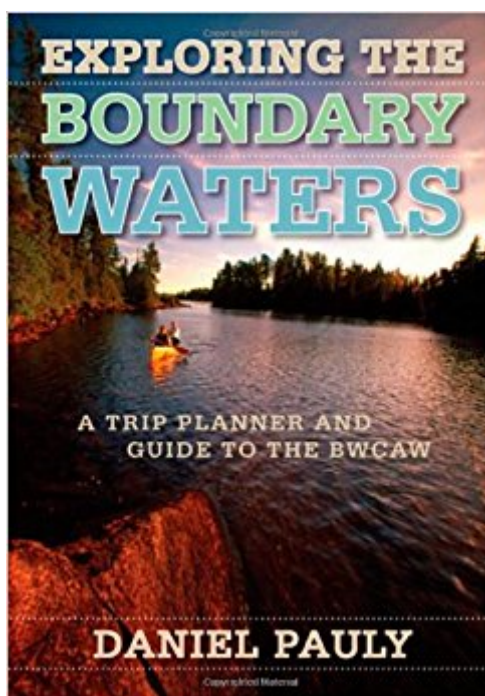


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Exploring The Boundary Waters: A Trip Planner And Guide To The BWCAW



Synopsis

With more than 200,000 visitors annually, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is among the most alluring wilderness areas in the country, unique because it is most often explored by canoe. Comprised of more than one million acres, the BWCAW is an exceptional combination of expansive wilderness, abundant wildlife, and fascinating natural and human history. Exploring the Boundary Waters is the most comprehensive trip planner to the BWCAW, giving travelers an overview of each entry point into the wilderness area as well as detailed descriptions of more than one hundred specific routes - including a ranking of their difficulty level and maps that feature the major waterways, portages, and the designated campsites. The book is crafted so that readers can design their own route through the almost inexhaustible network of lakes and streams. Daniel Pauly, Boundary Waters expert, worked with the U.S. Forest Service, the Minnesota DNR, and local outfitters to gather information about how to obtain a permit, the rules and regulations of the park, safety tips, and how to help maintain the ecological integrity of the wilderness. As engaging as it is informative, Exploring the Boundary Waters not only contributes advice on the pros and cons of each route, but also brings the reader a natural and historical context for the journey by offering insight into the pictographs, mining sites, logging railroads, and ruins one may encounter throughout his or her expedition. With its accessible and personal style, Exploring the Boundary Waters is the perfect guide for anyone - novice or seasoned veteran - arranging a trip to the BWCAW. A companion Web site, <http://www.boundarywatersguide.com>, presents useful information that can be downloaded for planning a trip, including gear lists, overview maps, and route updates.

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Customer Reviews

The indispensable, comprehensive guide to exploring the Boundary Waters.

With more than 200,000 visitors annually, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is among the most alluring wilderness areas in the country, unique because it is most often explored by canoe. Comprised of more than one million acres, the BWCAW is an exceptional combination of expansive wilderness, abundant wildlife, and fascinating natural and human history. Exploring the Boundary Waters is the most comprehensive trip planner to the BWCAW, giving travelers an overview of each entry point into the wilderness area as well as detailed descriptions of more than one hundred specific routes - including a ranking of their difficulty level and maps that feature the major waterways, portages, and the designated campsites. The book is crafted so that readers can design their own route through the almost inexhaustible network of lakes and streams. Daniel Pauly, Boundary Waters expert, worked with the U.S. Forest Service, the Minnesota DNR, and local outfitters to gather information about how to obtain a permit, the rules and regulations of the park, safety tips, and how to help maintain the ecological integrity of the wilderness. As engaging as it is informative, Exploring the Boundary Waters not only contributes advice on the pros and cons of each route, but also brings the reader a natural and historical context for the journey by offering insight into the pictographs, mining sites, logging railroads, and ruins one may encounter throughout his or her expedition. With its accessible and personal style, Exploring the Boundary Waters is the perfect guide for anyone - novice or seasoned veteran - arranging a trip to the BWCAW. A companion Web site, <http://www.boundarywatersguide.com>, presents useful information that can be downloaded for planning a trip, including gear lists, overview maps, and route updates.

When i first opened the book I was a bit disappointed cause it didn't have colorful pictures. But as i flipped through it i realized the wealth of information it contained. Its a great book to pair with the Boundary Waters Canoe Camping book (it has pretty pictures and more info on other things you need to know about the boundary waters besides just the portages). This book has all the portage information which is a HUGE help when trying to plan out a trip. This is our first time going to the boundary waters and having a book like this is super helpful in determining routes that we think we can handle. Its easy to navigate through as well because of the index. If you are reading about a portage on the internet or in another book and you want to know what its like all you had to do is find it in the index and you will then know all you need to know about that portage. Its a great reference book and a must have for planning a boundary waters trip.

While a long time vet of paddling and trip planning I am new to the BWCA and this book was the first one that layed things out in such a way as to really get a feel for what trips were like. I had rented every book my library had on the subject with any trip descriptions and/or maps (5-6 total) and this was by far the one that felt most useful to me (including the 2 book series split into east and west regions). The descriptions and relative portage difficulty rankings are well written and informative. The maps are more an overview than detailed (using these as your only mapping seems like a pretty bad idea...) but are fine as an overview. Plus they are presented better than the others I'd seen in different books. The issue with the routes not being marked at all is a bit of a hassle but I think it is better than covering the maps with "squiggles" since multiple routes are normally described off of each section of map. Overall a highly recommended item that I expect to use as a planning starter over and over.

The detail given in this book regarding entry points, portages, levels of difficulty, and especially the route descriptions are dead on. I have entered the BWCAW at several different points and as I read the route descriptions for these areas it was very easy to visualize my trips all over again. The history of the lakes and general area of each route is also very interesting, especially as you realize the route you are paddling on was used by the first Native Americans, thousands of years ago in dugout canoes made of pine, or by the Voyageurs, the first Europeans of the region. Great reading whether you're planning a trip, using it for reference on a trip or just dreaming !

We're planning a Boy Scout trip to the BWCAW for 2011 and really didn't know much about the area, the routes we wanted to take, fishing, etc. This book covers everything. While it does not cover every possible route a paddler could take it goes into great depth for the more popular ones. It was nice to be able to read about what you might expect in the way of scenery, especially after the Blowdown of 1999 and many of the subsequent fires. It's obvious that the author went to great lengths to try and put the reader right into the area as they read about a location. The one drawback that I did find was that, unless you were actually holding a map of the BWCAW right in front of you while reading, it was hard to figure out where the routes and portages were. It would have been very helpful to have a picture/map associated with each of the routes described so the reader could follow along. Otherwise, this was an exceptional resource.

Fully detailed and even helped even though I've been there before. Great routes.

Give many options on which lakes to try.

Well researched, a little older, but information on planning routes is invaluable. Using the NatGeo maps, and websites like BWCA.com, I'm able to really glean a lot of information while planning this summer's adventure into the BWCAW.

Shows the specifics for every route in the BW. Great reference for first-timers.

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