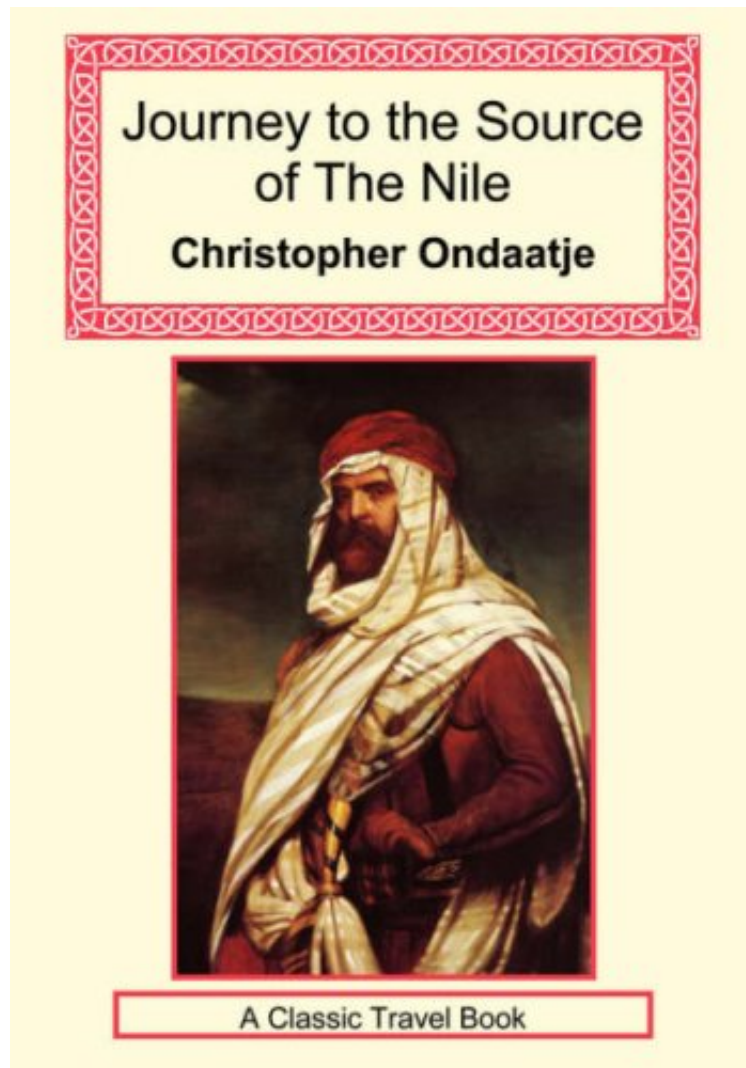


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Journey to the Source of the Nile

Christopher Ondaatje

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Christopher Ondaatje : Journey to the Source of the Nile before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Journey to the Source of the Nile:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A gift of travel and photographyBy Cap'n BobChristopher Ondaatje has given us a superb travelogue, blended skillfully with perspectives on the great 19th-Century Nile explorations. His maps, both current and historical, are well-crafted. The book's best feature, however, is its multitude of stunning photographs that bring to life this enormous, majestic realm of water, wilderness, and vibrant inhabitants both human and animal. Ondaatje must be an even better photographer than he is a writer, and is obviously in tune with the people he meets. They gaze directly and warmly into his lens as if he were a member of their own group. The depictions of

rivers, mountains, and savannahs are simply breathtaking. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Narration of a great expedition
By Asitha Goonewardena
This book is one of the best books I have got in touch recently on the great expedition in search of the birth of one of the greatest river in the world. Christopher Ondaatje had written this book in a manner that it takes the reader in a virtual travel and smooth transition from one culture to another from the river delta to the origin, blended with the cultural exposure and pictorial essays. The book helps the reader not only to gather knowledge of the great river but also the diverse culture of the African sub continent. Recommend this book if you are truly eco traveler and nature lover.

In a series of experiences between 1856 and 1877, several British-born explorers tried to unravel the mystery of the source of the Nile. This river, the longest in the world, flowed through the desert, bringing life in its floodwater every year. Where did all this water come from? Christopher Ondaatje, long fascinated with Richard Burton and wishing to relive his 1856 African exploration, prepared for this journey by studying the expeditions of several Victorian travellers, for each had returned with part of the answer to the Nile's riddle. In 1996 Ondaatje followed the Victorian explorers' routes, to see for himself what they had seen. Although acutely aware that their claims of "discovering" a mountain or river were ridiculous, he quickly realized that he was indeed on a journey of discovery, and that the search for truth is often about finding new and better questions, not just answers. His trek across the Serengeti Plains to Olduvai Gorge provides the most striking revelation of all: the forces which shaped the Nile may also have triggered the evolution of the human race.

In "Nile," Ondaatje provides a great look at 19th century travelers who explored Africa, and why they did it. Some went for money, others for glory, and still others for something more. -- Laurence Chollet, Melbourne Florida Today, Jan 2, 2000
The book is very well done. Each chapter begins with a small map showing the specific area described. ... His pictures are beautiful and capture the vastness of the country. ... A complete chronology, bibliography and index are included. This book is excellent for any class studying Africa; it provides a great deal of information along with many points for discussion. -- KLIATT Nov 1999
About the Author Christopher Ondaatje was born in Ceylon and educated in England. He has worked for several magazines and newspapers and is the author of six books, including the best-selling biography of Victorian explorer Richard Burton, *Sindh Revisited*. A director of the World Wildlife Fund and a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, he lives in London, England.