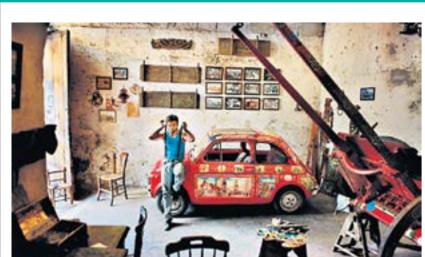
# TRAVEL BOOKS



# 'I needed something new, big and intense'

#### **CHRISTMAS CRACKERS**

From journeys along the Yukon to unexpected flights of delight, Michael Kerr suggests some inspirational travel reads

LANDS OF LOST **BORDERS: A JOURNEY** ON THE SILK ROAD

BY KATE HARRIS (DEY ST/HARPERCOLLINS, Kate Harris, an



flier from Canada, had ambitions to be an astronaut. then decided there was exploring enough to be done on planet Earth. Her

account of cycling the Silk Road has given me more pleasure than most travel books - no: make that most books - I've read this year. Lands of Lost Borders is about frontiers and breaking through them. On the road, Harris, who is in her mid-30s, pedals with a childhood friend to places where

authorities don't want her to go, including Tibet. On the page, she flits The view through easily across supposed boundaries between travelogue and memoir, my lens is science and poetry. The result is a

marvellous debut by a wanderer and now your wonderer, an author with boundless view... let's curiosity and a zest for life that enthuses every page. work CHESAPEAKE REQUIEM BY EARL SWIFT (DEY ST - US PUBLICATION,

together to protect it

whims", sits Tangier Island, whose inhabitants have for generations

harvested crabs and oysters. The very water that sustains their community -A Fiat Bambino made up of 470 conservative and photographed in deeply religious people - is also slowly erasing it. Scientists say that the island which has lost two thirds of its land since 1850, could become the first American settlement to fall victim to rising sea levels caused by climate change; the locals say the problem is erosion. Swift lived among the islanders, and his account, at once affectionate and inquiring, is a superb piece of reporting.

#### **SKYBOUND: A JOURNEY** IN FLIGHT

#### BY REBECCA LONCRAINE

(PICADOR, £16.99)

Two years after being diagnosed (at 35) with breast cancer, Rebecca Loncraine passed a gliding club and found herself booking a lesson for the next day. "I

needed something new, something big and intense," she said. "I wanted to live boldly as it might not be for very long." Gliding provided that something, and her "private love letters to the wind" were the origin of *Skybound*, which she had all but finished when - cancer having returned in her abdomen - she died in September 2016. It's an extraordinary book, one in which the writer, for whom the world had closed down, feels it reopen, and carries the reader up on the thermals with her.

### KINGS OF THE YUKON: AN ALASKAN RIVER **JOURNEY**

#### BY ADAM WEYMOUTH (PENGUIN, £9.99)



almost 2.000 miles through Canada and Alaska, to the Bering Sea. His account of that journey is so assured, so accomplished, that I found it hard to believe it was his first book.

paddled an 18ft

glass-fibre canoe

down the Yukon,

VARIOUS PRICES ONLINE) This is a story of a He hoped he could explain the small and singular decline in numbers of king salmon and | Photographer of place seeing show how the lives of those who changes that will depend on the fish are changing. If he soon affect the is frustrated in his first objective, he succeeds fully in his second, in his whole world. At the broadest point | tracing of the relationship between of the Chesapeake fish and people, and "of the imprint Bay, "at the mercy | that one leaves on the other". It's a of nature's wildest | story about a sparsely populated place but one that is rich in characters, and it's beautifully written.





**GROUND WORK:** 

The places celebrated in the pages of this book range from a railed-in London

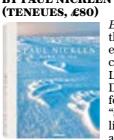
across the Avon Gorge in Bristol, to the | phrase - "sunset songs".

deep woods in the far reaches of eastern Finland. WRITINGS ON PLACES Dee's contributors remind us of the

harm we have done to everything from whales to house sparrows, but also of the good we could yet do through organisations such as Common Ground, which seeks "imaginative ways to engage people with their local environment" and which will benefit from the proceeds of this absorbing anthology. It's a book that's as much about the Kingdom Brunel's | marks places leave on us as the ones we leave on them. It offers succour, Suspension Bridge | rather than - in the editor's own

## **BORN TO ICE**

#### BY PAUL NICKLEN



the actor and environmental campaigner Leonardo DiCaprio in a foreword, artist whose love

of the landscape, and each animal in it, is so palpable that emotion echoes through every image". The title is as together to protect it."

