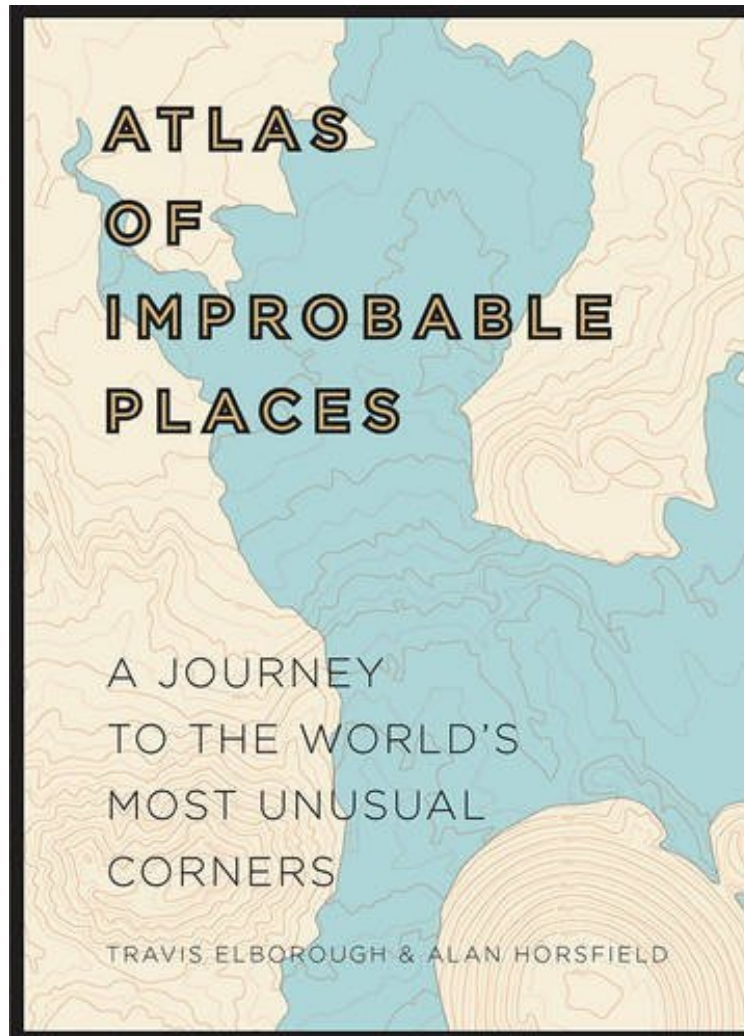


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# Atlas of Improbable Places: A Journey to the World's Most Unusual Corners

*Travis Elborough*

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**Travis Elborough : Atlas of Improbable Places: A Journey to the World's Most Unusual Corners** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Atlas of Improbable Places: A Journey to the World's Most Unusual Corners:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great book for the curious ages 9-100By IndigoDVERY cool book. Kids as well as adults will be intrigued by it. My 12 year old daughter has read it twice and taken it to school to show friends. My husband read it and decided we needed to go on a trip to see some of these places. My 9 year old son and I read it together and he has decided to find and submit some places that they missed for the next revision.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Cyrilla GleasonThis was the perfect gift!6 of 7 people found the

following review helpful. MehBy M. VarleyI'm a map freak. There are some interesting things in this book, but overall a bit disappointing. Yes, the places are improbable, but the writing is a bit pedestrian and the book has no (metaphorical) spine beyond random, improbable places.

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. Travis Elborough goes in search of the obscure and bizarre, the beautiful and estranged. Taking in the defiant relics of ancient cities such as Ani, a once thriving metropolis lost to conquered lands, and the church tower of San Juan Parangaricutto, that miraculously stands as the sole survivor of a town sunk by lava. Through the labyrinths of Berlin and Beijing underground realms dug for refuge, espionage and even, as Canada's Moose Jaw, used as the playground for gangsters trading liquor and money over cards. Never forgetting the freaks and wonders of nature's own unusual masterpieces: the magical underground river shaped like a dragon's mouth in the Philippines and the floating world of Palmerston. With beautiful maps and stunning photography illustrating each destination, Atlas of Improbable Places is a fascinating voyage to the world's most incredible destinations. As the Island of Dolls and the hauntingly titled Door to Hell an inextinguishable fire pit - attest, mystery is never far away. The truths and myths behind their creation are as varied as the destinations themselves. Standing as symbols of worship, testaments to kingships or even the strange and wonderful traditions of old and new, these curious places are not just extraordinary sights but reflections on man's own relationship with the world around us.

A compendium of unlikely, curious and plain odd locales seems something of a natural habitat for Travis Elborough, a cultural historian with a touch of the Betjemans and a lick of the Meades about him. From deserted mining towns in Nagasaki to the ever-decreasing Holland Island in Maryland, he and cartographer Horsfield do us a great service: making the world feel bigger. - Monocle magazine