Book Discussion Guide

The Lost Worlds of the Old Ones
By David Roberts

- Would you like to go along on an adventure like those described in this book? What most appeals to you about it? What would you find most challenging?

- What, if anything, did you learn by reading this book?

- Some people criticize books like this, saying they encourage people to visit these sites, potentially destroying important artifacts. What do you think? Roberts leaves objects untouched, but not every explorer follows that practice.

- Amateur explorers criticize academic researchers for removing important objects from sites then taking years to publish their research or never getting around to it. As a result, many artifacts sit in storage and the information they might offer is inaccessible. How should we balance the competing concerns of preservation versus dissemination of knowledge?

- While we have established some national parks and monuments, most of these sites are unguarded—wide open to anyone who can figure out how to get to them. Do you think there is anything that we could do to protect them?