



## India | READING AND TRAVEL GUIDE

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### ESSENTIAL Reading

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#### **Malgudi Days** • R. K. Narayan

LITERATURE • 2006 • PAPER • 272 PAGES • **FAVORITE**

Wonderful tales about a fictional South Indian town by a beloved Indian writer. Malgudi is a composite of Narayan's two hometowns -- Mysore and Madras -- populated by quirky characters whose unique approaches to tradition and modernity are the stuff of great short stories. (IDA59, \$16.00)



#### **City of Djinns: A Year in Delhi** • William Dalrymple

CULTURAL PORTRAIT • 2003 • PAPER • 350 PAGES • **FAVORITE**

A year's sojourn in Old Delhi provides the springboard for a brilliant ramble through several thousand years of the city's history; architecture, art and literature are leavened and lightened by a mixture of the author's daily life. Any visitor will see a Delhi, New and Old, with fresh eyes after walking through the crowds on Chandni Chowk with the incomparable Dalrymple as guide. (IDA06, \$17.00)



#### **India** • Stanley Wolpert

HISTORY • 2009 • PAPER • 281 PAGES

A wonderfully literate introduction to India by the acknowledged master. Author of 14 books and a professor of history since 1958, Wolpert distills a tremendous amount of information in this detailed overview, tackling the environment, religion and philosophy, the arts and sciences, domestic and foreign policy and culture. (IDA04, \$29.95)



#### **Eyewitness Guide India** • Eyewitness Guides

GUIDEBOOK • 2014 • PAPER • 800 PAGES

A handsome, beautifully illustrated guide to India. It features color photographs, history and plenty of background information. (IDA265, \$30.00)



#### **India Adventure Map** • National Geographic Society

2011 • MAP

A double-sided shaded relief map of India at the excellent scale of 1:2,100,000, printed on tear and waterproof paper. With an index, it shows major roads, rivers, and locations of national parks. Two Sides. 27x40 inches. (IDA18, \$12.95)



## Also Recommended

**National Geographic India** • Louise Nicholson • GUIDEBOOK • Veteran guidebook author Louise Nicholson teamed up with National Geographic photographers for this profusely illustrated travel guide. (IDA208, \$27.95)

**Curry, A Tale of Cooks and Conquerors** • Lizzie Collingham • FOOD • This cultural history with recipes is appetizingly organized as a menu (biryani, vindaloo, chai, etc.). Collingham explores the origins and spread of Indian food and the interplay between Muslim, Hindu, Portuguese and British traditions on the subcontinent. (IDA319, \$16.95)

**A Free Man** • [Aman Sethi](#) • CULTURAL PORTRAIT • Sethi conjures Mohammed Ashraf and his indelible group of day laborer friends in the Old Delhi Railway Station in this searing portrait of life -- and injustice -- in contemporary India. (IDA689, \$15.95)

**Behind the Beautiful Forevers** • [Katherine Boo](#) • CULTURAL PORTRAIT • A Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist and writer at The New Yorker, Boo turns her four years among the people of a Mumbai slum into an absorbing tale of the clash of India, new and old, prosperous and disenfranchised. (IDA654, \$16.00)

**In Spite of the Gods** • [Edward Luce](#) • HISTORY • Luce tackles the challenges and reality of the world's largest democracy with insight and balance in this portrait of a nation in transition. (IDA349, \$16.95)

**India Becoming** • [Akash Kapur](#) • CULTURAL PORTRAIT • Kapur returns to the country of his birth for this revealing and rich tapestry of contemporary India as told through the lives of ordinary people. (IDA646, \$16.00)

**India, A Sacred Geography** • [Diana L. Eck](#) • RELIGION • Professor of comparative religion and Indian studies at Harvard, Diana Eck turns her interest in temples and places of pilgrimage into a celebration of the diversity of popular religious traditions in India in this richly rewarding travelogue. (IDA634, \$16.00)

**India, A Short History** • [Andrew Robinson](#) • HISTORY • Robinson's inviting introduction to India chronicles the rise and fall of the India's kingdoms and its eventual economic decline, which led to the British subjugation of the Mughal Empire in the mid-19th century. (IDA701, \$24.95)

