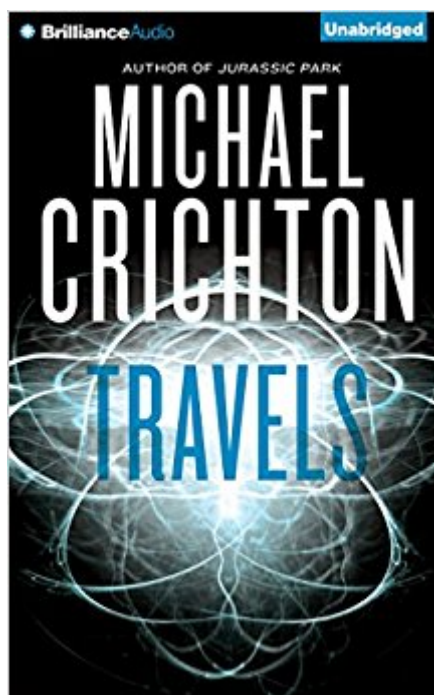


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# Travels



## Synopsis

From the bestselling author of Jurassic Park, Timeline, and Sphere comes a deeply personal memoir full of fascinating adventures as he travels everywhere from the Mayan pyramids to Kilimanjaro. Fueled by a powerful curiosity and by a need to see, feel, and hear, firsthand and close-up—Michael Crichton's journeys have carried him into worlds diverse and compelling—swimming with mud sharks in Tahiti, tracking wild animals through the jungle of Rwanda. This is a record of those travels—an exhilarating quest across the familiar and exotic frontiers of the outer world, a determined odyssey into the unfathomable, spiritual depths of the inner world. It is an adventure of risk and rejuvenation, terror and wonder, as exciting as Michael Crichton's many masterful and widely heralded works of fiction. For Michael Crichton, being a Harvard-trained physician, the author of two bestsellers, and a movie director is not enough. It is, he resolves, time to travel. From swimming with sharks in Tahiti to psychic experiences in the American desert, Crichton records his exhilarating quest through the familiar and exotic frontiers of the outer world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A Harvard medical-school graduate, inveterate traveler and author of, among other books, *The Great Train Robbery* (the film version of which he directed), Crichton seeks in immediate experience of new places and cultures to "redefine" himself and uncover the nature of reality. His curiosity and self-deprecating humor animate recitals of adventures tracking animals in Malay jungles, climbing Kilimanjaro and Mayan pyramids in the Yucatan, trekking across a landslide in Pakistan, scuba

diving in the Caribbean and New Guinea and amid sharks in Tahiti. This memoir includes essays on his medical training and forays into the psychic, including channeling and exorcism, that have led him to conclude that scientists and mystics share the same basic search for universal truth by different paths. 75,000 first printing; BOMC alternate; Franklin Library First Edition selection. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Crichton, an accomplished novelist and filmmaker, here gives us autobiography. The first quarter of the book chronicles his gradual disillusionment with medical school and his decision not to practice medicine. His accounts of visits to remote places in Asia and Africa present a perspective on his personal life. Shuffled among these chapters are accounts of psychic experiences that include channeling, exorcism, and spoon-bending and end with a defense of "paranormal experience." Crichton has had an interesting life, which he writes about in a crisp and disarmingly frank manner. His inner "travels" offer something for almost everyone. Harold M. Otness, Southern Oregon State Coll. Lib., Ashland Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is probably the best autobiography I've read so far from an author. Crichton is a genius & his talents and writing abilities come through in these wonderful vignettes and recollections from his travels. The book is eye-opening and extremely educational about topics such as auras and psychic phenomenon which don't often get serious treatment from such a well-recognized novelist as Crichton. Highly recommended!

This book sounded interesting since Crichton is such a fabulous author. But in this genre, he sucks. His story about browsing for child prostitutes in Asia shows serious lack of judgement in his personal life. He seemed more disappointed about the lack of selection than the fact that it existed at all. Read something from Paul Theroux instead.

