

Osher Book Group – Arm Chair Traveler

As part of our Osher Member Perk Series (no fee beyond Osher membership fee), we are creating a book group! – We hope you will join us!

This Fall, we will meet three times. We ask you to commit to all three so that we can build a sense of community. If we continue a book club, we will certainly ask participants to choose future books. We determined, however, we needed to go ahead and make some decisions for Fall.

Our Osher book club will begin with the theme of “Arm Chair Traveler.” We have picked two books – one for October and one for November. We ask that you read the books ahead of time; a discussion for each will be facilitated by Violette Gorell. For each session, we will have a “content expert” in the room - John Roberts for the book on Africa; Loren Crabtree for the book on China.

All meetings will be held in the **Readers’ Cove Bookstore at 1001 East Harmony** (by Ace Hardware and Fiona’s Deli). Phone 266-1618. For those who wish to purchase the books, please contact Reader’s Cove. We hope that you will support our local businesses!

Please RSVP to 491-7753.

Wednesday, September 23, 4:00 to 5: 15 p.m.

Orientation meeting – please come to this first session to meet other members, learn of one another’s expectations, etc.

Wednesday, October 21, 4:00 to 6:00 pm

Dark Star Safari , Overland from Cairo to Cape Town - Paul Theroux

Published August, 2003

In *Dark Star Safari*, acclaimed travel writer Paul Theroux tells the story of his journey across the African continent. Observant and intensely curious, not only does he witness the poverty, disease, and corruption, but also the wide diversity of Africa. He interacts with both famous people and tribesmen, ventures where caution might be better advised, and assimilates himself into places rarely seen by big-game safaris or tourists. Paul Theroux’s travel writing is controversial and many consider him much too bitter in his observations. I think he has mellowed some, to the disapproval of some reviewers but the New York Times says he “regales us with the humor of ill humor, and maintains a tricky balance of crankiness, curiosity and charm.” His writing is not boring!

Wednesday, November 18, 4:00 to 6:00 pm

Shadow of the Silk Road – Colin Thubron

Published October, 2006

Shadow of the Silk Road is Colin Thubron's account of his 7000-mile trek along the Silk Road from the ancient Chinese capital of Xian to Antioch, Turkey. Along the way he encounters the dichotomy of the ancient civilizations and modern lifestyles and politics. Asia is a continent still

beset by upheaval, and Thubron's wanderings among the locals shows him the new economy in China, the war in Afghanistan, and the political changes in Iran. *Shadow of the Silk Road* has received positive reviews with the New York Times saying, "With its elegiac tone, *Shadow of the Silk Road* is moving in a way that's rare in travel literature, sidestepping nostalgia even as it notes its pull. Thubron goes to places most other sojourners can't - because they're not so much geographic locations as states of mind, formed from the lifelong accretion of intriguing facts, mistaken hopes, mysteries."