

PAUL THEROUX



Born

Massachusetts, The United States
April 10, 1941

Website

<http://www.paultheroux.com/>

Genre

Travel, Nonfiction, Fiction

Influences

V.S. Naipaul, Joseph Conrad, Henry James, Graham Greene

"Tourists don't know where they've been, travellers don't know where they're going."

Paul Edward Theroux is an American travel writer and novelist, whose best known work is *The Great Railway Bazaar* (1975), a travelogue about a trip he made by train from Great Britain through Western and Eastern Europe, the Middle East, through South Asia, then South-East Asia, up through East Asia, as far east as Japan, and then back across Russia to his point of origin. Although perhaps best known as a travelogue writer, Theroux has also published numerous works of fiction, some of which were made into feature films. He was awarded the 1981 James Tait Black Memorial Prize for his novel *The Mosquito Coast*

Paul Theroux's highly acclaimed novels include *Blinding Light*, *Hotel Honolulu*, *My Other Life*, *Kowloon Tong*, and *The Mosquito Coast*. His renowned travel books include *Ghost Train to the Eastern Star*, *Dark Star Safari*, *Riding the Iron Rooster*, *The Great Railway Bazaar*, *The Old Patagonian Express*, and *The Happy Isles of Oceania*. He lives in Hawaii and on Cape Cod.

Week 3 Features *The Happy Isles of Oceania* which includes Australia.

Theroux graduated from the University of Massachusetts in 1963. Until 1971 he taught English in Malawi, Uganda, and Singapore; thereafter, he lived in England and devoted all his time to writing. Several of his early novels—including *Girls at Play* (1969), *Jungle Lovers* (1971), and *Saint Jack* (1973; film 1979)—centre on the social and cultural dislocation of Westerners in postcolonial Africa and Southeast Asia. His later works of fiction include *The Family Arsenal* (1976), about a group of terrorists in the London slums; *The Mosquito Coast* (1982; film 1986), about an American inventor who attempts to create an ideal community in the Honduran jungle; *My Secret History* (1989); *Millroy the Magician* (1993); *My Other Life* (1996); and *The Elephanta Suite* (2007). *A Dead Hand* (2009) is a crime novel set in India. *The Lower River* (2012) chronicles an elderly man's return to the Malawian village where he had served as a Peace Corps volunteer in his youth. The satirical *Mother Land* (2017) centres on a dysfunctional family headed by a narcissistic matriarch. Some of Theroux's short fiction was collected in *Mr. Bones* (2014).

Britannica: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Paul-Theroux>

List of books in order

<https://www.fantasticfiction.com/t/paul-theroux/>

Biography

<https://biography.yourdictionary.com/paul-theroux>

Various news articles in *The Guardian*

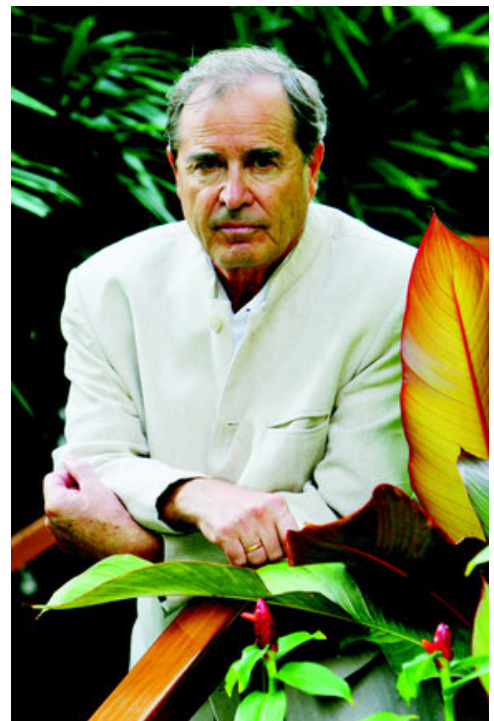
<https://www.theguardian.com/books/paul-theroux>

Movies

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0857623/>

Travel memories

<https://www.cntraveler.com/story/paul-therouxs-earliest-travel-memory-is-a-train-ride-through-new-england>



© Yingyong Un-anongrak