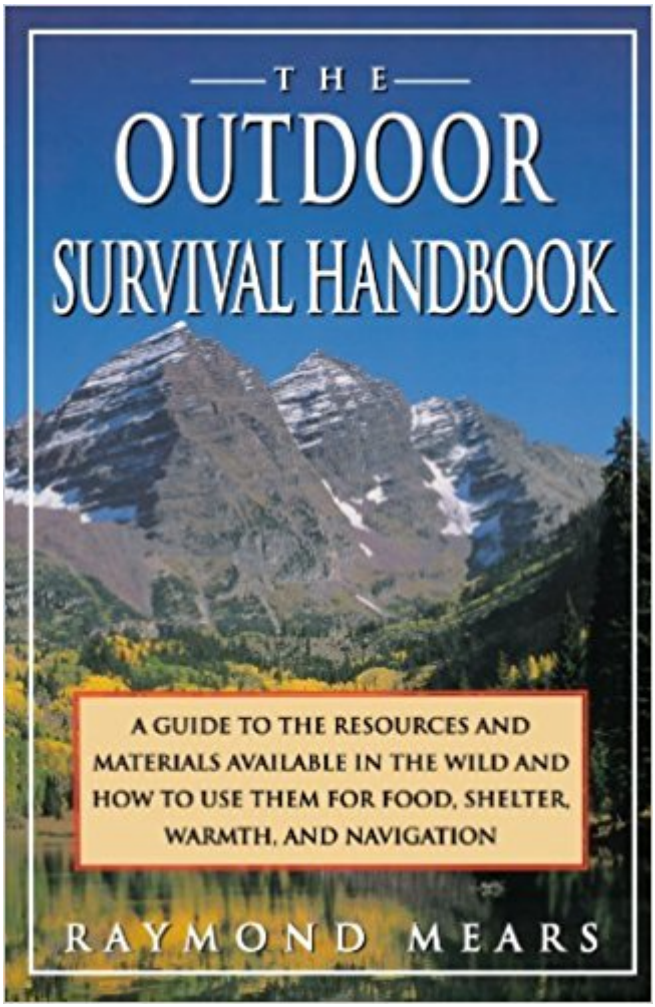
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The Outdoor Survival Handbook: A Guide To The Resources & Material Available In The Wild & How To Use Them For Food, Shelter, Warmth, & Navigation




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Synopsis

Whether you are a novice hiker or camper, or a more experienced outdoorsperson who spend weeks or months in the wilderness The Outdoor Survival Handbook will help you make the most of your adventures in the great outdoors. Suvival-skills expert Raymond Mears delivers dependable, thorough, and easy-to-understand advice on every aspet of outdoor survival, season by season. The essential everyday skills you'll learn include how to:construct a warm, waterproof shelter at any time of the yearbuild a good fire in all kinds of weathergather, prepare, and cook wild foods for tasty and nutritional mealsidentify medicinal herbscollect and purify watertrack and idenfity animalsorienteer using map, compass, and natural navigational aidsmake tools and equipment from natural materialsand much more.Filled with practical tips and hundreds of useful drawings and diagrams, this book will help outdoorspeople of all experience levels mater the art of taking full enjoyment in the wilderness without violating the natural wonders that surround them.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Mears, who teaches woodlore courses, advocates learning to "see through the eyes of an indigenous native." He emphasizes a back-to-nature philosophy and survival skills that can be applied nearly anywhere. The line drawings are very good; Mears is obviously knowledgeable and writes clearly. The book is a mixture of very basic skills, such as making fire, plus recipes for outdoor cooking, truck identification, basket making, and poisonous fungi identification. Unfortunately, each topic receives just one or two pages, and no references for further reading are supplied. Furthermore, this book was first published in Great Britain, and all the supply source

addresses are British. Readers wanting some depth and American specificity would do better with Tom Brown’s Field Guide to Wilderness Survival (Berkley Bks., 1984) or Paul Rezendes’s Tracking and the Art of Seeing (LJ 10/15/92). Not recommended.- Roland Person, Southern Illinois Univ. Lib., CarbondaleCopyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Raymond Mears is a frequent lecturer on outdoors survival skills and an expert on the survival techniques of native people. He lives in England.

