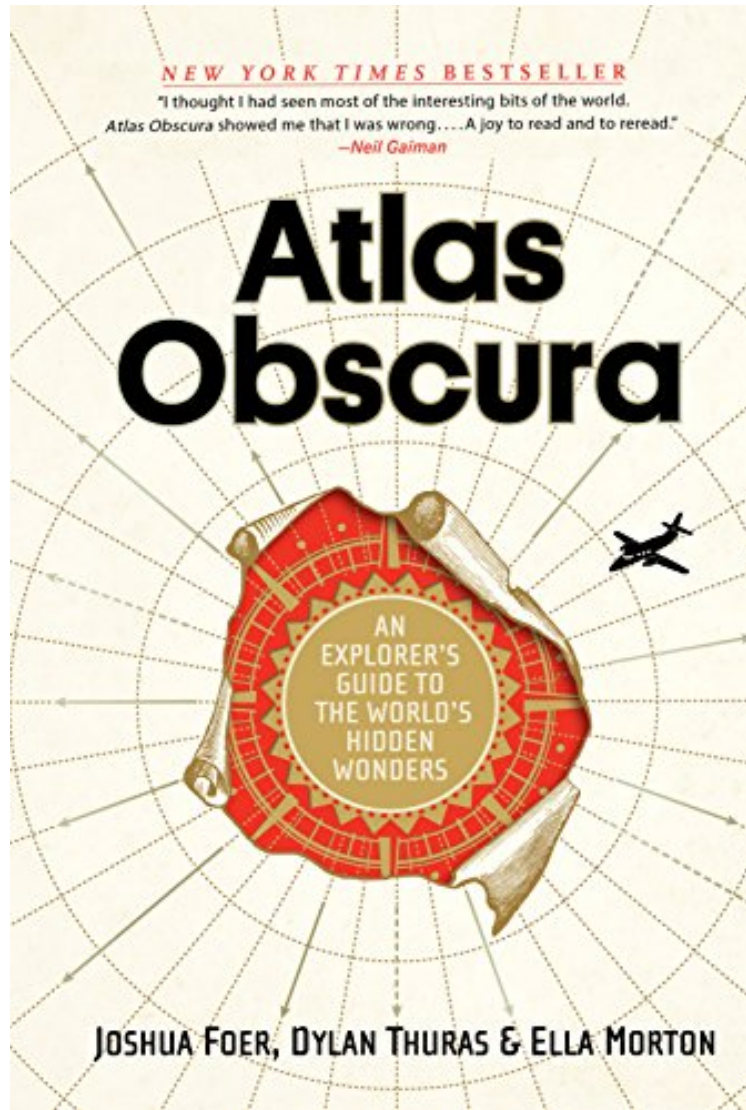


(Ebook free) Atlas Obscura: An Explorer's Guide to the World's Hidden Wonders

Atlas Obscura: An Explorer's Guide to the World's Hidden Wonders

Joshua Foer, Dylan Thuras, Ella Morton
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#821 in Books Smithsonian 2016-09-20 2016-09-20 Original language: English PDF # 1 10.50 x 1.90 x 7.50l, 2.00 #File Name: 0761169083480 pages Atlas Obscura: An Explorers Guide to the Worlds Hidden Wonders is a virtual celebration of 700 of the most unusual places in the world and will rewrite bucket lists with its descriptions of natural wonders, architectural marvels, mind-boggling events, and bizarre phenomena all organized by continent and country. Hardcover; 480 pages with photographs and illustrations on every page. 7.3x 10.7". | File size: 48.Mb

Joshua Foer, Dylan Thuras, Ella Morton : Atlas Obscura: An Explorer's Guide to the World's Hidden Wonders before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Atlas

Obscura: An Explorer's Guide to the World's Hidden Wonders:

