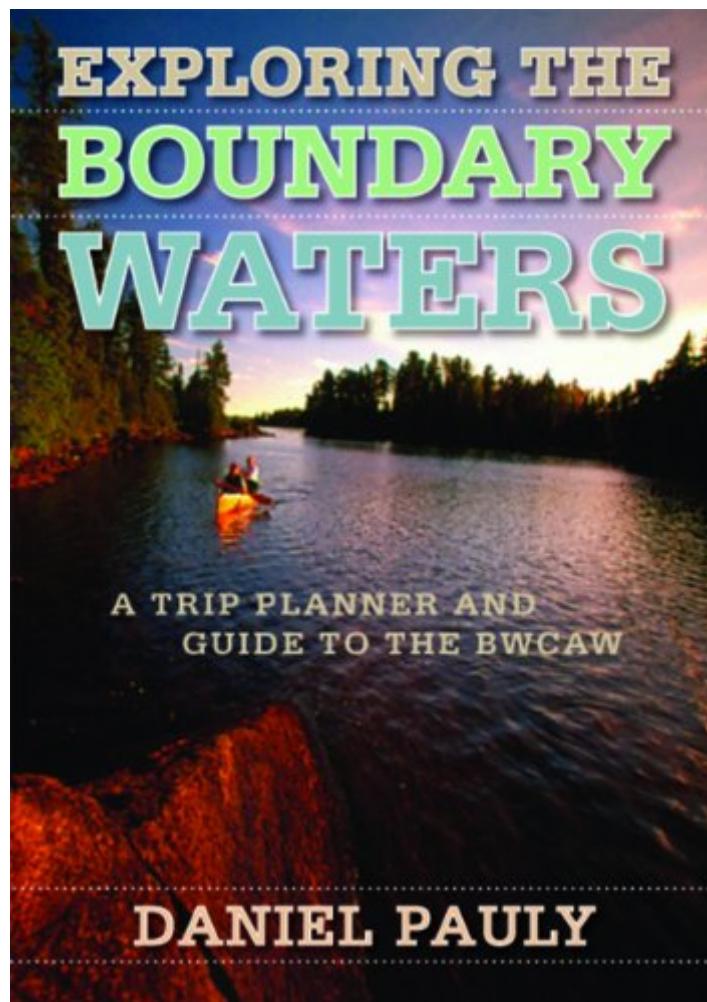


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Exploring The Boundary Waters: A Trip Planner And Guide To The BWCAW



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 collect and present crucial information here: instructions on about how to obtain a permit, the rules and regulations of the park, safety tips, and suggestions about 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 on an expedition. With its accessible and personal style, Exploring the Boundary Waters is the perfect guide for anyone—a “novice or seasoned veteran—“arranging a trip to the BWCAW. A companion Web site for this book, <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

Exploring The Boundary Waters: A Trip Planner And Guide To The BWCAW is a no-nonsense guide written especially for canoe enthusiasts with an interest in the one million acres of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Offering an overview of each entry point, meticulously detailed accountings of one hundred routes covering difficulty level as well as pros and cons, fifty-one maps showcasing major waterways, portages, and designated campsites, and much more, Exploring the Boundary Waters is the resource to consult before planning a canoe getaway in the BWCAW. Written by a frequent visitor and Boundary Waters expert Daniel Pauly with assistance from the U.S. Forest Service, the Minnesota DNR, and local outfitters, Exploring The Boundary Waters is a "must-have" resource on everything from obtaining a permit to maintaining the ecological integrity of the wilderness to planning one's route, discovering historic sites on one's trip, and much more. Highly recommended.

I purchased this book after researching a planned BWCAW trip on the internet, expecting it to provide some further guidance regarding possible routes for an eight to 10 day trek. It did not deliver. The various outfitters in the BWCAW and Quetico provide far more free information on their websites than does the author here. My two biggest complaints: First, the routes described are not plotted on the reference maps, thus requiring the reader to continually refer back and forth between the two. This makes for a difficult read. In order to make sense of the route descriptions, I actually had to trace the routes on the maps myself, a time consuming process that should not have been necessary. Compare this to any of the outfitters' suggested routes you can find on-line. Second, most of the routes are loops where one starts and ends at the same point. While some locals may need to limit their routes because they have to return to their original parking lot, for those of us using outfitters there is no need to retrace part of our route so as to do so. For example, I've decided on a route that begins at Entry Point 16 and ends at Entry Point 23. This is a popular route but is not mentioned in the book. Rather than buy the book, spend the money on printer ink and visit

some outfitters' websites. Follow up: It's now four years later and I've been to BWCAW and Quetico twice. While my above concerns hold true today and I would not recommend this for a first-timer, I do find it a little more useful. I can look at broad chains of lakes to see if they might or might not be suited to my interests. Then I draw out my own route. So, if you know where you want to go, or have a few competing ideas, this book can help. But outfitter web sites are free and can do pretty much the same.

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. It's 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. It's 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 it's 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. It's a great reference book and a must have for planning a boundary waters trip.

This book has given me the tools I need to plan my first wilderness canoe camping trip with my family. The maps and route recommendations have been particularly valuable. It's not the only piece of information I'll collect, but it is a great, comprehensive start.

Very detailed and accurate route descriptions. Portage difficulty and lengths were helpful in planning for "trip newbees" we had on our recent trip. Many geologic points of interest usually missed were well described.

While a long time vet of paddling and trip planning I am new to the BWCA and this book was the first one that laid 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.

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