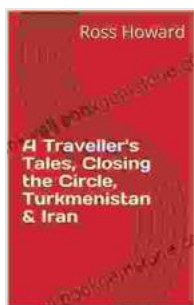


Traveller Tales: Closing the Circle in Turkmenistan and Iran

In the summer of 2022, I embarked on a life-changing journey through two of Central Asia's most enigmatic countries: Turkmenistan and Iran. My goal was to retrace the ancient Silk Road, a network of trade routes that connected East and West for centuries, and to experience firsthand the rich cultures and landscapes that have shaped this region.



A Traveller's Tales, Closing the Circle, Turkmenistan & Iran by Paris Permenter

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 296 pages



My adventure began in the remote desert city of Ashgabat, Turkmenistan's capital. From there, I traveled east across the Karakum Desert, visiting ancient ruins and meeting nomadic tribesmen who have preserved their traditions for centuries. I then crossed the border into Iran, where I explored the ancient cities of Merv, Nishapur, and Isfahan, marvels of Islamic architecture and centers of learning in the medieval era.

The Silk Road: A Journey Through Time

The Silk Road was not a single road, but rather a vast network of trade routes that crisscrossed Asia for thousands of years. It was a conduit for the exchange of goods, ideas, and culture, and it played a pivotal role in shaping the development of civilizations in both the East and the West.

My journey along the Silk Road took me through some of the most stunning landscapes in the world. I crossed vast deserts, climbed rugged mountain passes, and navigated lush green valleys. Along the way, I encountered a diverse array of people, from friendly nomads to sophisticated urban dwellers.

Turkmenistan: A Land of Contrasts

Turkmenistan is a land of stark contrasts. It is a country of vast deserts and snow-capped mountains, of modern cities and ancient ruins. It is a country that has been isolated for much of its history, but is now opening up to the world.

I was particularly struck by the hospitality of the Turkmen people. Despite their country's reputation for being closed off, I found them to be warm and welcoming. I was invited into their homes, shared their meals, and listened to their stories. I came away from Turkmenistan with a deep appreciation for the country and its people.

Iran: A Cradle of Civilization

Iran is one of the world's oldest civilizations, and its rich history is evident everywhere you go. From the ancient ruins of Persepolis to the bustling streets of Tehran, Iran is a country that is steeped in culture and tradition.

I was particularly impressed by the Iranian people's love of poetry and literature. Iran is the birthplace of some of the world's greatest poets, including Rumi and Hafiz, and their works are still widely read and appreciated today. I had the opportunity to visit the tomb of Rumi in Konya, Turkey, and it was a moving experience to see firsthand the legacy of this great poet.

Closing the Circle

My journey through Turkmenistan and Iran was a life-changing experience. I learned so much about these two fascinating countries, and I made many lifelong friends along the way. I am grateful for the opportunity to have experienced the Silk Road firsthand, and I encourage others to do the same.

The Silk Road is not just a historical relic. It is a living, breathing entity that continues to connect people and cultures today. By traveling along the Silk Road, we can learn about the past, present, and future of this remarkable region.

Tips for Planning Your Own Silk Road Journey

If you are planning your own Silk Road journey, here are a few tips:

- Do your research. There are many different routes to take along the Silk Road, so it is important to decide what you want to see and experience before you start planning your trip.
- Get a visa. You will need a visa to enter both Turkmenistan and Iran. The process for obtaining a visa can be complex, so it is important to start the process well in advance.

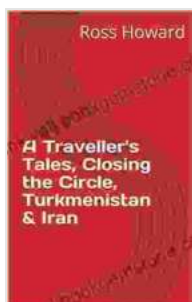
- Be prepared for adventure. The Silk Road is not a well-traveled path, so you will need to be prepared for some unexpected challenges. But the rewards are worth it.
- Take your time. The Silk Road is a vast and diverse region, so it is important to take your time and immerse yourself in the experience. Don't try to see too much in too short a time.
- Be respectful. The people you meet along the Silk Road come from a variety of cultures, so it is important to be respectful of their customs and traditions.

I hope this article has inspired you to plan your own Silk Road journey. It is an experience that will change your life and give you a new appreciation for the world.









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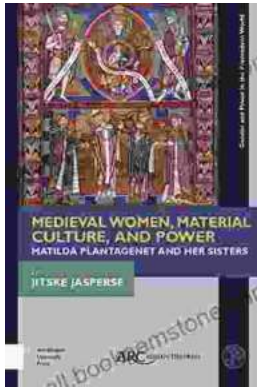
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