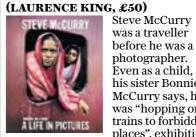


true of the photographer as it is of the The writer, subjects he captures in glorious images from the polar regions. for whom Nicklen grew up on Baffin Island, the world Canada. Having studied to be a wildlife biologist, he tired of had closed encounters with animals that down, feels produced nothing but data sheets, and quit at the age of 26 to see if he it reopen, could make a go of photography. He packed 600lb of equipment, and carries including two tents, and had a pilot drop him in the high Arctic for three the reader months. "The view through my lens is now your view," he says. "Their world is now our shared world... let's work

## IN PICTURES

STEVE McCURRY: A LIFE

#### BY BONNIE MCCURRY



McCurry says, he was "hopping on trains to forbidden places", exhibiting the independent streak that would one day send him trekking with mujahideen fighters into the Panjshir Valley of Afghanistan. His career is hardly undocumented (*Untold*, recounting the stories behind images such as *The Afghan Girl*, appeared as recently as 2013) but this volume, compiled and written by Bonnie, a retired teacher who manages his office, is revealing of the forces that

photographer. Even as a child,

his sister Bonnie

#### **LANDSCAPE** PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR: COLLECTION 12

shaped him early on. It is frank as well

as fond, and its 350 or so images

previously been published.

include about 100 that have never

## (AA PUBLISHING, £25) dreamed up his



foreword, he possibly high-flown notion" that the winning photography and resulting books would become a record of their times. This year's certainly reflects the weather. Captions refer to Storms Brian and Ophelia and the "Beast from the East"; subjects include kayakers breaking ice on Loch Ba, on Rannoch Moor; snow-covered Surrey farmland photographed with a drone and looking like a circuit board; and the Seven Sisters in East Sussex, with the sea seemingly as white as the cliffs.

#### **AFRICAN TWILIGHT** BY CAROL BECKWITH & ANGELA FISHER (RIZZOLI, £115)



urbanising faster than Africa. The rush to the towns is a theme for many photographers, out what interests Carol Beckwith

No continent is

is what's being lost in the process. Their African Ceremonies (1999), documenting rites and rituals in 26 countries, won a UN Award for Excellence. African Twilight, another fascinating two-volume study that has been 12 years in the making, completes seas in the Indian Ocean before she their journey. It includes ceremonies in the Democratic Republic of Congo - which they couldn't enter earlier – and the coronation of the voodoo king in Ouidah, Benin, a

per cent of what they document here, they say, has already vanished.

#### WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF TI **YEAR: PORTFOLIO 28**

#### (NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, £25)



**Kate Harris visited** 

Tibet in Lands of

exploiting innovations in equipment Pictures taken from drones feature for the first time (though the judges are mindful of the disturbance such devices can cause) and camera-trap



nportant than technology. Sue Forbes spent days scanning rough got her reward: a single frame enclosing both a bird (a red-footed booby) and a fish in flight. THE GRAND CANYON: once-in-a-generation happening. Forty

BETWEEN RIVER

shots show animals within the

professionalism, patience and a

neasure of luck are still more

panorama of their environments. But

## AND RIM BY PETE MCBRIDE

have walked it from end to end, a

iourney-without-trails of some 750

Kevin Fedarko, a writer and former

centenary approaching, they share

conservation and exploitation (they

miles. The photographer Pete

McBride did so with his friend

river guide in Grand Canyon

National Park. With the park's

what they found in the canyon's

remote ribs, and report on the

continuing struggle between

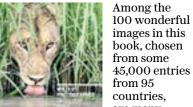
5.9 million

people a

vear visi

the Grand

(RIZZOLI, £40)

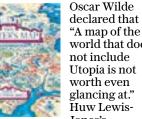


45,000 entries from 95 are many



## ATLAS OF IMAGINARY LANDS

#### **EDITED BY HUW LEWIS-JONES** (THAMES & HUDSON, £29.95)



world that does Utopia is not Jones's beautifully produced compendium

takes in everything from Utopia, charted for Thomas More's satire of 1516, to Westeros, a continent in that swords-and-sorcery series Game of Thrones. It shows how writers of the past created worlds that have inspired writers of the present, from Joanne Harris to Robert Macfarlane. It's a reminder that a map is far more than a means of plotting a route. Like a book, it can transport you. It can work magic.

## ID:172608

size:30.614 by969.44 House Ads-Travel

## ID:172582 size:15.146 by479.62

Mercury Direct

ID:170378 size:15.146 by479.62

Tel Direct Travel Comms