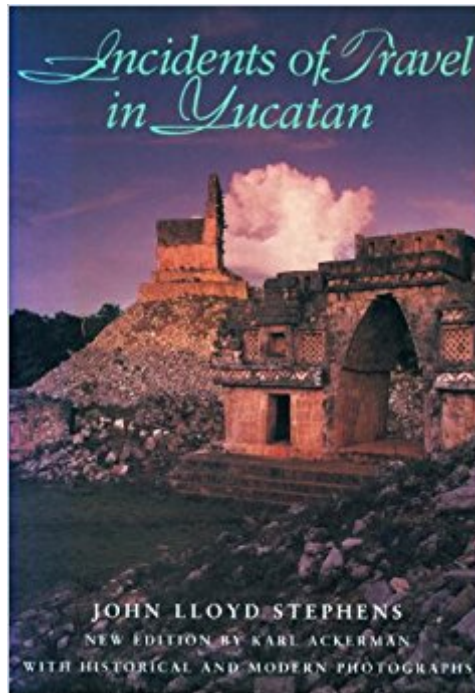




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# Incidents Of Travel In Yucatan (Abridged)



## Synopsis

A lively, eloquent guide to the Maya ruins of Mexico's Yucatan peninsula, as entertaining today as when it was first published in 1843, Stephens' guide recounts his two trips made to the region between 1839 and 1842. It includes extensive accounts of 44 Maya sites as well as of Yucatan folkways, manners, dress, ceremonies, amusements—all of which makes this a great travel book. Now published in a single-volume edition, *Incidents of Travel in Yucatan* captures for the modern reader and traveler the excitement of archaeological exploration and discovery.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As director of the Ocean Steam Navigating Company and president of the Panama Railway Company, Stephens (1805-1852) knew a lot about travel, and he wrote about it. His first book, *Incidents of Travel in Central America, Chiapas and Yucatan*, went through 12 printings and earned its author \$15,000 in its first three months, making him one of America's first bestselling writers. Edgar Allen Poe called it "perhaps the most interesting book of travel ever published." This more seasoned and focused account of Stephens's second trip, originally published in 1843, is packed with detailed accounts of travels in newly discovered Mayan ruins and with equally fascinating lithographs by his travel companion, Frederick Catherwood. Through Stephens's eyes, readers see Yucatan villages of 150 years ago, when Indians used cacao beans instead of money in their marketplaces; a Catholic/indigenous hybrid funeral that seems no more barbaric than the crude medical treatments rendered by another of Stephens's travel companions, Dr. Cabot, on their Mayan guides. One of the first to acknowledge that indigenous Americans might have built the great

American pyramids and temples, not Egyptians, Greeks or one of the lost tribes of Israel, Stephens voiced a rare, nonjudgmental viewpoint in a time when European cultural elitism was the unquestioned norm. Not just a curiosity for archeology buffs or cultural studies types, this is also an informative, intriguing guide for armchair travelers. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

“Perhaps the most interesting book of travel ever published.”—Edgar Allan Poe  
“Through Stephens’s eyes, readers see Yucatan villages of 150 years ago, when Indians used cacao beans instead of money in their marketplaces; a Catholic/indigenous hybrid funeral that seems no more barbaric than the crude medical treatments rendered by another of Stephens’s travel companions, Dr. Cabot, on their Mayan guides. One of the first to acknowledge that indigenous Americans might have built the great American pyramids and temples, not Egyptians, Greeks or one of the lost tribes of Israel, Stephens voiced a rare, nonjudgmental viewpoint in a time when European cultural elitism was the unquestioned norm. Not just a curiosity for archeology buffs or cultural studies types, this is also an informative, intriguing guide for armchair travelers.”—Publishers Weekly

My wife and I visited these sites. The narrative is outstanding!

The books are fantastic, but it was the vendor that impressed me. Mailing labels obviously got switched and I got someone’s Greek Art book who lived in South Dakota. I contacted the vendor and he bent over backwards to make it right. I was absolutely impressed. Mistakes happen from time-to-time. and sometimes you simply get ignored. Not this guy. He made it right, e.g. I got the books I ordered, he gave me a credit for shipping the wrong book I received to South Dakota, and he communicated frequently to make sure the issue got resolved.

Unlike the Kindle version of Stephens’s prior book, "Incidents of Travel, Central America, Chiapas, Yucatan," this later volume includes the sketches by Catherwood, which add immeasurably to enjoyment of the story. The text is nearly flawless, with only the occasional scanning error. Stephens’s prose, as before, is immensely enjoyable: highly literate, carefully descriptive, laced with compassion and gentle irony: "Just as we were leaving the ruins a messenger came to inform us that one of our pistols had shot an Indian. These pistols had never shown any particular antipathy to Indians, and had never shot one before..." Written in the last days before photography brought the world face-to-face with itself, the blend of Stephens’s prose and Catherwood’s

illustrations carry us back to the Age of Exploration in rich, immediate power. Kindle note: there is a Table of Contents with linked chapters, but the TOC button is grayed out on the "Go To" menu.

The two volume Dover edition is much much better. This is watered down, and doesn't contain the important details that make it so interesting. It has very few of the illustrations found in the two volume set. This was a big let down. I bought this thinking it was similar to the Dover addition which a friend of mine owned.

The original book is great reading for the style with which Stephens writes, for the view of the life at those times in Mexico, for the view of the life of the Indians, and for the sheer adventure of moving through the jungle, fighting malaria, to track down ancient ruins in the 1800s at a time when what is now the "Mayan Riviera" was only myth and rumor. The drawings by Catherwood are fascinating, and the whole adventure is more amazing for being a true story. This edition has been significantly edited by Ackerman, I think lessening the power of the original, which at the moment is not sold by , but this edition combines the two books into one. 5 stars for the Stephens/Catherwood book, 3 for this version of it.

Smooth transaction.

Nice set

The book came quickly and was in great shape. All in all a very easy transaction and I'm pleased with the process.

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