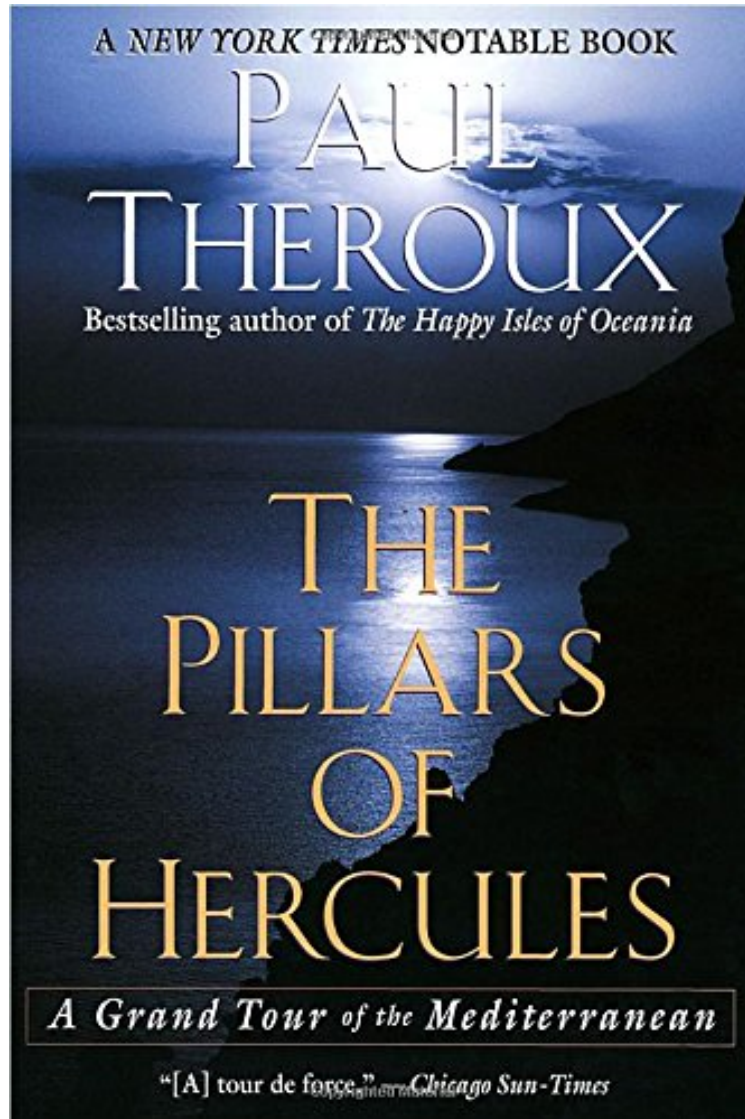


[Download pdf] The Pillars of Hercules: A Grand Tour of the Mediterranean

The Pillars of Hercules: A Grand Tour of the Mediterranean

Paul Theroux

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Paul Theroux : The Pillars of Hercules: A Grand Tour of the Mediterranean before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Pillars of Hercules: A Grand Tour of the Mediterranean:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. If you like non-tourist travel lit, get it By Greeny The Mediterranean coast can be personally explored endlessly. Paul Theroux does it in a way that is authentic, or more precisely as authentic as one can be when one is free enough to tour around and around. Theroux wins high marks for this particular book because he gives concise, vivid analyses throughout. This is in my mind not the same writing genre as those that

inform the tourist crowd about the better restaurants. Theroux's travel literature, as opposed to his novels, put him in the same class as Bill Bryson; William Least Heat-Moon; Jan Morris and Eric Newby. To me, Theroux seems like a man that could become cantankerous if not sufficiently challenged by being in challenging travel situations. He's at his best when things don't seem to be working for him, when he can't immediately get what he wants. And when he's at his best, he gives brilliant commentary on what he observes.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.
Terrific By Fenster Paul Theroux's travel books are a unique delight, and "Pillars of Hercules" is one of his best. In it, he travels from Gibraltar to Tangier, the long way, around the Med Sea. It's compelling reading: The places he visits and the people he meets; his 'take' on things. I had never even considered wanting to travel to Croatia or Albania or Syria or Tunisia, but now I'd like to go. But it's PT's take on places I've been to - Spain, France, Italy - that were most enjoyable, for he usually travels to out of the way places. I was pleased that he also noticed how much dog crap is on the sidewalks in France. His conversations with famed writers Naguib Mahfouz (after being stabbed by a fanatical Muslim) in Cairo and with Paul Bowles in Tangier are two of the book's best parts. I highly recommend this book.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... read almost all of Theroux's travel books and have loved them all
By S. Tom Baker I have read almost all of Theroux's travel books and have loved them all. This one was no exception~

