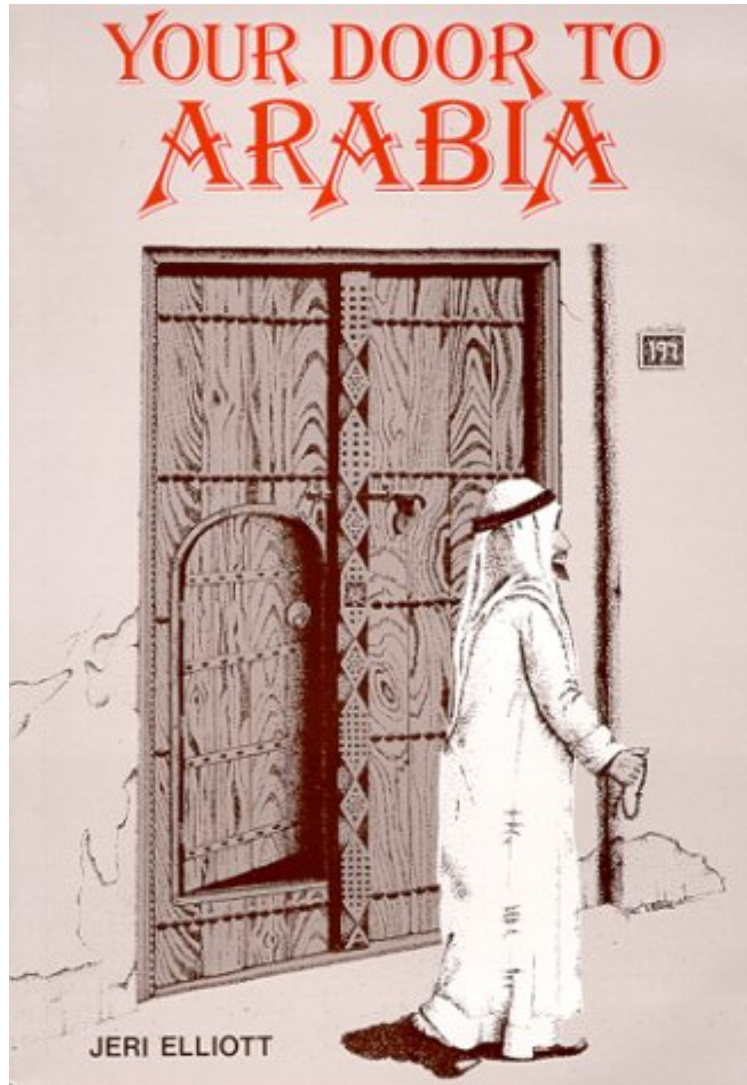


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## Your Door to Arabia

Jeri Elliott

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**Jeri Elliott : Your Door to Arabia** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Your Door to Arabia:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Saudi Arabia visitor guide 1990By William Garrison Jr.A small, 108-page paperback tourist's guide to Saudi Arabia (but nothing like a backpacker's guide!). Issued first in 1986 as "Al Baab: Your Door to Arabia", with a second revised edition in 1991 titled just "Your Door to Arabia", written by a guy who apparently couldn't find anything more informative back then. Then it may have been one of the better `introductory' guides before visiting Arabia; still okay today, if you can't find anything else. I read it in about a half-hour. It briefly (just barely) discusses both men's and women's dress attire, and how it varies from region to region. It is the only booklet that I have read that gives a recipe for making the henna dye for women's hands or men's hair and

beard. It describes the incense burner (mebkhara) and the sheeshad (water pipe). It presents 2 pages of Arab-English words: days, time, food, greetings, etc. It explains the Arab calendar, khol, 18 pages of recipes, and provides the barest details of Mohammad, Islam theology, and mentions that several Arab cities were founded near water wells (but not a travel guide to any city!). Has some hand-drawings, but no photographs. Has been replaced by many other tourist guides.

Your Door presents a comprehensive glimpse at the Arabian culture fully influenced by the Islamic religion. A potpourri of an Arab's traditional way of life is provided. This book is a must for any person visiting the Middle East. The book offers answers to questions not finger-pointing accusations that history often delivers. Included are explanations on religious traditions, for example prayer calls, as well as Arabic recipes, tales from the past, an introduction to day-to-day Arabic language, recipe for henna, weddings, prayer beads (worry beads), windtowers, desert roses, camels, architecture, falconry and Bedouins, to name just a few.

I don't have any review available - however I have sold over 12,000 copies. A book store in Saudi Arabia - Jarir Bookstore (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia) does an annual review in the English Arab News. The U.S. Military purchased bulk quantities of my book to give to all staff transferring to the Middle East for orientation. Also, Shell Oil (Houston, Texas) stopped sending its staff on week-long orientation in Washington, D.C. and purchased bulk quantities of my book for their staff. -- Anonymous reviewer Praised the illustrated book of Your Door to Arabia and added that it would have appeal to Southlanders. Congratulations were also offered for the research and writing of the book. -- The Southland Times, Saturday 11 July 1992. From the Author Over 12,000 copies of this book have already been sold since first being published in 1986. The book is approved for publication and distribution by the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Information and Publications. A Saudi Arabian bookstore regularly orders a shipment to stock their stores located throughout the country. When the book was first published the US Military based in Jubail, Saudi Arabia ordered the book in bulk quantities to issue to its military staff as orientation to the local culture. Shell Oil out of Houston also ordered the book in bulk to present to staff transferring to Saudi Arabia as an orientation tool. Prior to my book Shell Oil staff were flown to Washington, D.C. to attend a weeklong orientation course. The Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia on 4 January 1993 advised that the book was added to their frequently distributed list of privately published works for use to travelers to Saudi Arabia. About the Author Jeri Elliot was born in Syracuse, New York, moved south at the age of six to Oklahoma and then to Arizona. At the age of 12 Jeri moved with her family even further south to Santiago, Chile. In 1973 after three years in Chile the family moved to Manama, Bahrain in the Arabian Gulf (or Persian Gulf as the Iranians refer to it). Five years were spent in Bahrain, completing High School and obtaining her first job at a surveying company. She now was able to speak three languages - English, Spanish and conversational Arabic. She married an Englishman in 1976 in Bahrain and in 1979 moved back to America after travelling the world for a year - including Asia, Russia, New Zealand, and Europe. Jeri and her husband worked in Texas, Florida and Pennsylvania in the construction industry before transferring back to the Middle East - to Jubail, Saudi Arabia early in 1983. It was here that Jeri had the opportunity to develop first her art and subsequently her writing skills. Jeri created greeting cards, calendars, and watercolors depicting local scenes. This led to the accumulation of information for the book on Arabia. Originally 500 copies were printed upon the permission of the Ministry of Information and Publications. 12,000 copies later and in its second edition Jeri has had the opportunity to speak to various groups in the East Coast regions of Saudi. In 1990 Jeri immigrated to New Zealand where she now resides with her teenage daughter, Nikki, in a cottage located on the shore of Lake Wakatipu in the resort town of Queenstown. She has continued to promote her book and has had various invitations from groups to speak on her experiences of living in the Middle East for 13 years. Jeri has continued with her art having illustrated two published children's books and currently working on a third. She won a national art award in 1997 and the piece was used on the cover for the Telecom phone book for the year 1998. Jeri enjoys watercolour, ink stippling, and acrylic painting, and sells her work in local galleries. Jeri's artwork is now hanging in homes all over the globe.