**May You Be the Mother of a Hundred Sons, A Journey Among the Women of India** • [Elisabeth Bumiller](#) • CULTURAL PORTRAIT • A wonderfully written and fascinating portrayal of Indian women from Bollywood stars to Indira Gandhi to prostitutes. It's an insightful portrait of the country as seen through the eyes of its women. (IDA37, \$16.00)

**Midnight's Descendants, A History of South Asia Since Partition** • [John Keay](#) • HISTORY • An illuminating history of South Asian countries India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, their interconnectedness and present challenges. (ASA96, \$29.99)

**Rogue Elephant, Harnessing the Power of India's Unruly Democracy** • [Simon Denyer](#) • CULTURAL PORTRAIT • An astute examination of contemporary Indian politics and economics. Simon Denyer, former Indian bureau chief for the Washington Post, writes on the crisis of confidence in the world's largest democracy. (IDA700, \$30.00)

**What the Buddha Taught** • [Walpola Sri Rahula](#) • RELIGION • A classic account of Theravada Buddhism by a respected monk and scholar from Sri Lanka. Provides translations from original texts with explanations for Western readers. A good foundation for any visitor to Southeast Asia. (SEA41, \$14.95)

**Gandhi, An Autobiography, or the Story of My Experiments with Truth** • [Mohandas K. Gandhi](#) • BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR • There is no substitute for reading Gandhi in his own simple, direct prose. A highly recommended glimpse into the personality and life of this remarkable figure. (IDA163, \$16.00)

**Nine Lives, In Search of the Sacred in Modern India** • [William Dalrymple](#) • TRAVEL NARRATIVE • From Sufi dervish and Buddhist monk to outcast and temple worshiper: nine people, nine lives, all captured by Dalrymple as he journeys throughout India in search of remarkable individuals transformed by religion. At turns bemusing, dazzling and heart-wrenching, this is his first travel book in 15 years. (IDA587, \$16.00)

**A Fine Balance** • [Rohinton Mistry](#) • LITERATURE • FAVORITE • Set in 1975 in an unnamed Indian "city by the sea," this tender novel follows the intermingled fortunes of a Parsi widow, her boarder and two tailors. A Booker Prize finalist. (IDA92, \$17.00)

**India, A Traveler's Literary Companion** • Chandrahas Choudhury • ANTHOLOGY • Each of these 14 stories evokes place and landscape, providing an excellent introduction both to contemporary writers and to India's diverse cultures and history. (IDA598, \$14.95)

**Midnight's Children** • Salman Rushdie • LITERATURE • **FAVORITE** • Crowned Best of the Booker in 2008, Rushdie's greatest novel is a madcap, comic take on the birth of modern India in all its splendid and unexpected manifestations. (IDA12, \$16.00)

**The God of Small Things** • Arundhati Roy • LITERATURE • This luminous, Booker Prize-winning novel is part mystery, part family saga -- a tale of lost innocence set in Kerala during the tumult of the 1960s. (IDA31, \$16.00)

**The White Tiger, A Novel** • Aravind Adiga • LITERATURE • Mordant, funny, angry, horrifying, this Booker Prize-winning tale of a village pauper turned success (and murderer) skewers the ambition, inequity and corruption of 21st-century India. (IDA542, \$16.00)

**Birds of India** • Richard Grimmett • Carol Inskipp • Tim Inskipp • FIELD GUIDE • Thoroughly revised, with 73 new plates and many others updated or repainted, the second edition of the masterful Birds of India now features all maps and text opposite the plates for quicker and easier reference. (FG43, \$39.50)

**India Wildlife, A Folding Pocket Guide to Familiar Animals** • James Kavanagh • FIELD GUIDE • **COMING IN APRIL** • A folding wildlife guide designed for quick reference in the field. It features more than 140 creatures often seen in India (from tigers and lions to flying lizards) with full-color images and text. Part of the great Pocket Naturalist series. (IDA728, \$6.95)

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