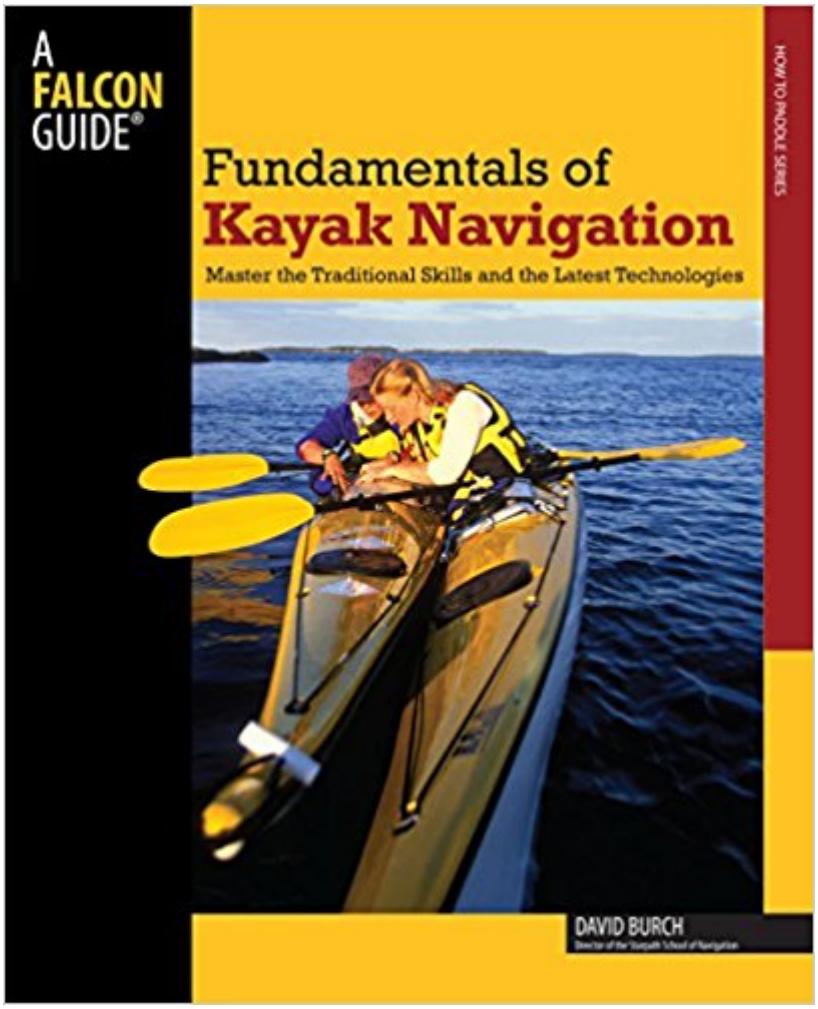
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Fundamentals Of Kayak Navigation, 4th: Master The Traditional Skills And The Latest Technologies (How To Paddle Series)



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Synopsis

Fundamentals of Kayak Navigation is the authoritative source for information needed to chart an accurate course in a sea kayak, whether on open water or between islands or icebergs. Covers chart reading; compass use; finding and keeping track of position; predicting tides and currents; trip planning; navigating at night, in fog, and in boat and ship traffic; and the latest in compact GPS receivers and PDAs, downloadable navigation charts, electronic charting systems, and Internet sources for tracking marine weather forecasts. This guideÃ Â also provides updates on harbor security restrictions that were instituted after 9-11.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Physicist, author of books on marine navigation, and columnist, Burch is primarily concerned here with coastal and sheltered water situations. Although basic chart reading, reckoning, and compass use are similar for all marine craft, kayaks are especially likely to be in shallow waters, limited in speed and visibility, subject to currents and wind, and without technological gear. The author emphasizes safety and enjoyment for new paddlers through compass use, dead reckoning, current crossing, and planning. Among the many books on navigation, this one’s value lies in making the complex clear. Methods for finding distance off, figuring passage time, judging currents, etc., are clearly demonstrated and well illustrated by an experienced paddler. Roland Person, Southern Illinois Univ. Lib., CarbondaleCopyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Also from David Burch:Ã Â Celestial Navigation - A Complete Home Study CourseRadar For MarinersEmergency NavigationThe Barometer HandbookHow to use Plastic Sextants - with application to metal sextants and a review of sextant pilotingThe Star Finder Book - A guide to the many uses of the 2102-D Star Finder

