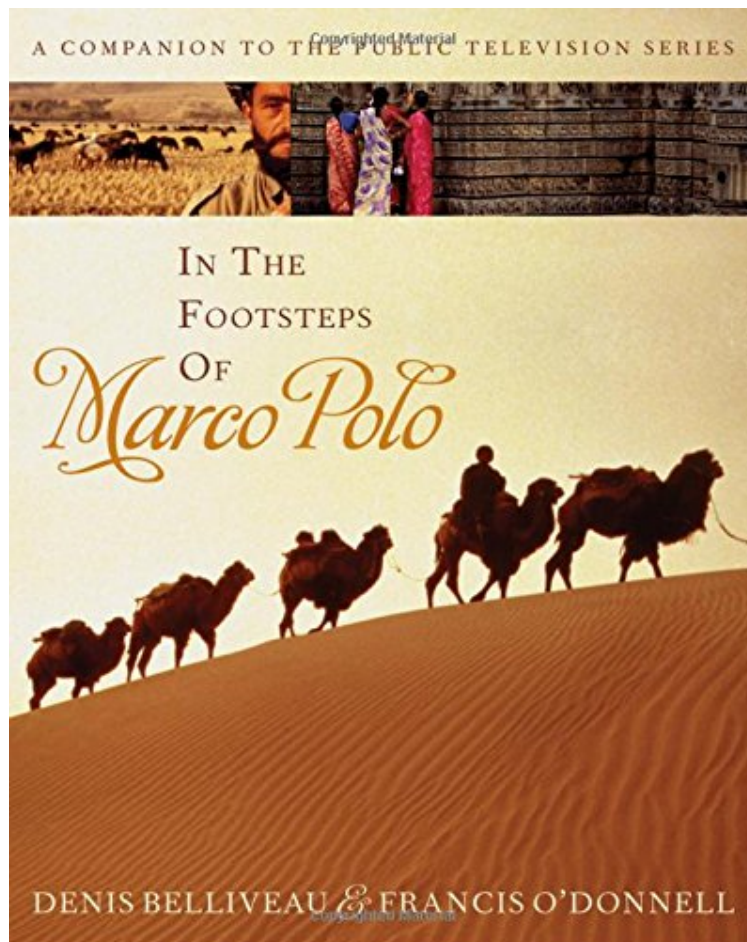


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In the Footsteps of Marco Polo: A Companion to the Public Television Film

Denis Belliveau, Francis O'Donnell
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Denis Belliveau, Francis O'Donnell : In the Footsteps of Marco Polo: A Companion to the Public Television Film before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In the Footsteps of Marco Polo: A Companion to the Public Television Film:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The vicarious experience of a life time.By steven w fortadoAn epic journey through Afghanistan at the height of war, Iran circumnavigating bureaucrats and minders, China crossing a nuclear testing range, and many, many more. All to literally follow the footsteps of Polo from his original book, not by airline hops but step by step on foot (or car). Fantastic just for the photos, but read, read, read the text! You'll wish you had been along. Apparently there is debate among historians over whether Polo made the whole journey or borrowed from tales of the time. The authors intersperse quotes from Polo paralleling photos that clearly demonstrates Polo's veracity. The story of how Polo's book got written is worth the price alone. You'll wish you had gone along on this

trek. The armchair experience of a lifetime. This is my go-to gift for worldly friends. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. More maps, please! By Carol P. Apparent published to accompany a PBS video of the same title. Loved reading it. My one complaint (wish I could give 4.5 stars) was that there were no maps within the text to show the route followed by (1) the authors and (2) Marco Polo, at least the path that the authors believe he probably traveled. There were two maps on the end papers, but they did not trace the path followed by the authors and many places mentioned by the authors were not on them. It does seem like something that could have been accomplished easily, since the video (I watched it after reading the book) did have maps interspersed throughout that showed their travels. Otherwise, an entertaining read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. What a beautiful book! A must have for Marco Polo Fans. By TeacherGal. What a beautiful book! It's a must have if you have seen the documentary, *In the Footsteps of Marco*. I've bought many books from this seller and have never been disappointed with the quality of the books, their price, or speed of delivery. I almost feel as if I have cheated them! Thanks!

