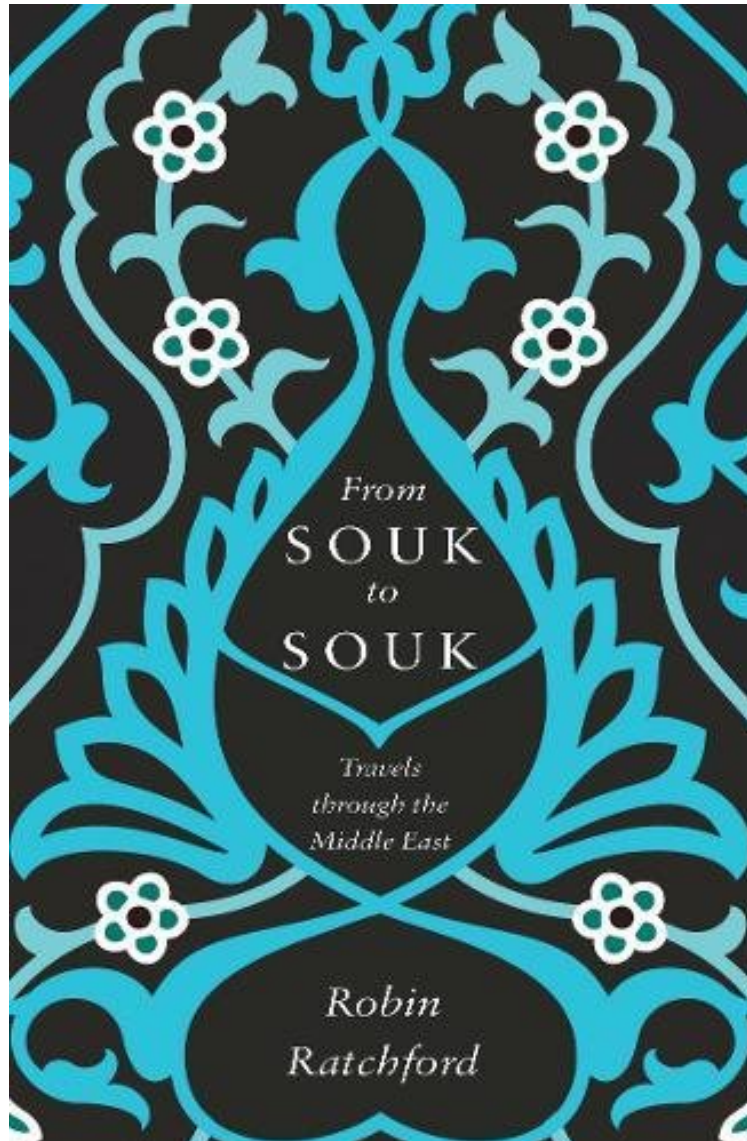


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From Souk to Souk: Travels Through the Middle East

Robin Ratchford

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Robin Ratchford : From Souk to Souk: Travels Through the Middle East before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised From Souk to Souk: Travels Through the Middle East:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I read a lot about the Middle East, but ...By Aubrey A. RussellI read a lot about the Middle East, but this book was a novelty. It mixes history, people, culture, etc. in a way that mimics traveling to these places with the ideal companion. In contrast to the first commenter, I found it unusual to get such a strong sense of the author's personality. Instead of a list of place names, or a description of gun battles, there is artistry

in the writing of this book that clearly wasn't manufactured on the spot. I found a lot of wit, education, and sensitivity to people and culture. A real pleasure to read! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A New Take on the Englishman Abroad By Vincent deMichael Very much in the vein of Colin Thubron, Robin Ratchford approaches his subject matter with great earnestness and intelligent inquisitiveness. His observations are insightful and revealing of the reality of the Middle East today. Highly recommended for those planning a journey and armchair travelers alike, 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Detached but sensitive look at the Middle East By Kristen @ Pretty Little Pages I appreciate the author's honest and sensitive portrayal of the region depicted in this book. As someone with family in Tunisia (where the Arab Spring started and witnessed it through their first hand accounts), I'm rather sensitive about the region and the general view of it. From Souk to Souk was a nice change of pace from that. But my fault with From Souk to Souk was the detachment from the author. Whenever I read about someone's travels, I expect to learn about them as well. While the honest depiction of the Middle East is appreciated and the descriptions are so well done, I struggled with not getting a glimpse of the author. Whenever I travel, I always take a piece of it home with me. Each trip changes me and leaves its imprint on me. I wanted to see that from From Souk to Souk. **I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review with no compensation.

Robin Ratchford reflects on a series of unforgettable experiences across the Middle East. This innovative account of his colourful and atmospheric journeys shows us why this region has always caught the imagination of those who visit. From the historic bazaar of Aleppo in Syria, to the street markets of Baghdad, join Robin in a captivating account of his travels across the Middle East with its ancient cities and glittering metropolises. During his travels he gets lost in the Yemeni capital's maze of ancient winding streets and 'goes round the bend' in Oman, meeting a kaleidoscope of clerics, artists and artisans along the way. From Souk to Souk breaks the rules of the traditional travelogue. Robin takes the many challenges this volatile part of the world faces and gives them a more human perspective, providing a new way to view these countries steeped in history. Travelling through a region rich in contrasts, discover how history and humanity link its cities and people to a past which is not only theirs, but ours too. With a combination of atmospheric descriptions and a critique both of Middle Eastern societies and Western perceptions of them, this book offers a personal insight into the Middle East in a way which is accessible to all, particularly those interested in travelling and the region itself.

About the Author Robin Ratchford has lived in six different countries and visited more than a hundred others. Travel, adventure and discovery are central themes in his life and a constant inspiration for his writing. Born in the United Kingdom, Robin is currently based in Belgium, where he lives with his faithful companion Mortimer the Fox Terrier.