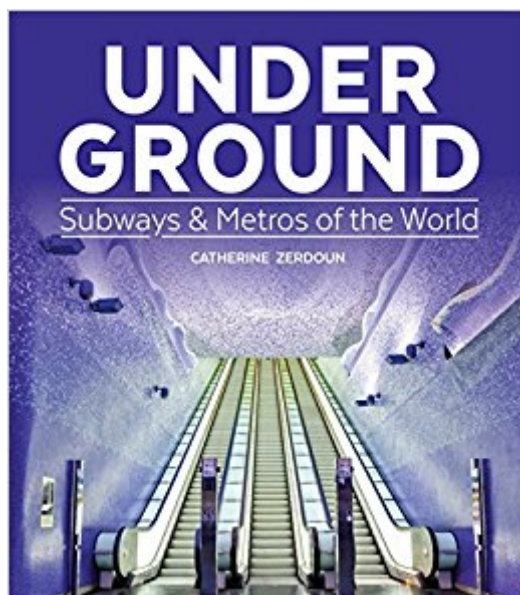


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Under Ground: Subways And Metros Of The World



Synopsis

These days, a subway is an integral part of a city's heritage and a key feature of the urban landscape used by passengers, but subways are also full of history and art. They reflect a city's personality and its past and future, and are worthy of exploration, even for those not boarding a train. It's safe to say that a great many subways have overcome their past reputation for unpleasant shadiness. Subways revolutionized urban transport, moving people from crowded streets to efficient underground tunnels. This book has two parts: the first tells the stories of six major subways: London, Paris, Moscow, New York, Berlin, Tokyo. It describes their histories, the circumstances of their construction, and many anecdotes from what were invariably political, financial, engineering and architectural marathons. As well, deadly accidents, scarce funds and corruption set construction off the rails more often than not. The second half of the book is a stunning photo gallery of some of the most surprising subway stations around the world. They include examples from the six systems covered historically plus stations whose architecture reflects the cities and the people that they serve. They include: Szent Gell rt, Budapest -- One of the world's oldest subways, spiral patterns take riders on an intergalactic trip of misleading perspectives and concrete interlacing. Puhung, Pyongyang, North Korea -- This dictator's showcase is one of only two stations, open but two hours a day, and apparently, a mandatory activity for tourists. Beitucheng, Beijing -- Echoes of ancient blue and white porcelain are rendered contemporary, even in the subway maps. R dhuset, Stockholm -- Where Franciscan monks prayed in the 15th century, artist Sitgvard Olsson has created an organic cave, its rough walls lit in red like volcanic magma. New York City -- The vaulted tile ceiling of New York's City Hall "ghost station" is unfortunately rarely seen. Toledo, Naples -- Seen on this book's jacket, it is one of Europe's most magnificent stations.. Concorde Station, Paris -- Tiled walls form a word search puzzle of the Declaration of the Rights of Man.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

With historical and contemporary photographs, and graphics of subway facts and time lines, this coffee-table style book is highly recommended for all readership levels and libraries collecting in the areas of urban development, art and architecture, or the history of technology. Highly recommended. All readers. (K. D. Winward Choice 2017-04-01) Depending on your city's public transit system you might be left desperately jealous after seeing some of the stations featured in this book. (Mark Medley Globe and Mail 2016-12-10)

Catherine Zerdoun is a historian and journalist who is a regular contributor to books and magazines. She has worked for Hachette Group, Michelin, Arthaud and National Geographic.

This book is the first book I have read just on Subways. It gives a good summary of these systems around the world. There is a lot of interesting stations and systems around the world. The detail is fine for a general overview. More focused on ones outside of the US. Would recommend to add this one to your library.

Purchased for a friend and he seems very pleased.

Very informative review of world subways and mass transit including maps and great pictures!

This is a great addition to transit maps of the world

Studied and enjoyed for free at the New York Society Library in New York City. As a resident of a city with one of the greatest subway systems of the world, I've had an intimate, satisfying, frustrating, extraordinary relationship with subways. From Paris to Uzbekistan, from St. Petersburg to Tokyo, and in dozens of other cities -- these systems have fascinated me. This book describes 100 of the most fascinating systems in the world, with beautiful pictures, little known facts, excellent editing -- and clear and informative writing. I was entranced for three hours -- literally could not put it

down. Here are a few that I have visited -- and a couple I want to see eventually on the ground -- under the ground? -- but loved reading about. The Stockholm metro, considered to be "the longest museum in the world" -- my late wife and I spent two hours going from station to station enjoying the show. New York City's Art Deco City Hall Station, now closed to the public -- but you can see it on very special occasions and every day for fleeting moments -- best on a sunny day so the skylights help you see the details: Here's how to see it:-- Take the 6 train heading downtown.-- When the train makes its final stop at the Brooklyn Bridge/City Hall station, passengers are told to exit the train.-- Stay on the train and duck down so as not to be easily spotted. When the train departs the station it will pass through the abandoned City Hall Station. That's when you can get a view of the station -- be discreet. Russia's many underground Cold War palaces that double as fallout shelters -- My favorite was the deepest station in Saint Petersburg -- it was amazing to ride back up on the long escalator and see the incredible variety of different people's faces -- so many different nationalities on a very long parade. The blue-lit passenger halls of Dubai's metro, a cool sea in the desert -- on my to do list -- many wonders in Dubai, and this is apparently one of the top three attractions. Paris' Concorde station tiled with one gigantic word search puzzle that spells out the Declaration of the Rights of Man from the French Revolution. And there are many other routes equally attractive -- love those rubber wheels. The candy-colored kaleidoscopic University station in Naples, the vision of American designer Karim Rashid -- blew me away! Olaias station in Lisbon, lit almost exclusively by chandeliers -- Lisbon is such a pretty and small city, and this is a true jewel in a very beautiful place. Kyoto's immense 15-story multi-use rail station -- an ancient city; a modern marvel. Istanbul's underwater Marmaray tunnel, the deepest in the world. There are many ways to cross the waters here -- this one scares many people. There are many more wonders in this marvelous book. Robert C. Ross December 2016

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