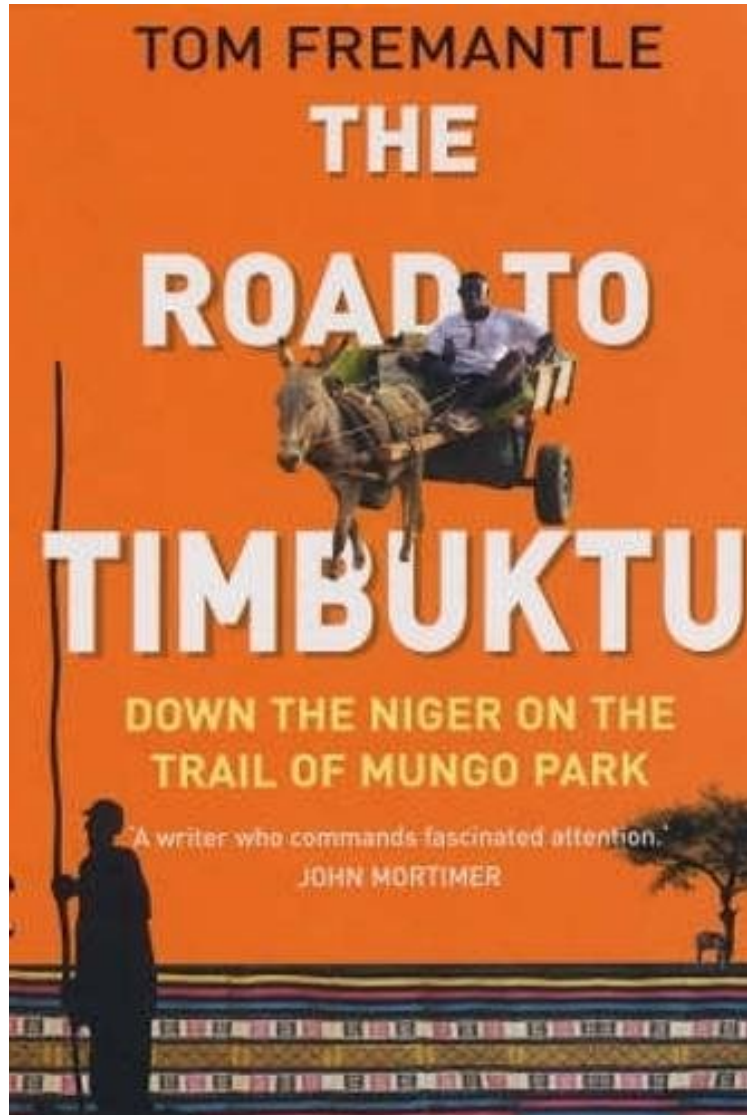


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The Road to Timbuktu: Down the Niger on the Trail of Mungo Park

Tom Fremantle

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#5122918 in Books 2005-09-15 Original language: English 7.99 x .79 x 5.001, .93 #File Name: 1841199699288 pages | File size: 60.Mb

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating, readable book on Muslim world. By asiana Really well written book on the Muslim world. It reads like a travelogue so that one doesn't even realize how much pertinent information is contained therein. One of the best books I've ever read on the subject and it was hard to put down.

In the summer of 1795 a 24-year-old Scot with an optimistic heart and an unforgettable name docked on the Gambia River. So began one of the most extraordinary journeys of exploration in West Africa. Tackling fever, starvation, wild beasts and curious natives, Mungo Park soldiered on to his prize, the mysterious Niger, finally proving that the great river flowed to the east. The young explorer returned home a hero, his journal an instant bestseller. Over 200 years after this ground-breaking trip, Tom Fremantle - having long been inspired by Park - decides to follow in his doughty hero's wake. And so with a dugout canoe, a slothful ox, a donkey called Che and various motorised jalopies, Fremantle blazes his own haphazard trail down the Niger. En route he visits Timbuktu and Dogon country, dodges hippos and camps with desert Bedouin. His journey ends in the heart of Nigeria where Mungo Park lost his life on an ill-fated return expedition to Africa. Fremantle, like Park, puts his trust in strangers on the road and whether Senegalese prostitutes, Bozo fishermen or Malian chiefs, he brings their stories, their hopes and fears, vibrantly to life. This is a book that fuses past and present and reveals the spirit of Africa in a whole new light.

PRAISE FOR MOONSHINE MULE * 'A book which is as enjoyable as it is informative.' Adventure Travel * 'In a book that traverses the landscape of the Civil War, frontiers - geographical and otherwise - are deliciously explored by Fremantle's witty hand..... the ease with which Fremantle moves from humour to seriousness throughout.. testament to his sense of humour and penchant for prosaic eloquence..... also testament to the breadth of Fremantle's view.'

Wanderlust About the Author Tom Fremantle's restless career includes time as a teacher, journalist, dustman, bartender in a Hong Kong nightclub and jackaroo on an Australian sheep station. He is the author of two previous travel books: Johnny Ginger's Last Ride and Moonshine Mule.