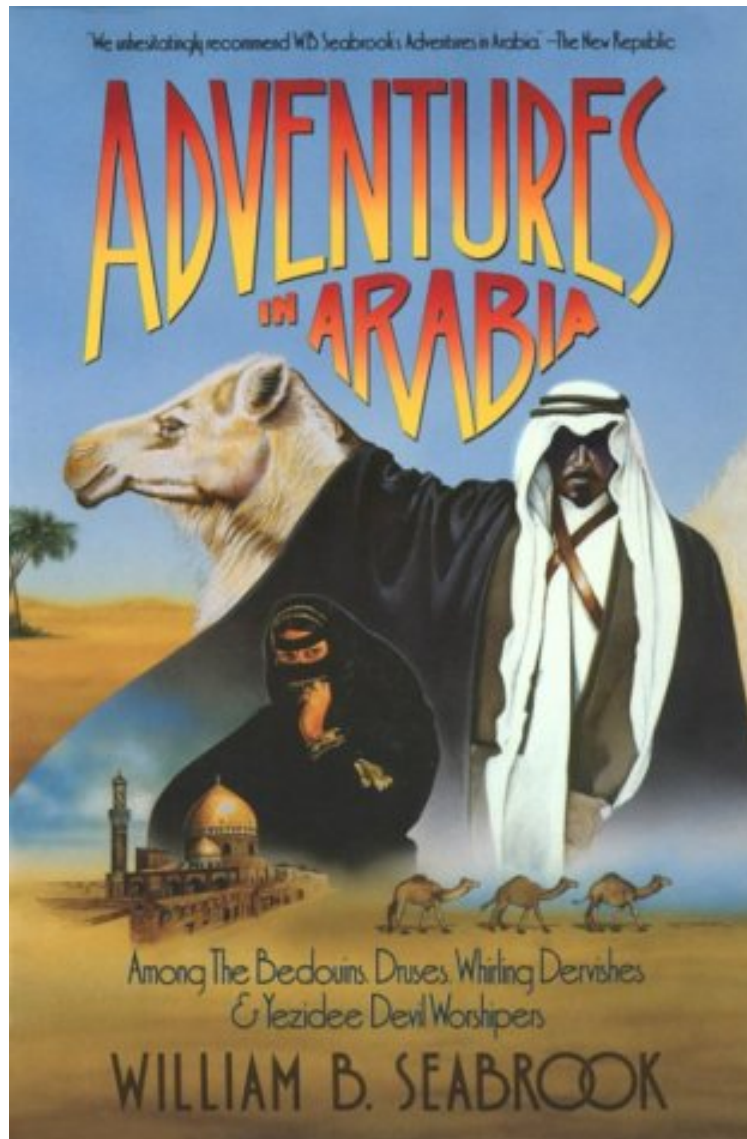


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Adventures in Arabia: Among the Bedouins, Druses, Whirling Dervishes, and Yezidee Devil Worshippers (Armchair Traveller Series)

Seabrook

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Seabrook : Adventures in Arabia: Among the Bedouins, Druses, Whirling Dervishes, and Yezidee Devil Worshippers (Armchair Traveller Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Adventures in Arabia: Among the Bedouins, Druses, Whirling Dervishes, and Yezidee Devil

Worshippers (Armchair Traveller Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Lots of fun
By Dervish
There are some who will find this work very dated. However, despite some of its flaws, it is a great adventuresome read. It is also a snap-shot of these regions prior to the rise of modern Saudi Arabia.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Adventures in the desert.
By exxx
I've yet to read it, but I bought it for my girlfriend, and she loves it, so yeah, 5 stars.
9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A Pilgrimage, Of Sorts
By Customer
This book describes the journey that the author and his wife took together from their home in New York City to distant Arabia in the 1920s. At the beginning of the book, Seabrook describes some of his motivations for making the trip. He tells us that he had always been fascinated with Arabia, ever since he was a child. He also provides us with perhaps the best definition of simple tourism I have ever encountered, "I went for no useful, moral, scholarly, political humanitarian, or reasonable purpose whatsoever. I went for the joy of it, and because I believed I should love it." As we read further, however, it begins to become clear that perhaps Seabrook did have an ulterior motive after all. Whether by design or by fate, Seabrook's itinerary took him from one religious leader to another. Even when the persons he was staying with were not known primarily for their religious leadership, Seabrook constantly plied them with questions about their faith. He was a seeker, on a pilgrimage to learn all he could from the great variety of men of faith in the Middle East. Seabrook rode with the Bedouins in the desert, and visited with the Druses in the mountains of Syria. He plied a Sufi sheikh with a thousand questions, and then went on to be a guest of the Yezidees, a tribe of devil-worshippers. Seabrook was primed for adventure, and had learned enough Arabic before his trip to get by without a translator. He was passionate about religious discussion, and open to trying new customs, including even reciting the Muslim prayer which serves to indicate adoption of the faith. In doing so, he had thus converted to Islam, although there is little in the remainder of the book to demonstrate that he had been serious about this undertaking. Later in the book, he interviews the Sufi Sheikh el Melewi and hears the answer he had perhaps been seeking, "No words, my son, can impart from one man to another the final secret. For God is the divine harmony in all things-in the circling of the earth and stars, in the measured heart-beats of the human body, in the rhythmic act of procreation; in fire and water, in the rolling thunder and rushing winds; in the flight and songs of birds or tiniest insects; in the breath of life itself as the air is drawn into the lungs and expelled through the nostrils. All paths can lead to God, and each must choose the one seeming best for him." The book is illustrated with numerous pen-and-ink drawings, supplemented by several sections of black-and-white plates. In addition to Seabrook's musings on religious topics, he also describes the customs of the tribes he visited with, many of which have changed greatly since his time. The book provides a fascinating window into a time and place that have passed almost entirely from memory.

In this personal travelogue, William Seabrook chronicles his adventures in the Middle East in the early part of the twentieth century. Specifically he focuses on his time among four Arabic groups: the Bedouins, Druses, Dervishes, and Yezidees.