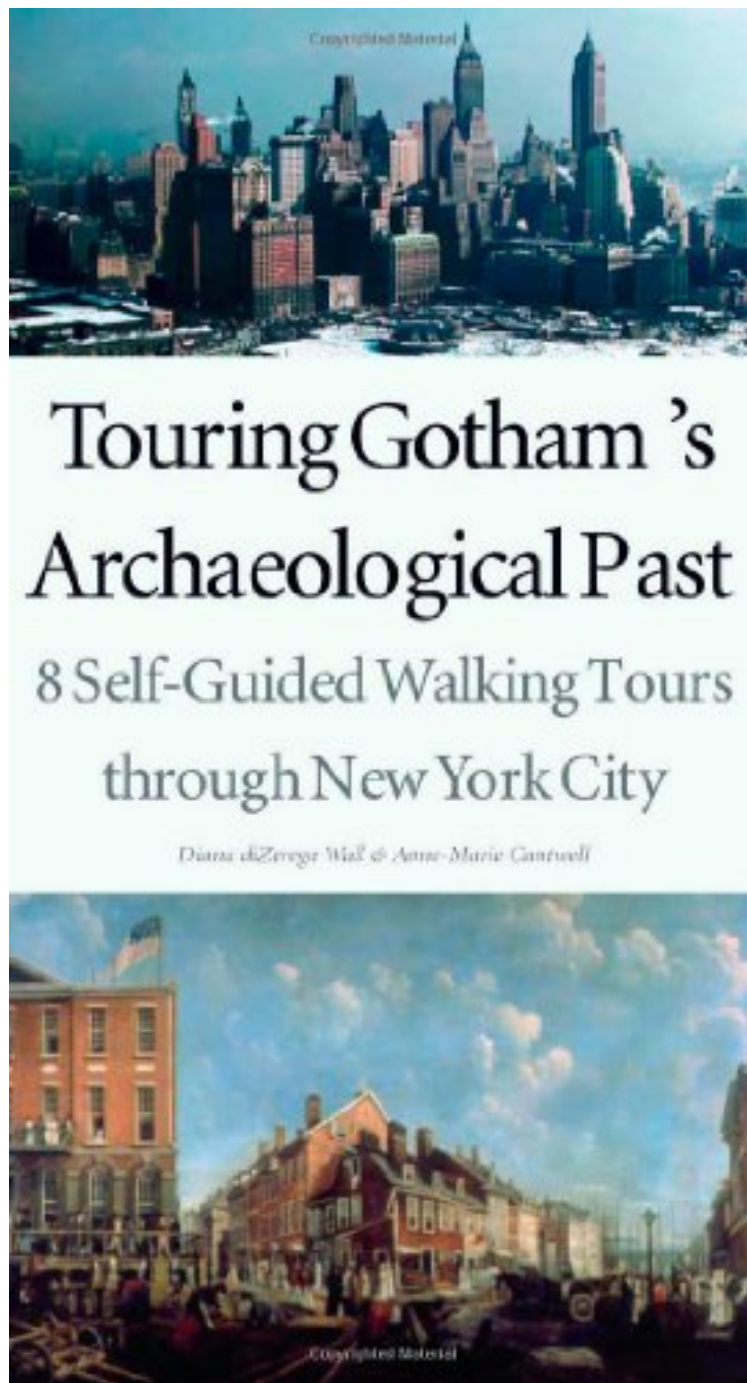


(Library ebook) Touring Gothams Archaeological Past: 8 Self-Guided Walking Tours through New York City

Touring Gothams Archaeological Past: 8 Self-Guided Walking Tours through New York City

Diana diZerega Wall, Anne-Marie Cantwell
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#2315953 in Books Diana diZerega Wall 2004-09-10Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.02 x .51 x 5.981, .65 #File Name: 0300103883226 pagesTouring Gotham s Archaeological Past 8 Self Guided Walking Tours

