Alexandra David-Neel Encyclopedia Article

Alexandra David-Neel

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Alexandra David-Neel

1868-1969

French explorer who infiltrated the Tibetan capital. David-Neel traveled throughout Asia to study philosophy and seek her spiritual home. Embracing Buddhism, she interviewed the Dalai Lama in 1912 and lived in a cave in the Himalayas. In 1923 David-Neel disguised herself as a nun to gain admittance to Lhasa, the Tibetan capital, which was closed to westerners. She wrote a book about her experiences living in Lhasa. She also published scholarly texts about Tibetan culture and religion.