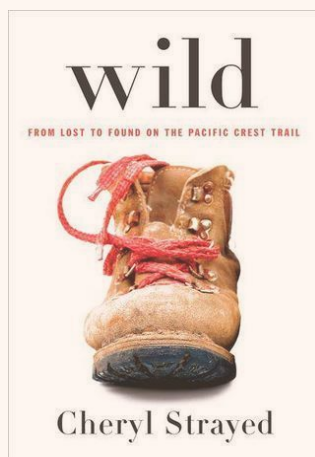


## *Journeys*

*By*



The theme of “the journey” has always covered plenty of ground, both fictional and in a more literal sense. Why do we want to travel? Is it to learn more about the world or ourselves? More often than not, the answer is both. This diverse list, the first to feature non-fiction, has been specifically tailored to older teens. Not everyone will be taking the journey of a lifetime this summer, but books can provide plenty of adventure. Whether you are exploring an ancient city like Delhi, or hiking through California, or riding a motorbike through South America, why not travel by book?



### *Wild* *by Cheryl Strayed*

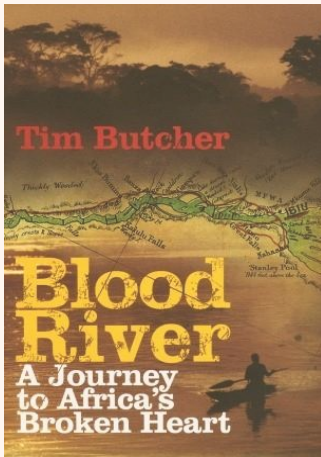
This insightful and beautifully written memoir is an account of a young woman’s journey into her own personal “heart of darkness”. After her mother’s death from cancer, Cheryl Strayed goes spectacularly off the rails. Looking for a way to put herself back together, she embarks on the challenge of hiking 1,100 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail – alone, and with inadequate preparation. Along the way, she battles both her internal demons and the

external challenges of the trail.

**Reading and interest level:** 16+

**Genre:** nonfiction; memoir; adventure; survival; family; Pacific Crest Trail

*This book contains strong language and references to drugs and sexuality.*



## *Blood River*

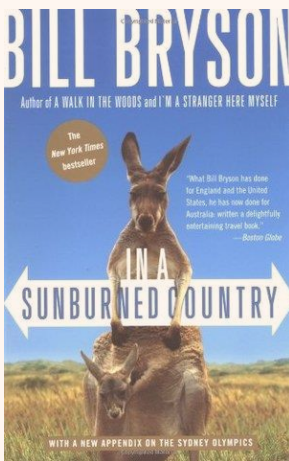
*by Tim Butcher*

When political journalist Tim Butcher becomes obsessed with the idea of traversing the mighty Congo River, and following in the footsteps of a famous 19<sup>th</sup> explorer, he gets nothing but the strongest discouragement from all corners. The former Belgian colony has no functioning infrastructure and no rule of law, not to mention the challenge of the impenetrable rain forest at its heart. This account of Butcher's impossible journey is gritty, informative and incredibly suspenseful.

**Reading and interest level:** 16+

**Genre:** nonfiction; travel; adventure; survival; historical; colonization; Democratic Republic of Congo; Africa

This book contains references to violence.



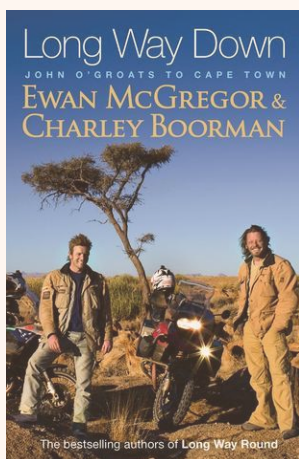
## *In a Sunburned Country*

*by Bill Bryson*

In the first chapter of his travelogue of Australia, Bill Bryson throws off this startling statistic: "It has more things that will kill you than anywhere else." Bryson, a beloved travel writer, is a master at injecting humour and drama into the factual. Even readers who were previously unaware of an interest in the natural world will be transported by the author's enthusiasm for his huge and diverse subject. Indeed, Bryson easily persuades the reader that Australia is one of the most underrated, amazing places on earth.

**Reading and interest level:** 14+

**Genre:** nonfiction; travel; historical; adventure; humour; Australia



## *Long Way Down*

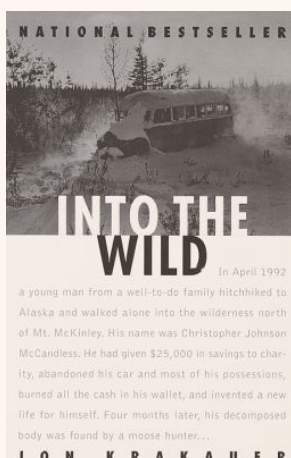
*by Ewan McGregor & Charley Boorman*

On their second “long way” challenge, authors McGregor and Boorman travel by motorbike from John O’Groats, Scotland all the way down to Cape Town, South Africa. The two friends and their team cover 15,000 miles in 85 days, but the travelogue really comes to life when they reach Africa. As Boorman and McGregor make their way through a land exotic to most Westerners, their down-to-earth voices offer fascinating insight into the people and places of this huge continent.

