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# Marco Polo Didn't Go There: Stories and Revelations From One Decade As A Postmodern Travel Writer Rolf Potts

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Travel Bloomsbury Publishing USA

Marco Polo Didn't Go There is a collection of rollicking travel tales from a young writer USA Today has called "Jack Kerouac for the Internet Age." For the past ten years, Rolf Potts has taken his

keen postmodern travel sensibility into the far fringes of five continents for such prestigious publications as National Geographic Traveler, Salon.com, and The New York Times Magazine. This book documents his boldest, funniest, and most revealing journeys—from getting stranded without water in the Libyan desert, to crashing the set of a Leonardo DiCaprio movie in Thailand, to learning the secrets of Tantric sex in a dubious Indian ashram. Marco Polo Didn't Go There is more than just an entertaining journey into fascinating corners of the world. The book is a unique window into travel writing, with each chapter containing a "commentary track"—endnotes that reveal the ragged edges behind the experience and creation of each tale. Offbeat and insightful, this book

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is an engrossing read for students of travel writing as well as armchair wanderers.

*The Book of Ser Marco Polo, the Venetian, Concerning the Kingdoms and Marvels of the East*

Harper Collins

Recounts the life of the great explorer who traveled more than thirty thousand miles by land and sea from Italy to China in the thirteenth century, and who was instrumental in opening up the East to Europeans.

**Who Was Marco Polo?** Routledge

Spanning fifteen years of travel, beginning when she is a sophomore in college, Wanderlust documents Elisabeth Eaves' s insatiable hunger for the rush of the unfamiliar and the experience of encountering new people and cultures. Young and independent, she crisscrosses five continents and chases the exotic, both in culture and in romance. In the jungles of Papua New Guinea, she loses herself—literally—to an Australian tour guide; in Cairo, she reconnects with her high school sweetheart, only to discover the beginning of a pattern that will characterize her life over the long-term: while long-distance relationships work well for her, traditional relationships do not. Wanderlust, however, is more than a chronological conquest of men and countries: at its core, it' s a journey of self-discovery. In the course of her travels, Eaves finds herself and the sense of home she' s been lacking since childhood—and she sheds light on a growing culture of young women who have the freedom and inclination to define their own, increasingly global, lifestyles, unfettered by traditional roles and conventions of past generations of women.

**The Mysteries of the Marco Polo Maps** Marshall Cavendish

Marco Polo Didn't Go There Travelers' Tales

**Looking for Marco Polo** Bloomsbury Publishing USA

Newbery Honor–winning author Alan Armstrong's latest book! Eleven-year-old Mark's anthropologist father has disappeared in the Gobi

desert while tracing Marco Polo's ancient route from Venice to China. His mother decides they must go to Venice to petition the agency that sent Mark's father to send out a search party. Anxious about his father and upset about spending Christmas away from home, Mark gets a bad asthma attack in the middle of the night. That's when Doc Hornaday, an old friend of Mark's father, makes a house call, along with a massive black Tibetan mastiff called Boss. To distract Mark from his wheezing and to pass the long Venetian night, the Doc starts to spin for Mark the tale of Marco Polo. Doc describes Marco's travels and the boy finds himself falling under the spell of the story that has transfixed the world for centuries. Marco's journey bolsters Mark's courage and whets his appetite for risk and adventure, and for exposure to life in all its immense and fascinating variety.

*Marco Polo Was in China* Rick Steves

As the first European to travel extensively throughout Asia, Marco Polo was the earliest bridge between East and West. His famous journeys took him across the boundaries of the known world, along the dangerous Silk Road, and into the court of Kublai Kahn, where he won the trust of the most feared and reviled leader of his day. Polo introduced the cultural riches of China to Europe, spawning centuries of Western fascination with Asia. In this lively blend of history, biography, and travelogue, acclaimed author Laurence Bergreen separates myth from history, creating the most authoritative account yet of Polo's remarkable adventures. Exceptionally narrated and written with a discerning eye for detail, Marco Polo is as riveting as the life it describes.

**For the Love of Europe** Graphic Universe™

Quicklets: Your Reading Sidekick! ABOUT THE BOOK The Travels of Marco Polo was written in the 13th century from the accounts of the

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explorer Marco Polo, as recorded by romance author Rustichello da Pisa while they were both political prisoners in Genoa. Some scholars consider Rustichello da Pisa to be the proper author, and that he based the work on Marco Polos stories but told them in his own words. Other scholars think of the book as a collaboration between the two men, something jointly composed to while away the time in prison. Still others think that Marco Polo should be considered the author, and that he dictated the stories while Rustichello da Pisa acted more as a scribe than co-author. The book is a travelogue, probably originally composed in Old French (though some scholars believe it was actually first written in Latin and then translated to Italian), in which Marco Polo visited Persia, China, Indonesia and other parts of Asia between the years 1271 and 1291. He claims to have become important in the court of the Mongol leader Kublai Khan where he served that dynasty for twenty years, but whether or not that is true, he was certainly a curious and observant traveller. MEET THE AUTHOR Nicole has been writing since she could make letters with a pencil, and has been making a living at it for more than ten years. She has gone back to school too many times, studying archaeology, folklore, writing and visual art. She writes fiction under several pen names, and also does printmaking, book arts, and photography. She's an avid amateur natural historian with a particular fascination for things that fly, whether it's birds, bats or insects. And if it's possible to be both a luddite, with a love for the low-tech, and a technophile, with a fascination for everything new and shiny, Nicole is both. She reads too many books, plays too many video games, and watches too much anime. EXCERPT FROM THE BOOK After his father and uncle returned to Venice, Marco Polo set off with them on a new journey though central Asia to China where he apparently became an important dignitary at the court of the Mongol leader Kublai Khan, who was at the time the founder and ruler of Chinas Yuan Dynasty. Marco Polo remained in Kublai Khans court for two decades, before eventually returning to Europe, only to find that the Venice was at war with Genoa. Because

