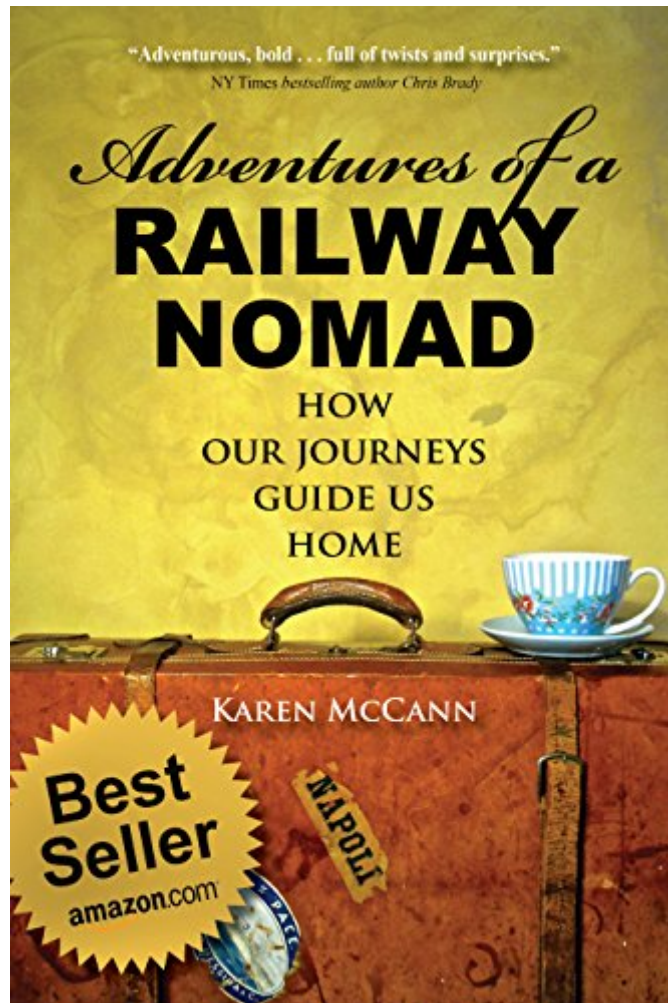




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# Adventures Of A Railway Nomad: How Our Journeys Guide Us Home



## Synopsis

One August morning, I walked out of my Seville home taking nothing but a small, roll-aboard bag, a EuRail pass, and my husband. I was traveling with no fixed time limit, no reservations, and only a loose idea of an itinerary. My goal was to see if I could still have the kind of spontaneous adventures I'd enjoyed in my youth. I traveled 6000 miles through 13 countries by train, and the results were often hilarious, occasionally harrowing, definitely life-changing. They form the basis of my new book, *Adventures of a Railway Nomad: How Our Journeys Guide Us Home*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It was with great anticipation that I sat down and started to read *Adventures of a Railway Nomad*. As a train travel enthusiast I expected the book to contain significant narrative about traveling by rail. Instead traveling on the rails accounts for a very small percentage of the content. Much of the book is filled with what seems to be rehashed facts lifted from Wikipedia (or similar) and parts drowned on like a monotonous history lesson. Interestingly towards the end the author seemed to find her own

voice and the final two or three chapters became much more fluid. The title is deceiving and being filled with so much factual history and relatively little personal anecdote, was rather dreary.

A well-written travelogue. This is a couple's journey and the target audience would be mostly boomers, but younger travelers can gain some knowledge by reading it as well. I've traveled to many of these places and would agree with the description of "the Krak" or Krakow--wonderfully tourist friendly with lots to see and do. We also enjoyed Prague, although it is a large city and takes time to explore. We were hosted by our Ceske Budejovice exchange daughter and found CB to be a wonderful Czech city with fine food, beer and wine, proving that it helps to know people along the way! We also enjoyed Ceske Krumlov, but agree that it can be a bit Disney-like. Somewhat like Williamsburg, VA in the historical preservation/tourist nature. Overall, the book shares some insightful travel tips and provides insights into countries that are just becoming travel friendly. There are frustrations in traveling and the author does a nice job of being honest while still staying positive. If you like reading about far away places, or are planning a trip, the book is a relaxing place to start your journey

For some time now, I have followed Karen McCann's blog "Enjoy Living Abroad". I enjoy reading Karen's posts because they are a fun read and she always posts two or three photos of places she has been or about the topic. She is a wonderful photographer. Mostly though, the reason I follow her blog is because it is filled with practical tips for travelers looking to get off the beaten track and experience a country and its culture. Karen is on the cutting edge of travel. She provides advice about travel planning, travel websites, and iPad/phone apps that are killers for such things as currency exchanging, language translation or finding your way around safely. "Adventures of a Railway Nomad" is a wonderful read. From the beginning Karen takes you along as she and her husband Rich dream, plan, prepare, and then visit thirteen European countries by train over a period of three months. They are spending an average of \$85 per day with a total trip budget of approximately \$3500 each. Now that is my kind of traveling! I love it! Personally, I cannot afford to fly in and out of countries and stay at the local Marriott - nor would I want to. I love to get off the beaten track. If Marriott travel is your bag, this book is probably not your cup of tea. This book is more about "Sound of Music" adventures. Although Karen's account of their stay in Salzburg convinced me to skip it if the opportunity presents itself. The book chronicles visits to Barcelona, Geneva, "Seskie

Beetlejuice, Prague, Krakow, Transylvania, and Naples, with many stops in between. Along the way you learn about some of the history of Eastern Europe, traditions, lodgings, food, beer and most of all the people. Karen mentions several times that her favorite places were associated with the nicest people they met along the way. They meet all kinds of people, have many adventures and learn to be comfortable missing the essential POIs (points of interest) and instead focus on exploring. I love the book and will reread it, especially the section on Transylvania. For anybody thinking about getting off the beaten track and away from the tourist hordes and high prices, you really need to read Karen's Adventures of a Railway Nomad (and check out her blog).

Great book, good mix of anecdotes, history, and practical travel information. Had me mentally planning a trip to Eastern Europe as I was reading it. I enjoyed the author's style and would definitely read more of her work. Travel memoirs can sometimes be hit-or-miss, and this one was mostly a hit. There was a bit more philosophizing than I typically enjoy, but it was less about internal self-discovery and more about complex world issues, which did not seem at all out of place in a chapter about touring concentration camps, to give one example. Overall, I'd recommend it to people interested in travel, although it will probably depress you when you finish reading and don't have the funds for a plane ticket.

This armchair traveler really enjoyed this book. I loved the stories of spontaneity but the trip was well-planned. The writer and her husband are not young (in age) but certainly are youthful. It is a good example that age does not have to be an impediment to still living life fully and courageously. At the age of 71, I will be going to Europe for the first time in a few months and I feel more ready and enthusiastic than I had been before. I also liked that the author provided links to websites for more travel tips.

Really enjoyed this realistic look at people of more mature years staking out an adventure and making it happen. As someone who has also come to terms with a glitchy leg, and learned that I can still go, but how to effectively use cafes, transit and scenic resting spots to my advantage, this aspect of their story was particularly heartening to me. 'The journey of one thousand miles begins with a single step', but luckily you don't have to take them all at once, and probably truly experience places more fully at a slower pace anyway. Great read!

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