"DAZZLING."--Time "[THEROUX'S] WORK IS DISTINGUISHED BY A SPLENDID EYE FOR DETAIL AND THE TELLING GESTURE; a storyteller's sense of pacing and gift for granting closure to the most subtle progression of events; and the graceful use of language. . . . We are delighted, along with Theroux, by the politeness of the Turks, amazed by the mountainous highlands in Syria, touched by the gesture of an Albanian waitress who will not let him pay for his modest meal. . . . The Pillars of Hercules [is] engrossing and enlightening from start (a damning account of tourists annoying the apes of Gibraltar) to finish (an utterly captivating visit with Paul Bowles in Tangier, worth the price of the book all by itself)."
--Chicago Tribune "ENTERTAINING READING . . . WHEN YOU READ THEROUX, YOU'RE TRULY ON A TRIP."
--The Boston Sunday Globe "HIS PICARESQUE NARRATIVE IS STUDDERED WITH SCENES THAT STICK IN THE MIND. He looks at strangers with a novelist's eye, and his portraits are pleasantly tinged with malice."
--The Washington Post Book World "THEROUX AT HIS BEST . . . An armchair trip with Theroux is sometimes dark, but always a delight."
--Playboy "AS SATISFYING AS A GLASS OF COOL WINE ON A DUSTY CALABRIAN AFTERNOON . . . With his effortless writing style, observant eye, and take-no-prisoners approach, Theroux is in top form chronicling this 18-month circuit of the Mediterranean."
--Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

.com Paul Theroux has developed one of travel writing's most identifiable styles: always the foreigner, always a bit apart, slightly irascible, but perfectly observant. At last he has ventured to one of the most traveled places on earth, and returned with his most exhilarating, revealing, and eloquent travel book. In this modern version of the Grand Tour, Theroux sets off from Gibraltar, one of the fabled Pillars of Hercules, on a glorious journey around the shores of the Mediterranean. From Publishers Weekly The difference between a tourist and a traveler, says Theroux, is that the tourist knows where he's going. Theroux (The Great Railway Bazaar), a traveler, as half a dozen of his popular books have attested, had no design for this adventure, no advance ticketing nor any commitment to stay or go anywhere. His only aim was to explore the Mediterranean coast without resort to airplanes. As a result, he found himself in unfamiliar villages on untraveled roads, acquired unexpected companions and slept in an assortment of inns, from fleabags to Hilton hotels, in Gibraltar Spain, the Riviera, Croatia, Sardinia, Greece, Albania, Morocco, the Levant and Israel. His pictures, like those of a wanderer with a sharp eye and an informed intelligence, though a large measure of condescension as well, are fresh even when he lands in well-reported places. Although most of his informants are casually met, now and then he interviews the famous, among them Paul Bowles in Morocco, Naguib Mahfouz in Egypt. This is a Mediterranean coast few know, as exotic and tumultuous now as throughout history. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal The pillars of Theroux's (The Happy Isles of Oceania, LJ 5/15/92) latest travel title are at the mouth of the Mediterranean, and he proposes to travel from one to the other the long way, by following the shoreline from Spain to Morocco using rail, ferry, bus, or car. One of the pleasures of his book is the unhurried nature of the trip. If it takes Theroux two years to appreciate the flavor of the Mediterranean, then that's how long it takes. As with his other books, Theroux disdains the tourist destinations (he refers to the Greek islands as theme parks) as well as many other sites that don't strike his persnickety fancy, but the Mediterranean is full of resorts and cultural sites so he often endures these to get to the places he finds worthwhile, like Aliano, Italy, Albania, and war-torn Croatia. Every public library should have a copy of this book; there will be a big demand for it. Mary Ann Parker, California Dept. of Water Resources Law Lib., Sacramento Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.