

Hidden France is a special book by David Scherpenhuizen and Nathalie van Koot about esoteric and occult locations in France. It was first published in the Netherlands in 2006. You can sign a petition for an English version by visiting our English-language site on facebook. Just enter the search term "Hidden France".

Hidden France: In Search of France's Occult Legacy (a synopsis)

Come with us on a journey through time and space.

Follow the winding path back into the past and witness those events, which fell through the cracks of recorded history.

Back to ancient Egypt where a group of Gnostics founded a faith based on self-perfection.

Back to the dawn of Christianity when Jesus sowed the seeds of a new religion but was his true message recorded in the Bible?

Back to the mid first century when Mary Magdalene washed up on the shores of southern France bringing with her Jesus' true legacy.

Back to the fall of the Jerusalem Temple and the birth of Christianity when the Church fathers usurped Jesus' teachings.

Back to the twilight of the 11th century when a small cabal of mystics and visionaries hatched a daring plot to retrieve the secrets buried under Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem.

Follow the Crusaders as they fight their way across Asia Minor to liberate Jerusalem.

Witness the birth of the mysterious Knights Templar and see their rise to wealth and power.

See the emergence of the first cathedrals in France, testimonies to the glory of God and man's ingenuity, and repositories of esoteric knowledge.

Who built the cathedrals and why?

Watch as the Crusaders' kingdom in the Middle East slowly shrinks and is eventually swept away by the tide of history and see the Knights Templar broken on the rack of the French king's avarice and ambition.

Watch as the forces of the Church sweep across the Languedoc like the wrath of god to crush the Cathar heresy.

See how the legacy of the Knights Templar is scattered to the four winds and slowly coalesces into a new form; Freemasonry.

Finally, see all the strands of history come together in the tiny village of Rennes-le-Château, where the parish priest makes a startling discovery.

Travel to the dark forests of the southern Ardennes and visit the castle of Godfrey of Bouillon, one of the leaders of the First Crusade.

Visit the mysterious Abbey of Orval, a centre of esoteric knowledge and learning.

Cross the border into France and stop in Reims to marvel at the towering spires of its awesome cathedral and unlock its secrets.

Move on to Troyes with its timber-work houses and rich history. Visit the nearby abbey of Fontenay and the tiny village of Lirey, where the Turin Shroud first appeared.

Travel on to Vézelay, a centre of Mary Magdalene worship.

Alight in Paris, a veritable treasure trove of mysteries and Masonic heritage. Visit Chartres, home to one of the world's most beautiful cathedrals, and stroll through Rouen, where Joan of Arc met her fiery end.

Move south to Avignon, the one-time seat of papal power. Stand on the shores of Mediterranean at the tiny village of Saintes Maries, where Mary Magdalene came ashore.

Then westwards into the Languedoc where the bloody crusade against the Cathars was waged. See the tragedy and admire the majesty of the countryside, steeped in mystery and tradition.

See Béziers, the site of the first massacre. Wander through the narrow, cobblestone alleys of medieval Carcassonne. Climb the winding road to the enigmatic village of Rennes-le-Château. Visit the mysterious crag of Montségur, the last bastion of the hapless Cathars. Our journey of discovery concludes with the splendour of Toulouse.

