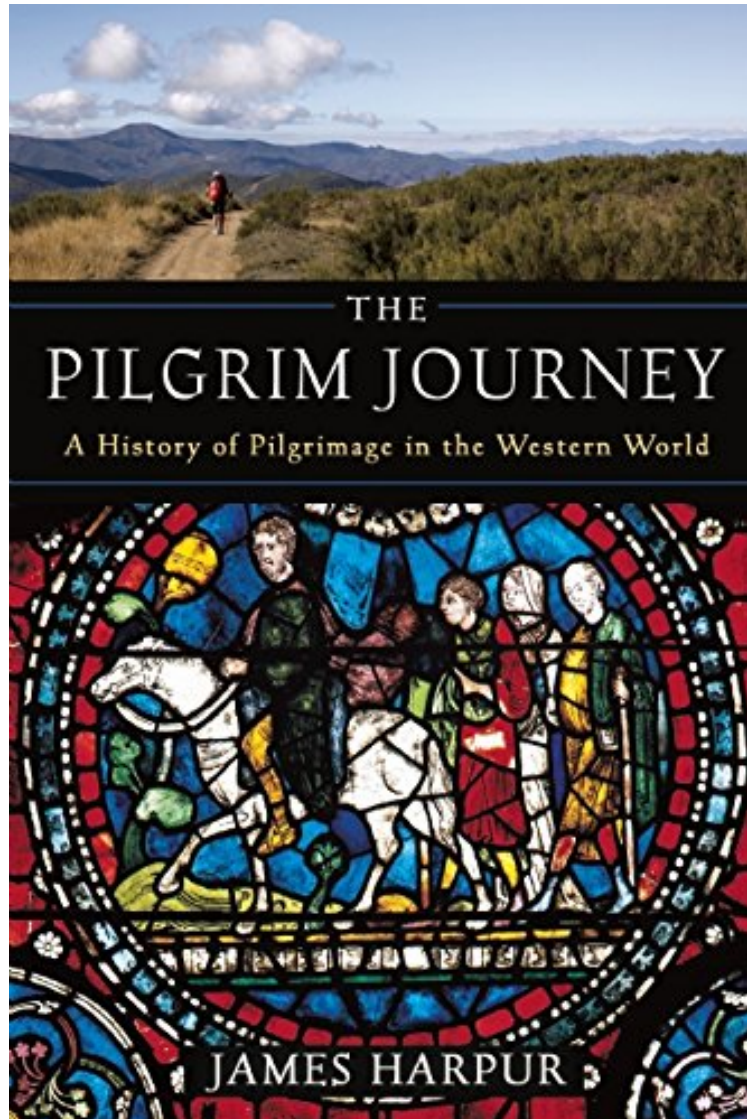


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The Pilgrim Journey: A History of Pilgrimage in the Western World

James Harpur

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James Harpur : The Pilgrim Journey: A History of Pilgrimage in the Western World before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Pilgrim Journey: A History of Pilgrimage in the Western World:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Icons, Relics, History, Societies, Faith and Friction all beautifully researched and presented to the readerBy Sheila DeethA history of pilgrimage in the Western world will inevitably invite the reader to ponder some interesting questions, about faiths history and practice if nothing more. James Harpurs well-researched The Pilgrim Journey introduces readers to pilgrimages, icons and relics, from Christianitys earliest

times, comparing and contrasting past and present, the practices of different faiths, and the hopes and aspirations of rich and poor through passing centuries. Its a smoothly written, fascinating read, which neatly addresses the excesses that led to the Reformation, the mysteries of more recent Marian appearances, and the spirituality of people through all ages. Added to the religious implications, author James Harpur looks too at the geographic components of pilgrimage, and the historical records of those who undertook these journeys. An inspiring image appears of the historical world, through war and peace and everything in between, with small towns and nations obliging, encouraging and benefiting from pilgrimage, just as the pilgrims themselves benefit from devotion, labor and love. I wasn't sure what I would make of such a serious historical read, but I really enjoyed it an intriguingly different aspect of the past, rarely touched upon, but reassuringly real and generously portrayed. Disclosure: I was given a copy and I offer my honest review. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. let me start by saying that I really enjoyed this book By Howard Kramer As a history lover and a fan of religious travel, let me start by saying that I really enjoyed this book. The research was impressive. I thought I knew a lot about religious pilgrimage, but Harpur's book was full of a historical tidbits that were completely new to me. I especially enjoyed the descriptions of travel in the Middle Ages, famous pilgrim hostels, and the like. Anyone who considers themselves a serious history wonk, especially European history, will get a kick out of the details. The writing was also very good. It was in depth without being dry, as books like this so often are. My only real criticism was the ending. Would have liked to read more about pilgrimage in the modern age, and possibly some commentary about how so many important pilgrimage sites have been destroyed in recent decades. Anyway, if you're planning a visit to a Christian church in Europe or Israel in the near future, read this before you go. Howard Kramer The Completer Pilgrim

Pilgrimage in the Western world is enjoying a growing popularity today, perhaps more so than at any time since the Middle Ages. Paths, trails, and roads once again greet spiritual travelers who seek out grand cathedrals and roadside chapels, mountain shrines and ancient abbeys, sacred wells and holy islands. Pilgrim destinations across Europe and in the Americas are visited as much for the physical journey they demand as for the spiritual power they radiate. The Pilgrim Journey tells the fascinating story of sacred travel in the West: how pilgrimage was born and grew in antiquity, how it blossomed in the Middle Ages and faltered in subsequent centuries, only to reemerge stronger than before in modern times. It describes the pilgrim routes and sacred destinations past and present, the men and women making the journey, the many challenges of travel, and the spiritual motivations and rewards. And it explores the traditional stages of pilgrimage, from preparation, departure, and the time on the road, to the arrival at the shrine and the return home. The Pilgrim Journey is both the colorful chronicle of numerous pilgrims of centuries past searching for heaven on earth and an illuminating guide for today's spiritual traveler.

This book provides an engrossing read. We share in the joys and tribulations of pilgrims far and near and are enriched in mind and heart. The author shows much skill in weaving together a rich crisscross of narratives about what it meant to undertake adventurous journeys in premodern times, and about the benefits of pilgrimage today. I highly recommend this inspiring account. URSULA KING, author of The Search for Spirituality Interest in going on pilgrimage is on the rise. The Pilgrim Journey is a fine resource for both the new and the seasoned pilgrim. James Harpur tells a good story, full of earthy details that make this an engaging read. An excellent book. LAURA SWAN, author of The Wisdom of the Beguines