

Recommended Rhine Books

General History/Biography

The European Union: A Very Short Introduction. John Pinder.
A clear and concise history of the union of many diverse nations.

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.

Switzerland

Swiss Made. Steve Spier, Martin Tschanz, Christian Richters.
You may be surprised at the worldwide influence of Swiss architecture, emphasizing craftsmanship, simple beauty and environmental sensitivity.

Why Switzerland. Jonathan Steinberg.
A Cambridge lecturer discusses the uniqueness of Switzerland, from which he believes the world can learn much about how democracy rests ultimately on the community level.

Germany

The Bridge at Remagen: The Amazing Story of March 7, 1945 – The Day the Rhine River Was Crossed. Ken Hechler.
This classic chronicles one of the great episodes of WWII history. Also a 1969 all-star film.

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.

Holland & Belgium

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.

A Bridge Too Far. Cornelius Ryan.

A historic account of Operation Market Garden and of the epic Allied attempt to capture the crucial bridge at Arnhem. Also a 1977 all-star film.

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.

Discovering Dutch Delftware: Modern Delft and Makkum Pottery. Stephen Van Hook.

An excellent reference to the beautiful pottery of Holland.

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.

History of the Low Countries. J.C.H. Blom, Emiel Lamberts, James C. Kennedy.

The first comprehensive English-language history of the Low Countries (Holland and Belgium).

Nature and Art: Dutch Garden and Landscape Architecture 1650-1740. Erik De Jong.

A study of Dutch gardens during the Golden Age, including the magnificent grounds of Paleis Het Loo.

Belgium

Belgian Fashion Design. Luc Derycke.

Fascinating study of today's Belgian designers, with plenty of photographs.

Flax in Flanders Throughout the Centuries. Bert Dewilde.

History of the Flemish people who take pride in producing the world's finest linen for centuries.

Cookbooks

A Belgian Cookbook. Juliette Elkon Hamelcourt.

A comprehensive collection of recipes, grouped by region.

The German Cookbook Mimi Sheraton.

Authentic German recipes, including special occasion dishes and simple fare.



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.