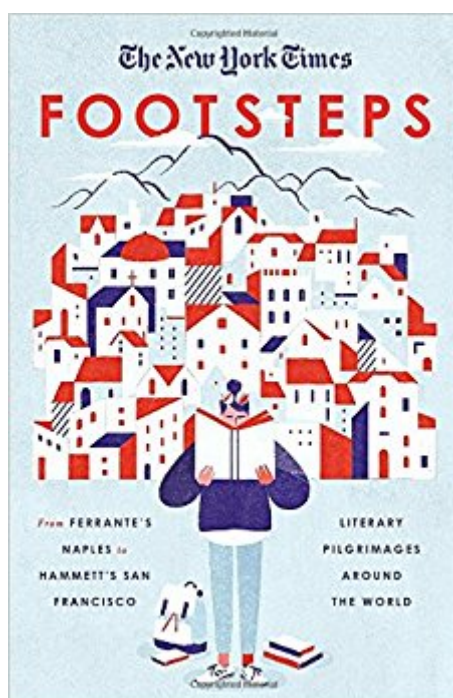


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# The New York Times: Footsteps: From Ferrante's Naples To Hammett's San Francisco, Literary Pilgrimages Around The World



## Synopsis

A curated collection of the New York Times' travel column, "Footsteps," exploring iconic authors' relationships to landmarks and cities around the world. Before Nick Carraway was drawn into Daisy and Gatsby's sparkling, champagne-fueled world in *The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald vacationed in the French Riviera, where a small green lighthouse winked at ships on the horizon. Before the nameless lovers began their illicit affair in *The Lover*, Marguerite Duras embarked upon her own scandalous relationship amidst the urban streets of Saigon. And before readers were terrified by a tentacled dragon-man called Cthulhu, H.P. Lovecraft was enthralled by the Industrial Trust tower-- the 26-story skyscraper that makes up the skyline of Providence, Rhode Island. Based on the popular New York Times travel column, *Footsteps* is an anthology of literary pilgrimages, exploring the geographic muses behind some of history's greatest writers. From the "dangerous, dirty and seductive" streets of Naples, the setting for Elena Ferrante's famous Neapolitan novels, to the "stone arches, creaky oaken doors, and riverside paths" of Oxford, the backdrop for Alice's adventures in *Wonderland*, *Footsteps* takes a fresh approach to literary tourism, appealing to readers and travel enthusiasts alike.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"For anyone who's ever asked 'Where do your stories come from?' or for anyone who has traveled or longed to travel, the writers in this collection elegantly, thoughtfully, lovingly, and brilliantly take you to places you've never imagined and places you've dreamed of getting to. It's fabulous!" —JACQUELINE WOODSON, author of the New York Times bestseller *Another*

Brooklyn and the National Book Award winner *Brown Girl Dreaming*"A feast of inspiration." •BILL BRYSON, author of *The Road to Little Dribbling: Adventures of an American in Britain*

THE NEW YORK TIMES is a daily newspaper published in New York City and distributed internationally. Founded in 1851, the newspaper has won 119 Pulitzer Prizes, more than any other newspaper. • MONICA DRAKE is the editor of the Travel section at the New York Times.

A great read. Much new information about many different people and their lives and works. Each essay is short and very well presented. I especially enjoyed reading about author, Flannery O'Connor -

