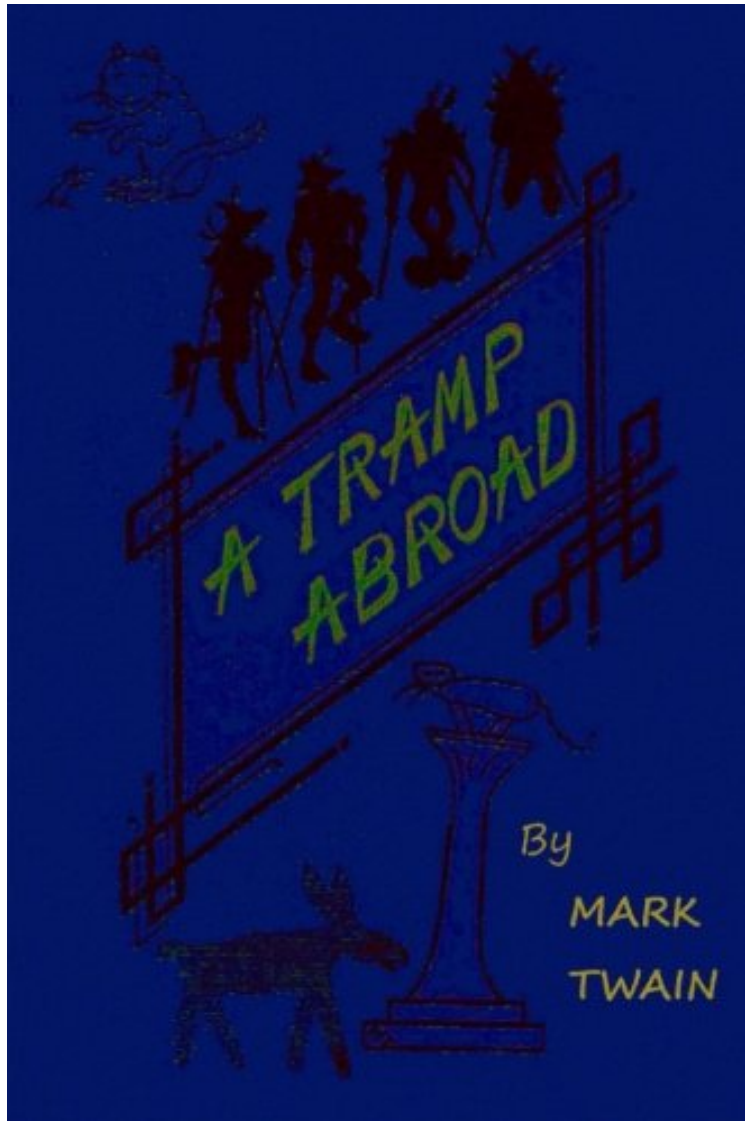


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A Tramp Abroad

Mark Twain

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Mark Twain : A Tramp Abroad before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Tramp Abroad:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Mark Twain's first travelogueBy Rick WylieMark Twain's first book of travels outside the States. As enjoyable as all his stories. Read with a bit of salt, for his sarcasm isn't always recognized. Still a joy to hear his words on the people and places of mid-Europe. The hiking stories, the legends of the regions that he shares will shed insights on a time that many do not familiarize themselves with. Many of the places

