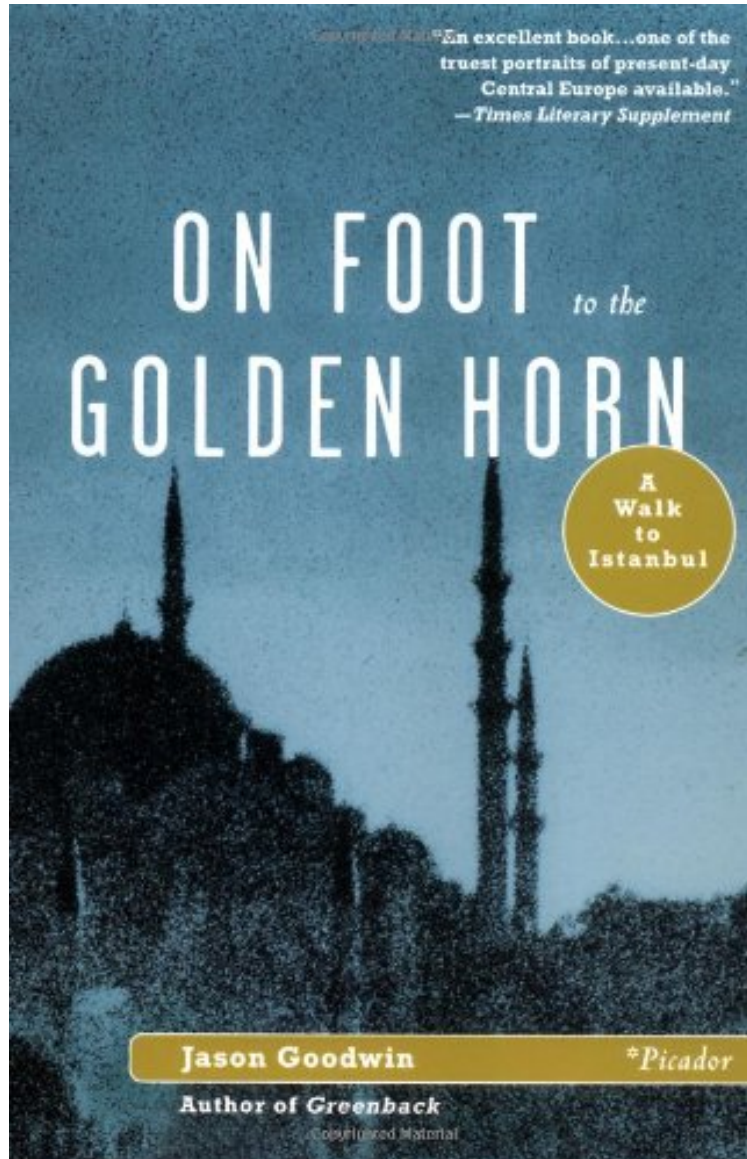


[Free] On Foot to the Golden Horn: A Walk to Istanbul

On Foot to the Golden Horn: A Walk to Istanbul

Jason Goodwin

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Jason Goodwin : On Foot to the Golden Horn: A Walk to Istanbul before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On Foot to the Golden Horn: A Walk to Istanbul:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Ms H. J. Wilson Excellent, thoroughly recommend it. Informative and also amusing and easy to read. A gem!
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Every Step A Pleasure By Belle The book has made me want very much to follow most of the path the author took. I am more than delighted to be able to add this Jason Goodwin book to my library.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A

Pilgrimage Across Eastern Europe By Keith C. A great journey written in high literary style, it reminds one of Patrick Leigh Fermor, to whom Goodwin refers a few times along the way. I found the book interesting because I have traveled to Krakow, Budapest, Levoca (Slovakia), Eger (Hungary), and spent a summer teaching in post-communist Romania. His images brought back many memories of both the beautiful and the sad.

On Foot to the Golden Horn recounts Jason Goodwin's breathtaking journey with two companions through Eastern Europe from the dikes and marshes of Poland's Baltic coast across to the Golden Horn in Istanbul. Along the way, they sleep in haystacks, drink with Gypsies, and play with Ceaucescus orphans, meeting with blatant hostility and overwhelming hospitality as an older Europe tries to settle with itself, and a new one struggles to be born. It is the story of three friends walk through some of the world's most beautiful and tragic places, and of their encounters with a varied and vivid cast of characters.

.com Though classified as a travel book, On Foot to the Golden Horn could just as easily fall under history. Don't roll your eyes: it is the story of an incredible voyage, full of encounters with fascinating people and landscapes. But its backdrop is one of the most important historical moments of the late 20th century--Eastern Europe at the beginning of the 1990s. Goodwin's motives initially had nothing to do with this moment: fascinated by the history of Istanbul, he vows to reach the place as a visitor would have during its Byzantine heyday--on foot. As a result, he and his friends find themselves tramping through Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria as the Iron Curtain falls all around them. Goodwin's arduous journey proves an excellent allegory for the struggles these nations faced as the Eastern bloc crumbled, the combination of backbreaking hardship and a faint glimmer of hope, almost impossibly far off in the distance. As a result, Goodwin is able to seamlessly fuse the rich and checkered past of the lands around him to the tales of his own struggle towards the Istanbul of his imagination. The result is an experience that would be impossible to duplicate. Since his visit, eastern Europe has undergone sweeping changes; we will never have the chance to visit the lands that he saw. But thanks to Goodwin's skill and diligence, we have the next best thing. -- Andrew Nieland An excellent book ...one of the truest portraits of present-day Central Europe available. Times Literary Supplement Goodwin's writing has a brilliance, is observant, visual, accurate....If there is a better travel book published for some time to come it will be surprising. P. J. Kavanaugh The anecdotes are good, the history relevant and the generalizations revealing....He also writes like a dream, which is to say that his prose is dreamlike as well as excellent. Independent on Sunday