Diana diZerega Wall, Anne-Marie Cantwell : Touring Gothams Archaeological Past: 8 Self-Guided Walking Tours through New York City before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Touring Gothams Archaeological Past: 8 Self-Guided Walking Tours through New York City:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. New York is more than just Times Square!By mojosmomThe authors, Diana diZerega Wall and Anne-Marie Cantwell, are professors of anthropology at the City University of New York and Rutgers University-Newark, respectively. They have put together these walking tours, in all the boroughs except Staten Island*, to help tourist and resident alike learn more about the history of the city.Now, you might think that they're going to take you off the beaten track, and in some cases that's true. Most tourists don't get up to Inwood in Manhattan or out to the Bronx. But they do go to Ellis Island and Liberty Island, though they likely don't know that Ellis Island's Main Building was built on top of a Native American burial site, or that the island where the Statue of Liberty stands was a Native American shellfish-gathering station and hunting and fishing camp.As Cantwell and Wall guide us along New York City's streets, we learn through the excavations that have occurred there much about the lives of the Native Americans who inhabited the area and the lives of the early European settlers. Pot shards and dog burials, bottles, dice and buttons, all have their stories to tell, and one of the great things about this book is that the authors teach us how to understand those stories. How do the skeletons in the African Burial Ground tell their stories of malnutrition, disease and physical hardship? How do preservation architects figure out when a house was built? What is it about artifacts found in one backyard privy that tells us they likely came from a brothel? The book is full of fascinating stories, and even if you don't go on all, or even any, of the tours, you'll learn a lot just reading it.If you do decide to take book in hand and set out on a tour, you'll find that Cantwell and Wall make it easy. Each tour is accompanied by an excellent map, and though they cover a good deal of territory, all can be accomplished with a comfortable pair of shoes and a MetroCard (the authors give explicit transit directions for each, though it's always a good idea to check ahead of time in case of cutbacks and route changes!). You might want to take a standard guide along with you, in case you want to find a place to have a bite to eat along your route, though it might be more fun (and more in keeping with the "sense of adventure" the authors recommend) to rely on serendipity!* The authors did not include the Staten Island sites because they are vulnerable to looting.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Deep time in New York CityBy S. Smith-PeterAlthough I didn't actually take the walking tours in the book, after reading it I got a real sense of the New York past in a way quite different from the usual historical overview. The book deals with Native Americans in a much more detailed way than the typical few sentences and instead gives a sense of how they lived in what is now Manhattan, Brooklyn, the Bronx and Queens. In addition, it gives attention to the lives of African American slaves in NYC. Judging by their skeletons, life was very hard. Then we also learn about the different Europeans who settled in New York, from the Dutch on. The sidebars were especially informative and the writing is clear and interesting throughout. I would recommend this to anyone who is looking to get a sense of the deep time of New York's history - from the thousands of years of Native American settlement on.

This pocket-sized guidebook takes the reader on eight walking tours to archaeological sites throughout the boroughs of New York City and presents a new way of exploring the city through the rich history that lies buried beneath it. Generously illustrated and replete with maps, the tours are designed to explore both ancient times and modern space.On these tours, readers will see where archaeologists have discovered evidence of the earliest New Yorkers, the Native Americans who arrived at least 11,000 years ago. They will learn about thousand-year-old trading routes, sacred burial grounds, and seventeenth-century villages. They will also see sites that reveal details of the lives of colonial farmers and merchants, enslaved Africans, Revolutionary War soldiers, and nineteenth-century hotel keepers, grocers, and housewives. Some tours bring readers to popular tourist attractions (the Statue of Liberty and the Wall Street district, for example) and present them in a new light. Others center on places that even the most seasoned New Yorker has never seencolonial houses, a working farm, out-of-the-way parks, and remote beachesoften providing beautiful and unexpected views from the city's vast shoreline. A celebration of New York City's past and its present, this unique book will intrigue everyone interested in the city and its history.

"An indispensable and exciting guide to a whole new world of history."Kenneth T. Jackson, Jacques Barzun Professor of History and Social Sciences at Columbia University and editor of The Encyclopedia of New York City