



Secret Journeys of a Lifetime: 500 of the World's Best Hidden Travel Gems

By National Geographic

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The latest in the highly successful *Journeys of a Lifetime* series and the sequel to the original bestseller, *Secret Journeys of a Lifetime* offers in-depth site descriptions; dozens of fun, themed top ten lists; locator maps; illuminating sidebars; and oversized, lavish full-color images that bring to life 500 novel destinations that have managed to fly under the radar.

Divided into themed chapters, the book features the "World at Your Feet", "Last Wildernesses", "Island Getaways", "The Road Less Traveled", "Secret History", "Spiritual Havens", "Hidden Treasures", "Undiscovered Villages", and "City Secrets". This book will also feature numerous short sidebars by National Geographic contributors entitled "My Secret Journey" that will eloquently describe and personalize travel experiences for readers and will also provide insight on bonus excursions near the featured destinations.

Additional eclectic sidebars will highlight intriguing ancillary information, including entertaining snippets on the local culture or history as well as other sights to see while in the area.

As with other books in the series, each chapter contains two to five lists of "Top Tens," shorter features describing experiences in a wide variety of categories, from quirky museums and quiet city garden oases to atmospheric ghost towns and the best spots for amazing ocean views.

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Secret Journeys of a Lifetime: 500 of the World's Best Hidden Travel Gems By National Geographic Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #167459 in Books
- Published on: 2011-11-01
- Released on: 2011-11-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 12.00" h x 1.20" w x 9.20" l, 4.50 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 320 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

“If you've resolved to explore new horizons this year, Joe Yogerst has some suggestions. As one of the primary authors of *Secret Journeys of a Lifetime: 500 of the World's-Best Hidden Travel Gems* (National Geographic, \$40), he says many incredible sites are overlooked.” –*USA Today*

"We're kind of obsessed with National Geographic's new book, *Secret Journeys of a Lifetime*. The book, which came out earlier this week, has all sorts of travel tips, from the best ghost towns worth visiting to broader topics like the most idyllic island getaways, spiritual travel tips and even classic road trips worth embarking on." --The Huffington Post

“As is custom in a National Geographic coffee table book, the photos are stunning; the practical information and planning advice are useful; and the small sidebars on other nearby points of interest are fascinating. But most compelling are the star attractions, with vivid descriptions that transport you for a tiny glimpse into an often unseen world. It will leave you wondering what National Geographic will come up with next.” –*San Jose Mercury News*

About the Author

DAN WESTERGREN took up photography after being taught how to develop film by an indulgent science teacher in the eighth grade. That early experience instilled in him a reverence for the classic, timeless feel of a wonderful photograph, a reverence that he continues to feel even with his job as Director of Photography for National Geographic Travel. In addition to photo editing for National Geographic Traveler magazine and Natgeo.com/travel he has photographed a variety of stories, including expeditions up Mt. Kilimanjaro in Africa and Mont Blanc and the Matterhorn in the European Alps. Westergren also went on and photographed an expedition to ski the last degree to the North Pole. Over the years, he's shot some of the world's most intriguing people, places and experiences.

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Top Ten Markets & Bazaars

From canaries in Beijing to felt skullcaps in Tunis, relish the sheer variety of the world's marketplaces and the produce and wares on offer.

1. Sololá Market, Guatemala

Red with white stripes is the dominant fashion among sellers and customers at this weekly market in the Guatemalan highlands. Many women arrive with sacks on their heads filled with goods ranging from tortillas to live chickens as well as the handwoven costumes of the Kaqchikel Indians. There is barely a tourist trinket in sight, and traditional dress is the rule.

2. La Vega Central, Santiago, Chile

The Chilean capital's joyously chaotic La Vega Central market, beside the Mapocho River, positively drips South American culture. For the less squeamish—and the large stray dog, cat, and fly population—pigs' heads, tripe, and intestines are a draw. Other delicacies on offer include sopaipillas (fried pumpkin bread), caldo pata (hoof soup), and pastel de choclo (corn pie).

3. Namdaemun Market, Seoul, South Korea

South Korea's largest traditional market, Namdaemun—"great south gate"—owes its name to its location near a former gate in Seoul's long gone city wall. More than 1,000 stores and stalls purvey an array of produce, including clothes, flowers, ginseng products, street food, leather goods, toys—and live turtles.

4. Flower, Bird, Fish, and Insect Market, Beijing, China

Chirruping canaries, caterwauling kittens, and chirping crickets create a quintessentially Chinese sound track at Beijing's Guan Yuan Hua Niao Yu Chong Shi Chang (Flower, Bird, Fish, and Insect Market). Shoes, scorpions, and smoking pipes are among the finds, alongside kites and insects. Much of Beijing may have been sanitized in a frantic rush to modernize, but this old-style market remains refreshingly authentic.

5. Grand Bazaar, Kashgar, China

Two thousand years of history have not dented exotic Kashgar's importance as a market town on the ancient Silk Road. Its Grand Bazaar has long attracted merchants from throughout Central Asia and western China, trading in livestock, carpets, handicrafts, clothes, and food. Barter remains common.

6. Pak Khlong Talat, Bangkok, Thailand

Head from Memorial Bridge toward Bangkok's Chinatown and your nose will guide you to the city's largest wholesale flower, spice, fruit, and vegetable market, open round the clock. Orchids, jasmine, roses, and myriad other eruptions of color and fragrance compete for visual and olfactory attention.

7. Mercato della Pignasecca, Naples, Italy

At its brash best, Naples is one of Italy's most exuberant cities. A superb place to experience its vibrant soul and top-notch street food is the Pignasecca Market. Culinary favorites include calzone, panzerotti (potato croquettes), taralli (Italian-style pretzels), pizza frita (deep-fried pizza), and sfogliatelle (filled pastries).

8. Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, Provence, France

This island in the fast-flowing Sorgue River was once a water-milling center producing silk, wool, and paper. The traditional industries went into decline in the 1960s, and a new one arose: Antiques-selling. The town now has more than 300 permanent antiques dealers, and its flea market is France's largest outside Paris. Musicians create a carnival mood on market days, while stalls sell Provençal food and handicrafts.

9. Mercado da Ribeira, Lisbon, Portugal

Founded in 1882 and housed in its current riverside building since 1930, this is Lisbon's largest food market. On the ground floor, stalls sell everything from fish and seafood to flowers, meat, fruit, and vegetables, while the upper story is a center for local art and gastronomy. Star buys include honey and hand-painted tiles, a Portuguese specialty.

10. Souk des Chéchias, Tunis, Tunisia

Dedicated to the chéchia, a felt skullcap with tassels or a tuft, this suq (market) full of 19th-century shops is perhaps the most interesting—yet endangered—in Tunis. Traditionally associated with Andalusian Moors exiled from Spain between 1609 and 1614, the handmade chéchia became part of the Tunisian national costume. Nowadays, a mere handful of craftsmen remains.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Fletcher:

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Ernestine Pagan:

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