of the tensions between the two cities, Marco Polo was taken as a political prisoner in Genoa, where he was imprisoned with a writer of romances, Rustichello da Pisa. To pass the time in prison, the two men worked on Marco Polos biography. After he was released from captivity, Marco Polo returned to Venice where he continued to finance trading expeditions, though he did not himself go on another one. Buy a copy to keep reading! CHAPTER OUTLINE Quicklet on The Travels of Marco Polo + About The Travels of Marco Polo + About Rustichello da Pisa + About Marco Polo + A Quick Summary of The Travels of Marco Polo + ...and much more

[After You, Marco Polo](#) Ballantine Books

A CIA agent is on trial in the USSR in this New York Times bestseller that “mixes politics, humor, suspense, and ingenious espionage capers” (Publishers Weekly). The prisoner in the dock is accused of unspeakable crimes against the Soviet Union—charges Blackford Oakes is proud to be guilty of. The agent has spent 9 years fighting the spread of Communism in Europe, and he intends to continue the battle. It shouldn't be hard for the Russians to convict him of espionage—after all, Oakes was found on Soviet soil in a downed U-2 spy plane—and it will take a masterstroke for the agent to escape execution. The funny thing is, the Russians are playing right into his hands. After 3 years on leave from the CIA, Oakes was brought back to take part in 1 of the most daring operations in intelligence history. His mission is to crash the plane, get captured, and endure the trial. So far, everything's going according to plan. Now he just has to get out of the Soviet Union alive. Marco Polo, If You Can is the 4th book in the Blackford Oakes Mysteries, but you may enjoy reading the series in any order.

**Vagabonding** Penguin

Object Lessons is a series of short, beautifully designed books about the hidden lives of ordinary things. For as long as people have traveled to distant lands, they have brought

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home objects to certify the journey. More than mere merchandise, these travel souvenirs take on a personal and cultural meaning that goes beyond the object itself. Drawing on several millennia of examples—from the relic-driven quests of early Christians, to the mass-produced tchotchkes that line the shelves of a Disney gift shop—travel writer Rolf Potts delves into a complicated history that explores issues of authenticity, cultural obligation, market forces, human suffering, and self-presentation. Souvenirs are shown for what they really are: not just objects, but personalized forms of folk storytelling that enable people to make sense of the world and their place in it.' Object Lessons is published in partnership with an essay series in The Atlantic. Souvenir features illustrations by Cedar Van Tassel

#### **Marco Polo** Travelers' Tales Guides

The Time Warp Trio meets Marco Polo! What would happen if someone had a time-warping book he got from his uncle who was a magician, and he took it to the local YMCA pool while he played Marco? Polo! with his best friends? In the sixteenth adventure of the Time Warp Trio, it happens to Joe (and Fred and Sam). And what happens is sandstorms, desert bandits, a smelly camel, strange horoscopes, the emperor of all China, and one very famous explorer. If the explorer is Marco Polo, this must be thirteenth-century China!

#### **Xanadu** Penguin

Highlights the life of Italian explorer Marco Polo, his travels in the Orient, and his work as the regional ambassador of Kublai Khan.

#### Souvenir Penguin

What begins as a relaxing vacation turns into a time-traveling adventure, where Geronimo Stilton must travel to Khanbalik, or "The

City of Khan" (modern day Beijing) in 13th Century China where he encounters Kublai Khan and Marco Polo. This time, Geronimo and friends must stop the Pirate Cats from corrupting Marco Polo's famous book "The Travels of Marco Polo," and changing history forever!

#### Messer Marco Polo W. W. Norton

Written in the irreverent style that made How to Talk About Books You Haven't Read a critical and commercial success, Pierre Bayard takes readers on a trip around the world, giving us essential guidance on how to talk about all those fantastic places we've never been. Practical, funny, and thought-provoking, How to Talk About Places You've Never Been will delight and inform armchair globetrotters and jet-setters, all while never having to leave the comfort of the living room. Bayard examines the art of the "non-journey," a tradition that a succession of writers and thinkers, unconcerned with moving away from their home turf, have employed in order to encounter the foreign cultures they wish to know and talk about. He describes concrete situations in which the reader might find himself having to speak about places he's never been, and he chronicles some of his own experiences and offers practical advice. How to Talk About Places You Haven't Been is a compelling and delightful book that will expand any travel enthusiast's horizon well beyond the places it's even possible to visit in a single lifetime.

