

Nineteenth Century Travel Writing

This is an entirely random selection of titles that I found on the *Project Gutenberg* website while researching my book *Describing Settings* (2026). I haven't read all of these books, though I have flicked through them and think they contain some material that you might find useful as inspiration. Many of the texts contain maps or illustrations, and all are believed to be in the public domain.

I should include a warning here that these texts contain ideas and language of their era, meaning that they may contain terms considered offensive today – and they are no doubt full of colonial attitudes and misogynistic views. Enter at your own risk.

The list below is more or less alphabetical by title. The links should take you to the relevant Project Gutenberg page where you can find more details about the content of a book. You can also download a free epub version or read the text online.

Paul Tomlinson, August 2026

A Gallop Among American Scenery or, Sketches of American Scenes and Military Adventure by Augustus E. Silliman. D. Appleton & Co, 1843

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/69111>

American Scenery (2 volumes) by Nathaniel Parker Willis. George Virtue, 1840

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/49042>

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Beauties and Antiquities of Ireland by Thomas O'Neill Russell. Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner, & Co., Ltd., 1897

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/39500>

Borneo and the Indian Archipelago by Frank Marryat. Spottiswoode & Shaw, 1848

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/26844>

Canadian Scenery (2 volumes) by Nathaniel Parker Willis. George Virtue, 1842

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/47690>

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/47691>

The Genius of Scotland; or, Sketches of Scottish Scenery, Literature and Religion by Robert Turnbull. Robert Carter, 1848

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/38822>

Glimpses of Unfamiliar Japan (2 series) by Patrick Lafcadio Hearn. 1894

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/8130>

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/8133>

There is a *Wikipedia* entry for the book: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glimpses_of_Unfamiliar_Japan

Grand moving diorama of Hindostan displaying the scenery of the Hoogly, the Bhagirathi, and the Ganges, from Fort William, Bengal, to Gangoutri, in the Himalaya by Fanny Parkes Parlb. Asiatic Gallery, 1851

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/60006>

The Hardy Country: Literary landmarks of the Wessex Novels by Charles G. Harper. Adam & Charles Black, 1904

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/46801>

The Heart of the White Mountains, Their Legend and Scenery by Samuel Adams Drake. Harper & Brothers, 1882

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/42447>

Impressions of England; or, Sketches of English Scenery and Society by A. Cleveland Coxe. Dana & Company, 1856

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/53952>

In the Catskills: Selections from the Writings of John Burroughs by John Burroughs; illustrations & photographs by Clifton Johnson. Houghton Mifflin, 1910

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/14108>

Legends of Longdendale, being a series of tales founded upon the folk-lore of Longdendale Valley and its neighbourhood by Thomas Middleton. Fred Higham, Printer and Bookbinder, 1906

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/41108>

The Maine Woods by Henry David Thoreau. Houghton Mifflin Company, 1906

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/42500>

Normandy: The Scenery & Romance of Its Ancient Towns by Gordon Home. J.M. Dent, 1905

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/8505>

Observations upon the town of Cromer, considered as a watering place, and the picturesque scenery in its neighbourhood by Edmund Bartell. John Parslee, 1800

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/57041>

One Year Abroad by Blanche Willis Howard. James R. Osgood and Company, 1878

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/35680>

Russia, as Seen and Described by Famous Writers, edited and Translated by Esther Singleton. Dodd, Mead and Company, 1909

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/19534>

The Spell of the Rockies, by Enos A. Mills. Houghton Mifflin Company, 1911

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/42042>

Three Years in Europe: Places I Have Seen and People I Have Met by William Wells Brown. Charles Gilpin, 1852

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/15830>

Turrets, Towers, and Temples: The great buildings of the world, as seen and described by famous writers, edited and translated by Esther Singleton. Dodd, Mead and Company, 1912

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/72946>

Travels in North America, From Modern Writers [compiled] by William Bingley. Harvey and Darton, 1821

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