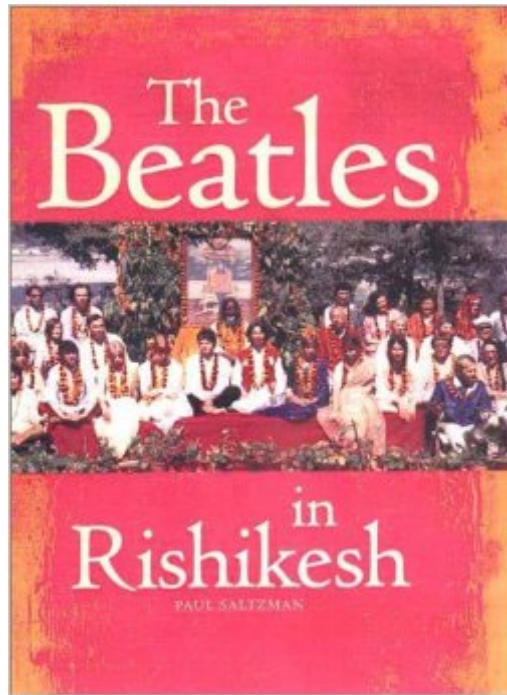


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# The Beatles In Rishikesh



## Synopsis

In February 1968 The Beatles came to Rishikesh to study transcendental Meditation with Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. During this time they wrote most of the songs that were later to become the White Album. No professional photographers were allowed inside the Ashram but the group had no objections to Saltzman freely snapping pictures during their time together. The pictures are reproduced in this lavishly designed book along with Saltzman's account of his experiences with the band.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is so great it hardly matters, but that was what I heard through the grapevine that made me want to check it out. As any fan knows, The Beatles wrote most of the White Album during their brief stay in Rishikesh, where George dragged them to study transcendental meditation. They took off when the Maharishi allegedly fondled Mia Farrow, but not before writing Dear Prudence, Ob-La-Di, Back in the USSR, Sexy Sadie ("Ma-ha-rish-i..what have you done? Made a fool of everyone...") This book is an incredible look at that creative time, and it's obvious through the pictures and through Saltzman's story that -- contrary to popular belief -- they were still happy working together, funny and loose, and very much a family. But you can also see how it would be the last happy time together -- John was considering ending an unhappy marriage, George was being drawn further into Indian music, and Ringo was tiring of the non-stop circus. As such this book captures one of the most pivotal interludes of their history. The book is a record of the experience

every Beatles fan wishes he or she had: Salzman got to hang out with them, talk to them, hear a private concert, watch John and Paul try to work through Ob-La-Di, et cetera. The photos are wonderfully intimate -- you can even see the sunburn on Pauls' nose, and John reveals himself completely to the camera -- and the design of the book is fantastic, vivid and funky. It's an utterly captivating book, a must-have for anyone interested in the band that changed the world. (Whether Salzman is Rocky Raccoon or not.)

I just read it last night. The pictures are beautiful, intimate, and candid. Everyone looks so relaxed. But there was not actually that much content in the written part of the book. I was surprised because it looked like a long book with lots of info from the outside, but has huge print. It was more like an essay than a book. What makes it great is to hear from someone that was there, and to see the Beatles in unrehearsed moments. I loved it! Beautiful!

The photographs in this book are truly a treat for any Beatle aficionado as well as anyone who comes across this book. Although there is little in the way of fresh factual material, the pictures, text and recreating the 1967-1968 period in the Beatles' career is sure to delight any reader. I like the way the author describes the sitar, an Indian stringed musical instrument that Ravi Shankar and George Harrison popularized in Western music. This book shows the cultural blending, the introduction to the western world at large a musical instrument that was, for many years, not well known outside of the middle east. George, under Shankar's tutelage masters the sitar and the Eastern influence can be heard in many of his later works as well as post-Beatles works. John Lennon, of late 1965 "Norwegian Wood" fame is not as entranced with the eastern world and eastern philosophy as his bandmate. John, from all accounts, keeps an open mind, yet maintains his own established values and beliefs. His approach to the Eastern experience appears to be that of an intellectual curiosity; he does not appear to embrace it on a personal or philosophical level. He seems to remain outside, yet looking in with the idea of learning more about what he is witnessing. I think most Beatles fans will appreciate the book. It does a rather thorough job of covering the Beatles' 1967 trip to India and the influences their trip east had on them for the remainder of their careers together as a band. It is, in some ways a refreshing peek behind the Eastern curtain into a part of their lives that many other works do not cover as fully.

The images in this book are truly amazing. To see The Beatles in such casual poses and such an informal setting is a true treat, especially when compared to some of the more 'posed' and

'managed' photographs of them in the later stages of their career. Saltzman's intimate observations add depth and perspective in ways that very few other books even attempt. Widening the range of his observations and comments to include the people who surrounded The Beatles - Mia Farrow, Donovan, wives and girlfriends - lends a view to their 'real', everyday lives that is a rare treat. I highly recommend this book to both the serious collector and the casual observer of The Beatles' phenomenon.

The latest wave of Beatlemania bring a flood of new material. But Paul Saltzman's "The Beatles In Rishikesh" stands out like a shining beacon. Focusing on a spiritual pilgrimage to India, the book, with thoughtful text and a treasure trove of previously unseen photos, offers fresh insights into the individuals and relationships that comprised the Fab Four. Saltzman shares unguarded glimpses into the Beatles' personalities and creative processes. It's a warm and wonderful recollection, not only of the band, but of the '60s, a magical era. Beatle aficionados would be well advised to make Rishikesh their next reading destination. This is a journey they'll long remember.

I went to Rishikesh, India in the fall of 2000. I realized why George was so amazed of this northern India town where the Ganges turns down from The Himalayan Mtns. I was blessed to have visited such a beautiful place, as my 94 year old grandfather from Delhi and my dad (Who's originally from northern India) took me to some amazing spots in Rishikesh. I felt so free. I felt the 'magic' The Beatles experienced. This book illustrates the journey of the fab four's 1967-68 visit for 'relaxation & meditation' and the outcome (Many of the songs recorded for "The White Album" were written while hanging and meditating at Maharishi Mahesh Yogi's ashram) The pictures (taken by the author of this book) are large and will grab you - This book is for The Beatle fan in you or someone you know.  
JG "The Bear"

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