

My Journey to Lhasa: The Classic Story of the Only Western Woman Who Succeeded in Entering the Forbidden City

by Alexandra David-Neel

Alexandra was already a seasoned adventurer when at 55, disguised as a male pilgrim and traveling only at night, she spent four treacherous months climbing mountains and evading soldiers to become the first European woman to enter Tibet's forbidden capitol.

Opal: A Life of Enchantment, Mystery, and Madness

by K.K. Beck

Opal Whiteley was an enigma during the rise of mysticism. The publication of her childhood diary made her a national celebrity. Her tale was one of an impassioned naturalist growing up in an Oregon logging camp, a child prodigy spiritually in tune with the natural world around her. An eccentric, charming woman, Opal gathered followers who praised her mystical power. While many dismissed her stories as pure fabrication, many believed in her and her claims that she was secretly a French princess.

Passionate Nomad: The Life of Freya Stark

by Jane Fletcher Geniesse

One of the last great female adventurers, Freya's nonstop journeying led her to remote regions of the Islamic world. She was an explorer, mapmaker, ethnographer, amateur archaeologist, author of 30 travel memoirs, and helped spread British policy in the Middle East.

The Sound of Wings: The Life of Amelia Earhart

by Mary S. Lovell

A pioneering female aviator, Amelia earned fame and accolades as one of the most adventurous pilots of the day. She used her popularity to advocate for women's rights, equality, and world peace. When she disappeared during an historic equatorial circumnavigation, she left behind a legacy as an example of attaining the impossible through passion, hard work, and determination.

Straight on Till Morning: The Biography of Beryl Markham

by Mary S. Lovell

A freeing childhood in Africa instilled in Beryl a love of that land, where she became an accomplished pilot. She became the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic from west to east, chronicling her experience in the bestseller *West With the Night*.

To the Heart of the Nile: Lady Florence Baker and the Exploration of Central Africa

by Pat Shipman

Orphaned during the Hungarian Revolution, Florence was raised in an Ottoman harem and sold at a slave auction at 15. When a wealthy English adventurer Samuel Baker's bid came in second, he abducted her and the couple embarked on a journey of exploration and a quest to discover the source of the Nile.

Collections

Living With Cannibals and Other Women's Adventures

by Michele B. Slung

Maiden Voyages: Writings of Women Travelers

edited by Mary Morris

They Went Whistling: Women Wayfarers, Warriors, Runaways, and Renegades

by Barbara Holland

Women of Discovery: A Celebration of Intrepid Women Who Explored the World

by Milbry Polk & Mary Tiegreen

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WOMEN WANDERERS



Adventurers, explorers, and pioneers in the age of discovery

Ada Blackjack: A True Story of Survival in the Arctic

by Jennifer Niven

23-year-old Ada joined four inexperienced explorers as they set out to claim a bleak Arctic island for Canada. After two years stranded on the ice, three of the men set off for help, leaving Ada to care for the dying member of their party. The men were never heard from again, and Ada was the sole survivor of the ill-fated expedition.

Amazing Traveler Isabella Bird: The Biography of a Victorian Adventurer

by Evelyn Kaye

Isabella took her doctor's prescription of "a change of air" to heart. In the second half of the 19th century, she traveled untamed country in Canada, Australia, Hawaii, the American West, Japan, China, Korea, Tibet, Morocco, and the Middle East and became the first woman elected as a Fellow of the Royal Geographic Society.

Among Stone Giants: The Life of Katherine Routledge and Her Remarkable Expedition to Easter Island

by Jo Anne Van Tilburg

Katherine arrived at Easter Island in 1914 to lead an anthropological and archeological expedition with her husband to investigate the origins of the island's mysterious statues. Despite tensions within the expedition, her life-long battle with schizophrenia, and a native uprising, she made significant contributions, tying the findings into the local culture with insight and sensitivity past explorers lacked.

As Long As Life: The Memoirs of a Frontier Woman Physician, Mary Canaga Rowland, 1873-1966

edited by F. A. Loomis

Long before it was considered accepted, Mary earned a medical degree, obtained a divorce, became a single mother, and supported her family as a roving doctor. When she left her settled life in New York for the West, Mary found that her compassion, determination, and sense of humor were just as essential as the physical tools of her trade. During her decades as a frontier doctor, Mary treated gunshot wounds, was paid with bartered goods, and drove wagons on house calls.