A writer's inspiration can come from many things; a person, object, or even a particular location. A special place can sink into your bones, color your thoughts, ooze from your pen (or computer.) Some places are so closely associated with a writer as to be inseparable. Say "Charles Dickens" and you immediately think of Victorian England. How would stories have changed if L. M. Montgomery never lived on Prince Edward Island or if Stephen King settled in Arizona instead of Maine? *Footsteps* is a collection of articles from an ongoing series in *The New York Times* that explores how the physical path a writer takes affects the literary journey. Each one is written by a different person who thoughtfully walks in the footsteps of a favorite author. The result is a collection of delightfully different travel essays. The selected authors are an eclectic mix spread across the globe. Some, such as Mark Twain, are well known, but others such as novelist Orhan Pamuk of Istanbul might be new to the reader. All the essays are charming and written with obvious affection and even a bit of whimsy. In a walking tour to trace fictional Sam Spade's routes through the real Dashiell Hammett's San Francisco, the essay's author came across the following tongue-in-cheek plaque on Burritt Street. "On approximately this spot, Miles Archer, Sam Spade's partner, was done in by Brigid O'Shaughnessy." There is no mention of the Maltese Falcon or that Sam, Miles, and Brigid never existed. Many of the essays hold a surprise or two. Bram Stoker's inspiration for *Dracula*'s eerie setting came from the English coastal resort of Whitby and not Transylvania. H. P. Lovecraft was an early king of creepy and he found his doorway to hell in Providence, Rhode Island. Sometimes the negative affect of a

place was more profound than the positive. Alice Munro hated Vancouver, British Columbia, but used her time there to craft memorable stories. Some essays have a dash of bittersweet. Not every writer ended up rich and successful. Many weren't particularly admirable (Shelley and Byron were two misogynistic dirtbags), but all had been touched by a place that transformed their writing into glorious words. I highly recommend *Footsteps* as both a quirky travel guide and a warm-hearted tribute to writers and their inspiration. I received this book from Blogging for Books in exchange for a review.

To start off my Summer Reading List I have been reading *The New York Times: Footsteps*, which is a small collection of short geographical essays telling stories about different places in the world. A literary footstep-ing across the world so to speak. This book is based on a New York Times travel column and gives you insight to the locational muses of some of the world's famous writers. It was a very well put together collection, and each story is written by someone who is walking the footsteps of a famous author. The essays are enticing with a bit of whimsical charm and some even hold a surprise or change-up. Each writer also contained their own writing style. Some were easy for me to get into while others I had to really focus to see the stories between the lines. But all were very fascinating and took me to another place where I could really imagine the life there and see why those famous writers let their imaginations take them away. I was excited to read this as I have no major travel plans this summer, but now I can enjoy the world travels of others by reading in the comforts of my own home. And I highly recommend it to others as a fun guide to traveling the world or as a good read while relaxing on your favorite local beach!

I'm not sure I've ever reviewed a travel book on ILR before. It's not my style of book at all. However, I was immediately drawn in by the description of faraway places visited by some of the best known authors. Walking in their footsteps is on my bucket list. I've recently discovered just how much I long to travel, and since my next big trip isn't for another year at least I can read about it, right? Most of the essays were every bit as romantic as one would hope. Clearly these were written by bibliophiles like myself - readers and dreamers who love to sit in a cafe with a glass of wine in one hand a book in the other, thinking about the author who wrote that novel and the life they led. The mystery has been taken out of it some what nowadays, since we can "meet" our authors on social media. (Not that I am complaining, I will totally watch every single one of your Instastories, don't you worry about that.) But

wouldn't it be cool to drink tea with Jane Austen? I didn't read every single one of the essays, and there were a few I skimmed while I recognized and liked most of the authors chosen, there were some I either didn't recognize or care about. But I might read the one about James Baldwin anytime I read Giovanni's Room, and the one about Byron and Shelley, while cringey, certainly shed a lot of light on that whole situation. I'm not sure I'd pick up a book like this if it were on any other subject matter. Just people randomly strolling thru Paris for no particular reason besides travel? Not a collection I'm interested. But add in the author quest and I'm totally down. I know a few friends I will be recommending this to. Should you be one of them?

Footsteps: From Ferrante's Naples to Hammett's San Francisco: Literary Pilgrimages Around the World by the New York Times is a collection of travel essays by well-known authors of travel-related stories. What I liked the most about this book was each author's writing style. It was enjoyable to experience the different styles of how each author made you feel like you were in the place that he or she was describing. The essays are inspirational and make you want to go to that place. I suppose the only drawback to most of the essays is that, like most travel articles, not much is included about potential problems in each place, such as hurricane season, crime or foul weather. I received a free copy of this book from the publisher.

Good read! Nice bedtime reading as each essay is only a few pages long. Nice background on the various authors.

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