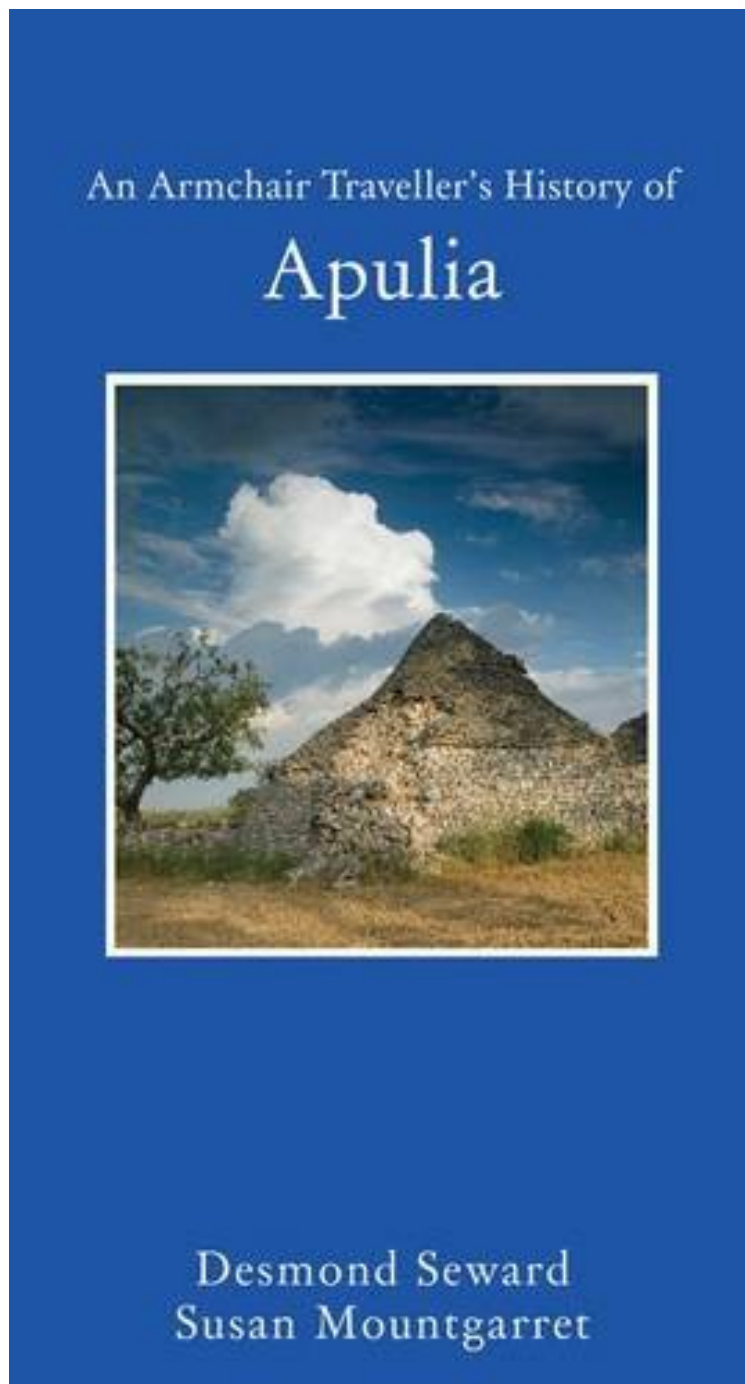


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An Armchair Traveller's History of Apulia

Desmond Seward

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By LSCThis was a great companion for my trip to Apulia --not the most popular tourist destination. This is a grouping by city of travelers' journals and letters from the 1600s to the 1900s--so it is very interesting to read about the various places over the centuries. I thought it was very interesting, a combination of history lessons and travelogues.
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An Armchair Traveller's History of Apulia is the story of the heel of Italy - Puglia - as told by past and present day travellers. It has beautiful landscapes, cave towns and frescoed grotto churches, wonderful old cities with Romanesque cathedrals, Gothic castles and a wealth of Baroque architecture. And yet, while far from inaccessible, until quite recently it was seldom visited by tourists. This portrait of Apulia concentrates on the Apulian people down the ages. Conquerors, whether Messapians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Lombards, Byzantines, Normans, Angevins, Germans or Spaniards, have all left their mark on the region in a cultural palimpsest that at first sight bewilders, but which hugely repays investigation. Arranged in short chapters, the narrative travels from north to south, making it an ideal companion for exploring Apulia by car. The Gazetteer, which is cross-referenced to the main text, highlights cities, churches, cathedrals, castles and sites of historical importance to the visitor. For travellers on the ground or students at their desks, this elegant, cloth-bound book will prove invaluable.

About the Author
Desmond Seward, who studied at St Catharines College, Cambridge, is a historian and the author of many books, including *The Monks of War: The Military Religious Orders* and *A Brief History of the Hundred Years War*. Susan Mountgarret is the coauthor of *Byzantium: A Journey and a Guide*.