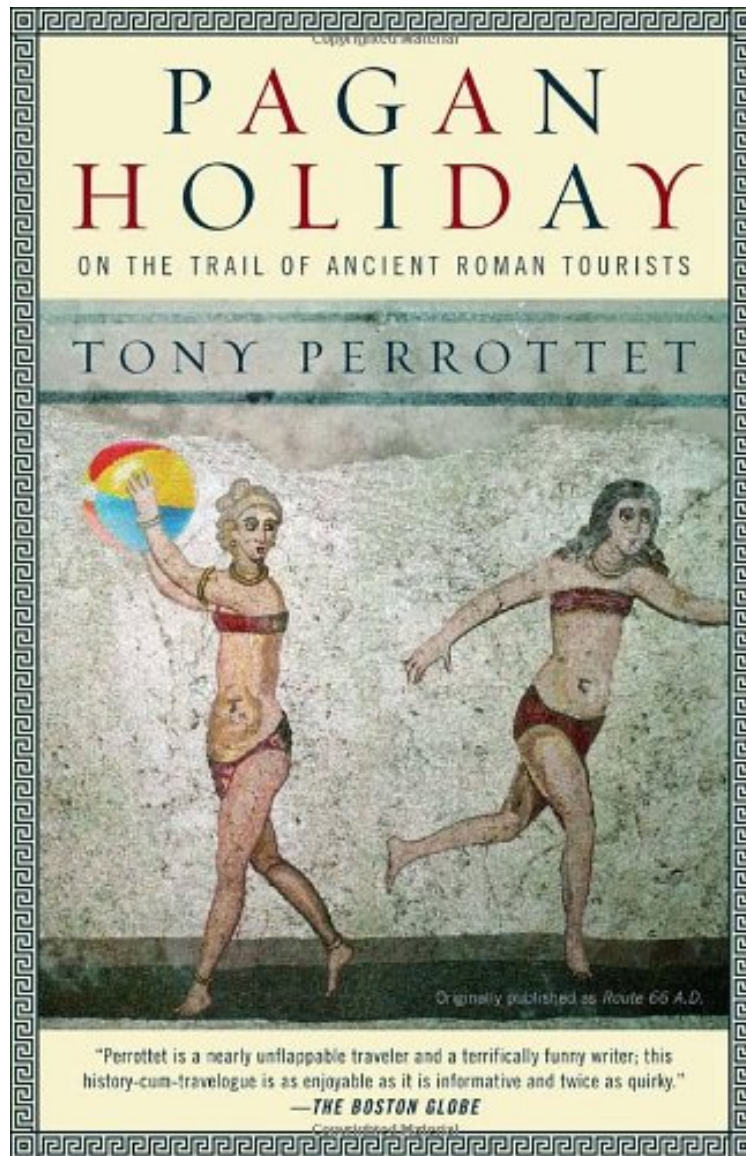


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## Pagan Holiday: On the Trail of Ancient Roman Tourists

Tony Perrottet

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**Tony Perrottet : Pagan Holiday: On the Trail of Ancient Roman Tourists** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pagan Holiday: On the Trail of Ancient Roman Tourists:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. DisappointmentBy BikerI was genuinely excited about this book and thought the idea was fantastic. Congrats to the author in his attempt. However, if you know a thing about ancient history, it is highly innaccurate and very poorly written. It also was most annoying to read since the viewpoint is coming from an ethnocentric American who is very sarcastic and judgmental in his style. Comparing the Roman

voyage to his own trip did not fit, and it simply was not interesting, so I skipped those parts. The author on several occasions compared the Romans to more modern day scenarios, when in fact it should be the other way around...or does the author not realise in his examples that the Romans came first? Not recommended. Pausania's Guide to Ancient Greece could be a better choice if the subject is of interest. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Perrottet - the GREATEST! By Kindle Customer I love all of his stuff. I read one and start looking for the next one. Would be nice to run into him at the New York Public Library next time I'm in New York. Would just love to meet him. His books make life "back then" so truly real. The ancients were a whole lot worse than people today, or were they!?! Watching the news these days, one wonders. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Pagan Holiday is a good read. By Walkin Talkin Gawkin An interesting read. Mr. Perrottet's commentary of he and his very pregnant wife as they followed the route of ancient tourists through the eastern Mediterranean. He uses the commentaries of ancient travel guides and fleshes out their experiences and inconveniences with he and his very pregnant wife's experiences and inconveniences. I read it to the end and I was entertained.

