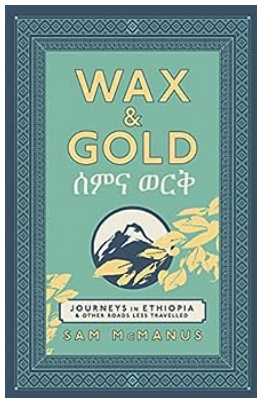


Journeys In Ethiopia: Other Roads Less Travelled



When it comes to embarking on breathtaking journeys, Ethiopia offers an array of hidden gems that are waiting to be discovered. While many tourists are drawn to the well-known attractions like the rock-hewn churches of Lalibela and the ancient ruins of Axum, there are countless other destinations in this captivating country that offer unique experiences. In this article, we will take you along the other roads less travelled in Ethiopia, unveiling the beauty and mystery that lie beyond the beaten path.

1. Danakil Depression: An Unforgettable Journey into the Heart of Earth



Wax & Gold : Journeys in Ethiopia & other roads less travelled

by Todd Sinclair (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1237 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 255 pages
Lending	: Enabled



In northern Ethiopia, the otherworldly landscapes of the Danakil Depression beckon the intrepid traveler. Considered one of the hottest places on Earth, this desolate region boasts vividly colored mineral formations, steaming geysers, and an active volcano. The Dallol volcano, with its bubbling salt formations and mesmerizing sulfur lakes, presents a surreal sight that will leave you awestruck. It's a challenging journey, but the rewards of witnessing the raw power of nature are truly extraordinary.

2. Simien Mountains: Majestic Peaks and Rare Wildlife Encounters



Nestled in the northern part of the country, the Simien Mountains National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that offers a unique combination of breathtaking scenery and a chance to encounter rare wildlife. Trekking through this rugged terrain rewards hikers with panoramas of jagged peaks, deep valleys, and dramatic precipices. Keep an eye out for the Ethiopian wolf, walia ibex, and gelada baboon as you explore this awe-inspiring destination.

3. Bale Mountains: Exploring Nature's Hidden Wonderland



For nature enthusiasts, the Bale Mountains National Park provides an opportunity to immerse oneself in an untouched wonderland. This vast expanse of alpine moorland, cloud forests, and pristine valleys is home to various endemic species, including the Ethiopian red fox and the endangered mountain nyala. Hiking in the wilderness of Bale Mountains is like stepping into a world untouched by time, surrounded by stunning landscapes and a diversity of flora and fauna that will leave you breathless.

4. Lalibela's Hidden Churches: Unveiling the Secrets of Faith



While Lalibela itself is a well-known pilgrimage site, it holds hidden churches that are lesser-known to the average tourist. These hidden churches, carved out of rock with intricate details, are often tucked away in unassuming natural caves. Exploring these secret marvels, nestled away from the crowds, offers a more intimate and awe-inspiring experience. Witnessing the devotion and faith that went into creating these architectural masterpieces is a humbling experience that will leave a lasting impression.

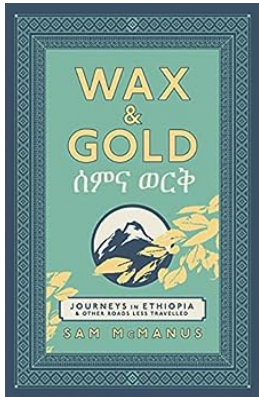
5. Rift Valley Lakes: A Paradise for Wildlife and Adventure Seekers



If you are a fan of birdwatching, wildlife spotting, or water activities, Ethiopia's Rift Valley Lakes present an abundant playground for nature enthusiasts. From the flamingos gracing the shores of Lake Abijatta to the hippos and crocodiles congregating in Lake Chamo, there is no shortage of fascinating wildlife to observe. Moreover, these lakes offer opportunities for water sports such as sailing, kayaking, and swimming, ensuring that adventure seekers will have plenty to immerse themselves in.

While Ethiopia's well-known attractions are undoubtedly stunning, the other roads less travelled in this remarkable country offer a chance to explore the hidden treasures that remain largely untouched. From the geological wonders of Danakil Depression to the spiritual marvels of Lalibela's hidden churches, Ethiopia's

offbeat destinations promise unforgettable experiences and a deeper connection with nature, history, and culture. So, pack your bags and embark on a journey that will take you off the beaten path and into the heart of Ethiopia's lesser-known wonders.



