

Armchair Travel Book Club Selection List

Brookfield Public Library 2022

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 library systems. Under ideal circumstances, the books are available one month in advance of the meeting date from the Circulation Desk. Just ask at the check-out desk for the next available book discussion title and ask staff to check the item out to you through the date of the discussion.

On the date of each meeting, please check the sign in the lobby for meeting location.

January 18, 2022

10:00 a.m.

Middle East

An Arabian Journey: One Man's Quest Through the Heart of the Middle East by Levison Wood

In September 2017, Wood set forth on a 5,000-mile trek through the most contested region on the planet. He moved through the Middle East for six months, from ISIS-occupied Iraq through Kuwait and along the jagged coastlines of the Emirates and Oman; across a civil-war-torn Yemen and on to Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Israel, before ending on the shores of the Mediterranean in Lebanon. Like his predecessors, Wood travelled through some of the harshest and most beautiful environments on earth, seeking to challenge our perceptions of this often-misunderstood part of the world (Polaris summary).

February 15, 2022

10:00 a.m.

Morocco

The Caliph's House: A Year in Casablanca by Tahir Shah

Inspired by the Moroccan vacations of his childhood, Tahir Shah dreamed of making a home there. At 36, investing what money he and his wife had, Tahir packed up his growing family and bought Dar Khalifa, a crumbling ruin of a mansion by the sea in Casablanca that once belonged to the city's caliph. With its lush grounds, cool, secluded courtyards, and relaxed pace, life at Dar Khalifa seems sure to fulfill Tahir's fantasy—until he discovers that in many ways he is farther from home than he imagined (Amazon).

March 15, 2022

10:00 a.m.

Hawaii

Moloka'i by Alan Brennert (fiction)

Rachel Kalama, a spirited seven-year-old Hawaiian girl, dreams of visiting far-off lands like her father, a merchant seaman. Then one day a rose-colored mark appears on her skin, and those dreams are stolen from her. Taken from her home and family, Rachel is sent to Kalaupapa, the quarantined leprosy settlement on the island of Moloka'i. Here her life is supposed to end-- but instead she discovers it is only just beginning (Polaris summary).

April 19, 2022

10:00 a.m.

North & South America

The Longest Line on the Map: the United States, the Pan-American Highway, and the Quest to Link the Americas by Eric Rutkow

The Pan-American Highway, monument to a century's worth of diplomacy and investment, education and engineering, scandal and sweat, is the longest road in the world, passable everywhere save the mythic Darien Gap that straddles Panama and Colombia. The highway's history, however, has long remained a mystery, a story scattered among government archives, private papers, and fading memories. This is a dazzling account of the epic quest to link North and South America throughout the 19th and 20th centuries (Polaris summary).

May 17, 2022

10:00 a.m.

Various Locales

Tales of a Female Nomad: Living at Large in the World by Rita Golden Gelman

By the age of 45, Gelman found her quiet suburban life unfulfilling. She longed for adventure in exotic, faraway places living among people of other cultures. When her marriage failed, Rita traded in her old life for one of travel and discovery. On a shoestring budget, Gelman took her first tentative steps in Mexico, and 15 years later she hadn't stopped moving. She describes in rich detail how she travels--moving to different countries, staying with locals, observing their customs and learning their language. She has lived in a Zapotec village, searched for her spiritual roots in Israel, toured the Galapagos Islands, observed orangutans in the Borneo jungle, and lived with an Indonesian prince and his family in his palace (*Booklist* review).

June 21, 2022

10:00 a.m. Community Room

Selection Meeting for 2022-2023 season.