

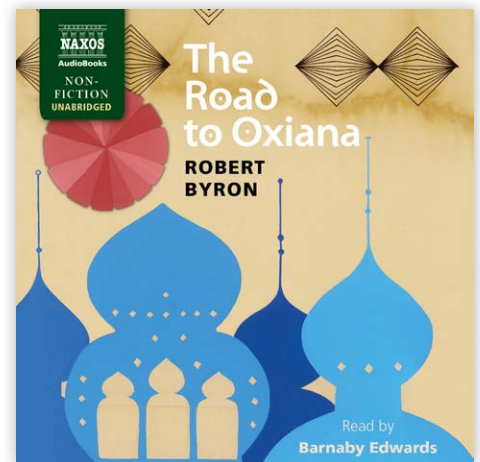
The Road to Oxiana

ROBERT BYRON

Read by Barnaby Edwards

NAXOS
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In 1933, Robert Byron set off from Venice with his friend Christopher Sykes to explore the architecture of the Middle East. Their long and arduous journey took them from Cyprus and Jerusalem to Syria, Iraq, Persia and Afghanistan, and finally Oxiana, a tiny country around the river Oxus, the Greek name for the river Amu Darya, which snakes down from Russia into Afghanistan. They travel by any means necessary (truck, camel, horses and foot), and encounter several setbacks, but their risks are rewarded as they encounter some of the greatest examples of Eastern art and architecture, many of which have now vanished forever. Funny and erudite, *The Road to Oxiana's* combination of exquisite lyricism, detail and humour gave birth to a new kind of travel literature, serving as inspiration for later writers such as Bruce Chatwin, Peter Matthiessen and Jan Morris.



Total running time: 11:46:30

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Barnaby Edwards has recorded more than 60 audiobooks. Perhaps best known for his role as a Dalek operator in the television series *Doctor Who*, he has provided voices for three of the BBC's *Doctor Who* video games and has worked as a director, writer and actor for several related audio dramas by Big Finish Productions. He also plays the computer L.E.M.O.N. in the comic sci-fi audio series *Strangeness in Space*. His audiobooks have won several awards, including the Best Original Work Audie and the *Guardian's* Audiobook of the Month.

1	The Road to Oxiana		
2	The affinity of the landscape is with Asia...	9:16	
3	I stand on the Martinengo bastion...	11:14	
4	The beauty of Jerusalem in its landscape...	8:51	
5	The other holy sites are the Weeping Wall...	11:12	
6	Syria: Damascus (2200 ft.), September 12th...	10:54	
7	Damascus, September 18th. – Since our arrival...	7:18	
8	The hotel is owned by M. Alouf...	10:06	
9	Part 2	9:58	
10	Gulhek (4500 ft.), October 5th...	10:49	
11	Mile after mile we pursued a straight line...	10:17	
12	The features of Tabriz are a view...	10:15	
13	Saoma (c. 5500 ft.), October 18th...	9:07	
14	Part 3	12:24	
15	Eventually I went myself to the Afghan Embassy...	7:35	
16	A sentence was not finished before the police...	10:12	
17	Meshed (3100 ft.), November 16th...	10:10	
18	Tus, long silent between the mountains...	10:27	
19	On approaching Herat, the road from Persia...	9:46	
20	To return to my hotel in the coppersmiths'...	9:42	
21	All the minarets are between 100 and 130...	10:04	
22	Herat, November 24th. – Local suspicion...	13:33	
23	Herat, November 25th. – I ought to have left...	10:19	
24	A message arrived from the Hungarian...	8:32	
		7:30	
25	Karokh (4400 ft.), November 28th...		9:51
26	Kala Nao or 'New Castle' is a small market...		10:25
27	All the afternoon, after stopping to graze the...		9:40
28	Meshed, December 21st. – Energy and good...		10:11
29	Part 4		14:24
30	Teheran, January 18th. – Madame Nasr-al-Mulk...		8:12
31	Teheran, January 29th. – Still here.		8:53
32	Isfahan, February 13th. – There is a lot of...		8:46
33	This evening I went to see to Bergner...		9:53
34	As we approached the tribal country...		9:49
35	There was no furniture in the room.		10:27
36	The two inner chambers are also about thirty...		9:53
37	Suddenly the Kashgai guide said...		14:48
38	Persepolis, March 1st. – The tea-house is a...		11:45
39	Herzfeld joined us. He was very entertaining...		13:36
40	In deference to this transformation...		10:20
41	Isfahan, March 18th. – The beauty of Isfahan...		9:06
42	If the outside is lyric, the inside is Augustan.		11:15
43	Kirman (5700 ft.), March 24th...		8:29
44	Isfahan, March 31st. – Christopher is here.		11:42
45	Shir Ahmad continued on the theme of Persian...		13:38
46	Part 5		13:48
47	Our spirits had risen when we left the plateau.		12:21
48	Abbasabad (c. 3000 ft.), April 29th...		8:16