The ancient Romans were responsible for many remarkable achievements—Roman numerals, straight roads—but one of their lesser-known contributions was the creation of the tourist industry. The first people in history to enjoy safe and easy travel, Romans embarked on the original Grand Tour, journeying from the lost city of Troy to the Acropolis, from the Colossus at Rhodes to Egypt, for the obligatory Nile cruise to the very edge of the empire. And, as Tony Perrottet discovers, the popularity of this route has only increased with time. Intrigued by the possibility of re-creating the tour, Perrottet, accompanied by his pregnant girlfriend, sets off to discover life as an ancient Roman. The result is this lively blend of fascinating historical anecdotes and hilarious personal encounters, interspersed with irreverent and often eerily prescient quotes from the ancients—a vivid portrait of the Roman Empire in all its complexity and wonder.

From Publishers Weekly Just when it seemed certain that travel writers had exhausted the pantheon of destinations, Perrottet offers a fresh perspective by taking the road most traveled. From Rome to Naples to Sparta to Cairo, Perrottet traces the favorite itinerary of ancient Romans in search of adventure and culture abroad. Adapting a truly classic journey. Much as the English gentry invaded "the continent" in the waning years of the British Empire, the well-to-do citizens of ancient Rome were ubiquitous and presumptuous when traveling through Asia Minor with their convoys of servants and luggage, and perhaps a portable mosaic swimming pool. Perrottet, whose provisions and entourage consist of a precious copy of the world's oldest known guidebook and his gamely pregnant wife, diligently puts himself at the mercy of the malevolent hoteliers, sullen bureaucrats and teeming masses of a Mediterranean summer, all in the name of embracing the same tedious truths that plagued tourists in the age of Plutarch. When it comes to souvenirs, rented transportation and mercenary guides, it appears there really is nothing new under the sun. Perrottet, an Australian-born freelance writer living in New York, presents a delightful reminder of how little men and women of leisure have changed. His wry personal account blends seamlessly with his historical narrative, which is based mostly on secondary sources. As he tells it, first-century tourist traps rise from the page in scenes so familiar and vibrant that it becomes difficult to discern whether the past is present or the present, past. That temporal illusion is this book's real triumph. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal From Rome to Naples to Greece and the islands of the Aegean Sea, then on into the land of Cleopatra, ancient Romans followed the path of their conquering armies in search of adventure. Like 21st-century sightseers, Roman tourists were hustled in and out of temples by professional tour guides and treated to sideshows by clever priests who charged hefty prices for a glimpse of a Cyclops's skull or a Gorgon's hair. They were also subjected to bad food and hard mattresses in roadside inns from Pompeii to Aswan. To prove that little has changed over the centuries, New York Times travel writer Perrottet takes us on a modern-day tour of the Roman Empire. Accompanied by his girlfriend, Perrottet follows the map drawn by Roman war hero Marcus Agrippa, traveling from Rome to Egypt along many of the same routes used by Horace and Pliny. The result is a fascinating and often humorous look at a world long gone and the tourist culture that has grown up around it. Perrottet's writing sparkles with descriptions of modern and ancient misadventures. The accompanying photographs enhance the narrative and help make this book a good purchase for any library. Mary V. Welk, Chicago Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Booklist This retrospective travel guide and contemporary travel memoir pays tribute to intrepid tourists of the past and the present. Unearthing a copy of the world's oldest surviving guidebook, the author, a veteran travel writer, and his girlfriend decide to trace the routes and visit the exotic destinations of the Roman Empire. Embarking on an intercontinental odyssey encompassing stops in Greece, Turkey, and Egypt, Perrottet interweaves and contrasts his modern-day experiences with those of the ancient Romans. Brimming with humor, adventure, anecdotal tidbits, and fascinating historical information, this delightful travelogue offers a unique twist on some classic journeys. Margaret Flanagan Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved