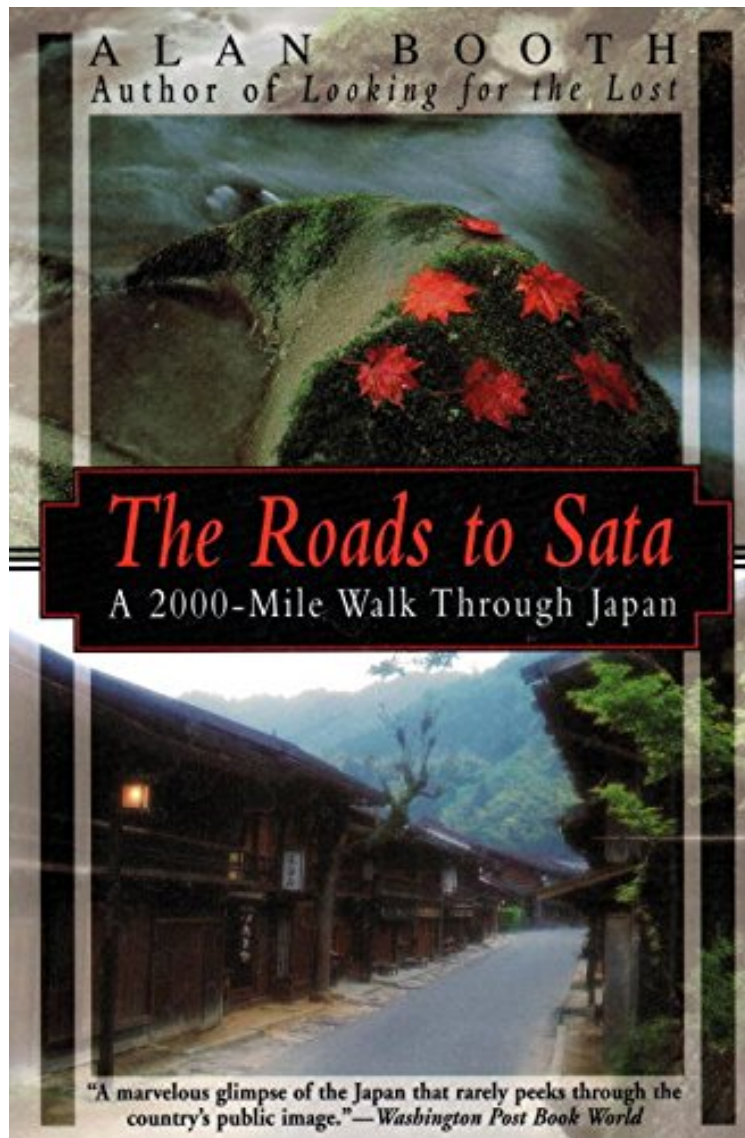


[Free] The Roads to Sata: A 2000-Mile Walk Through Japan

The Roads to Sata: A 2000-Mile Walk Through Japan

Alan Booth

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Alan Booth : The Roads to Sata: A 2000-Mile Walk Through Japan before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Roads to Sata: A 2000-Mile Walk Through Japan:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interesting encounters all over Japan. By J.Z. Lovely book of the adventures of Mr. Booth, a lot of interesting scenarios and encounters depict many unknown places for the international and even local tourists. I found very funny all the encounters when Mr. Booth was speaking in Japanese and the locals resisted the idea, like it didn't make sense for a foreigner speaking in their one language. 0 of 0 people

found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerWould love to do this walk !!!6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. What an Experience!By Dave-in-AsiaMr. Booth gives a wonderful account of what it is like to be a foreigner in Japan as he goes by foot from north to south. It reminds me that when a culture is observed by an outsider, many important idiosyncracies are identified even though they are easily overlooked by members of that culture. DeToqueville's observances of the USA come to mind as a comparison. This book makes me want to follow in Mr. Booth's footsteps by taking the same journey some 15 odd years later to see how much or how little has changed!

ALAN BOOTH'S CLASSIC OF MODERN TRAVEL WRITINGTraveling only along small back roads, Alan Booth traversed Japans entire length on foot, from Soya at the countrys northernmost tip, to Cape Sata in the extreme south, across three islands and some 2,000 miles of rural Japan. The Roads to Sata is his wry, witty, inimitable account of that prodigious trek. Although he was a city person he was brought up in London and spent most of his adult life in Tokyo Booth had an extraordinary ability to capture the feel of rural Japan in his writing. Throughout his long and arduous trek, he encountered a variety of people who inhabit the Japanese countryside from fishermen and soldiers, to bar hostesses and school teachers, to hermits, drunks, and tramps. His wonderful and often hilarious descriptions of these encounters are the highlights of these pages, painting a multifaceted picture of Japan from the perspective of an outsider, but with the knowledge of an insider. The Roads to Sata is travel writing at its best, illuminating and disarming, poignant yet hilarious, critical but respectful. Traveling across Japan with Alan Booth, readers will enjoy the wit and insight of a uniquely perceptive guide, and more importantly, they will discover a new face of an often misunderstood nation.

From Library JournalSata is the cape at the southernmost tip of Kyushu in southwest Japan. Booth, an Englishman living in Japan, walked there from Cape Soya at the northernmost tip of Hokkaido in northern Japan. It took him 128 days, following a mostly rural route down the eastern side of the islands. His book is a delightful series of encounters with and impressions of local people who were astonished to find a foreigner speaking Japanese. He was treated as a friend by many, and as a freak by some. Booth has much to say about modern Japanese life that fails to come out in the more numerous books on urban and industrialized Japan. And thanks to Booth's ability with both Japanese and English, his book is much more enjoyable to read. Recommended for all libraries wanting good books about Japan. Harold M. Otness, Southern Oregon State Coll. Lib., Ashland Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. "A marvelous glimpse of the Japan that rarely peeks through the countrys public image." Washington Post Book World "An illuminating book." The Economist "Alan Booth has given us a memorable, oddly beautiful book." Asian Wall Street Journal "Fluent in the language, well-informed and disabused, [Booth] is in the fine tradition of hard-to-please travelers like Norman Douglas, Evelyn Waugh, and V.S. Naipaul. A sharp eye and a good memory for detail...give an astonishing immediacy to his account." Frank Tuohy, Times Literary Supplement "Alan Booth was not only the best travel writer on Japan, but one of the best travel writers in the English language." Ian Buruma, author of The Wages of Guilt "[Booth] achieved an extraordinary understanding of life as it is lived by ordinary Japanese.... Frequently brilliant in his insights." F.G. Notehelfer, The New York Times Book "One of the best foreign observers of Japan today...his book is unsurpassed." Far Eastern Economic "To Travel with Alan Booth is to travel in very civilized company indeed, but also close to the ground. He has a mind that illuminates and enlivens everything it encounters." Nigel Barley, author of The Innocent Anthropologist "Booth's capacity for rueful, discerning observation will keep him in the front ranks of travel writers for years to come." Kirkus About the Author ALAN BOOTH was born in London in 1946 and traveled to Japan in 1970 to study Noh theater. He stayed, working as a writer and film critic, until his untimely death from stomach cancer in 1993. His highly praised Looking for the Lost is also available from Kodansha Globe.