

Armchair Travel Book Club Selection List

Brookfield Public Library 2022-2023

All sessions are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

We try to have enough books available for everyone in the discussion group by requesting them from other libraries. Under ideal circumstances, the books are available one month in advance of the meeting date from the Circulation Desk. The additional copies will not be displayed in our online catalog! Just ask at the check-out desk for the next available book discussion title. Please ask staff to check the item out to you through the date of the discussion.

August 16, 2022 10:00 a.m. Rotary Club Room Bosnia and Herzegovina
The Cellist of Sarajevo by Steven Galloway (fiction)

While a cellist plays at the site of a mortar attack to commemorate the deaths of twenty-two friends and neighbors, two other men set out in search of bread and water to keep themselves alive, and a woman sniper secretly protects the life of the cellist as her army becomes increasingly threatening (Polaris summary).

September 20, 2022 10:00 a.m. Rotary Club Room Various
Around the World in 50 Years: My Adventure to Every Country On Earth by Albert Podell

In 2003, Albert Podell realized that he'd been to 110 countries in the world. What if he could go to them all? This book is a remarkable and meaningful tale of quiet courage, dogged persistence, undying determination, and an uncanny ability to extricate himself from one perilous situation after another—and return with some of the most memorable, frightening, and hilarious adventure stories you have ever read (Amazon).

October 18, 2022 10:00 a.m. Rotary Club Room Amazon River
The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey by Candace Millard

The true story of Theodore Roosevelt's harrowing 1914 exploration of one of the most dangerous rivers on Earth, a black, uncharted tributary of the Amazon. He and his men faced an unbelievable series of hardships, losing their canoes and supplies to punishing whitewater rapids, and enduring starvation, Indian attack, disease, drowning, and a murder within their own ranks. Yet he accomplished a feat so great that many at the time refused to believe it (Polaris summary).

November 15, 2022 10:00 a.m. Rotary Club Room Russia
In Siberia by Colin Thubron

As mysterious as it is beautiful, as forbidding as it is populated with warm-hearted people, Siberia is a land few Westerners know, and even fewer will ever visit. Traveling alone, by train, boat, car, and on foot, Colin Thubron traversed this vast territory, whose natural resources have been savagely exploited for decades; a terrain tainted by nuclear waste but filled with citizens who both welcomed him and fed him—despite their own tragic poverty (Amazon).

No Meeting in December

January 17, 2023 10:00 a.m. Rotary Club Room New York, Tahiti, Antarctica
The Stowaway: A Young Man's Extraordinary Adventure to Antarctica by Laurie Gwen Shapiro

The spectacular, true story of a teenager from New York's Lower East Side who stowed away on an expedition to Antarctica. The night before the expedition's flagship launched, Billy Gawronski--a skinny, first generation New York City high schooler desperate to escape a dreary future in the family upholstery business--jumped into the Hudson River and snuck aboard. This book takes you on the unforgettable voyage of a gutsy young stowaway who became an international celebrity (Polaris summary).

February 21, 2023 10:00 a.m. Rotary Club Room South America
Life and Death in the Andes: On the Trail of Bandits, Heroes, and Revolutionaries by Kim MacQuarrie

This book contains unique portraits of legendary characters along South America's mountain spine, from Charles Darwin to the present day. The Andes Mountains are the world's longest mountain chain, linking most of the countries in South America. Kim MacQuarrie takes us on a historical journey through this unique region, bringing fresh insight and contemporary connections to such fabled characters as Charles Darwin, Pablo Escobar, Che Guevara, and many others (Polaris summary).

March 21, 2023 10:00 a.m. Rotary Club Room Korea
The Island of Sea Women by Lisa See (fiction)

Mi-ja and Young-sook, two girls living on the Korean island of Jeju, are best friends that come from very different backgrounds. When they are old enough, they begin working in the sea with their village's all-female diving collective, led by Young-sook's mother. Little do the two friends know that after surviving hundreds of dives and developing the closest of bonds, forces outside their control will push their friendship to the breaking point. (Polaris summary).

April 18, 2023 10:00 a.m. Rotary Club Room United States
Leave Only Footprints : My Acadia-to-Zion Journey Through Every National Park by Conor Knighton

When Conor Knighton set off to explore America's "best idea," he worried the whole thing could end up being his worst idea. A broken engagement and a broken heart had left him longing for a change of scenery. Over the course of a single year, Knighton would visit every national park in the country, from Acadia to Zion. In this book, Knighton shares informative and entertaining dispatches from what turned out to be the road trip of a lifetime (Polaris summary).

May 16, 2023 10:00 a.m. Rotary Club Room Germany
The House by the Lake: One House, Five Families, and a Hundred Years of German History by Thomas Harding

In the summer of 1993, Thomas Harding traveled to Germany with his grandmother to visit a small house by a lake her family used to own on the outskirts of Berlin. Nearly twenty years later, the house was government property and soon to be demolished. As Harding began to make inquiries, he unearthed secrets that had lain hidden for decades about the lives of the five families who had lived there. (Polaris summary).

June 20, 2023 10:00 a.m. Community Room
Selection Meeting for 2023-2024 season.