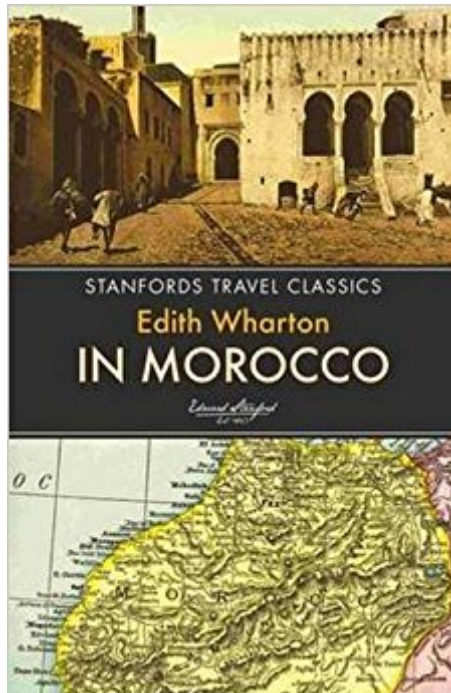




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In Morocco (Stanfords Travel Classics)



Synopsis

Edith Wharton journeyed to Morocco in the final days of the First World War, at a time when there was no guidebook to the country.[i]In Morocco[/i] is the classic account of her expedition. A seemingly unlikely chronicler, Wharton, more usually associated with American high society, explored the country for a month by military vehicle. Travelling from Rabat and Fez to Moulay Idriss and Marrakech, she recorded her encounters with Morocco's people, traditions and ceremonies, capturing a country at a moment of transition from an almost unknown, road less empire to a popular tourist destination. Her descriptions of the places she visited - mosques, palaces, ruins, markets and harems - are typically observant and brim with color and spirit, whilst her sketches of the country's history and art are rigorous but accessible. This is a wonderful account by one of the most celebrated novelists and travel writers of the 20th century and is a fascinating portrayal of an extraordinary country. Stanfords Travel Classics feature some of the finest historical travel writing in the English language, with authors hailing from both sides of the Atlantic. Every title has been rest in a contemporary typeface and has been printed to a high quality production specification, to create a series that every lover of fine travel literature will want to collect and keep.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

During her travels in Morocco in 1917, Wharton kept a rather complete, descriptive account of her experiences. As expected of such a superbly talented author, her observations are well written and interesting. While this gives listeners a real feel for desert living and tribes, it does not include a

map, which would have been helpful in following and better understanding her journey. Wharton provides some historical perspective and unusual insight into the travel of that period and into the lives of women. Her account of visits to harems provide the most educational and fascinating listening. Anna Fields reads beautifully, gliding through a great many difficult names, making only one detectable pronunciation error. Unfortunately, old travel books normally attract a rather limited audience. True armchair travelers or those with a special interest in Morocco may be interested. Libraries seeking older verbal travelogs should consider.-Carolyn Alexander, Brigadoon Lib., Salinas, CA Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Independent on Sunday: "There was no guide book to the country before this one." "descriptions brim with life and colour." The Times: "Wharton on the road is an inexhaustible joy." --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Its 1918, and in the midst of the last throes of the awful slaughter in the trenches and the failure of the Dardanelles campaign against the Ottoman Empire, Edith Wharton, gifted American novelist, braves the danger of U-boats to travel to, and then through, the royal cities of Morocco and tell us about it. What a delight! What a verbal film about a watershed moment in an exotic place! I greatly enjoyed seeing it thru her eyes and mind."The air of the unforeseen blows on one from the roadless passes of the Atlas.""Even the fierce midday sun does not wholly dispel [the haze]-the air remains thick, opalescent, like water slightly clouded by milk.""Not till two or three years ago was [Rabat] completely pacified; and when it opened its gates to the infidel it was still, as it is today, the type of the untouched Moroccan city-so untouched that, with the sunlight irradiating its cream-coloured walls and blue-white domes above them, it rests on its carpet of rich fruit-gardens like some rare specimen of Arab art on a strip of old Oriental velevt.""Range after range these translucent hills rose before us, all around the solitude was complete.""We visited old palaces and new, inhabited and abandoned, and over all lay the same fine dust of oblivion, like the silvery mould on an overripe fruit."Keep a pencil with you and mark your own passages.The criticisms made earlier really miss the value of such a "colorful and textured travel memoir." I know a lot more about the author, now. I found more interesting Wharton's sense of outrage at the religious and social oppression of Moroccan women than her "Orientalism." Any decent biography about the "Great Emancipator," Abraham Lincoln, reveals statements and positions on race which are abhorrent today. Human beings are rather complex, aren't we? Wharton herself didn't even have the right to vote in the U. S.

until several years after her visits to the harems she describes near the end of this short travelogue. There is much to learn from eye-witness accounts even with some danger that they might offend our current sensibilities. Western attitudes may (I stress that word) have changed quite a bit since 1918 but I notice that virtually all the mosques in Morocco are still closed to non-moslems. The beauty of the work speaks for itself and all the rest is best left to its own merit. Read this book if you have any interest in going to Morocco, or in getting a glimpse into the mindset and skill of a great author, or a feel for time and place.

Loved the scholarly thoroughness of Wharton's observations! How fascinating to have seen Morocco at this time! Adds richness and depth to this modern traveler's understanding.

A very interesting non-fiction book that offers picturesque views and is a deep insight in culture, traditions and architecture of Morocco in XIX century. If you are interested in history and cultural studies, this book is definitely worth of reading.

Weird printing. Oversized and cheap.

Perfect companion guide to Morocco. She goes most of the places one should visit and things really haven't changed that much. Read the last two paragraphs of the section on Bahla. It will transform your trip.

Nothing interesting here, some Moroccan history, some architecture, very short, mostly boring.

gotta love old travel books, good to look back on time when travel was travel, not just running around on tours.

Wharton is a magisterial traveler, not a mere tourist. This book about early 20th-century travels in Morocco is both instructive and delightful.

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