Did Marco Polo reach China? This richly illustrated companion volume to the public television film chronicles the remarkable two-year expedition of explorers Denis Belliveau and Francis O'Donnell as they sought the answer to this controversial 700-year-old question. With Polo's book, *The Travels of Marco Polo*, as their guide, they journeyed over 25,000 miles becoming the first to retrace his entire path by land and sea without resorting to helicopters or airplanes. Surviving deadly skirmishes and capture in Afghanistan, they were the first Westerners in a generation to cross its ancient forgotten passageway to China, the Wakhan Corridor. Their camel caravan on the southern Silk Road encountered the deadly singing sands of the Taklamakan and Gobi deserts. In Sumatra, where Polo was stranded waiting for trade winds, they lived with the Mentawai tribes, whose culture has remained unchanged since the Bronze Age. They became among the first Americans granted visas to enter Iran, where Polo fulfilled an important mission for Kublai Khan. Accompanied by 200 stunning full-color photographs, the text provides a fascinating account of the lands and peoples the two hardy adventurers encountered during their perilous journey. The authors' experiences are remarkably similar to descriptions from Polo's account of his own travels and life. Laden with adventure, humor, diplomacy, history, and art, this book is compelling proof that travel is the enemy of bigotry a truth that resonates from Marco Polo's time to our own.

From Publishers Weekly The harrowing route of Marco Polo's 13th-century trek from Venice to ancient Cathay over the traditional Silk Road to Kublai Khan's territories consumed 24 years of the famous explorer's life. Award-winning photographer Belliveau and sculptor/lecturer O'Donnell, a former marine, spent two years retracing the journey, to [t]raverse the world's largest land mass and back, climb its highest mountains, cross its most desolate deserts and seas. The curious, intrepid risk-takers forgo air travel to recreate the 25,000-mile experience, facing rolls of red tape, internecine politics, horrendous climates, language barriers, civil war and border authorities while traveling through what is now Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Tibet, China and Mongolia, among others. The authors have a remarkable ability to form relationships in varied cultures, as with a group of rough Afghan soldiers: All had in common... losses so terrible that we had stopped asking questions about families. Fascinatingly, many of the customs, locales and physical landscapes are identical, 700 years later, to Polo's descriptions. Alongside Belliveau and O'Donnell's enthusiastic narrative are marvelous full-color photos that bring the travelogue to vivid life. (Dec.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From School Library Journal Adult/High School Following in the footsteps of arguably the greatest traveler in history is no easy task. In accessible, lively text, and with more than 200 striking photographs, Belliveau and O'Donnell make the enormity of the task abundantly clear. The determined explorers follow the long and arduous route Marco Polo took more than 700 years ago, becoming the first to retrace the entire distance on land and sea. The dangers were many: sand storms in the Taklamakan desert, subzero temperatures in the mountain passes of Tajikistan, horribly rough seas off the coast of Sumatra, and suspicious, gun-wielding soldiers at nearly every border and everywhere in Afghanistan. Marco Polo faced many of these same obstacles, but one he did not have to confront was the ridiculous complexity of postmodern bureaucracy. The greatest roadblock to the success of the authors' expedition proved to be the red tape and outright hostility involved in securing visas for travel in Afghanistan, China, India, and especially Iran. The two Americans resorted to some clever, and dangerous, maneuvers to sidestep overly zealous (and gun-toting) officials. In the end, their persistence was well worth the effort. Like Marco Polo in the 13th century, Belliveau and O'Donnell in 1994'95 witnessed amazing sights, met wonderfully gracious and helpful people, and learned countless valuable lessons. This lavish travelogue in the grand tradition of exotic exploration should find a place in all collections. Robert Saunderson, formerly at Berkeley Public Library, CA Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Seven centuries after his journeys across Asia, there are still a few skeptics who doubt that Marco Polo reached China and served in the court of the Great Khan. The authors of this lush, stimulating, and often thrilling chronicle never doubted it, and their two-year expedition that traces his travels from Venice to China confirms it. Belliveau is a photographer and cameraman for PBS, and O'Donnell is a sculptor and lecturer. Together, they have effectively combined the genre of popular history and travelogue; they illuminate the highlights of Polos

travels and adventures and juxtapose them against their own experiences as they travel across fascinating and sometimes dangerous areas of Asia. The text is well written and highly informative, and it conveys a sense of wonder and excitement, enhanced by hundreds of excellent photographs that reveal the past and present diversity and richness of the cultures Polo encountered. For general readers, this excellent work and companion to the public-television film is a valuable introduction to the life and times of one of the worlds great adventurers. --Jay Freeman