#### *Marco Polo* BRILL

Marco Polo's famous book about his journey to China, written in 1298, continues to be a subject of considerable controversy. One recent work on the subject argues that Marco Polo never went to China at all, and other scholars have pointed out apparent mistakes and important omissions in Marco's writings,

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including his failure to mention the Great Wall, and his apparently erroneous description of the course of the Yellow River. Haw re-examines Marco Polo's writings. The main arguments against his credibility have been negative, concentrating on things that it is argued he should have seen and noted but did not. The most serious of these supposed omissions are generally said to be his failure to describe the Chinese writing system, tea, foot-binding and the Great Wall of China. Yet Haw argues that what he does mention is impressive and argues strongly for his veracity. This book clarifies Marco Polo's itineraries in China and proposes several new identifications of places mentioned. Relying extensively on original Chinese sources and supplemented by Haw's wide knowledge of China, Marco Polo's China presents a convincing argument and concludes that his work is an accurate, important and useful source from an extraordinary period of Chinese history.

#### Marco? Polo! #16 Marco Polo Didn't Go There

After 40+ years of writing about Europe, Rick Steves has gathered 100 of his favorite memories together into one inspiring collection: *For the Love of Europe: My Favorite Places, People, and Stories*. Join Rick as he's swept away by a fado singer in Lisbon, learns the dangers of falling in love with a gondolier in Venice, and savors a cheese course in the Loire Valley. Contemplate the mysteries of centuries-old stone circles in England, dangle from a cliff in the Swiss Alps, and hear a French farmer's defense of foie gras. With a brand-new, original introduction from Rick reflecting on his decades of travel, *For the Love of Europe* features 100 of the best stories published throughout his career. Covering his adventures through England, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands,

Spain, and more, these are stories only Rick Steves could tell. Wry, personal, and full of Rick's signature humor, *For the Love of Europe* is a fond and inspirational look at a lifetime of travel.

#### *Daughter of Xanadu* Vintage

The *Open Empire* presents a fresh approach to Chinese history in the premodern period, drawing on stunning evidence from recent archaeological finds and exciting currents in scholarship.

#### **Marco Polo's Book** Random House Books for Young Readers

The *Best Travel Writing, Volume 11* is the latest in the annual *Travelers' Tales* series launched in 2004 to celebrate the world's best travel writing -- from Nobel Prize winners to emerging new writers. The points of view and perspectives are global, and themes encompass high adventure, spiritual growth, romance, hilarity and misadventure, service to humanity, and encounters with exotic cuisines and cultures. Includes winners from the annual Solas Awards for Best Travel Writing. Introduction by Rolf Potts In *The Best Travel Writing, Volume 11*, readers will: Piece together the puzzle of life in rural Cambodia Reawaken the joy of travel on a bus ride through Mexico Reexamine war memories with former soldiers in Vietnam Learn the ropes and the art of sailing with a "good captain" on the Pacific Find a true soul sister in the highlands of Ecuador Follow Vincent van Gogh's footsteps in France Survive (or not) a home invasion in Brazil...and much more

#### Marco Polo, If You Can Pickle Partners Publishing

We all "know" that Marco Polo went to China, served Ghengis Khan

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for many years, and returned to Italy with the recipes for pasta and ice cream. But Frances Wood, head of the Chinese Department at the British Library, argues that Marco Polo not only never went to China, he probably never even made it past the Black Sea, where his family conducted business as merchants. Marco Polo's travels from Venice to the exotic and distant East, and his epic book describing his extraordinary adventures, *A Description of the World*, ranks among the most famous and influential books ever published. In this fascinating piece of historical detection, marking the 700th anniversary of Polo's journey, Frances Wood questions whether Marco Polo ever reached the country he so vividly described. Why, in his romantic and seemingly detailed account, is there no mention of such fundamentals of Chinese life as tea, foot-binding, or even the Great Wall? Did he really bring back pasta and ice cream to Italy? And why, given China's extensive and even obsessive record-keeping, is there no mention of Marco Polo anywhere in the archives? Sure to spark controversy, *Did Marco Polo Go to China?* tries to solve these and other inconsistencies by carefully examining the Polo family history, Marco Polo's activities as a merchant, the preparation of his book, and the imperial Chinese records. The result is a lucid and readable look at medieval European and Chinese history, and the characters and events that shaped this extraordinary and enduring myth.

*MARCO POLO HIS TRAVELS & ADV* Open Road Media  
Concerns a collection of maps and associated documents claimed to be from Marco Polo's time or that of his daughters (as many of the maps have the name or one or another of the three daughters on them). Discusses provenance, authenticity, and history of the documents, known to scholars as "the Marco Polo Maps" since 1948, here discussed fully for the first time.

*The Open Empire* Bloomsbury Publishing USA

Frank and Joe Hardy are investigating a mysterious old house high on the cliffs above Barmet Bay when they are frightened off by a scream. The boys return to the apparently haunted house when they make a connection between the place and a smuggling case their father is working on. When their father goes missing, they have to investigate the caves beneath the house and confront the smugglers.