Bold Spirit: Helga Estby's Forgotten Walk Across Victorian America

by Linda Hunt

In 1896 a Norwegian immigrant and mother of eight defied convention when she walked from Eastern Washington to New York with only her eldest daughter, five dollar in cash, and a small pistol in a gamble to win a \$10,000 wager and save the family farm.

Chrysalis: Maria Sibylla Merian and the Secrets of Metamorphosis

by Todd Kim

Maria was a German wife and mother in the 17th century who dedicated her life to understanding and depicting insect life. A visionary artist and naturalist, she pioneered a style of nature illustration that depicted insects in their natural habitat. Although her holistic viewpoint influenced contemporaries as well as later naturalists, among them John James Audubon, her work was largely forgotten for many years.

Covered Wagon Women: Diaries and Letters from the Western Trails, 1840-1890

in 11 volumes

or single volume Best of Covered Wagon Women

edited & compiled by Kenneth L. Holmes

In their own words, women who journeyed west with the wagons give voice to their varied experiences in this ten volume collection. Leaving their homes to travel to far off destinations in search of new lives, they chronicled what they felt and experienced along the way.

Daisy Bates in the Desert: A Woman's Life Among the Aborigines

by Julia Blackburn

In 1913, at the age of 54, Daisy abandoned her comfortable life in England to live in the outback as the self-appointed champion of the Aborigines. She lived among them in the wilderness for more than 40 years, was accepted into their lives, witnessed their secret rites, and became a voluminous chronicler of their daily lives and hers.

Desert Queen: The Extraordinary Life of Gertrude Bell, Adventurer, Adviser to Kings, Ally of Lawrence of Arabia

by Janet Wallach

Prior to WWI, Gertrude stubbornly shunned society to explore regions of the Middle East unknown to most. The first woman to earn a first-class degree in modern history at Oxford, Gertrude taught herself Persian and Arabic, was an amateur archeologist, and authored seven books about the Middle East.

Down the Santa Fe Trail and Into Mexico: The Diary of Susan Shelby Magoffin, 1846-1847

edited by Stella M. Drumm

At the age of eighteen and married just eight months, Susan accompanied her trader husband to the wilds of the American Southwest and Northern Mexico. Their path took them through a land in turmoil; the Mexican-American war was just beginning and New Mexico was occupied by the American army. During their 15-month journey, Susan gave birth to their first child, learned Spanish and traders lingo, and faithfully recorded her views of the culture and dangers she experienced.

The Girl From Botany Bay

by Carrolly Erickson

20-year-old Mary Broad (Bryant), convicted of highway robbery in 1786, was sentenced to the new penal colony in Botany Bay, Australia. She survived a torturous 15,000 mile journey, giving birth to a daughter en route and a son soon after arrival. Once in Australia, she and six fellow convicts, along with her two small children, successfully escaped in a daring 4,000 mile trek in a tiny boat.

Immortal Summer: A Victorian Woman's Travels in the Southwest: The 1897 Letters & Photographs of Amelia Hollenback

edited and annotated by Mary J. Straw Cook

At a time when the American Southwest was still largely unknown, two well-educated East Coast sisters set out to explore it on their own. Traveling by train, during that one remarkable summer they visited the Grand Canyon and explored remote Indian lands and ruins.

Lieutenant Nun: Memoir of a Basque Transvestite in the New World

by Catalina de Erauso

In 1600 at the age of 15, Catalina escaped from the convent where she had spent her childhood. Posing as a male, she served as a page for three years before sailing for South America. For over 20 years, she fought in Spain's conquest of Peru and Chile, killing at least a dozen men. After confessing her true identity to a bishop she returned to Europe a celebrity, receiving a pension from the King and from the Pope, a special dispensation to wear men's clothes.

Midnight to the North: The Untold Story of the Woman Who Saved the Polaris Expedition

by Sheila Nickerson

During the 1871 North Pole expedition, half the team members of the Polaris became trapped on an ice floe, separated from their ship. Among them was Tookoolito, an Inuit woman who had accompanied the expedition as translator and was instrumental in helping the group survive the six and a half months they were stranded.