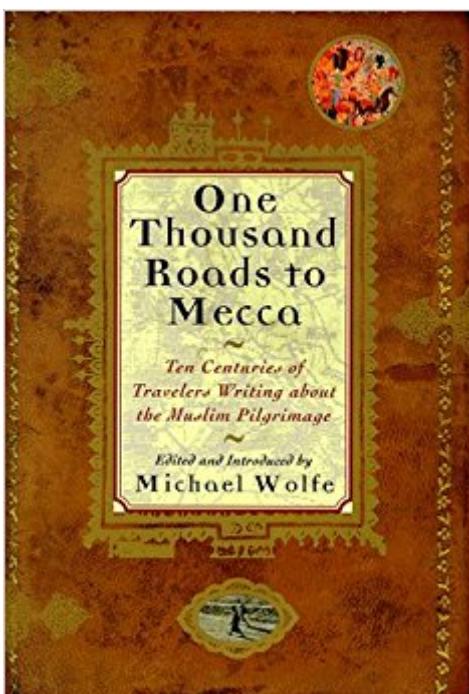


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# One Thousand Roads To Mecca: Ten Centuries Of Travelers Writing About The Muslim Pilgrimage



## Synopsis

The Hadj, or pilgrimage to Mecca, has long been a central tenet of the Muslim religion and has, as well, fascinated Western adventures enchanted by the holy city's mystery and hostility toward nonbelievers. One Thousand Roads to Mecca collects significant texts from the last ten centuries by writers from the East and West including Ibn Battuta, whose Travels is the most famous adventure book of Arabic literature; Ali Bey al-Abbas, a nineteenth-century Spanish Muslim; Sir Richard Burton, who daringly entered the city in disguise; and Malcolm X. Part travelogue, part history, part holy literature, this diverse anthology will appeal to anyone interested in one of the most influential cities in human history.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Michael Wolfe is an excellent writer. He is also a very convincing writer. For years my parents have been asking me to go for Hajj. I compromised and went for Umra. Mr. Wolfe's preface and the introduction convinced me that I should make this journey. I am preparing for the trip in year 2003. Inshallah. This is an excellent book. Equally enlightening to Muslims and Non-Muslim. I recommend it.

This is easily one of the most splendid and accessible English-language works on the hajj in recent years. For Muslims about to undertake the hajj, Wolfe's thousand-year history of the great hajj narratives of men like ibn Jubayr and years later Malcolm X will offer the richness of the pilgrimage, which was often as much a picaresque travel adventure as spiritual rite. Non-Muslims will get a great swath of Muslim intellectual history, freed of the sometimes needless formalism and apologia

of recent hajj narratives and a wonderful encapsulation of Islamic civilization at its height, and of course the great beauty of the pilgrimage itself. Wolfe's introductions to the many narratives serve, perhaps unintentionally, as an excellent summary of Muslim history to the present.

I found this book to be wonderful. I enjoyed it a lot. It really has shown change in the pilgrimage. I would recommend the book for Muslims, like myself and non-Muslims alike.

The scope of this book is incredible spanning nearly 1000 years of people making a pilgrimage. It also demonstrates how life-changing the experience could be. Michael Wolfe is a great writer and does a splendid job introducing each piece. Some of participants are simply incredible people—especially the Spanish Muslim from the 1700s (my memory escapes me as to his name). Each piece shows something new. It's definitely a book I'll be looking into again.

This is a great book, rich in history. Gives going to Hajj a historical perspective

An amazing chronicle of the battle to reach Mecca. Highly recommend.

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