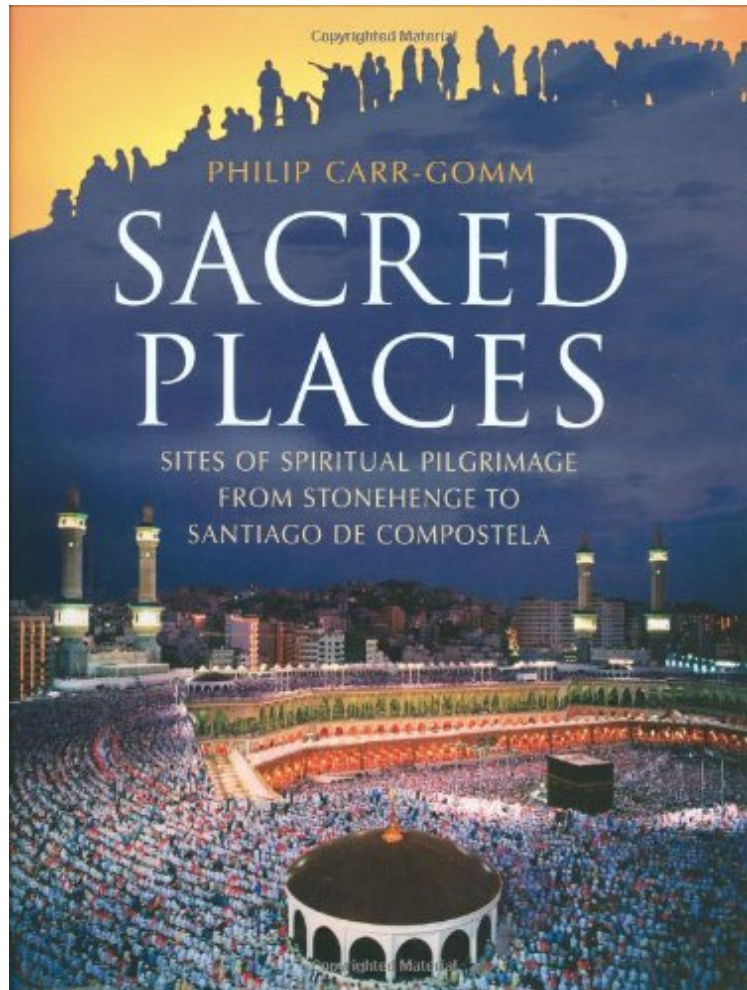


(Download) Sacred Places: Sites of Spiritual Pilgrimage from Stonehenge to Santiago de Compostela

Sacred Places: Sites of Spiritual Pilgrimage from Stonehenge to Santiago de Compostela

Phillip Carr-Gomm

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Phillip Carr-Gomm : Sacred Places: Sites of Spiritual Pilgrimage from Stonehenge to Santiago de Compostela before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sacred Places: Sites of Spiritual Pilgrimage from Stonehenge to Santiago de Compostela:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Visiting the World's Sacred SitesBy M. BakerThis book is a fantastic way to visit a sacred place and get a feel for it. It is also a call to look deeper into why we travel to sacred sites and how we can perhaps create such sites in our own backyard. The images are beautiful and the writing is excellent.Overall it is a wonderful book to dip into as one plans for the next pilgrimage or if one just wishes to take one in the imagination before the next real world journey. It also plays a roll in expanding your vision of the various sacred places. Most of us perhaps go to one or two sacred sites in our lifetime if we are lucky and usually one of our

tradition or interest. This book gives you a chance to see and understand why millions of other folks take a trip to another site and how it is different and also the same as your own chosen place of pilgrimage. The book would make an excellent addition to any travel library as well as to an introduction to world religions course. For me, it was a way to travel to parts of the world I know I will never get to in this life time. Well worth the price, makes a great gift perhaps, and a keeper. 11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Thoroughly inspirational and thought-provoking.