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Don't catch a leopard by the tail, but if you do, don't let it go - Ethiopian Proverb

Author Sam McManus has collated 15-years' worth of adventure travel writing in Ethiopia, Japan, Bolivia, Egypt, Kyrgyzstan, Iran, Mongolia, Lebanon, Oman & Costa Rica in this collection of travel stories, which revolve around a central solo journey exploring the mountains of Ethiopia over a three-month period in 2015, which led to the founding of sustainable adventure travel company YellowWood Adventures. This is pure travel writing:

"The most prized form of Ethiopian Amharic prose and poetry, loosely translated as 'wax and gold' ሰንኦ ሠንኦ [sam-enna warq], is meticulously comprised with a focus on the duality of its meanings. The surface meaning, the wax, must be stripped away to reveal the hidden core of gold underneath. Ethiopia as a country

also encourages you to look deeper within yourself, to fully understand and appreciate a deeply rich spiritual significance, that often resonates beneath simple or plain exteriors.

Ethiopia, like a densely constructed novel exposing the fundamental contradictions of human nature, or, say, the bright plumage of a flowering cactus, when her treasures are revealed, they are all the more exceptional for the contrasts they manifest. Rarely do I open a book or read a travel article on Ethiopia that does not include the famous line from 18th century historian Edward Gibbon's masterwork *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*: "Encompassed on all sides by the enemies of their religion, the Ethiopians slept near a thousand years, forgetful of the world by whom they were forgotten." It still perfectly encapsulates what makes this land so unique, so much from ancient times still remaining.

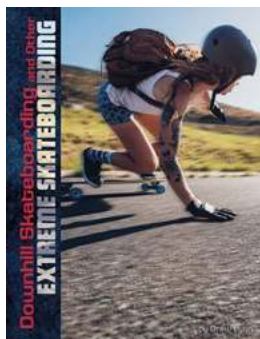
Although the modern world now has a stable foothold in the cities of Ethiopia, when one ventures out to the interior, this thin veneer rapidly falls away, unveiling the unchanged soul of the nation. One memory illustrates this perfectly: A man and his young son were ploughing a terraced wheat field below their grass hut with two oxen. Their field on the edge of a small river, this fell away off the high plateau in a series of three waterfalls. Their plough had a small sharp metal tip lashed to its wooden triangular sides, the long beam and ploughman's handle comprised of bark-stripped eucalyptus. They wore a few items of Western clothing – a shirt and a raggedy pair of trousers, both in bare feet. Aside from these few tiny elements that have seeped in from the outside world, the scene was timeless.

I believe it is the search for this timelessness that continues to drive me to travel to the wilder corners of this world."

McManus grew up in the countryside of Kent in the UK until he walked out one midsummer morning into a lifetime of travel and adventure. Travel and books: these two passions have fuelled journeys to over 60 countries whilst living on four continents. He has always favoured the road less travelled: whilst living in Japan he took his tent and surfboard and spent three months island-hopping down the 1100km of Ryukyu archipelago; in the Amazon rainforest he spent two weeks with an Indian guide carrying only a machete, fishhooks, salt, sugar and cocoa leaves, learning to live off the land.

Be it the highest plateau in Africa, ice-climbing in the Tian Shan Mountains or exploring the lost assassins' castles in the Alborz Mountains of Iran; a veritable mountain of banana sandwiches, history books, novels, travel writings and biographies always accompany these adventures, and wherever possible a horse or two.

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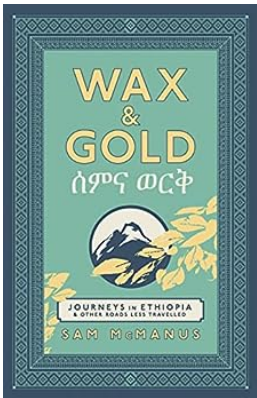
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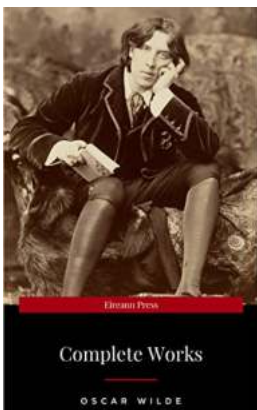
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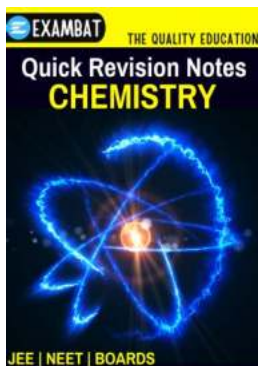
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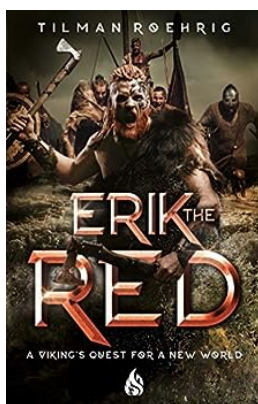
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