Michael Crichton was unquestionably a brilliant and talented man. Based on what he wrote in this book, he was a complicated, self-questioning, and sometimes self-doubting person, like the rest of us. I also consider him to have been a great novelist. He could conjure up great stories and tell them well. I'm left struggling, trying to figure out if he's taking us on another fictional exploration with this book, or if his claims in this book are real experiences. SPOILERS BELOW - stop reading if you

don't want to see them. The most obvious of these is his spoon-bending experience. I have not seen any compelling documentation or evidence that this phenomenon occurs. If it's as easy to learn and perform as Crichton describes, why is it not better documented? Why is there no video evidence of people learning how to do this? And if it were possible and this easy to do, why would people not take advantage of the practical aspects of this ability? It takes expensive tools and energy to shape metal: if people are capable shaping metal so easily at room temperature, why would there not be people doing so for a living? Too many unanswered questions for it to be believable. And it's not reasonable to me that a logical, intelligent person with a scientific background would not even be a little curious about the physical, chemical, and biological implications of this activity. I have to seriously consider if Crichton has written this book to test our ability to suspend disbelief. He was a writer and a movie maker - his job was to get people to believe what seemed plausible or possible, but was not true. I don't know that's what he did here, but it makes more sense to me than it does for him to accept and then routinely dismiss spoon bending as trivial. If it's real, it's neither trivial nor simply a metaphysical trick. It would have to involve physics and chemistry. Most metal is hard at room temperature for well known reasons. For it to become malleable so easily would require a physical change, a new understanding of the physical properties of those metals, or both. We're expected to believe that something so easily demonstrable is not being studied and explored? Or even discussed? The two other possibilities I'm left with are that he believes what he wrote and chose not to consider the implications to the understanding of physics and matter. This is possible, but seems unlikely. The third option is that there was some sort of group influencing effect at work. Possible, but also seems unlikely. This book is an ok read - not great or overly informative. I appreciate him sharing his introspection. I have to question the plausibility of these experiences and his beliefs. So why 3 stars? While there are chapters of this book I enjoyed, much of it I plodded through. His experiences didn't make sense to me, and I could not reconcile them. After the first half or so I found myself just wanting to finish it so I could be done. Much of the writing about his psychic experiences was tedious and repetitive. Worth a read if you interested in this great author's insights and opinions about life and view of the world.

I've always been a big fan of Michael Crichton's work and consider him a literary artist for his ability to simultaneously educate and entertain his audiences. While I found *Travels* to be an interesting read for sure, I didn't find it to be quite the intriguing read that I had envisioned. *Travels* falls well within the 'okay' scale - not fabulous but certainly far from dreadful. It's obvious that his literary muse benefited mightily from his rich life experiences and I for one consider Michael Crichton to be

one of the absolute best authors of our time.

There's a lot to read in "Travels." It's the story of Crichton's time in medical school, his travels to exotic places around the world, and a lot of insight into who Michael Crichton is. Harvard Medical School was fascinating reading, and Crichton's opinions of medicine and medical training gave me a very different perspective on the subject than I was used to. I don't think he would have been happy as a doctor, but in any case, he learned that his real calling was as a writer, and a very good one. The travel stories were fascinating and very descriptive, with the author going to some places that I have never heard of. I especially enjoyed the stories that involved scuba diving, since I'm an avid diver. Each story reveals a bit more about Crichton and who he is. I was not aware that Crichton was into so-called "paranormal" phenomena, but he has spent a good bit of his life investigating these activities. Frankly, some of the paranormal results that he writes about would have been less credible from other writers, but Crichton manages to make these things more credible with his scientific approach and willingness to challenge traditional scientific views. The last chapter, "Postscript," is a classic challenge to scientists to be more open-minded about things that can not always be reproduced on demand in a laboratory. Summary: great writing by a great writer, and a nice look at who Michael Crichton is.

I enjoyed this book, although as you'll soon find out "travels" is writ large to encompass everywhere from Borneo to the Astral Plane. I wasn't expecting the latter portion of his experiences, although it was still somewhat interesting, albeit, silly to me. My favorite bits were his experiences in medical school and his discussions of native cultures. I like how honest and direct he is about his aspirations as well as disappointments. He's clearly a moody guy, and a series of disastrous relationships runs through the book like an Andromeda Strain. Crichton is such a good writer that his prose alone can carry any topic, so this book is easy to enjoy.

I enjoyed reading this book immensely. Crichton touched on my favorite travel subjects. The writing flowed nicely. I just wished it had never ended! I wanted another 200 pages. I know it will inspire others to journey and seek adventure. If more people traveled like Crichton and grew from their experiences, there would not be war.

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