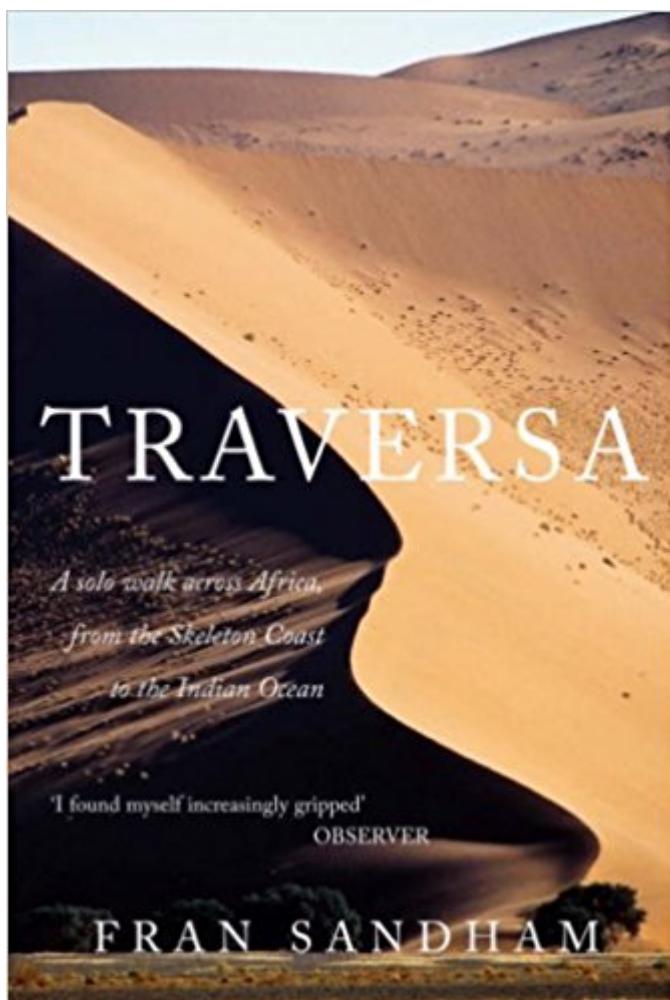


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# Traversa: A Solo Walk Across Africa, From The Skeleton Coast To The Indian Ocean



## **Synopsis**

Inspired by the legendary crossings of the great explorers, Fran Sandham left behind the daily grind of London to undertake an extraordinary adventure. "Traversa" is the funny and engaging story of his epic 3,000-mile solo walk across an entire continent, from Namibia's Skeleton Coast to the Indian Ocean near Zanzibar...

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

'A classic account of one man's struggle to test himself against Nature' - Daily Telegraph. 'Sandham is a likeable and self-deprecating narrator, and I found myself increasingly gripped' - The Observer. 'Real old school adventure... Great stuff' - Adventure Travel. 'Sandham proves to be genial company, approaching the trials of the open road with self-deprecating humour... Above all, it is his enthusiasm for adventure and the variety of human life that makes Traversa so memorable' - New Statesman. 'I REALLY enjoyed this book. It had me laughing out loud' - Emma Gregg, Travel Africa Magazine.

Fran Sandham was an editor at "Rough Guides", and worked as a bookseller and in the voluntary sector before that. He has travelled in over 40 countries. He lives in Brighton and London.

Read it twice, as I suggested it for my Outdoor Activities Book club. We read true stories of historical or today's adventures. I read it a second time to refresh my memory. Fran Sandham writes with a unique twist of words, making it thoroughly entertaining. He's also a very 'average guy'--except for

the walking across Africa---giving his thoughts, & actions something one could relate to---again---except the walking across Africa part.

This is the kind of book I like to savor slowly. I read 5-10 pages a night, and now I'm sorry I'm finished with it. The author is likeable, witty, and does a good job of describing what walking 25 miles a day from Namibia to Tanzania is like. Reminds me of "The Masked Rider" which was about bicycling across Cameroon. I give a strong recommendation to both books. Both writers focus on how they're feeling and what they're seeing and doing at the moment. They're not meant as anthropological treatises, and neither talks in depth about any particular person they encountered. They leave me thinking, "Could I do something this physically difficult?" Could I eat and drink as they did, and survive the assault of mosquitoes and ants? As a vegetarian, I'd have to compromise or starve. Fran Sandham's walk was truly difficult, but parts were pleasant and interesting, and he kept his sense of humor right to the end.

New condition, perfect! Read it already. It's a tale of strife, but he has that crazy British humor so I was laughing out loud.

Subject interesting and there was humor throughout. Although enjoyable reading felt I would like to find out more about the reasons behind the decision to make this journey.

The best thing about Sandham's writing is how it is erudite and conversational at the same time, leaving you with the feeling that you had the good fortune to sit down in a pub next to a world traveler and get the full benefit of hearing him tell not only of his travel in Africa but also of his knowledge of European explorers of Africa, African history in general. There are citations from various famous adventurers, for example, each with a different opinion on what it feels like to survive a near-eating by a lion, or how a part of German Namibia was lost to the British in WWI at a dinner party. I read quite a bit of travel writing, and occasionally pick up a less-known author- in this case I was glad I did. Here's to hoping Sandham undertakes another adventure!

Thursday: 12/24/2009 Fran Sandham is a "Walking Wordsmith". Very good writing about a long walk across Africa. A good blend of a modern walk and the history of the area. I enjoyed the account of the authors Adventure walk so much that I purchased a 2nd copy for my Grandson. The perfect book to lure him away from his computer screen and

I really liked this book! It is the fascinating story of one man who walked across Africa. It is very engaging and I loved hearing about his travels. It made me want to try it!

you learn very little about Africa and its people. The main focus is really the author's endurance and all previous African explorers.

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