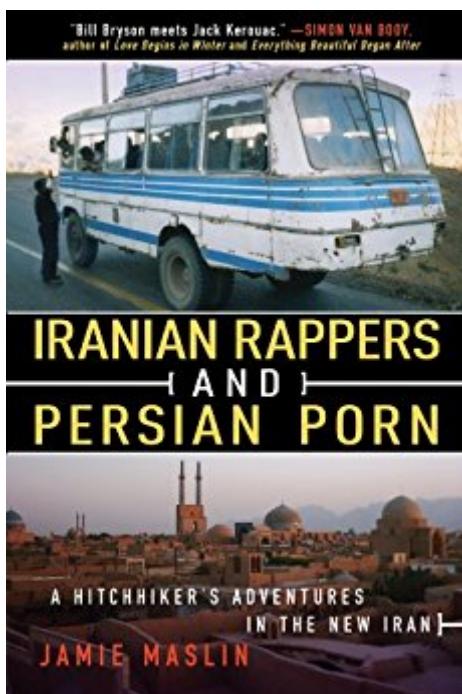


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Iranian Rappers And Persian Porn: A Hitchhiker's Adventures In The New Iran



Synopsis

Iran looms large in the psyche of modern America. For decades, it has been the enemy, its government taunting us and attacking our Western, secular lifestyle. That is largely the Iranian government, however, not the Iranian people. Here is the proof. When Jamie Maslin decides to backpack the entire length of the Silk Road, he decides to travel first and plan later. Then, unexpectedly stranded in a country he's only read about in newspapers, he decides to make the best of it but wonders whether he'll make it out alive. Maslin finds himself suddenly plunged into a subversive, contradictory world of Iranian subculture, where he is embraced by locals who are more than happy to show him the true Iran as they see it; the one where unmarried men and women mingle in Western clothes at secret parties, where alcohol (the possession of which is punishable by hand-amputation) is readily available on the black market, where Christian churches are national heritage sites, and where he discovers the real meaning of friendship, nationality, and hospitality. This is a hilarious, charming, and astonishing account of one Westerner's life-altering rambles across Iran that will leave you wondering what else you don't know about Iran and its people.

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Customer Reviews

great travel book, really enjoyed it. had me hooked from the beginning

a very good travelogue, gives you a feel for everyday life in Iran. the british author is quick to judge and give opinions without fully grasping the ambiguities of complex issues. He has a very superior tone and looks down on a culture that was far more advanced than his own just a few hundred years ago. Maybe reading some more about iranian history and culture would have helped him gain a better intellectual perspective on the subject matter. nevertheless a truly enjoyable read.

Being an American and unable to visit Iran, I was intrigued by Maslin's accounting of his experiences in the country. Years ago when in college I had Iranian friends with whom I've lost touch and often wonder how they fared with the revolution and the Iran-Iraq war.

Admittedly I read books on Iran just because, so the title didn't draw me. Which is good, because who ever thought it up didn't read the book in detail. The author tells a delightful story of his trip through Iran with a sense of humor the British excell at. And Iran is a fascinating place, especially if all you know of it is from the mass media. That said, I'd have liked more insight into the people and places he visited in this ancient, and complex society.

I thoroughly enjoyed this travel diary about a young Brit who takes an extended tour of Iran on less than \$500. He does this mostly because of the incredible generosity of the Iranian people, who never hesitate to offer a meal or a bed to the author, simply because he's a foreigner. As an American constantly inundated with anti-Iranian rhetoric from the media, I found Maslin's experience refreshing and candid. I was lucky enough to get to know a few Iranians in college and always found them to be kind and generous, and this book only reinforces that view. As I read this memoir I found myself laughing out loud and sharing many funny moments with my wife. Read the book and you'll discover these unexpected details of Iranian life: the popularity of Chris de Burgh and "German rock gods" Modern Talking; the effectiveness of the pick-up line "You are beautiful

Love this book! Funny, informative & well written

It is a little too much like reading a friend's blog entries...lots of telling, not so much showing. Everyone is great and everything is neat but you never really feel like you're there with him.

However, it is an interesting glimpse into a world where most of us likely will never go.

I read Persian Porn and Iranian Rappers last weekend - almost in one go - and really enjoyed it, it's a brilliant read. I have read other books on Iran and the Middle East before but none like this. Maslin is the first travel writer to go to Iran and write about the side of life we don't hear about in the media - illegal parties, drinking, what Iranian's really think of their government and how they view the West. One of the great things about this book is that it's so naturally funny throughout. Maslin has an easy way with people, travelling "local style" and gets into all manner of scrapes, adventures and anecdotes. He's a good travel writer because almost everyone he meets seems to embrace him and want to help or show him around. As a result he sees a side of life that most travel writers miss. It also of course helps that he's about the only foreigner who has ever gone to Iran on a tourist visa and people are genuinely fascinated by him. The writing is fast paced, fun and full of hilarious stories and encounters. It's also backed up with loads of useful information about the country, it's history, the people and socio-political facts. For anyone looking to understand more about this fascinating and important country this is a must read. Equally, if you enjoy good travelling writing and reading something really original away from the tedium of so many self absorbed travel authors this is a top choice.

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