

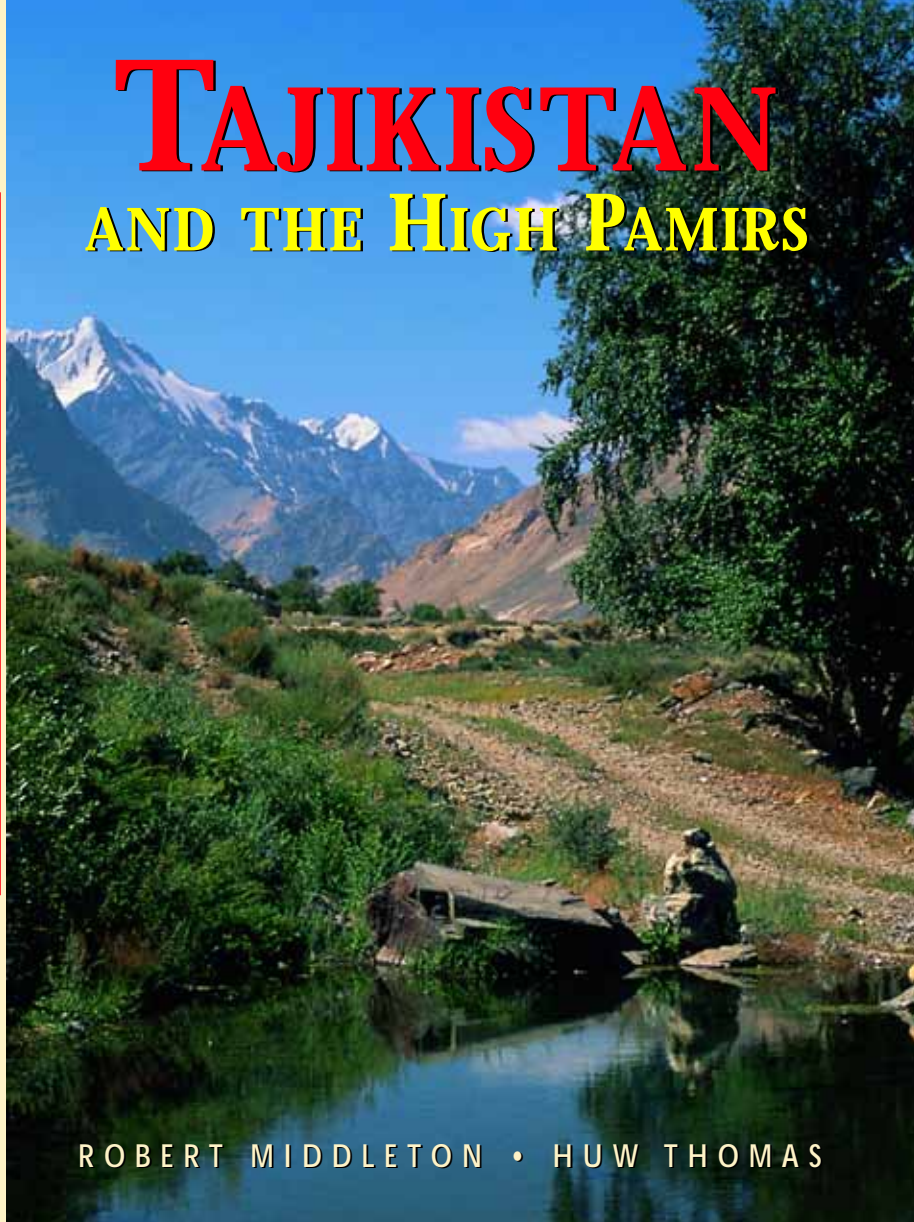


TAJIKISTAN AND THE HIGH PAMIRS

ROBERT
MIDDLETON
HUW THOMAS



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Tajikistan and the High Pamirs: A Companion and Guide includes contemporary photography, historical images and images of artefacts from the world's great museums, and is accompanied by a full complement of maps and city plans from **Markus Hauser**, a cartographer with specialist knowledge of the region (pamirmountains@yahoo.com). The work contains full practical information for travellers, whether they are going on adventure and trekking holidays, or visiting the historical relics of the Silk Road, and the many civilisations which have left their mark on the territory of present-day Tajikistan. Furthermore, this book will also interest armchair travellers, with chapters on history, culture, and a section dedicated specifically to the history of the exploration and adventurers in the Pamirs from the earliest travellers to the Russian and Soviet presence. A selection of essays by academic experts on topics such as wildlife, botany, geology, archaeology and music will secure this publication a place not only as the most informative tourist guide available on Tajikistan, but also an invaluable work of historical and cultural reference.



Tajikistan is one of the last undiscovered tourist destinations. However, partly because of the legacy of civil war and its reputation as the poorest of the former Soviet Republics, it has received little attention from the guidebook market or from international tour operators. In recognition of Tajikistan's remarkable natural resources and tourism potential—trekking and mountaineering, wildlife, exceptional scenery, and tangible remnants of a history that stretches back over 10,000 years—**Odyssey Publications** proudly fills the gap with this handsome work, *Tajikistan and the High Pamirs: A Companion and Guide*.



Fringed by the two great rivers of Central Asia, the Oxus and the Jaxartes, Tajikistan can boast not only of breathtaking mountain scenery, but also more than 3,000 years of history. The land where Alexander the Great fought desperately against the Scythian nomads, his most formidable adversaries, Tajikistan is an ancient cradle of Persian culture. Originally, it was the home of the Sogdians, the famous trading peoples of the Silk Road; eventually this country was at the heart of the 19th century "Great Game", a place of contention for the adventurers and spies of Britain and Imperial Russia. Now recovering from the misfortunes of the 20th century—the travails of Soviet rule and several years of civil war—it is able to offer visitors not only its legacies of cultural and ethnic diversity, but also unparalleled opportunities for adventure.

Robert Middleton worked for the Aga Khan Foundation as Legal Adviser and Co-ordinator of Tajikistan programs from 1985 until his retirement in 2003. He currently assists local and international non-profit organizations to promote tourism in the region. He lives in Switzerland.

Huw Thomas became Program Director of the Aga Khan Health Service, Tajikistan from 1999 to 2003 after he retired as Chief Executive of Gwynedd Health Authority in North Wales. He has returned frequently to Tajikistan from his home in Anglesey, Wales.



- **Mountaineering and trekking on the roof of the world**
- **Historical insights into explorers and travellers of the ancient Silk Road**
- **Vital insight into a crucially positioned nation**
- **Culture, music and ethnic traditions**
- **Dushanbe, Central Asia's friendliest capital city**
- **Essays on wildlife, botany, geology and archaeology including a contribution by Dr George Schaller**
- **700 pages, 240 colour photographs, 17 maps & drawings**

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