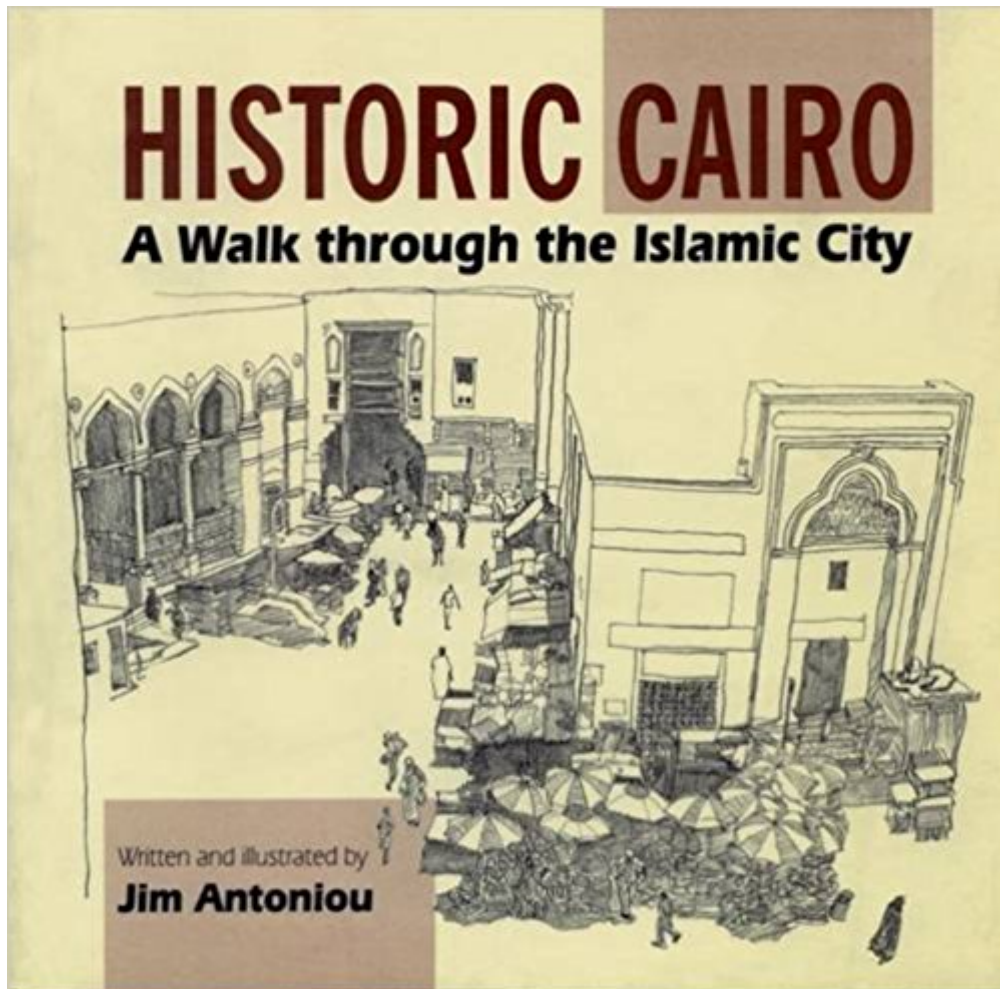




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Historic Cairo - A Walk Through The Islamic City



Synopsis

Cairo contains the greatest concentration of Islamic monuments in the world, and its mosques, mausolea, religious schools, baths, and caravanserais, built by prominent patrons between the seventh and nineteenth centuries, are among the finest in existence. Jim Antoniou takes his readers on a guided walk through the very heart of historic Cairo, among many of its greatest architectural treasures. Illustrated throughout with the author's own detailed maps and plans and lively sketches, the walk begins at the monumental gates in the north walls of the Fatimid city, follows the ancient thoroughfare of al-Mu'izz li-Din Allah south past Khan al Khalili and al-Ghuriya to the Street of the Tentmakers, turns left along the famous Darb al-Ahmar of the Arabian Nights, and ends at the magnificent mosque of Sultan Hasan at the foot of the Citadel. Over ninety historic buildings along the way are identified and described, many of them open to visitors.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jim Anoniou is a British architect and city planner and the author of numerous books and publications, including *Islamic Cities and Conservation*. He has served as senior consultant to the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities for UNESCO and recently for the United Nations in the Rehabilitation of Cairo Project.

What a wonderful book, this beautifully illustrated guide is highly recommended. It's even lovely to evoke Cairo before and after your trip.

This is the very best first guide to Islamic Cairo that I have found, and I own quite a few. It basically describes an essential walk down Al Mu'iz Street from Bab El Futuh (and Al Hakim Mosque) in the north of Fatimid Cairo, through Bab Zuwela in the south and further to Al Hassan Mosque at the foot of the Citadel. The length of the walk is about 2.5 kilometers and is comparable to that from The Times Square to Washington Square Park in Manhattan, or from the Arc de Triomphe to the Louvre in Paris. How long will take you to make that walk? Well, it took me more than 6 full days to finish the first kilometer (from Bab El Futuh to Khan El Khalili) and the rest of the walk will have to wait to a future visit. Things are complicated by the innumerable alleyways that branch off the main walk and that I found impossible to resist venturing into. In that sense, the walk described in the book is only a backbone, but an essential one. There is an incredible number of monuments to see in this part of Cairo and the book is only an introduction (and an excellent one at that) to a very rich part of a 1500 year old city.

My wife and I used this book in 2002 to explore Islamic Cairo. It's a well-written, extremely user-friendly guide to the gems of Fatimid architecture hidden in the alleys and warrens of one of the world's most fascinating cities. A must-read, but also a must-use! Put on your walking shoes, take a quick gulp of cane juice and head off into Cairo.

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