

**ALONG
MEDITERRANEAN
SHORES**

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Along Mediterranean Shores by Mary Frances Willard

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MARY FRANCES WILLARD

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SHORES**



MINARET WITH MUEZZINS, CAIRO

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ALONG MEDITERRANEAN SHORES

BY
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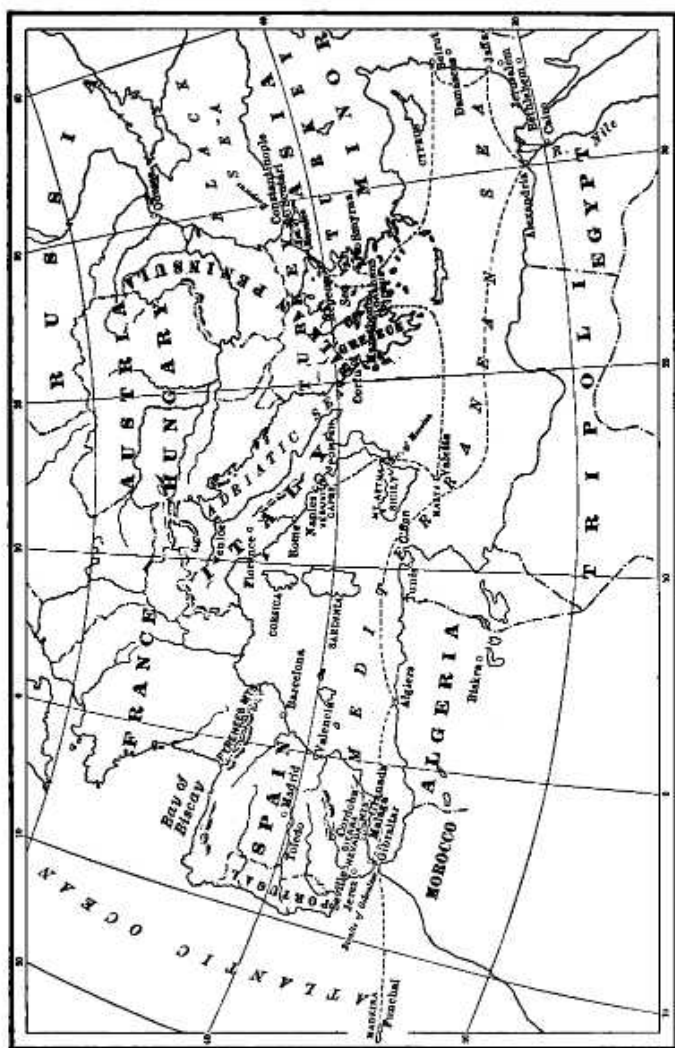
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CONTENTS

	PAGE
OUT ON THE ATLANTIC	7
MADEIRA, THE FAIRY ISLAND	18
SPAIN, A LAND OF DEPARTED GLORY	
I. Gibraltar	32
II. Granada and the Alhambra	47
III. Madrid	59
ALGIERS, A HOME OF THE MOORS	67
EGYPT, THE CHILD OF THE NILE	85
ASIATIC TURKEY, THE LAND OF THE SUNRISE	
I. Jerusalem	122
II. Beirut and Damascus	151
III. Smyrna	162
TURKEY, THE LAND OF THE CRESCENT	
I. Constantinople	171
II. The Bosphorus	199
ATHENS, THE CRADLE OF ART AND STORY	205
MALTA, THE ISLAND FORTRESS	231
ITALY, THE TREASURE HOUSE OF ART AND BEAUTY	
I. Naples	239
II. Mount Vesuvius and Pompeii	249
III. Capri and the Blue Grotto	260
INDEX AND PRONOUNCING VOCABULARY	265



ALONG MEDITERRANEAN SHORES
 Showing the traveler's route

ALONG MEDITERRANEAN SHORES

OUT ON THE ATLANTIC

How would you like to go on a pilgrimage with me? In old times pilgrims toiled over thousands of weary miles on foot and suffered many perils on land or sea in their long journey to the Holy Land; but you and I need only to board a luxurious ocean steamer. Our pilgrimage will be to the Holy Land too, and on the way we shall see many other strange and interesting countries, for I wish to take you with me on a trip lasting many weeks, along the warm shores of that greatest of inland seas, the Mediterranean.

There we shall see many lands famous in the history of the world. Over the blue Mediterranean the Phœnicians, the earliest sailors and traders we know about, rowed their small boats. Along its shores coasted the Greek triremes, with their three banks of oars and their one large sail, on their peaceful journeys to their colonies in Italy or Sicily. On its surface floated the war galleys of the proud Romans, bearing the soldiers who were to meet and subdue all the nations around its shores. Later the cruel Turks crossed it, fighting to set the crescent of Mohammed above the cross of Christ. Rich Venetian and Genoese galleons followed, carrying the precious spices and silks of the East

from the shores of Asia to European cities. And to-day the ships of every nation ride at anchor in its many ports, men-o'-war from Japan and Russia side by side with ocean greyhounds from New York or Calcutta and huge freighters from South America or China.

We shall enter the Mediterranean by its one gateway, the strait of Gibraltar, a piece of water about eight miles wide at its narrowest point, between Spain and Africa. The ancient Greeks and Romans supposed that beyond this strait lay a boundless ocean stretching out to the end of the world. No one ever went out of sight of land once he passed outside, unless he was driven out to sea by a storm, in which case he never returned to tell the story. Yet those hardy seafarers, the Phœnicians, ventured to sail their boats all around the Spanish peninsula and across to England to get the highly prized tin from mines in Cornwall; and it was they who planted the first colonies on the north coasts of Africa and in southern Spain. Their home was the extreme eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea, the coast we now know as Syria. Their daring trips served as examples to the other dwellers around the inland sea.

The Greeks, whose history and language are the most ancient of any European people of to-day, were great sailors and came to know their own part of the sea so well that they no longer skirted the coasts to reach their allied cities in Italy and Asia Minor, but even sailed bravely out of sight of land for hours at a time. Perhaps you do not think that would take much courage, but ask any sailor how far he would be willing to go without a compass in his boat,