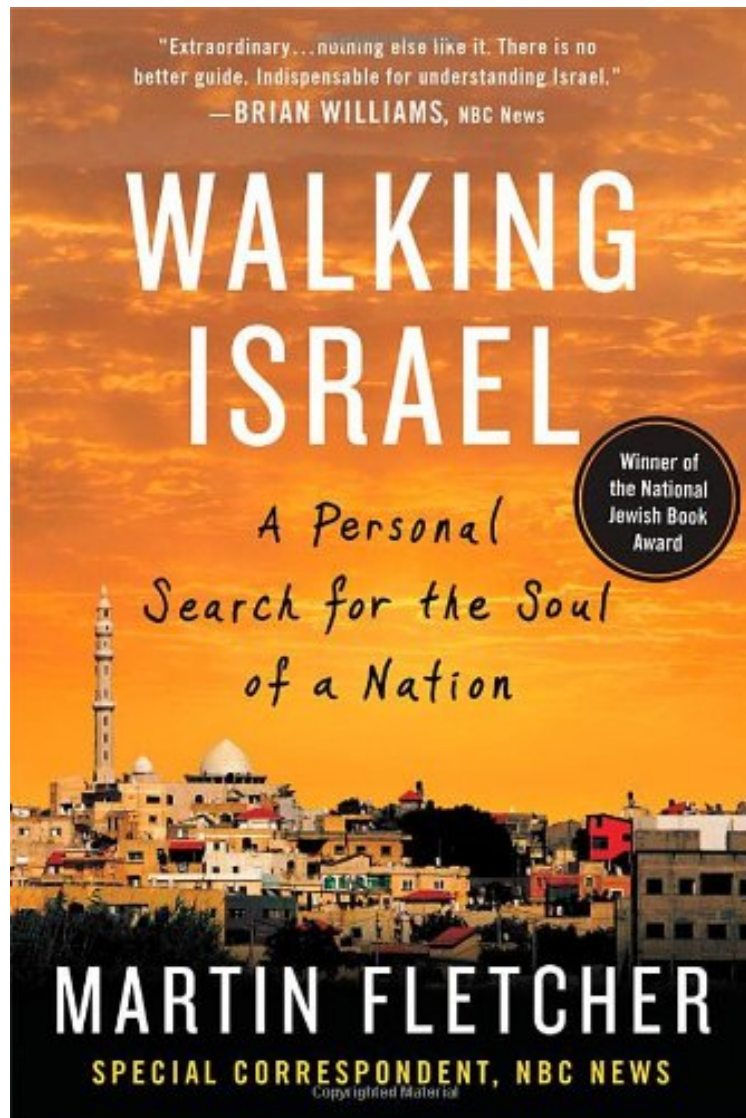


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Walking Israel: A Personal Search for the Soul of a Nation

Martin Fletcher

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Martin Fletcher : Walking Israel: A Personal Search for the Soul of a Nation before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Walking Israel: A Personal Search for the Soul of a Nation:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. One Man's View of Modern Israel By Boston Aaron I'm glad I read this book and only wish it had been available before I went to Israel 10 years ago. This is a good update on Kibbutz economics (most have been privatized), on the young Israelis' views on joining the military, on the personalities that make up the the populace and, of course, living with the threat of war. Physically it was not so easy for the author to

walk the shoreline and he is fortunate to know so many people that could give him insight, even if after the fact. The book, of course, is an easy read, since Martin Fletcher is no stranger to concise writing and getting to the point quickly. Although it made the reading more interesting, I'm not so sure I wanted to know that Martin stole what he thought was an artifact (he learned later that it wasn't) and that he gave his phone number to a recently divorced woman he met on his journey for a purpose that may be innocent (but probably not when he gave it to her). Still, if you would like to gain a little more insight into Israeli thought (both Arab and Jewish) this book is an informative read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It was not so much a book describing the coastal ... By User It was not so much a book describing the coastal region, more a book giving a perspective on the origins of the animosity between the Arabs and Jews who lived in Israel during the nineteenforties and fifties. It also describes the relationship between the two factions today. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Taking a walk in Israel! By S. K. Mittleman Walking Israel is written by a universally, highly respected journalist in international television news. It is a fascinating story from a man whom Anderson Cooper says sets the gold standard for television war correspondents. Martin Fletcher thought he knew Israel, having spent many years as the NBC Bureau Chief in Tel Aviv. But as he embarks on his personal quest to walk the entire coast, he soon discovered that there was much more going on under the surface than he ever imagined. As Fletcher explores this ancient land in his own inimitable fashion, the people and culture of contemporary Israel come alive.

From the much lauded author of *Breaking News* comes a version of *Walking the Bible* just for Israel. With its dense history of endless conflict and biblical events, Israel's coastline is by far the most interesting hundred miles in the world. As longtime chief of NBC's Tel Aviv news bureau, Martin Fletcher is in a unique position to interpret Israel, and he brings it off in a spectacular and novel manner. Last year he strolled along the entire coast, from Lebanon to Gaza, observing facets of the country that are ignored in news reports, yet tell a different and truer story. *Walking Israel* is packed with hilarious moments, historical insights, emotional, true-life tales, and, above all, great storytelling.

From *Booklist* Acclaimed for his fearless broadcast journalism, Fletcher here visits not the tense battle line dividing Jew from Arab in Israel's eastern sector but rather the peaceful western coastline, a surprisingly complex region where fascinating human stories unfold outside of the media limelight. Peopled by a colorful array of characters, these stories define the cultural landscape the author traverses in journeying by foot from Lebanon to Gaza: learning from a friendly Jewish geologist explaining fossilized tree roots near Achziv; considering with a Christian Arab guide a four-faced clock in Acres Old Town; surveying the streets of Jaffa, where Muslim women dressed in long dresses and head coverings jostle against Jewish women in shorts and T-shirts. This kaleidoscope of perspectives allows readers to glimpse an Israel too complex to reduce to the familiar script for interethnic strife. To be sure, Fletcher encounters reminders of that strife. But he also encounters heartening evidence that open-minded individuals Jewish and Arab can surmount the walls of prejudice and hate. A much-needed corrective to media stereotypes. --Bryce Christensen
Extraordinary nothing else like it. There is no better guide. Indispensable for understanding Israel. --Brian Williams, NBC News
Martin Fletcher is more than the consummate journalist. He is a master storyteller. In *Walking Israel* he gives us a special gift - a real sense of himself and his passion for the land and the people who are much more than the sum of their conflicts. This book offers a sense of place about a country so many around the world love. --David Gregory, Moderator, "Meet the Press" "Th[e] kaleidoscope of perspectives allows readers to glimpse an Israel too complex to reduce to the familiar script of interethnic strife... A much-needed corrective to media stereotypes."