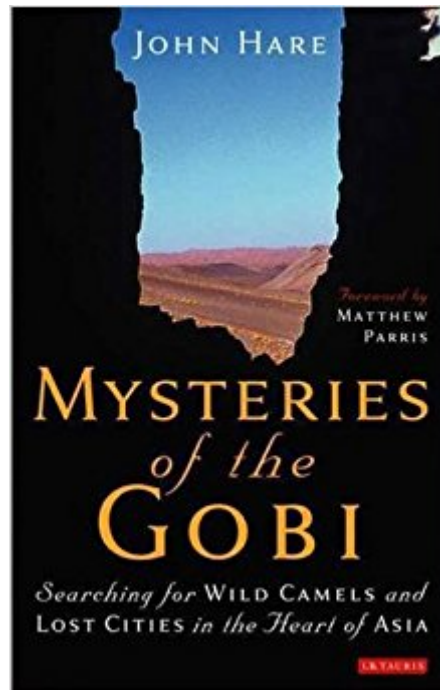




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Mysteries Of The Gobi



Synopsis

The Gobi is the largest, coldest and driest desert in Asia. Once part of the great Mongol Empire and home to many of the legendary Silk Road cities, its inhospitable sands have been inhabited for centuries and parts of it have been crossed by some of history's most famed explorers. Despite this, the Gobi remains a place of mystery. Its shifting sands conceal ancient cities, 3,000-year-old mummies, dinosaur bones and areas where no man has set foot. It is also the last place on earth where the wild Bactrian camel clings to survival, its fragile habitat threatened by poachers and development. With the conservation of this elusive creature in mind, John Hare was inspired to venture with domestic Bactrian camels, Chinese scientists and Kazakh herdsman into the wildest parts of the Chinese Gobi on an expedition during which they crossed a hundred miles of sand dunes, unexplored in recorded history. Several weeks into the journey, Hare and the team discovered, in two unmapped valleys, a population of wildlife with no experience of man. Interwoven with the account of his remarkable journey, Hare tells, for the first time, the story of an epic migration made by Kazakh nomads in flight from Chinese communists through what would become the infamous Chinese nuclear testing ground. He also describes the historic and current tensions between the Chinese and the indigenous Uighur population of Xinjiang. A blend of history and high adventure, discovery and conservation, *Mysteries of the Gobi* is a unique and compelling account of modern-day exploration.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The vastness and beauty of the Gobi forms a spectacular backdrop to John Hare's terrific story of

wild camels, Kazakh migrations, ancient mummies, lost cities, gold miners and oil speculators. *Mysteries of the Gobi* is an exciting and important account of modern-day exploration, revealing much about the past and future of this extraordinary region."--Ranulph Fiennes" "This is just a fantastic piece of writing. It's travel-writing, it's story-telling, it's a camp-fire tale of memorable characters and unforgettable places, packed with thrills and spills. This is an adventure story - and this is what will surely grab you - every word of it is true... by the time you've read it there will also be kindled within you a spark of enthusiasm for John Hare's magnificent quest in a daunting but achievable cause."--Matthew Parris" "Hare brings all this, and more, to life, in a book that reprises and updates his previous one, *The Lost Camels of Tartary*. He has an infectious eagerness to go beyond what is practical and sensible in pursuit of his aims. Accompanied by a cast of well-portrayed experts, he sees the austere beauty of these remote regions...a wonderful read."--*John Man, Literary Review* "All of this is told to the interested reader with an enthusiasm rare in scholarly writing."--*Donald Richie, JAPAN TIMES, 22 February 2009*

John Hare is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and the Explorers Club of America. As well as living and working in Africa for many years, he has made several expeditions to the Mongolian Gobi and China's remote Xinjiang Province. He was the first foreigner to be invited to visit Lop Nur for over 45 years and the first foreigner in recorded history to cross the Gashun Gobi from north to south. In 1997 he founded the Wild Camel Protection Foundation and, with Chinese colleagues, established a 175,000 square kilometer Nature Reserve in Mongolia for the wild Bactrian camel. He is the recipient of the Royal Geographical Society's Ness Award, the Royal Society of Asian Affairs's Lawrence of Arabia Memorial Gold Medal and the Royal Scottish Geographical Society's Mungo Park Medal for distinguished contributions to exploration. He is the author of *The Lost Camels of Tartary* and *Shadows across the Sahara*.

An interesting tale of the author's travels through the Gobi desert.

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