

## Grand Adventures Through Books

by Marilyn Force, Adult Services Librarian

As the new year begins and snowflakes are coming down, you might be thinking about future vacation plans or reflecting on past vacations. Why not take an adventure through a book?

For practical advice on planning a trip beyond traditional guidebooks and the Internet, take a look at *Rediscovering Travel; A Guide for the Globally Curious* by former *New York Times* "Frugal Traveler" Seth Kugel. He suggests not planning too much, instead "going off the grid" for spontaneous experiences.

Author Bill Bryson has written a number of books about destinations near and far. An American who has also lived in England, his most recent book is *The Road to Little Dribbling*, a sequel to an earlier book about England, *Notes from a Small Island*. Bryson chronicles his trips through cities, villages and country lanes. While some sites have improved since his former visit, others have not and Bryson points out the good and the bad in his entertaining, but sometimes crusty manner. Bryson also trekked the Appalachian Trail and describes his trip in the very amusing *A Walk in the Woods*, later a Robert Redford movie.

Another traveler and storyteller is Mark Adams. In his *Turn Right at Machu Picchu*, we learn not only about history, but the present-day trip Adams makes to the spot despite having little experience with camping and walking in the jungle.

If strenuous travel appeals to you, try Candice Millard's *River of Doubt* in which Teddy Roosevelt's 1914 exploration of the Amazon River's unmapped tributary is recounted. Roosevelt and his party faced many challenges including starvation, disease and dangerous rapids.

Author David Grann doesn't take the trips. He does the research. In his first book, *The Lost City of Z*, he followed the arduous journey of explorer Percy Fawcett in his search for a South American City of Gold in the 1920s. Grann's latest book, *The White Darkness*, is a modern-day story of the exploits of a former British SAS officer named Henry Worsley who decided to retrace the footsteps of his ancestor who explored Antarctica with Ernest Shackleton.

If more perilous feats hold allure, Robert Kurson is an author of note. His *Shadow Divers: The True Story of Two Americans Who Risked Everything to Solve One of the Last Mysteries of World War II* describes the discovery of the remains of a German U-boat just 60 miles from Brielle, New Jersey. Most recently, Kurson's subject is *Rocket Men: The Daring Odyssey of Apollo 8 and the Astronauts Who Made Man's First Journey to the Moon*.

To find more nonfiction beyond the bestseller list, take a look at suggested websites at [wyckofflibrary.org](http://wyckofflibrary.org) under the word “Adults” and then What to Read Next in the dropdown menu.

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