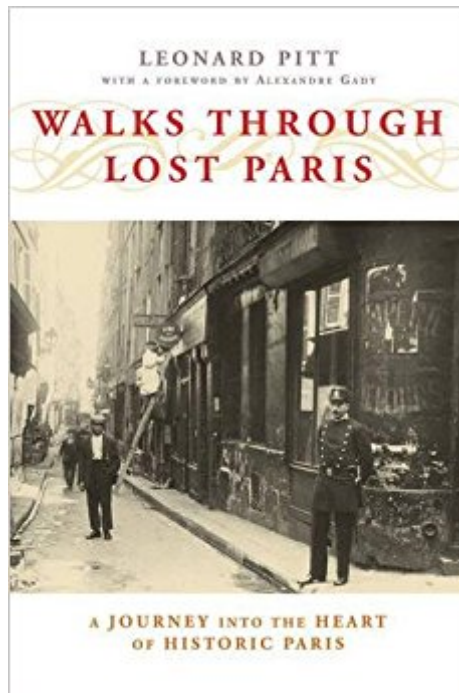




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Walks Through Lost Paris: A Journey Into The Heart Of Historic Paris



Synopsis

When he discovered that the city he lived in for many years was actually entirely rebuilt during the mid-1800s, Leonard Pitt plunged into Paris's history and began photographing what he learned had changed. Eventually, he led tours and gave lectures on the demolition and reconstruction that changed the city forever. *Walks Through Lost Paris* chronicles Paris's great periods of urban reconstruction through four walking tours. With a special focus on the work of Georges-Eugene Haussmann, this book provides a history of each site along with the motives behind the urban redesign and the reactions of Parisians who witnessed it. Detailed maps take you through a city whose changes were captured by photographers and artists in each stage. Hundreds of color photos, diagrams, and engravings splendidly survey the massive transformation that resulted in the Paris of today.

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Customer Reviews

As an avowed Francophile, I travel to Paris as often as I can. I own maybe 15 "walking tour" books, but this is by far my favorite. Pitt peppers his narrative with bits of history, architectural explanations -- and even the occasional cultural observation. As a result, his walks provide a deep understanding of the people and events that shaped Paris into the city it is today. And the photos: I can only imagine the countless hours of research that went into comparing the historical documents with the modern street views. The result is an extraordinary record of the city's transformation, unlike any other I've seen. If you want to move beyond the monuments and experience the true heart of historic Paris, I highly recommend this book. To me, it's a masterpiece.

What a splendid book to use while visiting Paris! It will entertain you, give you a Paris which is long gone and yet you can be there using your imagination and the reality left behind. Some sadness will be inevitable for the Paris you will discover with your imagination unfortunately no longer exists ... but you will see it never the less. And, perhaps the best part of your visit, with the help of this book, is the fact that it will take you places away from the usual tourist destinations and into a far more interesting and exciting Paris of the early 19th century. Great book ... if you love Paris of 21st century but you know that the old Paris is still there to be imagined and revisited.

By our third trip to Paris we had already seen all the usual tourist sights and wanted something new. This book provided it. After following the walking tours in this book we saw parts of Paris we probably would never have seen otherwise, learned a lot more about the history of the city, and developed a much better understanding of how the city has evolved and why different parts of it look as they do. I would especially recommend this book for people who have already visited Paris at least once. However, it could also be used by someone who will be visiting the city for the first time, if they will be spending more than a few days. Sure, go see the usual sights first, but then use this book to really understand what you're seeing. Following just one of the tours in this book (there are four) will give the reader a much deeper appreciation for this most unusual and exciting city. While most directions are easy to follow, and overview maps are provided (although not all streets are shown or marked), we still found a few places where we got confused. Fortunately, we had a good Paris map with us, so it wasn't a problem. Therefore, the only thing I would suggest is that the reader be sure to have a good map of the city in addition to this book.

There is so much to see (and to eat) that it is easy to get distracted in the City of Light. I have enjoyed my trips to Paris where there is no real agenda but to roam and enjoy the architecture, the open air food markets, the bookstores, the museums, the hat shops, the bistros. I have never enjoyed vacationing with a list of things to do. But one trip to Paris (yes, I am a repeat offender) I took this book with me in my tote bag and each day hit one or two of the walks described in the book. The experiences reminded me of trying to look through a kaleidoscope. Small, hidden surprises of history. This book is well worth the spend.

This is a great book. Leonard Pitt details the Paris that was compared to the Paris of today. The photography is wonderful, and the specific information given on all the locales including the bits in

the photos before and after the changes took place I found very informative. For anyone who loves Paris and plans to live/travel there this is the perfect book. Leonard Pitt is extremely knowledgeable and obviously loves Paris. I found the size of the book a little too small, however. In order to really see the detail in the photos, a magnifying glass was helpful. This book I think, is more of a city guide book for people traveling through the city on foot who are interested in the history of Paris. However, despite its size, this book is extremely well done with beautiful photography, and vital information. I recommend it highly.

If you love Paris, you'll certainly discover a Paris unknown to many by reading this book. This book deftly explains the development of the city from Roman times to the city we love today. The most interesting thing I found was the clear and concise way the author shows us how the city was changed. The walking tours that are described in the book are wonderfully laid out with historical views provided of the original city. I commend the author for the research that went into the production of this work, absolutely fascinating. Ed Angell

Having been to Paris numerous times, we have long since enjoyed the don't-miss activities there and have become urban hikers, visiting different quarters of the City of Light. The four walking itineraries in this book changed the way we look at the buildings and squares detailed in this convenient and useful book. A lot of information is packed into it, including very specific instructions for finding the sites described, photos from yesterday and today, and coherent historical information. The only deficit is there is no second book of the next 4 Walks Through Lost Paris by this author. We bought the book in French for our French hosts who were delighted to have it.

Purchased as a Christmas gift for my father who visits the city every few years. He seems to like it, especially because he can visit the sites, and compare to photos in the book of what had been there years ago. Would recommend for anyone who regularly visits Paris, not for a new or first time visitor.

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