

Recommended Rhine, Main & Danube Books

General History/Biography

The Improbable Voyage. Tristan Jones.

In 1985, the legendary, one-legged Royal Navy skipper Tristan Jones set off on a 2,307-mile voyage across Europe, traveling from the North Sea to the Black Sea via the Rhine and Danube rivers.

The Rhine. Roland Recht.

Comprehensive chronicle of the art and architecture, history and landscape along the Rhine, from its origins in Switzerland to its final destination at the Rhine Delta in Holland. A grand panorama of the river's cities, villages, cathedrals, monasteries and castles.

A Time of Gifts. Patrick Leigh Fermor

A British travel writer's poignant chronicle of his 1,200-mile walking trip from Holland to Hungary in 1934 at the age of 18 provides insight into a Europe hovering on the brink of World War II.

Holland

Amsterdam. Geert Mak.

The noted Dutch journalist's fascinating study of the origins and evolution of the Netherlands' most important city.

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl. Otto Frank.

The moving story of the young Dutch girl who spent two years hiding in an Amsterdam attic before being betrayed and sent to her death in Bergen-Belsen. Lovingly compiled by her father.

Dear Theo: the Autobiography of Vincent van Gogh. Vincent van Gogh.

A revealing portrait of the great artist from his letters to his beloved brother, Theo.

Girl With a Pearl Earring. Tracy Chevalier.

Fictionalized account of the young girl who modeled for the enigmatic Dutch Master, Vermeer. Also an Oscar-nominated 2003 film.

Germany

Do As the Germans Do and *The German Way.* Hyde Flippo.

Two entertaining books bring insight into the culture, traditions and idiosyncrasies of German-speaking peoples, not only from Germany, but also Austria and Switzerland.

German Castles and Palaces. Uwe Albrecht.

Excellent photos and descriptions of some of Germany's great castles and palaces.

Prost! The Story of German Beer. Horst Dornbusch.

One of the best books about how the political, economic and social history of Germany are inextricably linked to its brewing history and culture.

A Traveller's Wine Guide to Germany. Kerry Brady Stewart.
A guide through Germany's 13 wine regions allows you to discover the diversity of German wines.

Austria

The Habsburgs: Embodying Empire. Andrew Wheatcroft.
Follow the dynasty that ruled much of Central and Eastern Europe for six centuries.

Mozart: His Character, His Work. Alfred Einstein.
Classic study of Mozart's character and works by one of the world's greatest music historians.

Schubert's Vienna. Raymond Erickson.
Chronicling the life of one of the 19th century's most prolific composers and the city where he lived.

The Third Man. Graham Greene.
A novella about intrigue in post-World War II Vienna, which later became the Oscar-winning 1949 film starring Orson Welles and Joseph Cotton. The giant Ferris wheel (the *Riesenrad*) the two men rode in the movie still graces Vienna's Prater Park.

Slovakia

A History of Slovakia: The Struggle for Survival. Stanislav Kirschbaum.
This book chronicles Czechoslovakia's split into two separate nations in 1993, a monumental day for Slovaks, who spent centuries dominated by other nations.

Hungary

A Concise History of Hungary. Miklós Molnár.
A concise, but comprehensive 1,000-year history of the country through its 1988 free elections.

The Hungarians: A Thousand Years of Victory in Defeat. Paul Lendvai.
Absorbing history of a proud and passionate people.

Cookbooks

The Classic Art of Viennese Pastry: From Strudel to Sachertorte—More Than 100 Traditional Recipes. Christine Berl.
The definitive English-language guide to creating professional-quality Viennese pastry.

The German Cookbook Mimi Sheraton.
Authentic German recipes, including special occasion dishes and simple fare.

The Hungarian Cookbook. Susan Derecskey.
Recipes from the fine restaurants of Budapest and the modest homes of Transylvania.



Let's Go Dutch. Johanna Bates.

The full gamut of Dutch cooking from pastry to chocolate and split pea soup. Contains an excellent section on Indonesian cooking, an important aspect of Dutch cuisine.