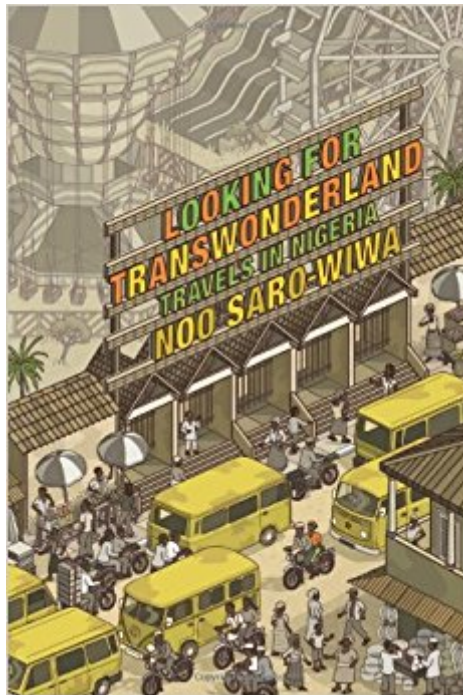




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# Looking For Transwonderland: Travels In Nigeria



## Synopsis

Noo Saro-Wiwa was brought up in England, but every summer she was dragged back to visit her father in Nigeria; a country she viewed as an annoying parallel universe where she had to relinquish all her creature comforts and sense of individuality. After her father, activist Ken Saro-Wiwa, was killed there, she didn't return for several years. Recently, she decided to come to terms with the country her father given his life for. Saro-Wiwa travels from the exuberant chaos of Lagos to the calm beauty of the eastern mountains; from the eccentricity of a Nigerian dog show to the decrepit kitsch of the Transwonderland Amusement Park. She explores Nigerian Christianity, delves into the country's history of slavery, examines the corrupting effect of oil, and ponders the huge success of Nollywood. She finds the country as exasperating as ever, and frequently despairs at the corruption and inefficiency she encounters. But she also discovers that it is far more beautiful and varied than she had ever imagined, with its captivating thick tropical rainforest and ancient palaces and monuments. Most engagingly of all, she introduces us to the many people she meets, and gives us hilarious insights into the African character, its passion, wit and ingenuity.

## Book Information

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Travel Writing

## Customer Reviews

**\*Starred Review\*** The daughter of slain Nigerian activist Ken Saro-Wiwa revisits her homeland as an adult in this absorbing tour of that complex African country. As a child, Saro-Wiwa resented being pulled from her life in London to be shuttled off to Nigeria with her family. Now she devotes

several months to getting to know the country as an adult. She begins her journey in Lagos, staying with a family friend and braving perilous public transportation to visit the heart of the Nigerian oil industry, a local museum, and a beach, where she's courted by a charming con man. She finds the new capital of Abuja, where her older brother now lives, cleaner and less congested than Lagos, but it lacks the former capital's lively character. Saro-Wiwa had high hopes for Transwonderland, an amusement park built in Ibadan, but it's run-down and essentially deserted. As she tours the country and gets to know people from its many ethnic groups, she gains a better understanding of and appreciation for Nigeria. Saro-Wiwa is a sharp and insightful guide, giving readers an intimate look at the varied regions that comprise this fascinating country. --Kristine Huntley

Praise for *Looking for Transwonderland*"The remarkable chronicle of a journey home from exile."  
#151;The New York Times Book Review"The daughter of slain Nigerian activist Ken Saro-Wiwa revisits her homeland as an adult in this absorbing tour of that complex African country#133;As she tours the country and gets to know people from its many ethnic groups, she gains a better understanding of and appreciation for Nigeria. Saro-Wiwa is a sharp and insightful guide, giving readers an intimate look at the varied regions that comprise this fascinating country."  
#151;Booklist (Starred)"The author allows her love-hate relationship with Nigeria to flavor this thoughtful travel journal, lending it irony, wit and frankness."#151;Kirkus

I enjoyed reading this book because, while (as expected) it tells about the various parts of Nigeria, it does it from the viewpoint of a writer who is from a Nigerian family and spent time there annually as a child. Her encounters are certainly the real Nigeria, and the details of the culture, the people, the history that she gives are intriguing. What impression will her re-acquaintance with her "home" country leave her with? Well-written.

A great read that honestly describes the various cities and cultures in Nigeria

Loved the book! So interesting. Cool to hear about someone's trip to modern Nigeria and her thoughts on how Nigeria can develop.

Through my professional career, I had the opportunity to travel to Lagos and Port Harcourt; through these travels developed several long lasting friendships with Nigerians from several tribes. This

books expounds on my personal travels and allowed me visit other places within this great country. Definitely recommend to any new traveler to Nigeria.

I had to read this book for a 101 class, and the unit for this book was the easiest unit just because reading was enjoyable! Sara-Wiwa has such a unique perspective on Nigerian life, and the book is a travel book presented as a narrative.

This humorous and very well written book throws new light on life in Nigeria. Noo, could you please provide the address of your aunt in Lagos and ask her to open a guest house (with or without electricity or running water). I will be her first customer.

I read her prior book and loved it. This one makes me want to tour Nigeria.

A wonderful update on the tragedy that is modern Nigeria. I lived there 1966-73 and things were a lot better then! Well done Noo!

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