**Reading and interest level:** 14+

**Genre:** nonfiction; travel; diary; adventure; motorbikes; Africa; UNICEF

*This book contains some strong language and references to violence.*



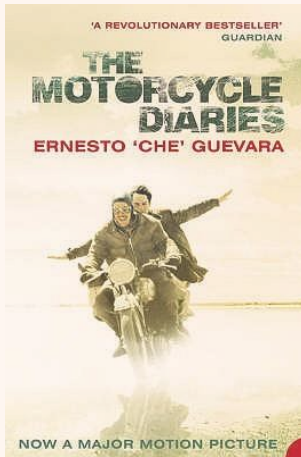
## *Into the Wild*

*by Jon Krakauer*

This intense non-fictional story is the reconstruction of the last two years of Christopher Johnson McCandless’s life. After graduation from university, McCandless gives away his savings and most of his belongings and heads west for the unknown. After travelling rough and working his way across the United States, McCandless strikes out for Alaska. Krakauer, a journalist who has been drawn to his own dangerous adventures, speculates about the peculiarly American traditions of self-reliance and frontier adventure which inspired McCandless’s search for enlightenment.

**Reading and interest level:** 14+

**Genre:** nonfiction; adventure; survival; Alaska



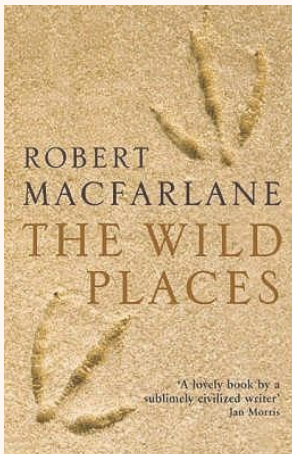
## *The Motorcycle Diaries*

*by Ernesto "Che" Guevara*

Before Che Guevara became world-famous as a communist revolutionary in Cuba, he was a young medical student from Argentina. In this classic "road trip" diary, Guevara and his friend Alberto travel all over South America on a broken-down motorcycle. The diaries are a humorous collection of anecdotes about drinking, football and sleeping rough, but they also reveal how Ernesto's travels inspired his political beliefs.

**Reading and interest level:** 14+

**Genre:** nonfiction; memoir; diary; travel; South America



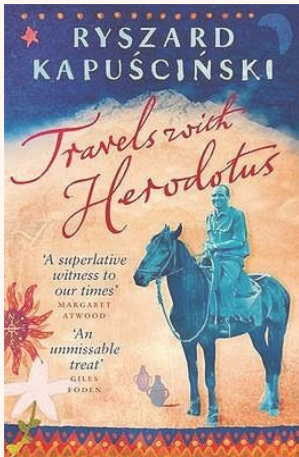
## *The Wild Places*

*by Robert Macfarlane*

For this most literary of travel adventures, British academic Robert Macfarlane sets himself a particular task: to discover if there are any truly "wild places" left in the United Kingdom. Macfarlane draws on history, geology, ecology and literature, not to mention a deeply informed knowledge of animal and plant life, to describe the wild places he visits. It all adds up to a poetic and deeply felt study of why human beings crave, and benefit from, exposure to untamed nature.

**Reading and interest level:** 16+

**Genre:** nonfiction; travel; adventure; nature; literature



## *Travels with Herodotus*

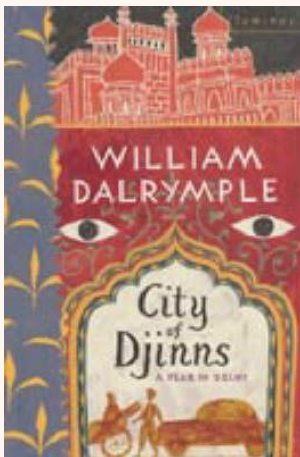
*by Ryszard Kapuscinski*

Authored by the celebrated Polish journalist, this travelogue is a book within a book. As Kapuscinski journeys around the world, from India to the Middle East and then Africa, he carries Herodotus's *Histories* with him. Wandering imaginatively between the ancient world described by Herodotus – “it is world literature’s first great work of reportage” -- and a post-colonial world undergoing great political change, Kapuscinski explores the philosophical and cultural

meaning of travel.

**Reading and interest level:** 16+

**Genre:** nonfiction; travel; adventure; historical; politics; war; Herodotus



## *City of Djinns*

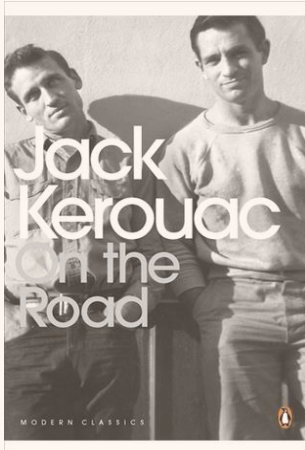
*by William Dalrymple*

This intimate study of Delhi is a journey into the past – and a must-read for anyone intrigued by India’s capital city. Sifting his way top-down through historical epochs, Dalrymple navigates the complex architecture of Delhi. His central premise is that there are seven “dead” cities of Delhi, and they are all encompassed by the present incarnation. Deftly mixing historical material and interviews, Dalrymple highlights the spiritual dimension which makes Delhi

unique amongst the great cities of the world.

**Reading and interest level:** 16+

**Genre:** nonfiction; travel; historical; India; Delhi



## *On the Road*

*by Jack Kerouac*

This classic road trip novel is the only fictional work on the list, although readers familiar with mid-20<sup>th</sup> century American poetry will recognise the author and other well-known Beat poets. One of the seminal texts of the counterculture movement of the 1960s, *On the Road* is still enjoyed for its restless energy, adventure-seeking characters and vivid writing.

**Reading and interest level:** 16+

**Genre:** realistic; adventure; friendship; road trip; jazz; poetry; counterculture

*This novel contains strong language, sexuality and references to drug and alcohol use.*

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