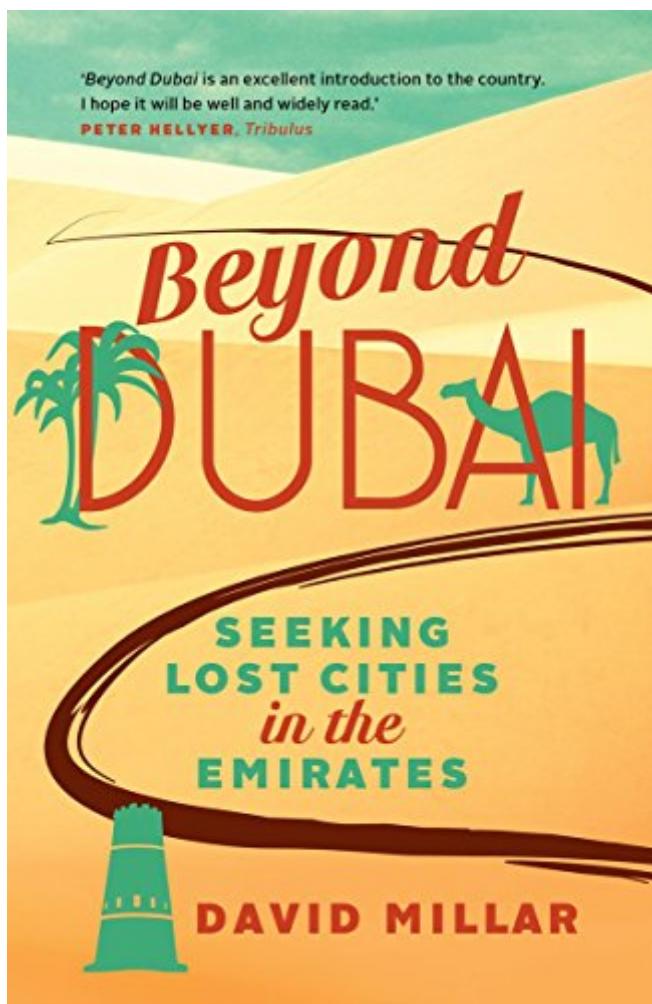


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# Beyond Dubai: Seeking Lost Cities In The Emirates



## **Synopsis**

Beyond Dubai is a light-hearted journey around the Emirates in search of its pastâ "encountering smugglers, fire-starting genies, loved-up camels, and a mysterious mountain tribe along the way. In addition to exploring the UAEâ ™s lost cities and hidden treasures, it also tells the extraordinary tale of how climate change transformed a once-fertile grassland into the starkly beautiful desert that it is today.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I purchased this book intending to learn more about the intriguing country of the UAE. I will be moving there later this year and was determined to learn more about country beyond the much talked about city of Dubai. The book did not disappoint, I had trouble putting it down and Millar's writing style provides useful historical and geographical information with a touch of humor. I'd recommend the read regardless of your affiliation with the UAE. You also can't beat the price on kindle.

I really enjoyed reading this book over Xmas at the beach. I've been through Abu Dhabi and Dubai a number of times but only for a few days each time so all you see are high rise office blocks and huge shopping malls so (in my case) you don't get to see any of the history. I like the context of selling the history to persuade his partner/girlfriend to move there and David has a very easy and humourous writing style. I look forward to a sequel.

I've just briefly visited Qatar, Dubai and Saudi, but I greatly enjoyed this book! Light spirited, entertaining and informative - a very nice read for anyone with an interest for the region, traveling or ancient cultures. Nice work!

David Millar works in the Emirates and hopes that his girlfriend, Freya, will join him there. She's hesitant because for her, to be livable, a place needs to have visible, tangible history, and she knows of the UAE only as a place filled with new, ultra modern construction. So, both to explore and to convince her, David takes her on a search for history. They find that while they are scattered and difficult to find, there are several sites of historical interest, and even places where time seemed to stop centuries ago. Millar does a magnificent job of depicting these (though photos or illustrations would have been a valuable addition) and tells quite a bit about the region's history without ever dragging or becoming pedantic. At the same time, he has a wonderful gift for people watching and for depicting an atmosphere, whether it's on a deserted beach or during tea at a fancy Dubai hotel. While the emphasis is on the storytelling, it seems to have enough detail about how they got to the various sites to be useful to those who want to visit the same places. Recommended if you're interested in the Emirates as they are now, Middle Eastern history, or travel yarns.

I really enjoyed this book, it was a breath of fresh air after some of the drivel that has been written about Dubai. The author has a wonderful tongue-in-cheek sense of humour and a great eye for the ironies of Dubai. But it's not just a book about the tallest building in the world and skiing on snow when it's 45 degrees outside. David has made the effort to go behind the scenes and look into the history of the country; not just the Trucial States and British domination of last century, but the evidence of habitation thousands of years ago. He reveals a history that even many of the residents are not aware of. Under the guise of persuading his girlfriend that The UAE has a history worth noting, he travels around the country and parts of Oman, searching out evidence of life in the past. Burial sites, old cities, settlements and historical remains are visited and briefly explained - enough to whet our appetites for visits of our own. There is also some interesting discussion about the

history of the Gulf itself, which, in its distant past, was once dry land, possibly even the site of The Garden of Eden. One criticism from our book group was that the humour was very British/Canadian; other nationalities found it somewhat patronising, but humour is always a very personal thing. Photos would also have been a great addition. This is a book that I would highly recommend to visitors and residents of Dubai alike. It is informative and readable and well worth reading.

I thoroughly enjoyed the book. Having lived in Dubai for 3.5 years I felt nostalgic of the great life an expat can have in UAE and especially in Dubai. The revelation for me was the various places the author details painstakingly in his book (to be honest, I never visited all of them), their connection with history, the valuable explanation of how the immense desert land came to be (this is where the author's scientific background kicked in). In its pages I found myself reminisce about the mentality of the Arab people, their mannerisms and their culture (contrary to those that believe they are lacking one). It's a great reading for anybody who wants to make a connection with this corner of the world. Last but not least, the book is an excellent guide on things to do (and avoid) when in an Arabic country.

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