



In Motion: The Experience of Travel

By Tony Hiss

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With a new foreword by Robert D. Yaro.

In 1990 *The Experience of Place* created a buzz in the planning community. Its award-winning author returns to planning themes with *In Motion: The Experience of Travel*, now in a paperback edition from APA Planners Press.

This intriguing book starts with the idea that travel gives us "open-sesame" moments when we suddenly see even familiar surroundings with fresh eyes. The experience—Hiss calls it Deep Travel—can happen whether we're on a trek through the Khyber Pass or a trip to the mailbox. With stories of his own journeys and passages from celebrated travel writers, he makes the transcendental experience come alive.

Simple techniques can unlock this hidden dimension, and planners can use these heightened perceptions to shape the built and natural environments. In Hiss's mind-opening account, ordinary landscapes—highways, train tracks, intersections—become as extraordinary as the first human settlements or the most dazzling and renowned streetscapes.

In Motion opens new paths of understanding for urban and regional planners, architects and landscape architects, and everyone else involved in creating transportation systems and public spaces. It's a journey worth taking.

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In Motion: The Experience of Travel By Tony Hiss Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

In *In Motion: The Experience of Travel*, Tony Hiss argues that motion--so often a form of distraction and annoyance in our forward-flung lives--can, if approached in the right spirit, lead to heightened perception of both our surroundings and our own thoughts, whether traveling far abroad or just walking around our neighborhood. With that idea of travel (what he calls "Deep Travel") in mind, we asked him to think of some books that share the same sort of perception. The result is an expansive list of travel books in which the movement takes place as much in the brain as on a map:

Tony Hiss on Ten Books and a Movie That Evoke "Deep Travel"

Each of the following were valuable and enriching guides for me while I was writing *In Motion* and exploring Deep Travel--my expression for that revelatory sense of wonder and amazement that lets you discover something altogether new even in an old familiar place.

- *A Time of Gifts* by Patrick Leigh Fermor: Thought by many to be the greatest travel writer of our time and by others to be the greatest travel writer of all times, Fermor's story of his walk as a teenager across the peaceful Europe that was about to be consumed by the Second World War is a haunting and poetic narrative of great power.
- *Mani* by Patrick Leigh Fermor: A post-war book by the same wonderful author, who this time seeks out the most inaccessible landscapes and villages of southernmost Greece. Beautifully observed and felt; among many treasures is Fermor's page-long, single-sentence description of the air in Greece.
- *The Head Trip* by Jeff Warren: An exciting, entertaining and authoritative look at the modern science of consciousness, with an insightful chapter on the "SMR"--the sensorimotor rhythm of the brain, which is the physical manifestation of our wider awareness.
- *My Khyber Marriage* by Morag Murray Abdullah: An unknown classic. Morag Murray was a conventional young Scottish woman who married an Afghan prince during the First World War and left her sheltered life behind forever. A fascinating look at the transformative power of unexpected circumstances.
- *The Dance of Life* by Edward T. Hall: A favorite author of mine, who spent a lifetime closely observing human behavior. In this book, this brilliant sociologist shows how time can extend indefinitely, bringing us into a longer "now."
- *The Magic Mountain* by Thomas Mann: One of the most celebrated novels of the 20th century. Although his subject is the disappearance of pre-First World War Europe, Mann, the Nobel Prize winner, pleads with his readers to keep "our sense of time" awake so that none of us will not have to live through "paltry, bare, featherweight years."
- *Sorcerer's Apprentice* by Tahir Shah: Rollicking and exuberant and full of insight, Shah recounts his year as a student to an Indian magician, a mysterious and forbidding man who believed in always keeping one eye on the detail, and the other on "the entire picture."
- *Ceremonial Time* by John Hanson Mitchell: Without leaving his small town outside of Boston, Mitchell is able to resurrect the 15,000-year-old reality of the place, as it emerged from glacial times and became a beloved home to Native Americans. Mitchell moves through only a single square mile of space but glides back and forth through the millennia--and it's a magical journey.
- *Adventures in Afghanistan* by Louis Palmer: Sixty years after Morag Murray, Palmer visits war-torn Afghanistan with the freedom fighters, and visits remote monasteries, hidden palaces, healing springs, and other startling treasures that seem like real-life continuations of the Arabian Nights.
- *Encountering the World* by Edward S. Reed: A totally original synthesis of modern psychology and

philosophy. Reed, who died much too young at age 42, convincingly places awareness at the center of all mental and cognitive ability. A masterpiece.

- *I Know Where I'm Going!*, directed by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger: A lovely movie about a headstrong young woman (a marvelous Wendy Hiller) on her way to marry the wrong man. Suddenly stranded on a Scottish island, she awakens to everything she's been missing and finds her true love and, more importantly, her true self.

From [Booklist](#)

Hiss describes "deep travel" as an elevated awareness one can experience as one moves about, locally or globally. This book explores cognitive access to that aspired-to awareness, resulting in a work that resembles more an excursus into psychology than a concrete description of the travel experience. For example, Hiss writes prolix passages about the consciousness of the flow of time, positing improved perception of time as a way to higher acuity about one's surroundings. In Hiss' case, those are his home of New York City, in which most of his personal observations are set. For the wider world's aid in defining the concept of deep travel, Hiss quotes extensively from notable travel authors ranging from Marco Polo to Paul Theroux. He eventually diverges into human evolution, taking this direction to show that wanderlust is innate to humans. A discursive and intentionally incomplete work—in one chapter, Hiss collects thoughts for a possible future title called *A Short History of Awareness*—this work will appeal to readers interested in the psychological aspects of travel. --Gilbert Taylor

