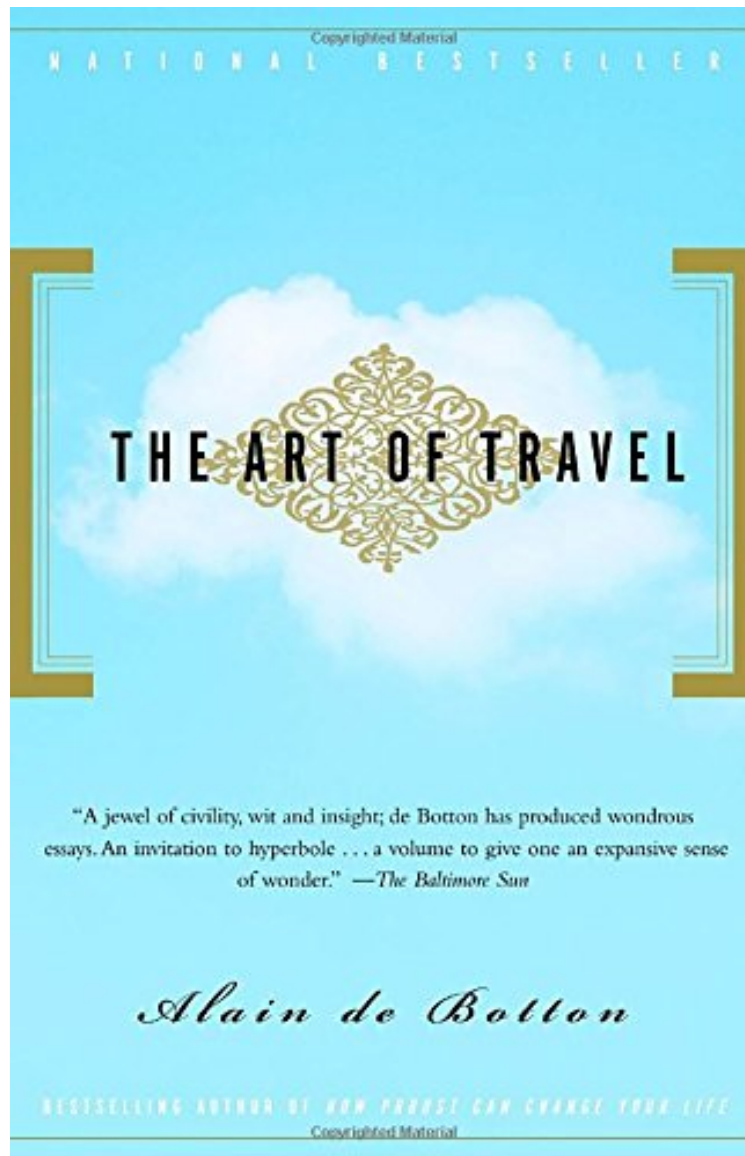


(Ebook pdf) The Art of Travel

## The Art of Travel

*Alain De Botton*

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#34946 in Books Alain de Botton 2004-05-11 2004-05-11 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.94 x .54 x 5.131, .56 #File Name: 0375725342272 pages The Art of Travel | File size: 68.Mb

**Alain De Botton : The Art of Travel** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Art of Travel:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I finished it but did not get much out of it. By David Smith I am not sure why I bought this book; clearly it had to have been strongly suggested from some source, but whatever the author was trying to do did not "click" with me. I made it through the book but ultimately did not enjoy it or even understand

why so many people did. It rambles. It touches on a number of topics but I did not find that it had meaning for me. One, concept, "traveling while staying at home" did resonate. With the internet, large sized video monitors, high resolution DVDs, does one really need to leave the house to see the world, do they? However local lobster is never as good as the lobster I have eaten at the Maine lobster pounds so perhaps traveling "at home" is not a perfect approach. Also bending backwards to kiss the Blarney stone is an experience not truly appreciated from a DVD travelogue of Ireland. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Absolutely Recommend By Amber Boop I loved this book. A great mix of philosophy and humor. There are some parts that were a bit boring but once I reached the end, I couldn't help but start over again. I'm going through with a highlighter this time because there are so many special passages that just made me stop and marvel. Perfect travel companion! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good but misleading. By Mary Wright Although very well written, *The Art of Travel* only partly deals with travel. Alain de Botton excels at times with descriptions of places he has seen but too often reverts to the lives of people like Humboldt and Van Gogh. Such people are very interesting but steer away from the subject of the book. Worth a read -- I particularly liked the end piece where he talks about Travel around the bedroom - but the title is misleading.

Any Baedeker will tell us where we ought to travel, but only Alain de Botton will tell us how and why. With the same intelligence and insouciant charm he brought to *How Proust Can Save Your Life*, de Botton considers the pleasures of anticipation; the allure of the exotic, and the value of noticing everything from a seascape in Barbados to the takeoffs at Heathrow. Even as de Botton takes the reader along on his own peregrinations, he also cites such distinguished fellow-travelers as Baudelaire, Wordsworth, Van Gogh, the biologist Alexander von Humboldt, and the 18th-century eccentric Xavier de Maistre, who catalogued the wonders of his bedroom. *The Art of Travel* is a wise and utterly original book. Don't leave home without it.

