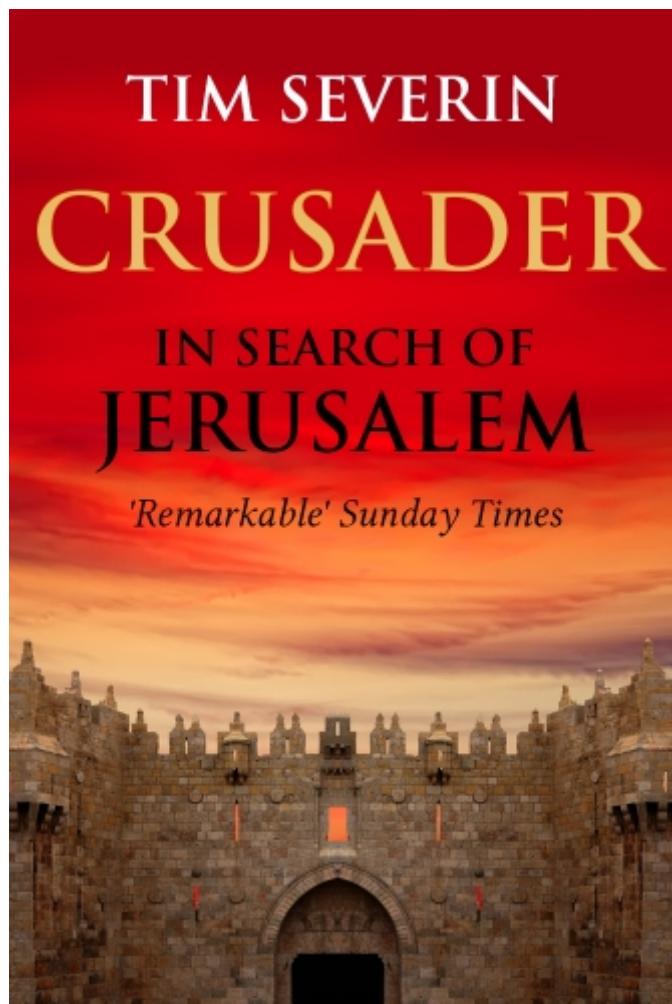


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Crusader: The Search For Jerusalem



Synopsis

The First Crusade was an astonishing feat of endurance and faith - a punishing trek that saw tens of thousands of Europeans marching east to liberate Jerusalem. Nearly nine hundred years later, in 1987, the same journey was attempted by just one man, one woman and - most importantly - two horses that set out from Chateau Bouillon in Belgium to retrace that epic quest. Tim Severin's aim was to bring Eleventh Century history vividly to life by following in the footsteps of Duke Godfrey de Bouillon and the earliest Crusader knights. Starting out with the same special breed of Ardennes Heavy Horse used by Duke Godfrey's train, Severin followed the historic trail for eight and a half months. Riding out of the green countryside of northern Europe into the increasing heat and parched landscape of the Near East, he and his companion covered more than 2,500 miles, past ruined Crusader settlements and ancient battlefields, through arduous mountain passes and across the barren Anatolian steppelands. Travelling through Germany, Austria, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Turkey and Syria, Severin followed the precise route of those medieval voyagers as best he could. At their journey's end was the jewel in the Crusader's crown itself - the holy city of Jerusalem. Crusader is a dazzling synthesis of adventure, practical history and exploration, as Tim Severin assesses how far Duke Godfrey reasonably could have expected his heavy cavalry to travel each day, the problems they would have encountered in feeding and caring for their big chargers on the open road, and which of the alternative routes would have been the most likely path. 'Remarkable' Sunday Times' Severin writes with the vividness of a born traveller and free spirit .. a wonderful book' Country Life Tim Severin is an explorer, film-maker and lecturer, who has made many expeditions, from crossing the Atlantic in a medieval leather boat to going out in search of Moby Dick and Robinson Crusoe. He has won the Thomas Cook Travel Book Award, the Book of the Sea Award, a Christopher Prize, and the literary medal of the Academie de la Marine. His books include 'The Sindbad Voyage', 'The Brendan Voyage', 'The Jason Voyage' and 'The Ulysses Voyage'. Endeavour Press is the UK's leading independent publisher of digital books.

Book Information

File Size: 1522 KB

Print Length: 346 pages

Publisher: Endeavour Press (December 20, 2013)

Publication Date: December 20, 2013

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00HGIC08O

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #538,143 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #26

inÃ  Books > Travel > Middle East > Israel > Jerusalem #41 inÃ  Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Travel > Middle East > Israel #126 inÃ  Books > Travel > Middle East > Israel > General

Customer Reviews

This book struck an immediate chord as it dealt with history, travel and high adventure. The author's trek following the path of the 1st Crusade from Belgium to Jerusalem by horseback was extraordinary. The adventurous account of day in, day out riding on horseback, at times following old Roman roads, was in itself worth buying the book. The author did more though. He incorporated the addictive history, trials and tribulations of the 1st Crusade. Yet there was more. The reader receives a good dose of humor, coupled with high drama. Last but not least, are the horses. Wonderfully developed characters in their own right. I would recommend this book to anyone.

An incredible journey by horseback over the original passages and through the modern nations where the first Crusade traveled with great hardship, from France to Jerusalem. Very well written, well researched, and beautifully told as great effort was made to recreate as much of the original mode and distances of travel by horseback as possible. Rich in detail, beautiful personal insights and great interaction with indigenous people and tribes. Well worth the time

I really enjoyed this book. The author draws you into his adventure, and makes you feel as if you were there on the trail with him. It was a fascinating trip, and I learned a lot about the crusaders that I hadn't known before. Loved his horse Carty, too! Before I read this book, I hadn't been interested in that era of history at all, but Tim Severin made it come alive for me. But it isn't just about history - it's about the people he meets, the places he sees, and so much more. An excellent read!

This book matches the quality of an adventure Severin is famous for. He sets the story well but when he mentioned a journey on horseback, I sort of lost interest however, the journey is something that is well documented. Like his other books, it would be a 5-Star rating with a map and photos.

This is a fascinating story on so many levels. I completely fell in love with his horses as each one exhibits a personality quite unique. His tale is full of so many humorous antidotes and adventures, and the writing style is very personable and easy to read. I find this book hard to put down. In addition, he's done his homework and includes a great deal of history making such history fascinating and could inspire one to learn more. An excellent author - I seem to enjoy everything he writes.

Pretty good travelogue as Tim and his horse travel the crusader route of old. The horse takes on his own character as his antics are recounted by Tim, in a journey both modern and historic as Tim interlaces his current trip with stories of the crusaders in each area as he passes through.

Having just finished The Perfect Horse in which the horses were treated with kindness and understanding, I made it only 20% through this book and am absolutely sickened by the stupidity of Tim Severin in his selection of unsuitable horses for his journey and the cruelty of his companion, Sarah Dorman in her judicious application of the whip. When the horses are merely being horses, they decide to "punish" the already tired beasts with a full days ride. I am left with nothing but contempt for Tim Severin and an absolute loathing for Sarah Dorman. zero stars

First off, this is well written and very interesting. Everyday details are very complete and it feels like you are riding along with the characters. But this does not move along very quickly, and some of the historical pieces of information are overwhelming. This does make for pretty good reading anyway.

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