



## The Best American Travel Writing 2002

*Frances Mayes (Editor) , Jason Wilson*

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The Best American Travel Writing 2002 is edited by Frances Mayes, the author of *Under the Tuscan Sun* and *Bella Tuscany* and the master of “running away to live in the place of one’s dreams” (Los Angeles Times). Giving new life to armchair travel for 2002 are David Sedaris on God and airports, Kate Wheeler on a most dangerous Bolivian festival, André Aciman on the eternal pleasures of Rome, and many more.

## The Best American Travel Writing 2002 Details

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## From Reader Review The Best American Travel Writing 2002 for online ebook

### Andrew says

A little treasure from the Border's discount bin.

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### Emma Infiniti says

This book is ok. I really love travel writing, and have read a jillion or so travel stories, but I could not embrace this. It took forever to read. Over and over, I left off in the middle of a story because it just didn't draw me in; finishing the stories never left me feeling like I had shared a valuable experience with the author (which is my usual experience, even when the authors are very different from me or visit places I don't want to go). It was hard to put myself in the shoes of these authors because it always felt like I was looking through lenses designed for someone else's astigmatism. One of the very few travel writing collections that I will probably never read again.

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### Tuck says

this particular edition is in the H W Wilson Public Library Catalog for outstanding and exemplar writing (or in this case, editing?). i am not sure why this one is and others aren't, or the whole series. but for a great way to read short travel writing these "best american..." can't be beat. This same publisher and "series" is where "best american non-required reading..." is too.

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### Heather D-n says

Found this on Carlos' shelves--a treasure trove. Sometimes, travel writing hinges on, "I went somewhere and it was great." There has to be some sort of internal reflection or story with poignancy to keep me interested. I've found I like a few of these.

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### Joe1207 says

This was a weaker collection compared to 2001, but I still enjoyed it. Frances Mayes picked a lot of stories from *Islands* magazine (she's the author of *Under the Tuscan Sun*). I wanted to see how it differed from the 2001 collection; the previous book doesn't include any stories about 9/11, and this collection had two or three explicitly about it, with maybe another three stories directly referencing it. Makes sense, but I wasn't expecting so many stories about the U.S.--they made up something like 9 out of 26. But I don't know if that speaks more to the unique moment in time, or the editor. Probably the editor.

Worth revisiting:

“Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Void” by Michael Finkel, from *National Geographic Adventure*  
“Ancient Roads, Walled Cities” by Tom Mueller, from *Hemispheres*  
“Spetsés, Greece” by Isabella Tree, from *Islands*

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### **Joyce says**

Just so so. Some essays were OK others not at all. Hope this wasn't "the best American travel writing"!

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### **Bridget says**

I hated this book. The end.

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### **Steve Kierstead says**

Some good stuff, some not so good. Just as you might expect. See my notes in status updates above.

I finished the book just before we left for Maryland a few weeks ago, but failed to update this until now. Life is full.

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