

The trouble with reading too much about a place
especially one with an interesting history
that you plan to be in for some time (as separate
from a place to be visited & little local contact to be
made) is not that you will be led on to great
expectations not likely to be fulfilled. No, the
greater ~~the~~ problem is that you are likely to know
more about that place than the natives who became
your friends so that somehow you have missed the
point of easy familiarity, the innocent ~~the~~ appreciation
of a place for itself in its totality or in selective balance.
Something like ^{an expert botanist} ~~examining~~ the exotic flora of a forest
of a tropical paradise and being able to identify
each specimen by its Latin name —