I spent a career in the U.S. Navy as a ship driver (Officer of the Desk and conning officer). When in that position you learn about navigation from the perspective of someone that is on a powered craft and is at least 40 feet up off of the water surface. After 6 years in the Navy I took up kayaking. I applied the navigation principles that I learned driving ships (some of them 100,000 tons) to my kayaking and taught myself the same fundamentals that he discusses in his book. This actually made me a much better ship driver because I understood the effect that the tides and currents have upon a water craft. The tides and currents affect a 1000ft long ship the same as a 16ft kayak but it is not so apparent when you are 80 feet off of the water.David has done a superb job of discussing kayak navigation from all perspectives. I would highly recommend his book, not just for those that are new to coastal kayaking but also to those that may be more seasoned. It is a book that is best digested with on the water experience. Read a chapter and then find a place where you can kayak to test out the principals he discusses.

Everybody says this is the best kayak navigation guide. I guess I agree with that. I particularly liked the line drawings. I bought two other navigation books from , which were less technical and less useful. Each had its own strength and nitch in the readership. Many great kayakers will disagree with me, but times are changing and the old ways of navigation are largely becoming secondary to GPS. I use deck charts of course, and I own a deck compass but almost never use it, as my navigation tends towards navigating with Garmin Blue Charts from GPS waypoint to GPS waypoint, using the same GPS I use for backpacking. The day will come when I’m changing out batteries on the GPS and seawater will wash over the deck and fry the electronics, leaving me only the neglected magnetic compass and navigation techniques that Burch so well describes. This will happen. I know it. It almost happened several times already. Still, I wish the next edition of this book would contain expanded treatment of GPS techniques, electronic charts, and use of tides and currents programs now available for smartphones to supplement the traditional methods.

I am just finishing my first reading of Fundamentals of kayak navigation.If you are new to navigating

from a kayak this book will provide you more than enough navigational principals and information to plan an open water expedition or tour along some coast line.Kayaks typically travel areas too close to shore for commercial and the average power boater. Other times we cross over into truly open water occupied by the big boys.In these near and off shore areas, kayakers have the same need for navigation as our big boat brethren but not the storage or equipment space; electrical power; nor their height above the water.A kayaker’s needs and space for performing navigational work is severely limited in comparison to other boaters. The affects of wind current & tides can be more pronounced on self powered vessels such as a kayak.Burch provides many good tips and techniques for performing and managing your navigational tasks within our available space.When presenting a principal or technique, he goes into just enough detail to explain a little of the why along with the what that needs to be done.Burch offers techniques based on your palm or finger width to solve navigational tasks. He offers several rules of thumb that should get you close enough to solve navigational tasks.Knowing the accuracy of your compass is critical to navigation. Burch offers a method for "swinging" your Kayak compass to identify errors.He doesn’t ignore the modern electronic world either. One chapter discusses GPS and other electronic navigational tools. The book includes references to on-line resources as well.I have several years experience sailing Arctic Oceans, the waters above the Aleutian Chain, and along the Northwest Coast of the US. Through Burch’s book I’ve learned how to scale down what I know about piloting and navigating larger vessels to fit my kayaking needs.During my second reading of this book I’ll begin assembling the book’s tips, tools, techniques, and rules of thumb to build my own kayak navigation kit.

This is the definitive text in kayak navigation. If you kayak in remote regions you cannot afford to be without adequate navigation skill. There is more in this text than any one person can begin to remember, but anyone can learn the essential skills of navigation from your kayak. Please don’t make the mistake of thinking you can rely on others to navigate for you. Carry charts and the knowledge to survive in this environment.

Excellent book. This book and its information has helped me win canoe races--I highly recommend it.

I had expected more basic navigation advice but found this to jump straight into advanced stuff - for me anyway.. That said, more experienced paddlers seem to get what they want so for that reason alone I give it a four.

This is an excellent book on inshore coastal navigation for all small boat masters. The techniques and challenges are the same whether you paddle, sail, or [gasp!] motor. The book is easy to read but doesn't over-simplify. Highly recommended!

Fast and Fair gave me a wonderful deal on this book. Amazing, considering how many miles it had to travel to get to me(thank you). The book was in perfect condition.

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