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INTRODUCTION

The history of the world is filled with the names of men, and their stories are easy to find, adorning countless monuments. The landmarks of female achievement, on the other hand, are often not so simple to find. There might not always be a towering obelisk to mark their contribution, but look a little closer and you can find monuments to female educators, artists, activists, warriors and more all over the globe. Some are household names; others have been overlooked for too long. Great women don't always make the history books, unfortunately.

But in some places, renowned women have left an unmistakable imprint. This book celebrates their contribution through the ages. It is a collection of landmarks (large and small, obvious and hidden) that are dedicated to great women, as well as spaces where they have gone about their lifework, creating a trail for travellers who want to be inspired by what's possible when you won't take 'no' for an answer.

Inside these pages are advocates for Indigenous peoples, chanteuses, women's suffrage leaders, Olympic athletes, environmentalists, spies, pirates, queens who opposed colonial rule; athletes who excelled in their field, aviators and intrepid adventurers who set off into the unknown, scientists whose discoveries made history and activists who wouldn't accept an unjust status quo. In fact, our greatest challenge was the embarrassment of riches to choose from, and the impossibility of including every deserving figure, both from the annals of history and from the front pages of today's newspapers.

The women profiled have endowed vast swaths of land as environmental preserves, spoken truth to power, marched and organised and protested, often

at great risk and with fatal consequences, holding fast to their ideals even when it cost them their lives. Equally, they have written books, poems and songs that reflect back reader's own experiences, creating a literary treasure trove and, in the case of Murasaki Shikibu, originating the first novel. Some have marched against empire, whether in the form of Rome or a more recent incarnation. And when in power during eras that preferred male rule to a fault, they have strategised and conquered, often earning a scheming reputation as a result.

Often, their actions and beliefs have been circumscribed by the times they lived in, whether education activists who didn't take up the cause of suffrage or political leaders who allowed ethnic divisions to fester. Leaders of any gender identity are all subject to the same pressures and have personal biases. Nor can we know whether figures like Gentleman Jack would keep female pronouns today, outside of the constraints of their own era. Like any identity, that of woman (and feminist and queer) changes over time. It's no single monolithic thing; what's the fun in that?

This is an alternative travel guide to the world: one which documents the impact of incredible women from all walks of life. It shows a glimpse of the too-often forgotten influence of women past and present and celebrates their legacy. For the countless numbers of feminist heroes whom space didn't allow a proper tribute in these pages, we hope you'll find your own way to the streets named in their honour and the sites of their actions. May you always be inspired by their example and emboldened to follow your own path.



ACTIVISTS

‘Only if we understand, will we care. Only if we care, will we help.
Only if we help shall all be saved.’



Gombe Stream National Park

JANE GOODALL

Gombe, Tanzania

Few people have impacted how we define humanity as much as Jane Goodall. In 1958 Dr Louis Leakey chose her to lead chimpanzee research at Gombe National Park, Tanzania, before she even had a university degree; this was unprecedented and yet, decades later, it's obvious that the animal-loving young woman from London (she was only 26 when research began in 1960) was the best choice for the job. Gombe is a small but incredibly biodiverse region of steep valleys, grassland and jungle that's accessible only by boat. Rather than set herself physically and emotionally at a distance from the chimps (the standard for animal research), Goodall slowly became accepted by the animals and developed close bonds with them that led to astounding observations. What she saw included tool-making, hunting for meat and even war in the primates' society. She found so many similarities between chimps and humans that it became

necessary for the scientific community to re-evaluate what distinguishes humans from the rest of the animal kingdom.

But while her decades of groundbreaking chimpanzee research are best known, Goodall is as legendary for her conservation work. She saw early on that her beloved chimps were threatened by habitat destruction and illegal trafficking, leading her to found the Jane Goodall Institute to encourage individual action to help save the natural world. She's also worked with various animal rights groups, and her organisation Roots & Shoots brings young people together to work on environmental and conservation issues. Even in her 80s, she's on the road ~300 days per year raising awareness and money for her causes.

♥ Visitors to Gombe can see Jane's old chimp-feeding station, the viewpoint on Jane's Peak and Kakombe Waterfall.

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The Cathedral of Christ the Saviour

PUSSY RIOT

Moscow, Russia

Founded in August 2011, the feminist protest punk rock band Pussy Riot shot to prominence after their protest appearance at Moscow's Cathedral of Christ the Saviour on 21 February 2012, when the group serenaded those in attendance with their 'punk prayer'. Clad in balaclavas, Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, Maria Alyokhina, Yekaterina Samutsevich and two other bandmates used their lyrics to implore the Virgin Mother to 'deliver us from Putin' and made explicit reference to the alleged collaboration between Russian Orthodox priests and the KGB since the fall of Communism. Pussy Riot's choice of this Kremlin-adjacent cathedral as their protest venue was a guerrilla

move criticised by some as 'blasphemous', and the protest galvanised both sides. Three members of Pussy Riot were sentenced to time in prison for the disruption, with two of them, young mothers, deliberately incarcerated far from their families.

Today the members of Pussy Riot continue to speak out at home and abroad, even invading the pitch at the 2018 World Cup final to stage a protest against Russian human rights abuses. Although they continue to face persecution (one World Cup protest member was hospitalised afterwards with poisoning symptoms), their demands for greater political freedom haven't been silenced despite the repercussions.

📍 The vast, golden-domed cathedral was rebuilt in 1997 and can be visited daily from 10am to 6pm.





