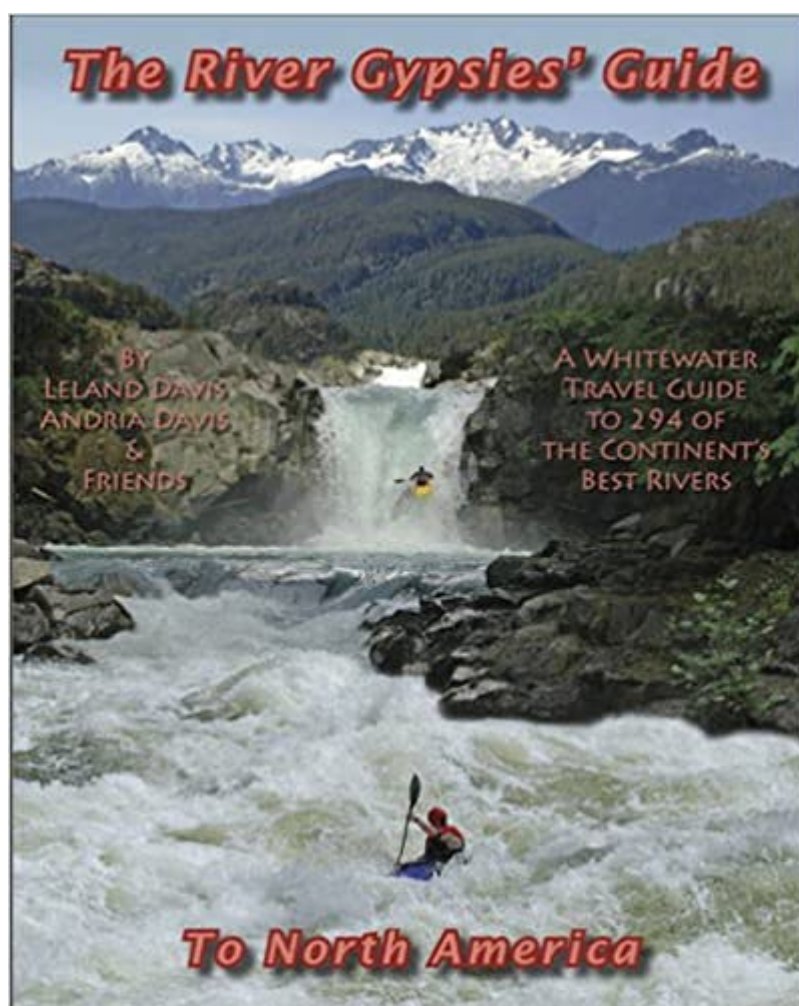


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The River Gypsies' Guide To North America: A Whitewater Travel Guide To 294 Of The Continent's Best Rivers



Synopsis

WARNING: This guidebook might make you quit your job! "The River Gypsies' Guide to North America" is your ticket to travel in 9 of the continent's hottest paddling destination regions, with all of the information you need to find the best playspots, creeks, and rivers from class III to V+. The book is also packed with information on the best time to travel to each region, what the weather and conditions will be like, as well as loads of info on finding camping, showers, food & drinks, internet, shuttles, & more! With detailed driving directions, shuttle icons, stream flow beta, 43 scale maps, and over 675 colour photos, this book and a sense of adventure are all you need to plan the American paddling vacation of your dreams.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

More rivers than any other book. A must for any whitewater boater. buy one today for great paddling in the usa

If you are living (or spending considerable time) in one area, then this book should be seen as a companion to whatever local guide book(s) exist. However, if you are trying to get a sense for different areas, or to do some paddling or scouting as you travel through North America, then this book is fantastic! My wife and I purchased a copy while vacationing near Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and we were so glad we did. It was extremely helpful to us for locating area rivers to scout. We weren't paddling, but with this book, we were able to hike and scout 6 rivers/creeks, only one of which we knew about before we came to the area. Although we love American Whitewater

(AW), and are both members, their website doesn't allow one to easily locate rivers by area - you kind of have to know the river you are looking for. With this book, we could look at the map for the Southeast section, then look up the rivers that were in the area where we were. Using Pigeon Forge and then Asheville as our home base, we ended up scouting the following rivers: 1. West Prong (Little Pigeon) 2. Little River (Sinks to Elbow) 3. Big Creek 4. Toxaway Creek 5. Horsepasture 6. Green Narrows

The only thing that I found myself really wanting was a small map for each river. There are maps for each region, and some maps for sub-regions, but a small map for each river would be extremely helpful, especially since people using this type of book will often be unfamiliar with area and the surrounding rivers. Other than that, I think it's about perfect! Leland and Andria give some good advice for paddling, traveling, etc. at the start of the book, which is also nice. My suggestion: buy a copy now if you are into paddling and you live in (or plan on traveling in) North America.

In the interest of full disclosure, I should mention that I have known and paddled with Leland and Andria for years, but that aside, I must say that this is a great book for any boater that likes to move around. I moved from Asheville, NC to Northern CA over a year ago and this book was very helpful in getting me oriented to the area. While it is in no way comprehensive, it does give good descriptions of some of the best whitewater opportunities available in each area. Each river covered in the book comes complete with pictures, descriptions of the run and some of the biggest rapids, driving directions, gradient (both average and mile by mile), and flow information. When I moved to Cali, I also ordered the Stanley & Holbeck "Best Whitewater In California" which is great, but is only in black and white, has few pictures, has wonky flow information, and it has not seen an update since 1988, meaning many of the rapids and roads have changed since then. The River Gypsies Guide is not only more current, but also just a much better format for a guide book (and in my opinion, the format that should be used for all modern guidebooks). I view the two books as supplements to each other. In addition to being great for someone moving to a new area, it is also a great book if you intend to travel. It lets you know where some of the good whitewater is, and it also gives you lots of pictures to get you psyched to go there. I am currently contemplating a trip to the Pacific NW and this book is fantastic for helping to plan. Again, this is not a comprehensive book of rivers in each part of the country, and not intended to give rapid by rapid descriptions of the whole river (something the previous review complained about), but it covers many of the highlights and gives you a good idea of what to expect or what to look forward to. For those with a whitewater boater on their gift list, this will be something they love to look through for the pictures, but also something they will find very useful when they want to go boating somewhere outside their region.

Bottom line, just get it - you won't regret it.-Eli

The Guide book is good to find where you would like to go in certain states and areas, but is not good at all to find out individual details regarding each specific spot. I would recommend it if you were doing a trip across the states but not if you were specific to one area.

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