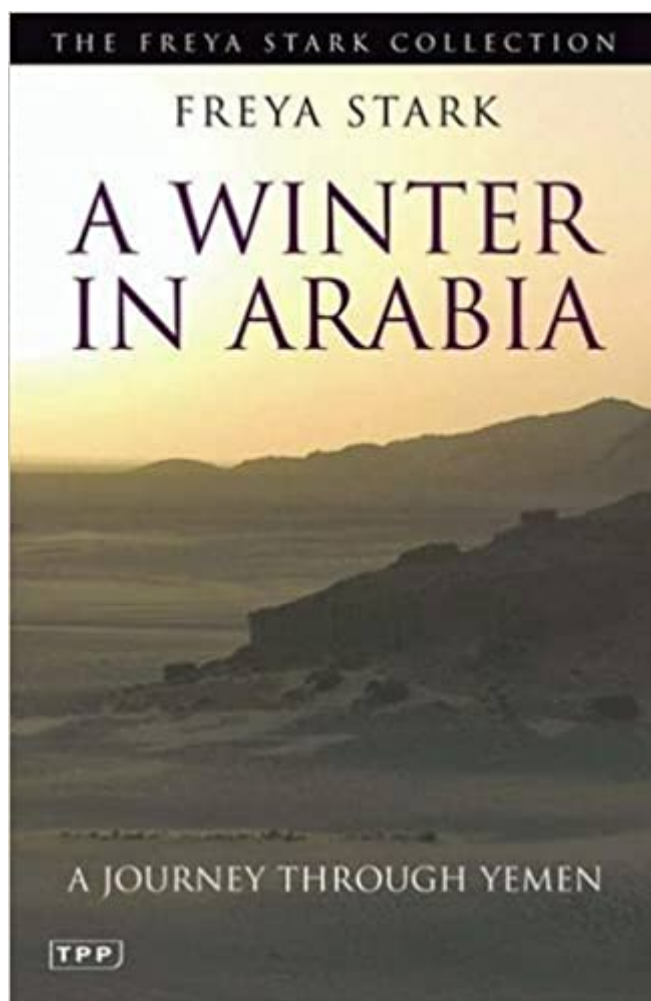


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# A Winter In Arabia: A Journey Through Yemen (Tauris Parke Paperbacks)



## Synopsis

In 1934 Freya Stark made her first journey to the Hadhramaut in what is now Yemen – the first woman to do so alone. Even though that journey ended in disappointment, sickness, and a forced rescue, Stark, undeterred, returned to Yemen two years later. Starting in Mukalla and skirting the fringes of the legendary and unexplored Empty Quarter, she spent the winter searching for Shabwa – ancient capital of the Hadhramaut and a holy grail for generations of explorers. From within Stark’s beautifully-crafted and deeply knowledgeable narrative emerges a rare portrait of the customs and cultures of the tribes of the Arabian Peninsula. *A Winter in Arabia* is one of the most important pieces of literature on the region and a book that placed Freya Stark in the pantheon of great writers and explorers of the Arab World.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

\*It is her ability to sketch out the situation for us, along with her affection and sensitivity to this distant culture -- so far from the Europe in which she grew up -- that makes her such an affecting companion on this new journey of her.\* -- RALPH: The Review of Arts, Literature, Philosophy, and the Humanities  
“Readers of Stark’s reissued works...will find a writer who endows everyone in her field of vision with the heightened interest that she felt herself.” -- The New Yorker  
\*A treasure of rare distinction among travel books.\* -- The New York Times Book Review  
\*Here, for once in a very long while, is a book upon which the miser of superlatives may pour out his hoard of praise . . . To read such a book . . . is to be proud and thankful. For here is a lovely

charity and calm courage, vivid gaiety, the strong peace of truth and understanding; and quietness.\* -- The Times Literary Supplement\*Her writing has wit and vivacity and no little beauty; I found the whole book enthralling.\* -- Christian Science MonitorNamed one of The London Times' \*20 Best Travel Books of the Past Century\*Praise for Freya Stark:~ ^ \*...it is beautiful writing that encapsulates not only the history, but the feel, the smell, the sensation and sheer wonder of what she discovers... enriching and enjoyable.\*~ ^ ~ ^ --London Turkish Gazette~ ^ \*Freya Stark has rightfully earned a place among the greatest travel writers of the 20th century. I.B.Tauris is releasing [A Winter in Arabia] alongside seven other works, as The Freya Stark Collection. A timely reminder of an extraordinary woman and a fine writer.\*~ ^ ~ ^ -- Sunday Telegraph\*It's hard to think of a writer in the travel game who most closely demonstrates the merits of Flaubert's three rules for good writing: clarity, clarity and finally clarity. Re-reading her now, her restrained powers of description shine as brightly as they ever did, and they will continue to shine until the next Ice Age... Her books are more relevant than ever. Besides sheer enjoyment, one should read her for a fresh perspective on the intractable issues dogging Christian-Muslim relations. She was able to see both sides and what she found was similarity, not difference. The greatest woman traveller of the 20th century? I think so.\* --The Times\*Stark was a talented writer, her books are beautifully crafted and deeply knowledgeable.\* --~ ^ The Lady\*This year's rich swathe of reissued classics includes the long overdue Freya Stark Collection. A Winter in Arabia, first published in 1972, offers snippets from her diary bringing to light her stay with the Yemeni of the Hadhranaut in 1937, before continuing into her solitary travels.\* -- The Scotsman 2010 Travel Review~ ^ \*She was a vivid describer of scenes and landscapes. More, she was a connoisseur of people: she knew how to draw them out and listened closely when they spoke\* -- Claudia Roth Pierpont, The New Yorker

7 1.5-hour cassettes --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I had never heard of Freya Stark when I purchased this, but it was a great book. I had to adjust to the pace, because it really is an old fashioned account of the pace and culture of travel in the 30s, but it's a wonderful insider's account of passing through a Muslim society before cultures were all "opened up" to one another. When you get into it, it's easy to appreciate the details that are included and the slower pace, and pulls the reader back to a time when people appreciated simple things and took the most care with such pastimes as handwritten letters and travel journals. The focus is on the personalities and day to day activities of the travelers and Ms. Stark's ingenuity and finesse in navigating the social challenges of being a British woman abroad, alone, before that was

expected. Very interesting.

I haven't finished this book yet, but it's shaping up to be a really good read. Freya's recounting of her travels through Yemen are providing me with some keen insights into Arab culture. The society seems to be conservative and isolated from the rest of the world.

This is a fascinating book. A must read for anyone who enjoys travel writing, is interested in the history of the Middle East, or just wants to read about some-one who thumbed her nose at the "establishment"! Well written too.

the book arrived on time, in great condition. i recommend the seller and the author. freya stark traveled foreign lands before it was a popular thing to do. she documents her journey with incredible insight.

Thank you

don't like her style of writing

A travel memoir written in the late 1930s - and 1000 years ago. It's a beautifully written, gentle book of a harsh land and its tribal peoples. Stark, is both poet and pragmatist. More musings and personal interactions than places and things, the book is a pleasure to read and savor. I wonder if the history of the Middle East wouldn't be improved had the colonial powers been guided by her sympathetic but unblinking understanding of Arab village and bedouin cultures.

This is what travel writing should be. One travels to see places and meet people. Ms. Stark's descriptions of places and travel thereto are always informed and interesting. The encounters with people are the little jewels studding her books, though. She brings a worldly but sympathetic attitude to her encounters with everyone she meets, from potentates to brigands. Read it.

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