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Rough Guides announce that Mark Ellingham is to leave the company

Rough Guides are sad to announce that, after 25 years, Mark Ellingham is to leave the company. Mark is joining Profile Books, where he will set up a new 'Green and Ethical' imprint.

Mark created the first Rough Guide - to Greece - on leaving university in 1981, as what he describes as an attempt to avoid having a proper job. The plan worked well for a while, as he travelled about and wrote further books on Spain, Portugal and Morocco. But by the mid-1980s Rough Guides was becoming a highly successful series, with Mark commissioning and editing a raft of titles. In 1986, Mark and the original team bought the titles from original publisher, Routledge, and set up as an independent publishing company.

Mark was then instrumental in taking the Rough Guides brand into new areas with books on everything from music to pregnancy, with the Rough Guide to the Internet becoming a multi million best seller. On top of that there was the BBC2 Rough Guide series and a strong online presence that was way ahead of any of its publishing rivals. Rough Guides began its association with Penguin in 1990, when Penguin took on sales and distribution, and it acquired the business in 2002.

Mark feels that with Rough Guides' 25th anniversary concluded, and celebrated with 25 Ultimate Experience books, the time is right for him to move on. In recent years, he has put an increasing amount of his energy into green and ethical issues and he wants to give his full focus to this. He will do so by setting up a new green imprint for Profile Books, where he will become an associate publisher.

Mark will retain close links with Rough Guides, as an author of several travel titles and co-editor of The Rough Guide to World Music.

Everyone at Rough Guides thanks Mark for the enormous contribution he has made to the company through the last 25 years and we wish him well with his new venture. Mark leaves for his new post at the end of October.

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