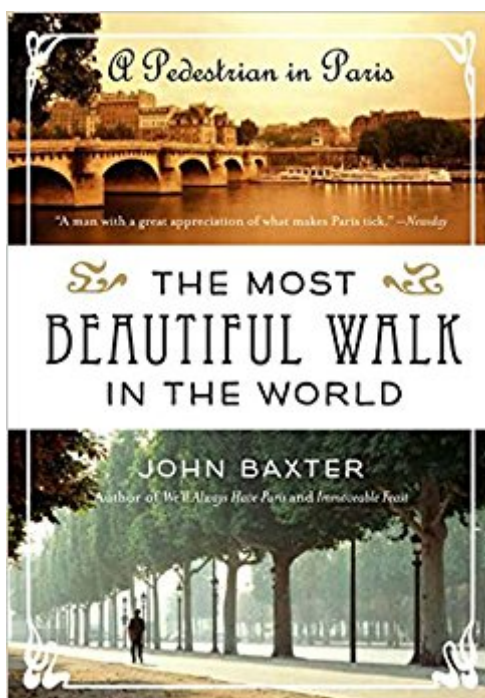


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# The Most Beautiful Walk In The World: A Pedestrian In Paris



## Synopsis

“A man with a great appreciation of what makes Paris tick.”

From the author of *Immoveable Feast* and *We All Always Have Paris* comes a guided tour of the most beautiful walks through the City of Light, including the favorite walking routes of many of the acclaimed artists and writers who have called Paris their home. Baxter highlights hidden treasures along the Seine, treasured markets at Place d'Aligre, the favorite ambles of Ernest Hemingway, Gertrude Stein, and Sylvia Beach, and more, in a series of intimate vignettes that evoke the best parts of Paris's many charms. Baxter's unforgettable chronicle reveals how walking is the best way to experience romance, history, and pleasures off the beaten path — not only of La Ville-Lumière, but also, perhaps, of life itself.

## Book Information

Paperback: 298 pages

Publisher: Harper Perennial; Original edition (May 24, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0061998540

ISBN-13: 978-0061998546

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.8 x 7.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 141 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #64,728 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in Books > Travel >

Specialty Travel > Literary & Religious #86 in Books > Travel > Europe > France > General

#120 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Hiking & Camping > Excursion Guides

## Customer Reviews

“One of the smartest nonfiction titles for summer reading ... Baxter tracks both the city's history and the many celebrated figures who have savored the art of walking in one of the world's most beautiful capitals.” (Christian Science Monitor)

“A lovely book ... Full of unexpected pleasures ... Parisians claim that walking around Paris is an art form in itself, and Baxter proves them right. (Chicago Tribune)

“A man with a great appreciation of what makes Paris tick.” (Newsday)

“We are the beneficiaries of John Baxter's considerable, vivid love for the expatriate life in Paris. ... The Most Beautiful Walk in the World is as close as a reader can get to the feel of a languid spring walk along Baron

Hausmann's boulevards. (Los Angeles Times) "Anyone who loves Paris and loves to walk will feel this book was written just for them. ... Charming. (USA Today) "A splendid memoir ... Reading *The Most Beautiful Walk in the World* is the next best thing to a Paris vacation. (Boston Globe) "Fabulous . . . the perfect companion for anyone inspired to hop over to France after seeing *Midnight in Paris* (NPR.org)

Thrust into the unlikely role of professional "literary walking tour" guide, an expat writer provides the most irresistibly witty and revealing tour of Paris in years. In this enchanting memoir, acclaimed author and long-time Paris resident John Baxter remembers his yearlong experience of giving "literary walking tours" through the city. Baxter sets off with unsuspecting tourists in tow on the trail of Paris's legendary artists and writers of the past. Along the way, he tells the history of Paris through a brilliant cast of characters: the favorite cafés of Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and James Joyce; Pablo Picasso's underground Montmartre haunts; the bustling boulevards of the late-nineteenth-century flâneurs; the secluded "Little Luxembourg" gardens beloved by Gertrude Stein; the alleys where revolutionaries plotted; and finally Baxter's own favorite walk near his home in Saint-Germain-des-Prés.

What a great book!! Baxter takes you all over Paris but this is not a guide book or a list of must see sights for the tourist. What it is is a stroll through Paris with someone who lives there and loves his city. Baxter talks history, art, bars and bartenders, Hemingway, Tolstoy, tourists and more as he walks through the city. His love for its history, the people who live there and lived there, its architecture and grime is both interesting and enthralling, and he makes you feel if you're walking by his side.

I've just read several of the other comments and was a little puzzled, did we read the same book? Mr. Baxter delivered just what the book title and jacket describes: a pedestrian in Paris, a memoir of the author who gave "literary walking tours," and his version of "the most beautiful walk in the world." And indeed it lives up to those descriptions and is very well written, interesting, and often funny. Yes, it's not a travel book of Paris, but it didn't purport to be one. And yes, I certainly agree that if you put a map in the book, ensure that it is correct. But don't let those things detract from reading a pleasurable and satisfying memoir. I've visited Paris twice, so I'm not an expert by any means, however Mr. Baxter's 'walks' have given me loads of information for a literary walking tour when I visit again.

I enjoyed the ups and downs, the wide boulevards and the smelly alleys. This author appears to know Paris well. I have been there and it brought a lot of memories flooding back.

I bought this book after reading the copy in our public library. It is a keeper. Reading this book is like conversing with the author. He is humorous and well-informed. The book is both a personal memoir and a guide to Paris. Anyone who is interested in literature and writers will find it interesting. He writes of Hemmingway and company and the French revolution Anyone who loved "Midnight in Paris," anyone who has visited Paris or wants to visit Paris should enjoy it.

It was a pleasure to return to this book each evening after a long day of work. The story and the author offer the simple escapism I craved. Now we must part company. I will speak fondly of you always. Such is Paris...and this most beautiful book.

John Baxter has created a book which reflects his knowledge and love of Paris. Through his descriptions, Paris and the Parisians then and now, come alive and the reader is transported to the fascinating world of The City of Light. I felt that I was walking with Baxter through his quartier. I learned many things about Paris and its inhabitants, famous and not so famous. I enjoyed Baxter's gift with language and reading a book that was written by an experienced writer rather than some of the very ordinary offerings available as ebooks. He clearly knows how to tell a tale. There were echoes of "A Paris Christmas: Immoveable Feast" which I also enjoyed. I was charmed by the photo of Baxter and his daughter and appreciated the photos. This is not a guide book but offers more; it gives the feel of Paris. The places Baxter mentions have a life of their own and that is so much more interesting than a soulless description in a guide book.

I really enjoyed the first three-quarters of this book. Baxter's descriptions of modern-day haunts in Paris mixed well with the glimpses into the city's literary history that he offered. He proved to be an effective story teller with his vivid descriptions of people and places - some lines are still in my mind 3 weeks after finishing the book. My issue with the book (which prevented the 5th star) is two-fold: First, my favorite part of the book was when Baxter described his days as a tour guide and I don't think he explored that part of his story enough (after all, the book is titled after these tours) and second, the last quarter of the book really dragged on without purpose. Overall, though, I would recommend this book for people who love Paris or want to learn more about the city's literary past.

There were only a few photos, none of them very interesting.

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