From Library Journal An experienced traveler and the author of five books, including *How Proust Can Change Your Life*, De Botton here offers nine essays concerning the art of travel. Divided into five sections "Departure," "Motives," "Landscape," "Art," and "Return" the essays start with one of the author's travel experiences, meander through artists or writers related to it, and then intertwine the two. De Botton's style is very thoughtful and dense; he considers events of the moment and relates them to his internal dialog, showing how experiences from the past affect the present. In "On Curiosity," for example, which describes a weekend in Madrid, De Botton compares his reliance on a very detailed guidebook to the numerous systematic measurements Alexander von Humboldt made during his 1799 travels in South America. De Botton compares Humboldt's insatiable desire for detail with his own ennui and wish that he were home. There are also details about a fight over dessert, the van Gogh trail in Provence, and Wordsworth's vision of nature. Although well written and interesting, this volume will have limited popular appeal. Recommended for larger public libraries. Alison Hopkins, Brantford P.L., ON Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Rather than lavishing pages on the sumptuous taste of a sun-ripened olive in Provence, philosopher de Botton examines what inspires us to escape the humdrum and purchase tickets to Tahiti, tromp through the countryside, or wander Rome. Left to one voice, such an inquiry might grow dull, but de Botton uses the lives and works of artists and writers to explore the premise. With each chapter, the author dissects our motivation to depart normality and go (he quotes Baudelaire) "anywhere, anywhere!" De Botton's anecdotal accounts of his own travels illustrate the theme of each chapter, such as exoticism or escapism, showing the unexpected (but all too common) disappointments inherent in getting away. Then, using the interior and artistic lives of others, de Botton probes the psychological underpinnings of why we go. The book shines when discussing Flaubert's lifelong urge for Egypt and painter Edward Hopper's affinity for the desolation of fuel stops and Automats. This literary travelogue feeds hungry readers seeking self-insight. Nicole Waller Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved A jewel of civility, wit and insight; de Botton has produced wondrous essays. An invitation to hyperbole . . . a volume to give one an expansive sense of wonder. The Baltimore Sun Illuminating. . . a lovely combination of enthusiasm, sensitivity, a care for the large and small, and the local and the foreign. . . reading de Botton's book will help a person discover something fabulous in everyday. Chicago Tribune There is something Proustian in *The Art of Travel*, in the best sense, for Mr. de Botton is a kind of flaneur, strolling through his subject thoughtfully and offering nuanced truths based on his reading, experience and philosophical temperament. The Wall Street Journal It would be difficult to name a writer as erudite and yet as reader friendly. . . With a wry, self-deprecating charm, he passes his enthusiasms along in such manner that you can't help being delighted by them. The Seattle Times [R]efreshing and profoundly readable. . . Thanks to de Botton's detailed and thoughtful writing, coupled with his clever curiosity, *The Art of Travel* has the potential to enrich not only our journeys, but also our lives. The Philadelphia Inquirer [De Botton] relates even the most disappointing experiences with delightful wit, graceful prose and surprising insight. The Los Angeles Times Wickedly funny . . . De Botton travels like the rest of us, but he brings with him the amazing erudition, crisp, lovely prose, and entertaining intellect that made *How Proust Can Change Your Life* and *The Consolations of Philosophy* such phenomenal successes. The Boston Globe [E]xudes erudition and artfulness. . . Delightful. Minneapolis Star-Tribune [A] wonderful book: inventive, witty, intelligent, and beautifully written. At its best, its prose achieves the intensity of

aphorism . . . provocative and insightful . . . teeming with tantalizing detail. The Boston Phoenix Charming and capably convinces us how unaware most of us are as we move about in the world . . . will leave the reader mentally reaching for a pencil to check off the graceful, witty turns of Mr. de Bottons mind. The Washington Times A thoughtful and anecdote-rich meditation on how trips can alter us in unexpected ways. Elle Magazine An erudite, funny brand of philosophy . . . will make you think and laugh and want to plan a trip to test out some of de Bottons ideas for yourself. Atlanta Journal-Constitution [A] quirky, delightful meditation on why we go where we go . . . What makes his book so much fun and so utterly unique is the way his mind works as he contemplates his (and our) responses to museums, airports, landscapes, hotels even to a gas station. Read just a few pages of de Botton and youll follow him anywhere. O Magazine Quietly terrific . . . It says a great deal about his ability that no matter whom he might invoke he does not pale by comparison. The New York Sun De Botton . . . gives voice and meaning to the thousands of epiphanies great and small brought about by voyaging. Esquire Alain de Botton piques curiosity not only about where we go but why and how questions worth considering even if our destination is no farther than the nearest cabana. Vogue Journeys of the de Botton kind . . . expand our perspective, they broaden our mind, they enrich the intellect. We travel, this precocious young man reminds us, to find ourselves. The Dallas Morning News Delicious writing . . . pure, unalloyed pleasure . . . [De Bottons] thoughts are original, startling, and what is more, feel true. The Arizona Republic Utterly charming. . . . De Botton notices the details, and as we grow accustomed to seeing the world through his eyes, perhaps we will notice more too. . . . [A] fine writer. The Times Picayune An elegant and subtle work, unlike any other. Beguiling. The Times (London) One of the very best contemporary travel writers an artist in the genre. Jan Morris, The New Statesman