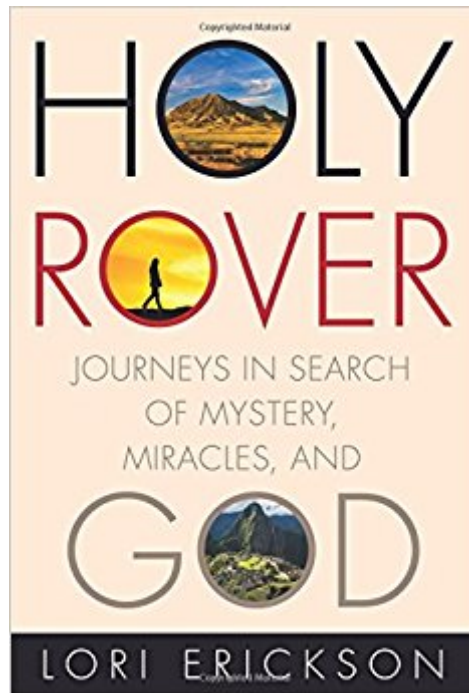




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# **Holy Rover: Journeys In Search Of Mystery, Miracles, And God**



## Synopsis

"Whether describing mystical visions or the rhythms of everyday life, Erickson turns the spiritual journey into a series of exciting transformations." Publishers Weekly (starred review) From her childhood on an Iowa farm, Lori Erickson grew up to travel the world as a writer specializing in holy sites--journeys that led her on an ever-deepening spiritual quest. In *Holy Rover*, she weaves her personal narrative with descriptions of a dozen pilgrimages. Her trips give Erickson the chance to reflect on her Lutheran upbringing, her flirtation with Wicca, and her admiration for Tibetan Buddhism. A trip to the healing shrine of Lourdes is intertwined with the story of her son's serious illness as a baby, while visiting Thoreau's Walden Pond blends with ruminations on being a writer. Along the way, Erickson encounters spiritual leaders who include the chief priest of the Icelandic pagan religion of Asatru, a Trappist monk at Thomas Merton's Gethsemani Abbey, and a Lakota retreat director at South Dakota's Bear Butte. Both irreverent and devout, *Holy Rover* includes images of holy sites around the world taken by several of the nation's leading travel photographers. Travel writer, Episcopal deacon, and author of the *Holy Rover* blog at Patheos, Erickson is an engaging guide for pilgrims eager to take a spiritual journey. Her book describes travels that changed her life and can change yours, too.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Reading *Holy Rover* is like hitting the lotto of a road trip with Anne Lamott, Barbara Brown Taylor, and Elizabeth Gilbert, one filled with intoxicating conversation, exciting discoveries, and plenty of spiritual rule-breaking." --River Jordan, author of *Praying for Strangers: An Adventure of the*

Human Spirit" With grace and wit, Lori Erickson takes us on a pilgrimage to sacred sites around the world. In each location, Erickson reveals a bit more of her own spiritual journey, of her own exploration of the deeper mystical meanings that underlie all faiths. Through her own quest, she becomes a healer and a wise woman, and she invites us to follow her visionary path." --Mary Swander, author of *The Desert Pilgrim: En Route to Mysticism and Miracles*

Lori Erickson is just the sort of person you want to take with you to some of the most spiritual places on the planet. Whether on the scent of Luther in Germany, delving for elves in Iceland, or tracing the footsteps of St. Columba on the island of Iona, Erickson enlightens and informs us as she connects each pilgrimage to her own personal story. Her honest, wise, and humorous prose makes her zigzagging journey, and its search for spiritual truth, our own." --James Harpur, author of *The Pilgrim Journey: A History of Pilgrimage in the Western World*

Holy Rover takes you on an exciting tour of holy places and stopping points on a personal discovery of spiritual insight. The writing is so good that you'll speed through this book and wish it didn't end. Add the perfect touch of humor, and you won't realize how much serious ground historically and theologically you've covered. Read it with pleasure." --Thomas Moore, author of *Care of the Soul and Ageless Soul*

Lori Erickson's sense of adventure and sense of the sacred as well as her open spirit and love of life made me grateful to follow her wherever she went. Lively prose, rich descriptions, and anecdotes that are in turn poignant, funny, and mysterious all combine to make this a wondrous journey." --Rivvy Neshama, author of *Recipes for a Sacred Life: True Stories and a Few Miracles*

Lori Erickson is one of the country's top travel writers specializing in spiritual journeys. She has published more than one thousand articles in national and regional publications, including *National Geographic Traveler*, *Woman's Day*, *Family Circle*, *Better Homes & Gardens*, and *House Beautiful*.

Lori Erickson writes with refreshing honesty about the spiritual journey, free from judgment and dogma. Whether your wanderings take you around the world or into your backyard, far from the religion of your youth or just a few steps away, you will find a fascinating, wise and compassionate guide in Lori.

Whether you are a seeker or believer or somewhere in between this book will touch you, speak to you then likely lead you to your own pilgrimages. This reader resonated to experiences and insights of the author. Sometimes her words made me laugh aloud; other passages brought tears to my eyes. I so enjoy a book that evokes both feeling and intellectual stimulation. And, through it all she

comes across as so authentic! My hope is that other books will follow...

I want to travel with Lori Erickson! Her openness and honesty about her spiritual journey through her travels interweaving with her personal life drew me to new perspectives in my own spiritual life. I felt I was at her side as she guided me along. I learned things about the spiritual places she visited that I didn't know and she gave me new insight into their significance. She demonstrated that our everyday surroundings can be spiritual places too. I highly recommend this book!

Lori Erickson is a great trip buddy - warm, witty, open to adventure, and full of heart. I laughed out loud, marveled at the mysteries and was moved to tears - often in the same story. For those of us who count ourselves among the spiritual "odds and ends," HOLY ROVER is provocative, liberating . . . and fun.

Loved each pilgrimage--I felt a deep longing to now visit those places she journeyed throughout her life. A new friend has been found since I loved her clarity, humor, wit, and honesty throughout the book. Wept through Chapter 9, which made me wish I had known about Healing Touch when I went through my own cancer battle. An inspirational book as she does the work in her search for a deeper faith and vision of God.

I don't consider myself to be a religious person. I bought this book after a friend recommended it for the travel descriptions and I loved it! This turned out to be much more than a simple travel book or a mere religious history book. When Erickson travels to Ephesus in Turkey, I feel like I was riding right along with her. I learned about Turkey's rich history and, without realizing it, was also learning a new perspective to travel and to life. It turns out that you don't have to be a monk to go on pilgrimage! Erickson shed light on something that I had sensed, but never really thought about: many of my past trips could be called a pilgrimage because I went with a question. I recommend this book for travelers of all kinds--no matter if you fly across the world or across your own neighborhood, the lessons of Holy Rover will quietly have a positive influence in your life.

Holy Rover is written as if you were walking along with Lori Erickson. It is simple, yet deep. It is witty, yet non-judgmental and kind. I laughed out loud and cried, often in the same story. It is an easy read. While I wasn't even realizing it, I learned so much about my world, my views, my

spirituality. I highly recommend Holy Rover.

Written so beautifully - I feel like I am in these places with her. Excellent read.

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