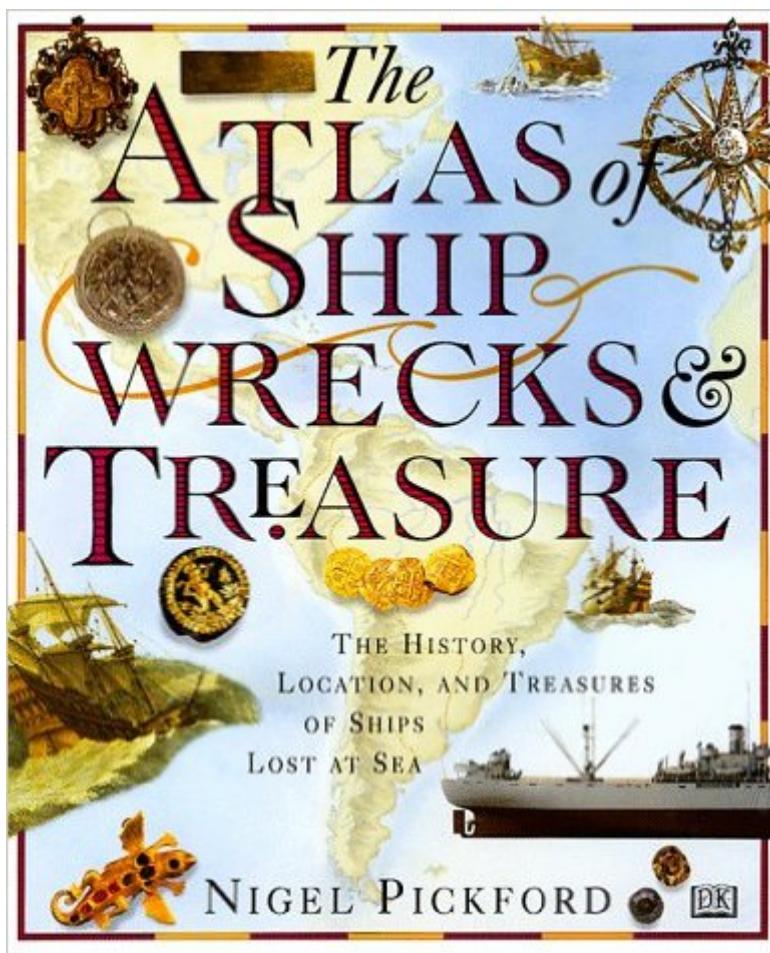


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The Atlas Of Shipwrecks & Treasure: The History, Location, And Treasures Of Ships Lost At Sea



Synopsis

The first comprehensive illustrated guide to ships lost at sea and the treasures they have yielded, capturing the romance and the risks of treasure hunting. From Roman ships laden with bronze statues to the gold--carrying blockade runners of World War II, this highly illustrated historical atlas is the first comprehensive guide to ships lost at sea and the treasures that have yielded. Tales of shipwrecks. The Atlas features spellbinding accounts of 40 of the most significant shipwrecks of all time. These accounts reveal how and why the ships sank and describe the often extraordinary feats of salvage accomplished through the centuries. There are tales of Chinese junks lost in the shark--infested waters of the South China Sea; of Spanish galleons laden with jewels; of prospectors in pursuit of gold around the world. Salvaged treasure. The Atlas is sumptuously illustrated with photographs of treasure salvaged from the wrecks, including rare coins, precious porcelain, finely crafted jewelry, and even mercury. Illustrations of diving equipment through the ages explain the development of salvage and underwater archaeology. Exquisite thematic maps. Beautiful hand--drawn maps illustrate the seas and oceans of the world during the different historical periods. They highlight the trade routes and ports of an era, detail the cargoes carried, show the notorious black holes that have bedeviled shipping, and plot the positions of some of the most remarkable shipwrecks. Comprehensive gazetteer. Twenty full--color maps plot the sites of over 1,400 wrecks around the world, showing the depths at which they lie. Accompanying profiles give details of the date on which each ship went down, its cargo, and any salvage attempts so far. Many of the wrecks still lie there on the ocean bed, their treasure awaiting recovery. Expertly researched and lavishly illustrated, this outstanding world history of shipwrecks will fire the imagination of everyone who is drawn to the risks and romance of treasure hunting.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book lives up to publisher Dorling Kindersley's well deserved reputation for turning any topic into eye candy. And few topics have the allure of treasure wrecks, so you can count on this book to appeal to even a tough audience. The editors make you think, too. Many thousands of people have lived in "pirate towns" like Port Royal, yet only a comparative handful of ships were lost to pirates. And not more than a few hundred people were hung for piracy. What were all those people doing risking their lives? Recovering treasure from the King's wrecks was grand theft. It may have been a felony punishable by death in the 1600s, but few people expected to get caught and none of them went into it with the intention of killing people for money. There's an odd picture on page 60 of a diver pouring mercury out of a flask under water. Don't be surprised that big fish in the Caribbean are full of the stuff. Mercury was used to refine gold and silver ore. The richest mines in Europe were in Almaden, Spain. The treasure galleons with their holds designed for heavy metals brought were no one-way vessels. They brought mercury to the New World, usually something over 100 quintals, or 10 to 15 tons. Iron tools may have tripled or quadrupled this amount. These 600 to 1000 ton ships looked precariously balanced but carried 50 tons or more of heavy metal in their bottom holds on every voyage. Nigel Pickford writes informatively from his own treasure trove of information. His father worked for London insurers as a recoverer of lost cargoes, so he grew up in a family uncommonly well versed on this topic. "My father would never have used the phrase 'treasure hunter' about himself." But he was a pro.

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