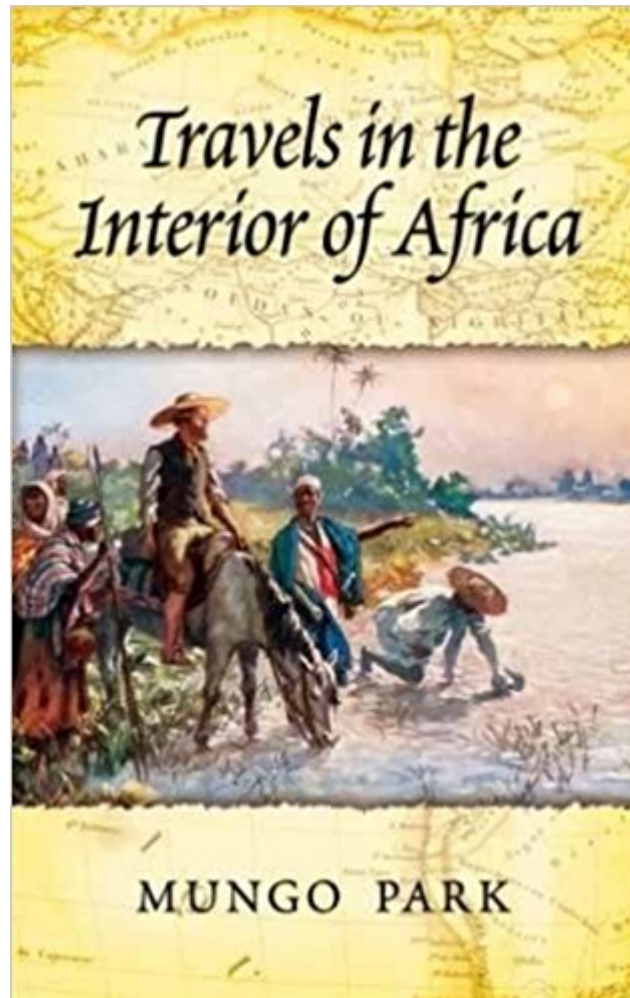




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# Travels In The Interior Of Africa



## Synopsis

In 1795, a young Scottish physician set out to explore the course of the Niger River. The detailed notes from his arduous two-year adventure in West Africa provided Europeans with their first reliable account of the region. Two centuries later, this early classic of travel literature offers a singular array of geographic and anthropological observations of Africa before colonial influence. Unlike the leaders of latter-day expeditions, Mungo Park often traveled alone, trusting locals to supply food, shelter, and directions. His firsthand observations of gold mining, the slave trade, war, and politics, along with his experiences of everyday life, offer unparalleled views of eighteenth-century Africa. National Geographic placed Park's *Travels* at #25 on its 100 Greatest Adventure Books of All Time. T. Coraghessan Boyle pronounced it "an adventure story to cap them all," and the book's acclaim and influence extends through generations of authors, including Wordsworth, Melville, Conrad, and Hemingway.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Mungo Park was a Scottish explorer of the African continent. He is credited as being the first Westerner to encounter the Niger River.

I don't write reviews often but I had to respond to the comments of "Raspberry", who reviewed this book. Contrary to what the reviewer said, there are no dull lists. What you will find are descriptions of people, ways of living, and cultures that, up until that time, had never been encountered before by Europeans. Born in 1771, Mungo Park was a doctor, shipboard surgeon and by the age of 24, an

African explorer. He spent two and a half years in Africa on his first trip, ending in 1797. In 1805 he embarked on a second trip to try to find the source of the Niger river, dying during the journey. This book concerns his first expedition. It is a fascinating document which describes his journey, encounters with various local people, their customs, etc. This is not a fast paced 'thriller' or modern travel book. It was written for a late eighteenth century audience who were less familiar with Africa than we are with Mars. He often gives descriptions of plants and animals which, while we may be familiar with them today, were strange to his audience.

I've learned more about the African life as in 75% lived in slavery among the tribes. Only 25% of tribesmen lived as free men. That means the natural state of life for 75% of all Africans was to be a slave. January 5th 1797, Mungo Park, is in a village called Teesee, an embassy of ten mounted horsemen belonging to Almani Abdulkader, king of Fouta-Torra came to Teesee and stated that unless all the people of Kasson would embrace the Mohammedan religion and evince their conversion by saying eleven public prayers, he, king of Fouta-Torra, would join the Kajaaga in a war against Kasson. WHAT?? This full of real knowledge. This book is a masterpiece of truth, I'm lucky, I received the 1901 copy. To those who called this boring or that Mungo Park is a list maker, it's called HE'S AN EXPLORER! His descriptions are fascinating and you are missing the boat, OR, you didn't like what you read. To the one who said that Mungo didn't write about the superiority of Whites at that time, HE DIDN'T HAVE TO. It's on every page. They laughed at him when he suggested an Elephant could be tamed. Says a lot.

This book, and the second volume, comprise one of the most incredible true tales of adventure you will ever read. Mungo Park was not only a keen observer of people, their character and customs, he also had a keen eye for the lands he traveled through. This is a tremendously well written personal narrative of one man's journey through deepest, darkest Africa to places no white man had ever been before. Mungo Park's story of his first journey to Africa, told in his own words, comprises one of the most compelling tales of adventure I have ever read. That he survived this journey at all may be the most sensational aspect of this record of his travels. It would be wonderful to be able to read the narrative of his second journey into Africa, unfortunately, he was killed on that trip and his journal was never recovered. Wikipedia has a very nice article on him.

Amazing first hand account of travel in the latter part of the 18th century. Anyone who has been to West Africa or planning to go or move there should read this book. I didn't find it tedious. I found it

enlightening as to the history and culture (which, in many ways, hasn't changed). A valuable book if one is interested in Mali at all.

A very well written first-person account of Mungo Park's visit to Africa in the late 1700s. This book should be required reading for all high school graduates, since reading it would clear up many false notions connected with African/American slavery. Although Mr. Parks was anti-slavery, he plainly states that 75% of Africans were slaves to the other 25%, and that the buying and selling of slaves among Africans and the selling of slaves to Europeans were as common and natural as life itself.

Mungo Park was one of those few explorers who did not emphasize on the "white man superiority" which was highly prevalent with the explorers of his time. His travels were very human and extremely descriptive in nature. The writer writes in a very lucid and convenient style which literally transports the reader to the Africa of those times. The sufferings, the hardships and frequent robberies faced by Mungo Park speaks volumes about the determination of the explorer as he continues single handedly to unravel the "dark continent". The inherent nature of the various tribal groups and the inter tribal and religious undercurrents have been beautifully captured by the author. This is one of the best Travelogues that I have ever read after a long time.

As the first of the great African Explorers, Mungo Park certainly had a great role in opening up Africa to European exploration (and yes, exploitation). His narrative of his adventures in Western Africa searching for the source of the Niger river is full of excitement, intrigue, narrow escapes and adventure. Highly recommended to anyone interested in true adventure stories!!!

Mungo Park was a brilliant, courageous man. I had read other literature on his life and tragic death. I wanted to read his diary of his other successful excursions before the final expedition which cost him his life. He does a masterful job of describing the cultures, the surroundings and the people themselves.

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