142 of 149 people found the following review helpful. One part Ripley's Believe It or Not, One part National Geographic Magazine, and Entirely EnjoyableBy rebogamyThe world is still filled with interesting, exotic, and improbable places. In the twenty-first century, when you can wash down your KFC chicken with a Starbucks vente frappuccino in Beijing, it is refreshing to re-discover the awe and mystery of travel. This is a perfect book for a two minute break whenever your spirit needs boosting. Whether you find Jeremy Bentham's mummified corpse at University College London; the Beer Bottle Temple in Sisaket, Thailand; or the Canadian Potato Museum in D'Leary, PEI, you can return to your drab, dreary existence with the assurance that the World is "not only queerer than we suppose, but queerer than we can suppose". Buy this book! Revel in the places that you've seen! Revel in the places that you'd like to see! You won't be disappointed.110 of 118 people found the following review helpful. A very interesting read, even if you're not actually able to visit many of the sites described!By Christopher EI bought this for a 30-year old nephew whose county count was, I believe, pushing 40 about a year ago, and I think it may satisfy even him. (Hes the hardest to buy for member of the entire family!)I read a short description of the book in the travel section of the SF Chronicle a few weeks ago, and made the purchase based on that. Well, that combined with my sister verifying that her son might actually appreciate this book!There are many hundreds of places and things described over about 450 pages, with most including a photo, and the balance a drawing. I think the only things without a graphic are the short, Also in or near entries. Those graphics add interest and tend to draw you in, encouraging you to read the piece about whatever is depicted graphically.The book must weigh something like 2 pounds just guessing meaning you might not be likely to pack it in your suitcase. However, its easy enough to take digital photos of any entries you may want to have easy access to on a trip. Its printed on heavy paper, and I like that the pages are a pleasing, very light buff color, much nicer than stark white. Point being, its aesthetically a very nicely put together book.Because I bought this as a gift, I've looked through it closely but have not read it cover to cover. The entries seem to be written for a variety of readers and travelers, but certainly far from the lowest common denominator. Its not a typical travel book! I dont find every entry to be about a fascinating item, but a great many are, and possibly none whatsoever are dull. Even things that might not seem of particular interest based on the heading end up proving to be interesting when you get into the text. That said, there are items about things I have no interest in seeing, e.g., Lake Monsters of the USA, but there dont seem to be many of that sort of thing included. As with "Lake Monsters," even if you (or a recipient) aren't likely to visit many of the places described, I think for many curious people this would make for an interesting read even without the travel element.It's not a perfect book, and I don't think any one book can be perfect for all readers, but I do think it's very good and I can easily recommend it for anyone who might be potentially interested. Given the quality of the contents and of the physical item itself, I am very pleased with the price. Easy 5 stars and recommendation!95 of 103 people found the following review helpful. A book as rich and unexpected as the world it coversBy Mark MulveyThis book exceeded my already higher-than-average expectations. It's gorgeously designed and PACKED with interestingness on every page. The page layouts are complex and varied too, so it's fun to flip through and land on random sections about odd, wondrous places and artifacts halfway around the world (or in your own hometown!). So the act of making your way through the book feels like the kind of discovery and adventure covered in the content itself. Brilliant.I pre-ordered this because I was already a huge fan of the website and decided to support the project. I figured at the very least I'd have a gift ready for the holidays. But I am absolutely keeping this for myself, and will probably buy another copy for one of my family members soon. The book inspires you to venture out and explore, and reminds you that even in this era of Google Earth and Twitter there is plenty of mystery left out there that's waiting to be stumbled upon.

It's time to get off the beaten path. Inspiring equal parts wonder and wanderlust, Atlas Obscura celebrates over 700 of the strangest and most curious places in the world. Talk about a bucket list: here are natural wondersthe dazzling glowworm caves in New Zealand, or a baobab tree in South Africa that's so large it has a pub inside where 15 people can drink comfortably. Architectural marvels, including the M.C. Escher-like stepwells in India. Mind-boggling events, like the Baby Jumping Festival in Spain, where men dressed as devils literally vault over rows of squirming infants. Not to mention the Great Stalacpipe Organ in Virginia, Turkmenistan's 40-year hole of fire called the Gates of Hell, a graveyard for decommissioned ships on the coast of Bangladesh, eccentric bone museums in Italy, or a weather-forecasting invention that was powered by leeches, still on display in Devon, England. Created by Joshua Foer, Dylan Thuras and Ella Morton, ATLAS OBSCURA revels in the weird, the unexpected, the overlooked, the hidden and the mysterious. Every page expands our sense of how strange and marvelous the world really is. And with its compelling descriptions, hundreds of photographs, surprising charts, maps for every region of the world, it is a book to enter anywhere, and will be as appealing to the armchair traveler as the die-hard adventurer. Anyone can be a tourist. ATLAS OBSCURA is for the explorer.

