

TRAVEL BOOKS

Sedentary

1. *South from Granada*, Gerald Brenan. Young Englishman leaves home, settles in a small Andalusian village, and writes a book that takes travel writing out of its dilettante sphere and creates with it a kind of novelistic anthropology.

2. *The Last Time I Saw Paris*, Elliot Paul. This forgotten classic by an American journalist chronicles in fascinating detail the life of a small street in Paris' Latin Quarter that is a microcosm of France before the Second World War.

3. *Hunting Mister Heartbreak*, Jonathan Raban. Settling briefly in places as diverse as Manhattan, Key West, small-town Alabama and Seattle, Raban gets to the heart and humor of America.

4. *Old Calabria*, Norman Douglas. Not a resident, but he traveled so thoroughly and knowledgeably through this southernmost region of Italy that the book resounds with authority and critical admiration.

5. *Out of Africa*, Isak Dinesen. From the first sentence — “I had a farm in Africa, . . .” — we are drawn into another place and time..

6. *Bitter Lemons*, Lawrence Durrell. A warm and anguished tale of the tragedy of Cyprus by one of the modern Mediterranean's most eloquent rhapsodists.

7. *Beyond Euphrates*, Freya Stark. A travel autobiography by the woman who was to the Arab world what Durrell was to the Mediterranean.

8. *Down and Out in Paris and London*, George Orwell. Two gleaming capitals seen from the seedy side by a brilliant and unsentimental observer.

9. *Liebling Abroad*, A.J. Liebling. A collection by the great *New Yorker* writer who adopted France as his spiritual (and gustatory) home. Even with the war correspondence, you feel as if you're in the company of a jovially eccentric uncle who wears his considerable learning lightly.

10. *Two Towns in Provence*, M.F.K. Fisher. All the flavors and nuances of the region before it became synonymous with the good life.

11. *The Lady and the Monk: Four Seasons in Kyoto*, by Pico Iyer. A many-layered portrait of Japan.

Itinerant

1. *A Time of Gifts*, Patrick Leigh Fermor. Young Englishman (again) sets off on a walk from the Hook of Holland to Constantinople and absorbs and assimilates everything in his path: customs, wildlife, architecture, languages. (*Between the Woods and the Water* is the second volume of this unfinished trilogy.)

2. *The Road to Oxiana*, Robert Byron. The critic Paul Fussell compared this account of a journey through the Middle East with Joyce's *Ulysses* and Eliot's *The Waste Land*.

3. *A Dragon Apparent*, Norman Lewis. An exhaustive tour through Indochina by one of travel writing's greatest and least recognized practitioners.

4. *In Patagonia*, Bruce Chatwin. A quirky, elliptical work that showed the artistic heights that travel writing can ascend to.

5. *An Area of Darkness*, V.S. Naipaul. A study of India by the man who brought a moral intensity to the genre.

6. *Behind the Wall*, Colin Thubron. Thubron combines a keen intellect — he learned Mandarin before this trip to China — with an emotional depth that allows him not only to interpret but to connect.

7. *When the Going Was Good*, Evelyn Waugh. A collection of some of the funniest travel accounts ever written.

8. *Old Glory*, Jonathan Raban. Sailing down the Mississippi, Raban is as perceptive a traveler as he is a subleter.

9. *Journey Without Maps*, Graham Greene. This account of a trek in West Africa incorporates memories of childhood and possesses a darkness that foreshadows Naipaul.

10. *The Great Railway Bazaar*, by Paul Theroux. The rollicking train trip through Europe and Asia that demonstrated, once again, that it's not the sights, it's the people.

11. *Journeys*, by Jan Morris. A collection from the master of the travel essay.