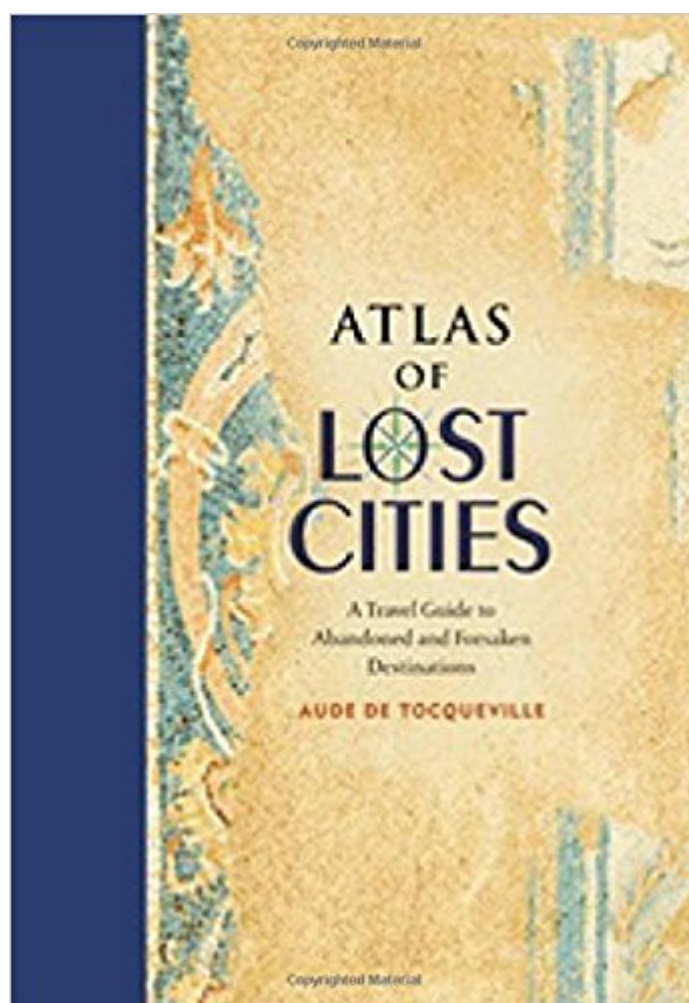


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Atlas Of Lost Cities: A Travel Guide To Abandoned And Forsaken Destinations



Synopsis

Like humans, cities are mortal. They are born, they thrive, and they eventually die. In *Atlas of Lost Cities*, Aude de Tocqueville tells the compelling narrative of the rise and fall of such notable places as Pompeii, Teotihuacán, and Angkor. She also details the less well known places, including Centralia, an abandoned Pennsylvania town consumed by unquenchable underground fire; Nova Citas de Kilamba in Angola, where housing, schools, and stores were built for 500,000 people who never came; and Epecuen, a tourist town in Argentina that was swallowed up by water. Beautiful, original artwork shows the location of the lost cities and depicts how they looked when they thrived.

Book Information

Hardcover: 144 pages

Publisher: Black Dog & Leventhal (April 5, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0316352020

ISBN-13: 978-0316352024

Product Dimensions: 7.8 x 0.8 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #13,943 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) [#30 in Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Travel](#) [#32 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Urban](#) [#35 in Books > History > Ancient Civilizations](#)

Customer Reviews

An odd little book that spins some interesting tales, but is strangely empty for a volume that purports to be an "atlas" of lost cities. The subject matter is compelling (cities that no longer exist), but there's a definite bias in the selection of places toward Asia and Europe, and many of them ancient locales that don't particularly resonate with contemporary audiences. Just three, little-known sites represent the United States in this "atlas" (and just one in Canada) and the author misses a number that might have improved the interest of this book had they been included. For instance, what about the "lost city" of Love Canal outside Niagara Falls, New York and the chemical contamination that caused a neighborhood of many blocks to be abandoned? What of the "lost town" sites in and around Richland, Washington, that were subsumed to the wartime creation of the Hanford plutonium works? How could the author have missed Hirshhorn, Ontario, the planned but unbuilt oasis of contemporary art deep in the Canadian wilderness, conceived by uranium magnate and modern art

patron Joseph Hirshhorn? And don't forget Fordlandia, Henry Ford's New England township in the Amazonian jungle, a rubber-producing experiment that failed and was abandoned in the last century. Jonestown, Guyana, might have also rated a mention, simply because we all remember Jim Jones and his People's Temple cult and are curious what became of their revolutionary socialist commune in South America. In short, this "atlas" misses a good deal that would have improved its appeal to readers.

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