Fair warning: It's addictive. NPR, Cosmos Culture In this gorgeous collection, the celebrated Atlas Obscura website is

condensed into 480 pages of awe-inspiring destinations. For lovers of history and exploration, the striking color photographs will spark immediate wanderlust. Entertainment Weekly Odds are you wont get past three pages without being amazed at something truly strange that you didnt know existed. San Francisco Chronicle Richly illustrated, delightfully strange, this compendium of off-beat destinations should spark many adventures, both terrestrial and imaginary. Boston Globe This book is PACKED with wonderful, amazing, fascinating places all around the world. This is the perfect gift for the person who thinks theyve done it all and seen it all because this shows that theres so much more in the world to explore. Its a wonderful, wonderful coffee table book. NBC, TODAY A perfect tome for the armchair explorer and the actual traveler alike. Austin American Statesman The most addictive book of the year. Colin McEnroe, WNPR Whether describing a Canadian museum that showcases world history through shoes, a pet-casket company that will also sell you a unit for your severed limb, a Greek snake festival, or a place in the Canary Islands where inhabitants communicate through whistling, the authors have compiled an enthralling range of oddities. Featuring full-color illustrations, this hefty and gorgeously produced tome will be eagerly pored over by readers of many ages and fans of the original website. Booklist (Starred) If this compendium of the weirdest, wackiest, and most wonderful destinations on the planet doesn't fill you with insatiable wanderlust, then you need to check your pulse. mental_floss This is the fun way, a deep dive (sometimes literally) into places youd never find otherwise, the weird and wild wonders of the world. WIRED The book is for people who prefer to live like locals when they travel, seek out new cultures on vacation, or just prefer the weirdness of history to traditional by-the-book experiences. Even if you cant travel, Atlas Obscura is a window into places youd otherwise never know existed. lifehacker A travel guide for the most adventurous of tourists . . . a wonderful browse [for] armchair travelers who enjoyed Brandon Stantons Humans of New York and Frank Warrens PostSecret. Library Journal I thought I had seen most of the interesting bits of the world. Atlas Obscura showed me that I was wrong. Its the kind of book that makes you want to pack in your workaday life and head out to places you'd never have dreamed of going, to see things you could not even have imagined. A joy to read and to reread. NEIL GAIMAN, author of Sandman and American Gods Atlas Obscura is a joyful antidote to the creeping suspicion that travel these days is little more than a homogenized corporate shopping opportunity. Here are hundreds of surprising, perplexing, mind-blowing, inspiring reasons to travel a day longer and farther off the path. . . . Bestest travel guide ever. MARY ROACH, author of Stiff and Gulp Atlas Obscura may be the only thing that can still inspire me to leave my apartment. . . . This resource is essential for exploring the world and engaging adventure with wit and style (often from the comfort of my bed). LENA DUNHAM, creator of Girls and author of Not That Kind of Girl My favorite travel guide! Never start a trip without knowing where a haunted hotel or a mouth of hell is! GUILLERMO DEL TORO, filmmaker, Pans Labyrinth What a strange and wonderful book! It is as curious and surprising as Saddam Husseins very own Blood Quran written in his own blood which I would never have known about had I not read the amazing Atlas Obscura. JON RONSON, author of So Youve Been Publicly Shamed This book is as curious and enthralling as the world it covers. Each page reveals some hidden realm that is frightening, or funny, or magical, or simply mad, but that always leaves the reader in wonder. DAVID GRANN, author of The Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Your peregrine falcon needs a small talon trim? Go straight to the Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital. . . . Be grateful when visiting the Karni Mata Rat Temple if one of the 20,000 venerated rodents runs across your bare foot it is considered good luck. . . . You wont be able to enter the 20-years-in-the-making and still abandoned tallest hotel in the world. It does not matter. Wherever you look around Pyongyang, North Korea, the 105-story skyscraper silently towers over all. . . . Life is short. Our planet is filled with curiosities and marvels . . . and this wondrous book is your guide! PHILIPPE PETIT, high-wire artist and explorer