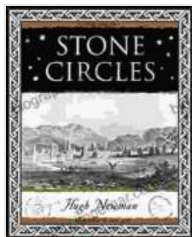


# Stone Circles Around the World: Unraveling the Mysteries of Ancient Megaliths



**Stone Circles: Around the World** by Hugh Newman

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 18787 KB

Screen Reader : Supported

Print length : 37 pages

Lending : Enabled

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**: The Enigma of Stone Circles**

Stone circles, those enigmatic and awe-inspiring monuments that have dotted the landscapes of our planet for millennia, have captivated the imagination of humankind. These prehistoric structures, composed of massive stone slabs or boulders, have left an enduring legacy of mystery and wonder, beckoning us to unravel their secrets and unlock the wisdom of ancient civilizations.

## **The Stonehenge Enigma**

Perhaps the most iconic stone circle in the world, Stonehenge in England stands as a testament to the ingenuity and astronomical prowess of the Neolithic people. Its massive sarsen stones, weighing up to 25 tons each, were transported from miles away and meticulously erected to form a circle that aligned precisely with the solstices and other celestial events.

Stonehenge has become a symbol of ancient mystery, inspiring countless theories about its purpose, from a sacred temple to an astronomical observatory.



## **Avebury: The Largest Stone Circle in the World**

Avebury in Wiltshire, England, boasts the title of the largest stone circle in the world. Comprising over 100 stones in a complex arrangement of circles and avenues, Avebury was an important ceremonial center in the Neolithic and Bronze Age. Its celestial alignments and intricate geometric designs suggest an advanced knowledge of astronomy and mathematics among the ancient builders.



### **Callanish: The Remote Sanctuary on the Isle of Lewis**

Far from the bustling crowds of Stonehenge and Avebury, on the remote Isle of Lewis in Scotland, lies the enigmatic Callanish stone circle. Standing in a desolate landscape amidst peat bogs and windswept moorland, Callanish evokes a sense of ancient spirituality and connection to the natural world. Its 50 stones, arranged in a cross-shaped formation, have been the focus of rituals and ceremonies for thousands of years.



## **The Mystery of Their Origins and Purpose**

The exact origins and purpose of stone circles remain shrouded in mystery. Archaeological evidence suggests that they were constructed over a long period, from the Neolithic to the Iron Age, by different cultures and civilizations. Theories abound as to their functions, ranging from astronomical observatories to religious temples, ceremonial gathering places, or even burial grounds.



## **Rituals, Beliefs, and Astronomical Knowledge**

Stone circles were likely used for a variety of rituals and ceremonies connected to the cycles of nature, the afterlife, and the cosmos.

Archaeological finds have uncovered evidence of burials, cremations, and animal sacrifices within or near stone circles. The precise alignments of many circles with celestial bodies suggest that ancient civilizations possessed a sophisticated understanding of astronomy and used these structures as tools for predicting seasonal changes and celestial events.



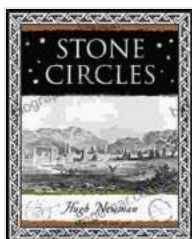
## **Preservation and Conservation**

As precious relics of our shared human heritage, stone circles face threats from erosion, vandalism, and development. Conservation efforts are underway to protect and preserve these ancient monuments for future generations. Responsible tourism and respectful visitation are vital to ensuring that these enigmatic structures continue to inspire and fascinate for centuries to come.

### **: A Timeless Legacy**

Stone circles around the world stand as enduring testaments to the ingenuity, beliefs, and astronomical knowledge of ancient civilizations. Their enigmatic presence invites us to ponder the profound connection between

humanity and the cosmos. By unraveling the mysteries that surround these prehistoric wonders, we gain a deeper appreciation for the rich tapestry of our collective history and the enduring power of human connection to the natural world.



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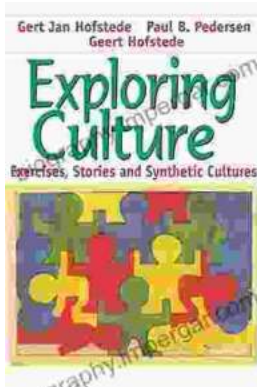
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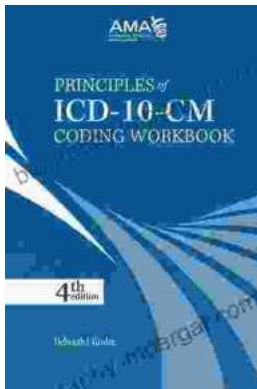






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