This is a great instruction book with dozens of HOW TO illustrations in black and white. The black and white illustrations for plant identification is not the most ideal concept, but it still gives you a realistic drawing of the plants for good identification. For colorful plants and trees I purchased the pocket size SAS Survival Guide by John Wiseman. But you can also use an encyclopedia to find the colors of each plant and color them yourself.Some of the brush-craft in this book is a little advanced, however, it’s a great way to start learning about survival skills. I purchased this book for a homeschool survival course for my sons. Now, years after they’ve completed the course we keep it in our bug-out bag and have referred to it quite often during our trail runs.The book is divided into the four seasons; Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. It gives the best options for your basic survival as it relates to each seasons, e.g. the best place to look for food in the winter, the best shelter to prepare in the summer, etc. There’s instructions on how to make anything from a wooden bowl and spoon to tanning your own buck skins. It has drawings of animal droppings and paw prints, instructions on making cordage from plant material, different techniques of building fires, finding water supply, basket and pottery making, fishing hooks-- I could go on and on. It will take you months, even years to explore all of the information in this book.There are hundreds of survival books to choose from on the market, but at this price this little simple book has a wealth of information hidden in it’s pages. The only problem I have with this book is that it doesn’t cover basic first-aide. It mentions a first-aide kit, but gives no instructions on how to care for cuts, broken bones, snakebites, fever, etc. Yet, it does mention using fungi for medicine and making a sauna to help sweat out impurities in your body. So you’ll need to get a first-aide booklet to accompany this one. You can usually find small FA booklets at any thrift store that carries books. Also, like most all other survival books this one is not water-proof, so you’ll need to wrap it in thick plastic and seal it with strong tape to keep it dry. I wrap my field books in doubled freezer bags and seal it with duct tape.

First, this book is not about wildnerness survival. The recipes that include garlic and butter are well,

not practical if your lost in the woods. The book is more geared towards going into the wilderness with everything you need at your disposal, and not lacking the essentials. The information is well presented, and does not deal with emergencies but rather going out into the woods and enjoying yourself.The book is more about developing a spiritual relationship with wildnerness and emergency wildernesss survival is a matter of life and death, and not a romantic experience where you walk out having touched the hand of God. If you live, you will probably find God. I bought this book for the sole purpose of learning about survival in the wilderness. I found alot of very useful information, but, having a pretty solid base already, the book is still a fun read.The sections on cordage are very well done, and the sections on pottery, skinning are also well done. I think if you want to have a rewarding wilderness experience without the dangers of being lost, this book is awesome. If your looking for what to do in case your lost, this might not cover all the bases.Still a nice book that I frequently thumb through while sitting in the bathroom.

Is a good summary of critical skills and pieces of knowledge. I missed a bit more "how", a bit more details on practicalities.I like that some aspects are not emphasized over others (e.g. despite the excessive hype around knives in bushcraft circles, he is rather brief and pragmatic on that).In a handbook like this I would appreciate some list of reference books, e.g. identifying plants, trees, stones - books he would recommend..

Mears is an outdoor survivalist genius, Not extreme like Bear ’sensationalism for the sake of TV’ Grylls, but more realistic. Mears takes a gentle approach to using nature just as our ancestors did thousands of years ago. Add a few more modern improvements to some techniques and you have a very useful guide to appreciating your surroundings, learning how to respect them and then knowing how to use them on the occasions when they turn round and bite you in the bum.I have been using similar techniques outdoors for decades during Scouting activities and survival training events with local military training camps. They work. Hopefully you will never be in a life or death situation but it is nice to have a little edge should it happen.

Ray mears is the authority on bushcraft

Great bushcraft book. One of the best in terms of pictures (even though they are drawn) and ease of understanding. Love how it is arranged by seaon. The only downside to this wonderful book is that some of the information applies only to the UK, but still useful. Of all the bushcraft and survival

books out there, this is one of the few books that I consider a must have!

To make a long story short: useless.

This book is not bad. It strikes me as something that may be written by someone who had about 5 or 6 years of real outdoor experience, and I am quite aware of Ray's expertise. His later books have far greater insight into more effective tools, but I will say that this book delves into seasonal bushcraft in a great way.Its a great book but if I were newer to the subject I think I would get a great deal more out of it.

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