Review

"*The Experience of Place* has gone on to become a modern-day classic . . . In his new book, *In Motion: The Experience of Travel*, Hiss revisits his earlier technique: Take a proposition that appears intuitive, then slowly tease out its implications for the way we live now, and how we should live going forward. 'Deep Travel' begins with the assumption that when we take a trip, something sublime can change the way we perceive the world . . . Hiss takes the principle a step further, arguing that this same sense of transformation—what he calls 'Deep Travel'—can also be enjoyed in the more modest trips we take every day: running to the store, commuting to work, walking within our own neighborhoods . . . In search of source material, Hiss embarks on his characteristically ambitious survey of science and the humanities, quoting everyone from Lewis Thomas to Thomas Mann, Henry David Thoreau to E.O. Wilson, Copernicus to 'Bugs Bunny' director Chuck Jones . . . *In Motion* is itself an example of the author's recurring point—that the mind can even travel deeply when its owner is at rest." —Danny Heitman, *The Christian Science Monitor*

"Interesting and ambitious . . . *In Motion* ranges widely over continents and time frames, leaping from idea to idea. . . Like [Bruce Chatwin's] *The Songlines*, Hiss's book is full of evidence of his impressively wide reading and intelligent speculation, replete with strange discoveries and serendipities . . . [It] has an enjoyably erratic and discursive structure, moving from anthropologists studying the first human footprints in the grasslands of Africa to Neil Armstrong's first steps on the moon."—William Dalrymple, *The New York Times Book Review*

"Intriguing and immediately connected to our lives today . . . *In Motion* will certainly set minds in motion, heading deeper into the roving nature of humanity." —Christine Thomas, *The Miami Herald*

"*In Motion* is an unusually ambitious book: an attempt to explain not only why humans travel, and how Deep Travel can transform us, but how *Homo sapiens*' awareness evolved during the past 3.6 million years." —Jeff Greenwald, *San Francisco Chronicle*

“Crowded airplanes and their lack of customer service, packed subway cars on a hot day, and daily commutes to and from work that take longer now on average than at any other time in history and add up to much frustration with travel itself. Hiss (*The Experience of Place*) suggests, however, that all of us have an innate capacity to enter a different part of our minds during our travels and to begin to make use of an awareness that has its own range of interests, concerns, and methods. When the mind and not just the body is in motion, our experience of our ordinary world changes, and we can look with new eyes on the details of the world around us as we walk to the local coffee shop. Hiss urges us to embrace the innermost dimension of travel (its ability to lift the wings of the human spirit) as a way of transforming our time spent in motion. Hiss calls this ground-shifting waking consciousness “Deep Travel,” that is, something that surprises us when we least expect it. For example, as biochemist Katy B. Mullis drove through redwood country north of San Francisco, his waking consciousness traveled along a wildly different path as he invented the technique that makes it possible to copy billions of pieces of DNA in a few hours and later brought him the Nobel Prize in chemistry. In the end, Hiss shares his own enlightening experiences of the mind in motion, acting as our Virgil of Deep Travel.”

—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“I found *In Motion* absolutely fascinating: well researched, well written, and very readable. I read it in London, and found it affected how I experienced a familiar but unfamiliar place. The capacity Hiss describes had the effect of pointing out to me something that had been right in front of my eyes all the time without my noticing it. Such an interesting and important book.” —Lisa Alther, author of *Kinflicks*

“*In Motion* is a brilliant, mind-opening book that will change how you see your world. Tony Hiss takes you to places that are both out there and inside your own mind, and offers a strikingly new perspective on such basic questions as ‘What makes us human?’ and ‘Why do we explore?’ I recommend that you read it before you take another step.” —Andrew Weil, M.D.

“Dramatic evidence for humankind’s bipedalism is at least as old as the footprints discovered in the volcanic ash of Laetoli, Tanzania, and it extends in distance to Neil Armstrong’s still-preserved boot prints on the surface of the moon. However, we have become so habituated to this business of upright walking, to travel in general, that we have buried the capacity to connect with the extraordinary opportunity for insight that travel offers. Long occupied with matters of design, environment and regional planning, Tony Hiss turns his attention to the possibilities of larger understanding inherent in traveling or, more precisely, what he calls Deep Travel, that ‘ground-shifting variant of ordinary waking consciousness.’ Much more than simply moving from place to place or simply changing scenery, Deep Travel is a parallel journey that sharpens our perceptions, altering space—creating a larger ‘here’—and time—extending it, making a larger ‘now.’ As we immerse ourselves in Deep Travel, insights previously hidden or otherwise unavailable are revealed to the off-balance mind...An intellectual walkabout filled with arresting, wide-ranging perceptions—quite unlike any other ‘travel’ book.” —*Kirkus*

“The high excitement of *In Motion* comes from the way Tony Hiss can present so much cutting-edge information in a pattern that creates a fuller and more articulate understanding of what we are. His reporter’s nose for a good story combines with a tremendous breadth and depth of vision; the result is both fun and mind-altering, a real eye-opener, a changer of consciousness. It’s a book not only to read but to live.”—Kim Stanley Robinson

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Clarence Duncan:

Reading a book can be one of a lot of pastime that everyone in the world likes. Do you like reading book and so. There are a lot of reasons why people enjoyed. First reading a book will give you a lot of new information. When you read a book you will get new information due to the fact book is one of several ways to share the information or their idea. Second, reading through a book will make an individual more imaginative. When you reading a book especially fictional book the author will bring one to imagine the story how the personas do it anything. Third, it is possible to share your knowledge to other people. When you read this In Motion: The Experience of Travel, it is possible to tells your family, friends along with soon about yours publication. Your knowledge can inspire different ones, make them reading a reserve.

Edna Barnett:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity this is look different you can read the book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent all day every day to reading a book. The book In Motion: The Experience of Travel it is very good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book has high quality.

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