



Britain's Sacred Places

A Guide to Ancient and Modern Sites That Stir the Soul

MARTIN SYMINGTON

A unique full-colour guide to Britain's special places of religious and secular pilgrimage

“A fascinating take on travel in the British Isles” – Sandi Toksvig

“A wonderful, timely guide” - BBC Countryfile Magazine

High-profile, far-reaching press, broadcast and social media campaign

A unique book, first published in 2011 to enthusiastic reviews, now fully revised and updated and included in Bradt's award-winning Slow Travel series.

A burgeoning interest in the spiritual is one of the paradoxes of our increasingly secular age. Organised religion may be waning, but people's sense of the sacred is becoming freer. *Britain's Sacred Places* brings a fresh approach, appealing to readers of any faith – and none.

Includes everywhere from iconic sites such as Westminster Abbey and Stonehenge, to Buddhist temples, celebrity homes (eg. Freddie Mercury) and sites associated with Princess Diana.

Born and raised in Portugal, **Martin Symington** paid yearly visits to his grandparents in Leicester. To return to this industrial city at the heart of Middle England years later, and find it pulsing with Hindu, Sikh and Jain temples was one inspiration for *Britain's Sacred Places*. Other seeds were sown when he followed in the footsteps of millions of medieval pilgrims across the salty sea cliffs of north Wales to drink miraculously clear, sweet water from a holy rock pool below the high tide mark; and when he first observed the remarkable similarities between the faith displayed at religious shrines and the ardent devotion shown by followers at the tomb of Karl Marx. Realising a sense of the sacred in 21st-century Britain takes manifold forms and is to be found in unlikely places, he set off on a quest which took him from Orkney to the southwest tip of Cornwall; and from the wilds of west Wales to the expanses of East Anglia. Time and again, he was astonished by what he discovered.



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