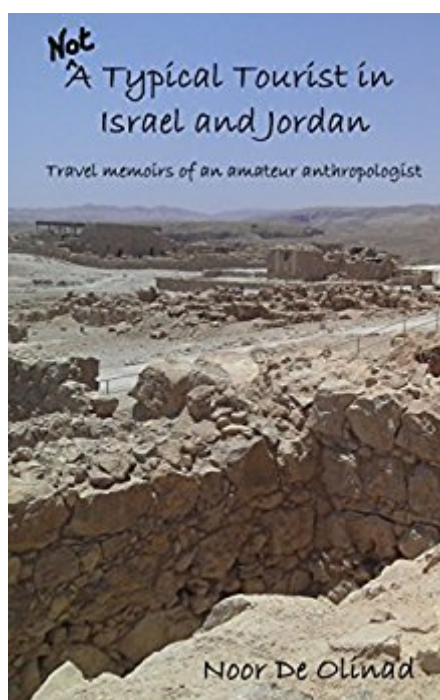


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Not A Typical Tourist In Israel And Jordan: Travel Memoirs Of An Amateur Anthropologist



Synopsis

I planned my vacation to Israel and Jordan with much excitement, and if I was to be completely honest I had a little apprehension. Every time the Middle East features on Australian news it is another headline of civil war, terrorist attacks, car bombs, abductions, military oppression—you get the idea. What I actually found were people just like me and the people from Australia. You have nice people, snobby people, short-tall-skinny-fat people, flirts, academics, religious and secular people. So I wondered, what is it that makes us different? I have always felt that people are essentially the same, but it was just instinctual. So I observed, and I watched the locals during my travels and my instincts proved right. I learned from them that the essence of the human spirit transcends borders and cultural barriers (which we create), and the human spirit is capable of kindness, even to foreigners like me in their land. So you see, we are not so very different after all.

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Customer Reviews

This short review is a very personal account of a new traveller's experiences on the journey to and through Israel and Jordan. It is refreshing to experience with Noor the ups and downs of her first

serious international trip with her friend. She has a keen eye and a good turn of phrase so, although this was not the most polished travelogue that I've read, it may have been the most authentic.

This is my first review on Kindle. I have been reading on the kindle for a couple of years (since my kids bought me one) and this is the first time I am moved to write a review. I am writing this from my husband's account so it is his name that will appear though it is my review. This memoir utterly charmed me. Her style is breezy and chatty with attention to detail and wonderful anecdotes and small comic mishaps pepper the chapters. As someone who is always thinking about her next meal I was happy to find descriptions of many a falafel, salad and juicy figs. The first time I visited Israel 25 years ago I fell madly in love with the country. I traveled through Egypt and Turkey and Greece hitch hiking much of the way. Somehow it was Israel that pulled me back. Unfortunately I never made it to Jordan though I tried to get a visa at the embassy in Cairo. Once they saw my Israeli stamp in my passport they wouldn't even talk to me and told me to go away. I earnestly hope that Noor travels and writes more books to share with us. -Johanne

I'm a documentary photographer, among other things, and have traveled extensively in Europe, the Middle East and Asia over the past 35 years. I don't usually read "guide books" (except when I needed quickly to find the American Hospital in Paris.) Noor's book is not a travel guide; it's a delightful mini-memoir written by a young, inexperienced traveler. And it is superb and fun reading, because of those reasons. The described experiences of traveling to the Middle East are unvarnished and pleasantly (amusingly) naive, told without almost any self-censorship. Older (more experienced?) tourists would be "too embarrassed" to relate some of her stories; and that's the true beauty of her book. Because of her simple story-telling skills, a traveler can easily relate to her experiences. Those on their way to the Middle East for the first time can learn from her (not so dramatic - don't worry) trials and tribulations, and smile at her successes and adventures at the same time. It's a charming effort, and she should, under all circumstances, start preparing for her next trip and memoir now.

Not a Typical Tourist in Israel and Jordan is not your typical travel book. Full of adventure, personal accounts, cultural learning, laugh-out-loud moments, and human discovery, Noor brings you along her labyrinth of a journey through the mystical and history-rich lands of the Middle East. You are invited along and are there at every point, as Noor shares her life-changing rollercoaster ride, entailing true life

encounters, scenarios and reflections as she discovers and experiences being a tourist in a foreign land, providing invaluable pointers you won't find in your typical traveler's guide. A revealing and true publication as seen in the eyes of a young Australian Anthropologist, it leaves behind a beautifully profound and important conclusion of a universal truth, familiarity and need we all share in this diverse, multi-cultural and ever-changing world. This book left an indelible impression on me, and I LOVED reading it from beginning to end! A must read for any avid or curious reader out there!

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