By Brendan Myers
This is a surprising book in several ways. On first glance it appears to be a coffee-table travelogue: it is 11 x 9 inches, and every page is dominated by photography (albeit extraordinarily beautiful photography). Some of the sacred places he has selected are those which you may expect to see, such as Stonehenge, and the Pyramids of Giza. Others are less well known yet equally wonderful, such as Lake Funduzi, in South Africa, the Ellora Caves in India (a favourite of mine!), and Mount Tongariro in New Zealand. Yet there is a lot more here than what may be found in other books of its kind. What Carr-Gomm has attempted to do, successfully I think, is expand the understanding of what a sacred place is. Three particular ways stand out in my mind. The first is that a sacred place need not be "discovered" It can also be created. Certainly, there are places which seem to call out to humanity, and appear as if they have magic whether or not people acknowledge it. Mountain heights like Kilimanjaro, Denali, and special lakes like Walden Pond or the Source of the Blue Nile, are included for this reason. But it is also the case that some places have become sacred because of human activity: perhaps it is the location of a traditional ceremony or an important historical event. Perhaps it is the site of a temple or other edifice of human hands. He therefore includes impressive cathedrals and monuments such as Santiago de la Compostela, and Mecca, and a few that are partially in ruins now, such as the Oracle of Delphi, and the Temples of Malta. That point may seem obvious to some. The second, more original point that Carr-Gomm raises, is that a sacred place need not be ancient. Carr-Gomm has therefore included the Temples of Humanity in Damanhur, Italy, and the Tarot Garden, also in Italy. Indeed in his introduction he describes a parkland in Wellington, New Zealand, which enchanted him with its beauty. He also noted signs that other people found the park to be most magical, as there is a clearing where people leave offerings of feathers, prayer-ties, and the like, on the trees. Yet the park was built on a reclaimed rubbish dump. Part of his purpose here, I think, is not just to draw attention to these wonderful places. It is also to assert the case that a sacred place can be very new, and it need not be any less sacred because of its youth. I find this an encouraging thought. The third is that a sacred place is not always entirely peaceful. Carr-Gomm describes not only the wonder and beauty of each site he describes. He also mentions that many of them have long been the site of some terrible conflicts, and even of wars. Sometimes the conflict concerns who or which group controls the site, or who is (or is not) allowed in. It may concern environmental degradation. It may even have to do with political conflict from ethnic tension to outright warfare. Carr-Gomm describes the legal and political problems associated with Bear Butte, in South Dakota. A federal court ruled that the land had been seized from the Lakota Nation illegally, and ordered the government to pay damages. The Lakota refused the money, as they wanted their sacred homeland back. This fight for justice continues to this day. Carr-Gomm also describes how Luang Prabang, a World Heritage city in Laos, is threatened by the extreme poverty of local inhabitants, and the consequences of a secret war that the USA fought against Laos during the Vietnam era. Carr-Gomm describes the message of the Kogi people, the indigenous nation that lives in the Sierra Nevada northern Columbia, concerning the environmental disaster taking place there. A sacred place is not "apart from the world" in the sense that it is immune from invasion. I think this is a socially and religiously important insight, and deserves to be acknowledged in the unapologetic way that Carr-Gomm does. Indeed I think he shows great respect to these sites by not white-washing away the problems, and by presenting the social and environmental situation of many of these sacred places as it really is. Overall, I'm most delighted to recommend this book to anyone. I think it may make excellent Yuletide gift-giving, especially for people who may want to visit these places but cannot afford to travel. And for those who can, let Carr-Gomm suggest a few unusual and less well known but equally amazing places to visit. For the whole of the world is wonderful - if only we look around. 8 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

Fine book on the subject of sacred sites

By Martin Gray
Sacred Earth: Places of Peace and Power
I am a National Geographic photographer (The Geography of Religion) and the author of a Barnes Noble color photography book about sacred sites around the world (Sacred Earth). Besides having personally visited hundreds of sacred places all across the planet I am a keen collector of books on the subjects of sacred sites and pilgrimage traditions. This book, Sacred Places by Philip Carr-Gomm, is one of the very best yet published. The photographs are superb and the text is also fine. I highly recommend this book to everyone. Artists, architects, historians, photographers, travelers and so many other people will greatly enjoy owning it. Thanks for making this book Philip!

Journeys to sacred places or shrines undertaken as acts of religious veneration or penance have been a feature of religious observance from the earliest times. Ancient religions had holy sites, temples and groves, such as Delphi and Dodona in Greece. On the other side of the Eurasian landmass, the Buddha specifically recommended four sacred sites for his followers to visit. After Christ's crucifixion, sites connected with his birth, death and resurrection became a magnet for Christian travellers. During the medieval period Christian pilgrimage - to Jerusalem, Rome, Constantinople and Santiago de Compostela - was a sacred obligation and a trial of faith. In Islam, pilgrimage to Mecca, or hajj, is one

of the Five Pillars of that faith. Philip Carr-Gomm tells the stories of 50 sacred sites across all five continents, including sites venerated by all of the world's major religions. The sites include: The Pyramids, Macchu Picchu, The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Rapa Nui, The Dome of the Rock, Mount Fuji, Mecca, The Golden Temple, Stonehenge, The Ganges River, Glastonbury, Angkor Wat, Iona, Mount Kailash, Bandiagara Luang, and Prabang.

"This is a wonderful book, a spiritual guide to centres of pilgrimage the world over. Here we are offered full page colour photographs, a tiny map for orientation, an informative time line, and words of wisdom leading to a sharing of inherent transcendence. More than that it is a multi-faceted shrine to contemplation visualisation meditation and exploration of the depths of the inner self. Pause awhile at each opening portal and we are actually in the place, listening to the silence, wrapt in the presence of the Holy Ones." - Francis Cameron, for Pentacle Magazine