

Sites of Antiquity

50 Sites that that Explain the Classical World

By Charles Freeman

From Ancient Egypt to the Fall of Rome

The Pyramids, the Parthenon, the ruins of Pompeii and the soaring dome of Hagia Sophia are familiar icons. But what does one have to do with another?

In this brilliantly illustrated account, *Sites of Antiquity*, historian Charles Freeman chooses 50 of the greatest ancient sites to trace the progress of Classical civilisation.

Freeman takes 50 sites from Syria and Sinai to southern France and the Solway Firth, stretching right across what became the Roman Empire to show how civilisation developed in the Mediterranean and spread throughout Europe, Asia Minor, North Africa and parts of Arabia.

- Why was the female pharaoh Hatshepsut always depicted with a beard?
- What events could once expect to see at the ancient Olympic Games?
- When did the Romans invent concrete?

Freeman's narrative, filled with illuminating facts, bring sense and order to our perceptions of the Classical world, presenting the bigger picture alongside the innumerable seemingly trivial and human details which are so essential to a full understanding.

The **Sites of Antiquity** themselves set everything in context and help explain how history fits together.

- How did such riches emerge from the sands of Egypt;
- when did Greek democracy develop;
- how and under whom did Rome become an empire and inculcate its values and rule of law in its subject peoples;
- and ... what was the impact on that empire of the followers of a prophet from Nazareth who refused to sacrifice to the pagan gods?

All 50 sites can still be visited today: this book explains their role and purpose, breathing life into their mellow and evocative ruins.

About the author

Charles Freeman is a freelance academic historian with a long-standing interest in Italy and the Mediterranean. His 'Egypt, Greece and Rome, Civilizations of the Ancient Mediterranean' is widely used as an introductory textbook to the ancient world. He leads study tours of Classical Greece, Italy and Turkey and is Historical Consultant to the Blue Guides.

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Charles Freeman is available for interview

For a review copy, more information, or to arrange an interview please contact Carol Farley at the Farley Partnership on -
T - 01797 253668 Mob - 0780 858 6640 E - carol.farley@farleypart.com

