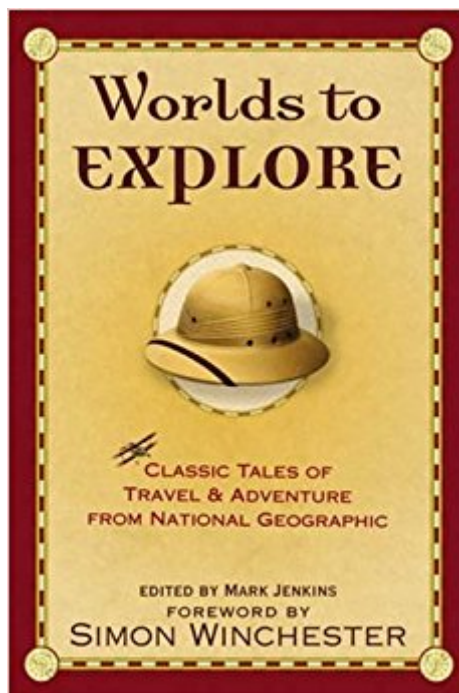




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Worlds To Explore: Classic Tales Of Travel And Adventure From National Geographic



Synopsis

Polar fleece, titanium, and GPS have forever changed the face of exploration. Today an explorer can make a phone call from the top of Mount Everest and geo-locate himself in the thickest rain forest or the widest desert. Yet despite these advances, few modern adventures get close to the charm and romance of "The Desert Road to Turkestan," "Mysterious Temples of the Jungle," and "Airplanes Come to the Isles of Spice." In those bygone days, the pages of National Geographic were as close as most people could get to high adventure and faraway lands—and here's a chance to recapture them. Alongside noteworthy names like Robert Peary, Amelia Earhart, and Teddy Roosevelt, other less famous travelers take us on long-forgotten trips to places few Americans had gone. We follow as "An American Girl Cycles Across Transylvania," trek "A Thousand Miles Along the Great Wall of China," and glide "By Felucca Down the Nile." Introduced by brief essays that provide context and perspective, these engaging, engrossing selections speak for themselves—and trace the National Geographic Society's growth as it explored the unknown and brought it to readers eager for knowledge of "the world and all that is in it."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Evoking adventure made possible by the railroad, steamship, and automobile, and before adventure was accelerated beyond recognition by the jet airliner, these 50 National Geographic articles hail from the 1890s to the 1950s. Simon Winchester's introduction rues the haste travel has acquired, while the commentary of editor Jenkins (*Off the Map: Bicycling across Siberia*, 1992) introduces the

author and the genesis of his or her odyssey. Theodore Roosevelt's postpresidency safari kicks off the geographical organization--Africa, South America, and so forth--and also typifies Jenkins' editorial preferences for the lost worlds of imperialism, still-unexplored regions of earth and sea, and peoples untouched by modernity. Some of Jenkins' selections may be oft-anthologized classics by Roy Chapman Andrews, Richard Byrd, and Edmund Hillary, but most are not frequently reprinted. Collectively, Jenkins' grouping captures imagination-firing details in non-Western settings, such as capture by Mongolian bandits. Suiting the armchair as well as they did as long as a century ago, these articles will be popular indeed. Gilbert TaylorCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

"These stories are like potato chips; one is never enough, and they're all but impossible not to devour in rapid succession... Highly recommended." —Library Journal

I would like to leave a few words about 'Worlds to Explore.' This is an excellent book for those who love to travel or at least would like to. It gives a great insight into not only the way isolated areas were a hundred years ago, but also how challenging it was to get there. Each short excerpt is taken directly from a long past article of National Geographic, and is perfect length for children of about eight years and older, giving a small taste of a place and its people without going on about it so long as to be boring. An excellent starting point for further reading on cultures they may find interesting. Later, you may also want to buy a copy of the original issue to read the entire article; even copies from the early 1900s are easy to find on Ebay. I did just that with an article from 1925. My only complaint is that there are few pictures, but primitive cultures usually wore very little clothing, so maybe less pictures is a good thing for younger readers. I would like to see more publications from National Geographic in this style, but would have rathered even more to see this book broken down into several separate books, one specifically for each continent, and with many more pictures and illustrations. That being said, even if they put out further editions in the same style, I will continue to buy them. If you are buying this as a gift for a child, I would also recommend a tent, a coleman lantern, and a subscription to National Geographic; I have a feeling they will be wanting all three in short order.

In our world of TV and internet, the ability to view and explore regions around the world seems like second nature. It is thus quite interesting to read these accounts from approximately 1890-1950 when travel was so much more difficult and time consuming. Vivid descriptions of far away lands

and peoples certainly helped readers to better visualize the world in which they live.

Wonderful reading - definitely will read again in years to come.

This is a great book that mixes science and history. Great for busy people because it is all short excerpts so it can be read in pieces. Awesome array of stories that cover the globe!! I recommend it for everyone!

This book is a major disappointment. Nat'l Geographic and the author should be ashamed (Simon Winchester too - his tiny forward is pointless and only exists so they could put his name on the cover - what a sell out!) He had nothing to do with this book. What they don't tell you is that these "excerpts" are highly edited and abridged. They reduce 30-50 pages to 3. Each excerpt has paragraphs that end in ellipses (...) and they jump around from the beginning of the expedition to some noteworthy event and then to the end. It is like a readers digest version for people with severe ADD. It's only worth is as a list of potentially good stories that you could go try to find in old copies of Nat'l Geographic or other published form. Absolutely, not worth the money. Copy the table of contents and then go find the real stories. I had expected much more. Here is pretty much how each story goes "On Friday the 1st of May we set out for Mt. Everest...", "Terrible storm..." "Tents blew away...", "Made it to the top..." "Well time to get going I said..." "Safely back at basecamp at last..." "With about that much detail. Dont buy it...

excellent classic tales of adventure. Short enough stories to keep younger ones enthused and long enough to provide entertainment for all ages.

WORLDS TO EXPLORE: CLASSIC TALES OF TRAVEL & ADVENTURE FROM NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC provides a gathering of first-person travel and adventure stories drawn from the first half of the 20th century from the pages of National Geographic: while lacking the color photos of the magazines, it still comes with 60 black and white photos and some of the best 'you are there' stories you'll find under one cover. Dramatic, true stories of encounters around the world capture the wonder of experiences of naturalists, anthropologists and adventurers alike, presenting works by a range of travelers. The result reads with all the drama and flair of fiction, but it's all true fact - and impossible to put down. Diane C. Donovan California Bookwatch

I picked this up at a thrift shop, and when I glanced through it, it promised to be interesting. I like old articles, and thought this would be a compendium of some of the wonderful old tales that used to appear in NG. But as another reviewer pointed out, these are so heavily edited that they are rendered almost meaningless. One imagines that each writer must have had a great deal more to say -- and one wonders at the heavy knife wielded by whoever edited this volume. It would have been much more effective to compile the ENTIRE articles in several separate volumes, rather than try to cram so much into this book that nothing really gets a full treatment. The introductions to the volume seem to exist for the sole purpose of letting the editors ramble on about THEMSELVES, and do their best to impress the reader with their erudition (I won't say "wit" because these intros aren't the least bit witty - they are pedantic and plodding). Skip the intros and get straight to the original articles. Overall I found the volume not at all worth wading through and would far prefer to come across a stack of original NGs so that I could read the words (and view the pictures for which NG has always been so famous) first-hand.

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