

August in Paris And Other Travel Misadventures

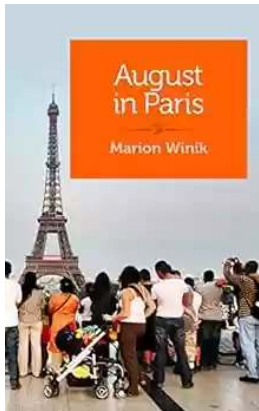


August in Paris is an enchanting time. The city exudes a certain romanticism as vibrant summer days stretch into warm nights. Walking along the charming streets, adorned with beautiful architecture and bustling cafes, can transport you to a world of art, literature, and culinary delights. However, as with any travel adventure, misadventures often accompany the most memorable moments.

The Quest for Croissants

It was a bright August morning when I embarked on my quest for the perfect croissant. Armed with recommendations from locals and guidebooks, I set out to explore the finest patisseries Paris had to offer. The smell of freshly baked

pastries filled the air as I wandered from one bakery to another, indulging in flaky goodness at every stop.



August In Paris: And Other Travel Misadventures

by Marion Winik (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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However, my enthusiasm for croissants soon turned into frustration as I encountered bakeries closed for their annual summer break. It turns out, many Parisians flee the city during August, leaving their beloved neighborhood bakeries deserted. Determined not to give up, I persisted in my search, eventually stumbling upon a hidden gem that fulfilled my dreams of a buttery, perfectly baked croissant.

The Quirks of French Etiquette

No trip to Paris is complete without encountering the peculiarities of French etiquette. From the moment you enter a café, you are expected to greet the staff with a polite "Bonjour." Failing to do so can result in icy stares and subpar service. As a traveler, it's important to adapt to local customs, even if they seem peculiar at first.

One such quirk I experienced was at a local boulangerie. Standing in line, I was eagerly selecting my desired pastry when suddenly, a stern voice reprimanded me for skipping ahead. It turns out, in France, a strict queueing system is followed, and cutting in line is a major offense. Lesson learned: always respect the line and wait your turn.

Navigating Crowded Landmarks

Visiting iconic landmarks like the Eiffel Tower and Louvre Museum is a must for any traveler in Paris. However, doing so in the peak of August brings an additional layer of challenge – crowds. Be prepared to navigate through throngs of tourists, armed with selfie sticks and questing for the perfect Instagram shot.

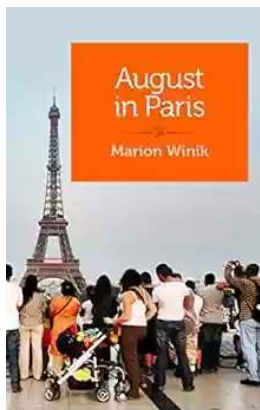
My visit to the revered Louvre Museum was both awe-inspiring and overwhelming. As I stood among the masses, craning my neck to catch a glimpse of the Mona Lisa, I couldn't help but feel a sense of camaraderie with my fellow travelers. We were all on a shared journey, battling the crowds to uncover the beauty that lay within these hallowed halls.

Parisian Revelations

Amidst the misadventures and crowded streets, August in Paris also reveals the true essence of the city. Parisians, though often stereotyped as snobby, can surprise you with their warmth and helpfulness. It was when I got lost in the labyrinth of Montmartre that I encountered the kindness of a local artist.

He not only offered directions but also invited me to his studio, where I witnessed the magic of creating art. Our conversation gave me insights into the bohemian history of Montmartre and its influence on the Parisian art scene. It was a serendipitous encounter that I would have missed if not for getting lost.

August in Paris and other travel misadventures can be filled with unexpected challenges, but they also offer unique opportunities for growth and discovery. Embrace the quirks, be patient with the crowds, and let the city work its magic on you.



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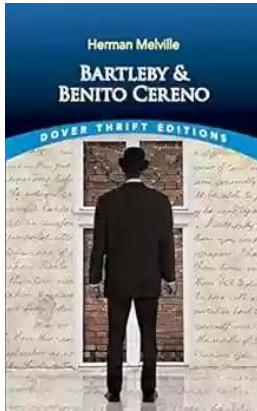
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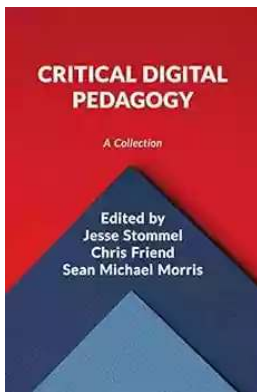


If you love David Sedaris, you'll have to read Marion Winik's anything-but-traditional tales of traveling with her cranky family in tow. From lost teenagers and missed connections to overpriced drinks and gambling mishaps, Winik—author of seven memoirs, and a Morning Edition commentator on NPR—illuminates the unexpected pleasures of journeying out of your comfort zone. Ranging from Paris to Peru, from New Orleans to Uganda to the Atlantis resort in the Bahamas, these travel essays are full of life, humor, and humanity. Whether or not you're hitting the road solo or with loved ones trailing behind, you'll want these on your e-reader before you set out.



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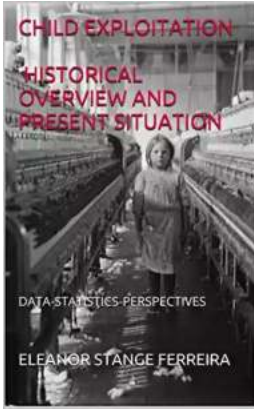
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