49	This morning we drove out to Chinaran...	11:15	60	Mazar-i-Sherif, May 28th. – There is a public...	9:42
50	The latter was actually designed, it says, by...	9:56	61	Mazar-i-Sherif, May 29th. – The letter has...	13:02
51	Afghanistan: Herat, May 12th. – Dear old Harat!	9:58	62	Mazar-i-Sherif, June 1st. – Yesterday morning...	9:39
52	Her father was the Emir Ghiyas-ad-Din...	12:19	63	The day that brought us to this pass was...	10:11
53	Moghor (c. 3000 ft., 120 miles from Herat)...	6:25	64	A line of ramparts, white, weary...	9:11
54	I walked most of the way, looking at the flowers...	10:43	65	It was now a question of whether we should...	11:14
55	Bala Murghab (1500 ft., c. 45 miles...)	10:00	66	Other caves show domes resting on...	9:43
56	'I can take you to Maimena...'	9:32	67	Kabul, June 14th. – Uneventful days.	10:30
57	The Governor of Maimena was away...	8:27	68	Kabul, June 17th. – We solved a mystery...	6:05
58	Andkhoi (1100 ft., 82 miles from Maimena)...	11:18	69	India: Peshawar (1200 ft., 189 miles...)	9:38
59	They ought to have vanished. But the very...	8:14			

Recorded, produced, edited and mastered by Red Apple Creative, London

Executive Producer: Genevieve Helsby

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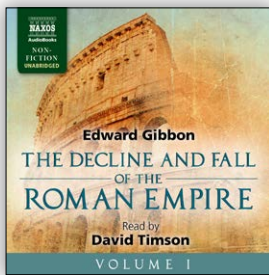
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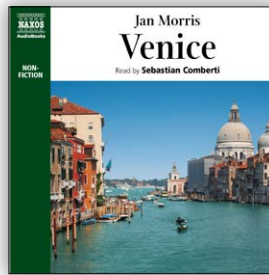
Catalogue no.: NA0359

ISBN: 978-1-78198-241-9

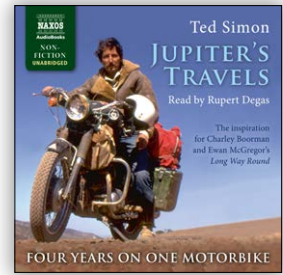
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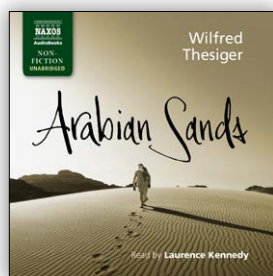
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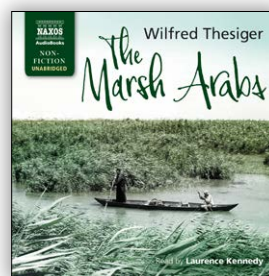
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