were old when Twain visited them and are still popular places for travelers today. It is quite amazing the this travelogue has stood the test of time the way that it has. Buy a copy for the bibliophile in your life and they will thank you for broadening their horizons. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Not worthy of Mark Twain By life long reader I read this book since I was planning a trip to Switzerland, Germany, France, and The Netherlands. I thought Twain would be amusing and informative. While there were some amusing spots, most of the book was tedious. It was interesting to read about some of the places he visited it. However, he did not provide any more knowledge than I gained on my own. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. UNEVEN and UNEVENTFUL. ONE-THIRD = nature descriptions. ROUGHING IT is much better! By cerebral author First off, Roughing it - another travelogue by Twain, is way better! Highly recommended! This travelogue is mostly about hiking and mountaineering in Germany and Switzerland. First, the PLUSSES:- The "Rhine" legends, many of which written by Twain, were a delight.- There are some witty episodes in Twain's signature style - but they are that rare chunk of meat in an otherwise vegetable soup.- If you enjoy landscape descriptions, this book will make you very happy they occupy a humongous part of the book, and are exquisite.- If you happen to be an avid mountain-climber, even better a large part of this 300+ page book consists of super-detailed descriptions of mountain-climbing episodes. I know that tourism was all the rage when Twain wrote, but I often wondered why Twain thought that chapter-long minute descriptions of a step-by-step climbing adventure and the tools used for it would be of interest to the general reader. If you are not into any of the above, you might be left exasperated at times, and regret that what is billed as a travelogue includes so few meetings with local people, or that nature descriptions are more abundant than opinions, thoughts, analysis of culture and manners (there are some but few and far between), or urban travel experiences (in big cities, versus solitary hiking). I expected that the great ironist Twain would be more connected and able to describe city life and meetings with illustrious European friends. But hiking, or pedestrianism was, apparently, the main goal of his trip. On a side note, I was mystified to read his exaggerated jokes of disgust in German, and more generally, European food, which he found insipid and not as rich as American food. Taste comes from what one has been brought up with, but if we all try to be objective, I don't think this has ever been even a point of contention -- if you have not tried it yourself (I have), look at any statistics, and you'll see that European food, as a product of an older tradition and less commercial laws, comes up much higher than US food, and always have. French and Italian cuisine usually occupy spots #1 and #2. He also found German/European coffee and water horrible, the latter even harmful for the health, which is equally hard to believe, especially in 1880. Today Switzerland is #2 in the Cleanest Country list, and there is little reason to believe that this is not a result of a long-lasing trdition. On the contrary, US water is undrinkable in many states today (probably was better in the early days), but to say this of German water in the 1880 is absurd. Reg. coffee, I am not a coffee person, but Germany has amazing deserts, and I have hard time imagining that German coffee, which usually comes with desert, can be much worse. This biased, hyperbolic inaccuracy made me doubt any of his other "cultural insights," which are often exaggerated to the extreme in order to produce a good joke. Since the book is a mixture of fictional and true episodes, of fact and satire, it is often hard to tell them apart. In interest of full disclosure, I LISTENED to the Audible recording instead of reading the book. I mention this since I've discovered a book is perceived differently when listened to, and often less favorably. Listening made it go faster and easier (it is very long, 300-500 pages depending on how your device measures length), but I still felt that some episodes did not intrigue much, or contribute much to the reader's knowledge or enjoyment. The book is uneven, as other reviewers describe it. I don't think I would have ever finished it if I had read it, versus listening to it.

A Tramp Abroad is a work of travel literature, including a mixture of autobiography and fictional events, by American author Mark Twain, published in 1880. The book details a journey by the author, with his friend Harris (a character created for the book, and based on his closest friend, Joseph Twichell), through central and southern Europe. While the stated goal of the journey is to walk most of the way, the men find themselves using other forms of transport as they traverse the continent. The book is the third of Mark Twain's five travel books and is often thought to be an unofficial sequel to the first one, The Innocents Abroad.

[A Tramp Abroad] is delicious, whether you open it at the sojourn in Heidelberg, or the voyage down the Neckar on a raft, or mountaineering in Switzerland, or the excursion beyond the Alps into Italy. William Dean Howells From the Inside Flap In "A Tramp Abroad, Mark Twain's unofficial sequel to "The Innocents Abroad, the author records his hilarious and diverse observations and insights while on a fifteen-month walking trip through Central Europe and the Alps. "Here you have Twain's inimitable mix," writes Dave Eggers in his Introduction, "of the folksy and the effortlessly erudite, his unshakable good sense and his legendary wit, his knack for the easy relation of a perfect anecdote, and some achingly beautiful nature writing." This Modern Library Paperback Classic reproduces the text of the first American edition and features new explanatory notes and a critical Afterword by Kerry Driscoll, professor of English at Saint Joseph College in Connecticut. From the Back Cover [A Tramp Abroad] is delicious, whether you open it at the sojourn in Heidelberg, or the voyage down the Neckar on a raft, or mountaineering in Switzerland, or the

excursion beyond the Alps into Italy. William Dean Howells