ARTISTS



Folies-Bergère

JOSEPHINE BAKER

Paris, France

When Josephine Baker (1906–1975) came on stage at the Folies-Bergère wearing little more than a skirt made of 16 rubber bananas, Paris lost its collective mind. It was 1926, and Baker's *danse sauvage* was like nothing anyone had ever seen. Her gyrations, all jerking pelvis and flying elbows, set to the beat of an African drum, fed Paris' fascination with 'exotic' black culture. Baker made the Belle Époque cabaret *the* place to be.

Baker had grown up not in a jungle but in raw poverty in St Louis. She propelled herself to international fame through fierce will. Today's most dramatic divas can't shake a peacock's feather at her extravagantly eccentric life – adopting a

'You must get an education. You must go to school, and you must learn to protect yourself. And you must learn to protect yourself with the pen, and not the gun.'

'rainbow tribe' of 12 children from around the globe, outfitting her medieval French chateau with a mini golf course, frisking around town with a pet cheetah. All while she managed to be a French Resistance agent and Civil Rights icon.

When Baker hit the Folies-Bergère, the iconic cabaret was already more than 50 years old. It's still going strong today. Revel in its grandeur: imposing art deco façade, gilded turquoise lobby lined with tree-sized candelabras, twinkling red and gold music hall. You won't see any banana dances today, but you can catch modern musicals and rock acts. They may not be quite the spectacle that Baker was, but who ever will be?

📍 The Folies-Bergère still puts on shows at 32 rue Richer in Paris' 9th arrondissement.

'Never let go of that fiery sadness called desire.'



St Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery

PATTI SMITH

Manhattan, USA

It was 10 February 1971, a stinging cold Wednesday night, and every scenester in Manhattan was at church. Andy Warhol was there. So were Lou Reed, and Sam Shepard, and Robert Mapplethorpe. They weren't at St Mark's Church in-the-Bowery to get their souls saved, but for something even more spiritual. Patti Smith was about to go on stage for the first time.

'My goal was not simply to do well, or hold my own', Smith later wrote. 'It was to make a mark at St. Mark's ... I wanted to infuse the written word with the immediacy and frontal attack of rock and roll'.

She did just that. Still several years from punk music stardom, the young poet was a vision in snakeskin boots, her friend Lenny Kaye accompanying with crashing guitar chords. After dedicating the evening to 'thieves', she read poems like 'Oath', which would later transform into the lyrics to her version of the song 'Gloria' ('Christ died for somebody's sins but not mine'). The crowd exploded. It's not what you'd expect to see in a house of worship, but St Mark's has never been an ordinary church. Built in the 1790s, the modest stone building has a long history of hosting avant-garde literature, dance and theatre. Check the online schedule to catch a reading or performance by the next Patti Smith.

📍 St Mark's is at 131 E 10th Street in Manhattan's East Village.

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Haida Gwaii

EMILY CARR

British Columbia, Canada

The islands of Haida Gwaii are the traditional lands of the Haida First Nation. In the early 1900s Emily Carr, an artist born in Victoria, BC, travelled solo to this remote archipelago, an extremely unusual venture for a woman of her time. Many of her paintings reflect the totem poles, hand-carved canoes, misty rainforests, and other elements of the Haida peoples' lives and landscapes. Carr remained relatively little-known until late in her life, but her paintings illustrating these First Nation communities have made her one of Canada's most important early 20th-century painters.

← Air Canada and Pacific Coastal Airlines fly from Vancouver. BC Ferries travel to the islands from Prince Rupert.

Kamala Surayya Memorial

KAMALA DAS

Thrissur, India

In her memoirs and confessional poems, both in English and Malayalam, Kamala Das railed against norms, social conventions, marital abuse and even tradition. She was frank in her writings on sexual love, lust and adultery. Her critics (mostly male) dismissed her talent as mere titillation. Her fans (mostly female) applauded her for an honest portrayal of the patriarchy, and in 1984 Das was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature. Fifteen years later she converted from Hinduism to Islam, taking the name Kamala Surayya. Today the Kamala Surayya Memorial, a rather dull-looking building that captures none of her vividness and vivacity, commemorates her work.

→ Approximately two and a half hours from Kochi (in Kerala). Take a taxi to Punnayurkalam in Thrissur district.



National Jazz Museum

BILLIE HOLIDAY

Harlem, USA

Billie Holiday (1915-1959) is widely considered one of the most influential jazz singers in history, thanks to her silky vocals, masterful command of cadence and unique stylistic delivery. She was born in Baltimore, Maryland, and grew up practising along to records of jazz greats including Louis Armstrong and Bessie Smith; her family moved to New York City in the late 1920s, and this transition would be instrumental in forming the foundation of Holiday's iconic music career. It was there in Harlem where Holiday began performing

at nightclubs, and the rest is history. She went on to record such hits as 'What a Little Moonlight Can Do', 'Lover Man', 'I'll Be Seeing You', and the haunting 'Strange Fruit', which was named the 'song of the century' by *Time* magazine in 1999.

Holiday's work effectively defined the jazz genre, and there's no better place to learn about her legacy than the National Jazz Museum in Harlem. Not only does the museum have informative exhibitions, but it also hosts live music events – check their calendar before you make the pilgrimage to catch a show.

→ To really dive into the history of jazz in Harlem, take a tour of the Apollo, the emblematic venue that hosted some of the most important jazz acts to ever play, including Lady Day.