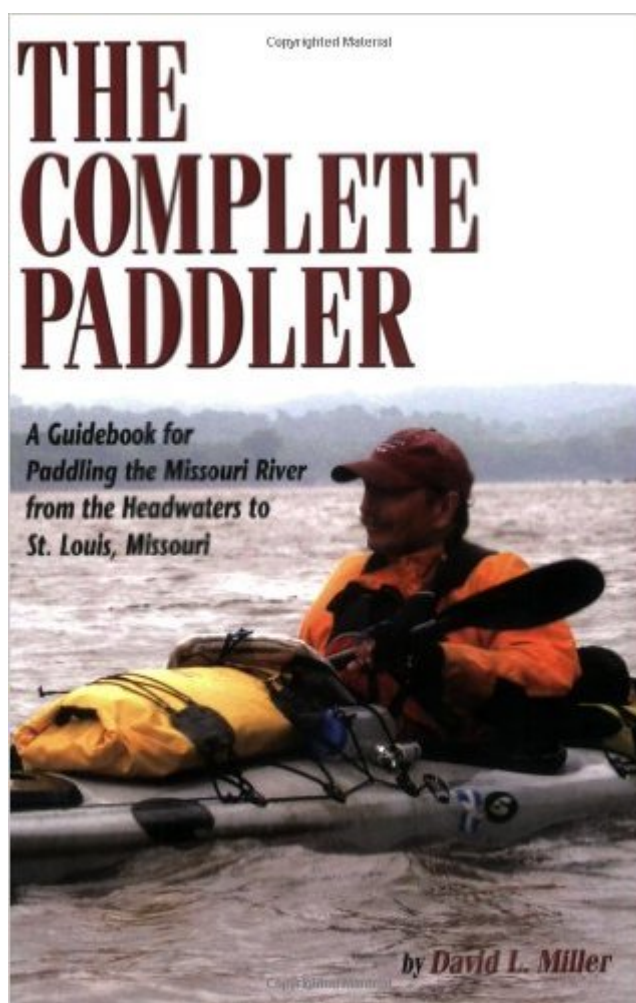


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The Complete Paddler: A Guidebook For Paddling The Missouri River From The Headwaters To St. Louis, Missouri



Synopsis

This comprehensive guide to paddling the Missouri River is invaluable to paddlers of all skill levels. Kayaker and map-maker David Miller spent three summers paddling the mighty Missouri from the headwaters in Montana to St. Louis and, from the seat of his sea kayak, mapped the entire route with the use of his GPS system. An experienced paddler, Miller offers up vital information for anyone seeking to float even the shortest stretch of the Missouri's storied waters. This guidebook offers excellent information on every stretch of the river, including river hazards, campgrounds, potable water, and attractions, as well as historic sites.

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Customer Reviews

I wrote the canoe guide to the Missouri after my trek down the river in 1999 and that book is still in print..BUT this one is better..if you only are buying one book get this one, not mine. It is a considerable improvement on my guidebook. If, however you actually intend to canoe the whole river, or a major part of it you might also want mine. Dave has done a great service to us all! Thanks Dave!

The Complete Paddler: A Guidebook for Paddling the Missouri River from the Headwaters to St. Louis, Missouri is a no-nonsense manual written for paddlers of all skill and experience levels with an interest in exploring the Missouri River. Chapters discuss necessary equipment, risks and hazards, shoreline descriptions, currents and prevailing winds, portages, river-mile marks, historical sites to be seen, and much more. The Complete Paddler also capitalizes on modern advancements

by using Global Positioning System (GPS) and Geographic Information System (GIS) technology to give accurate "sailing directions". Author David Miller also recounts his personal anecdotes of his three-summer-long, solo kayak expedition. Enthusiastically recommended for kayakers with an interest in experiencing the great Missouri River for themselves.

Having boated from the Beaverhead and Jefferson tributaries of the Missouri River and then all the way down past St. Louis in 2003 and 2004 at approximately the same time of year as David Miller did, I can verify that not only has David told it the way it was, his strategies for paddling the "Missou Lady" in the future, are as good as it gets. When meeting in 2003, as the only guests at an out-of-the-way state campground in South Dakota, we exchanged notes and thoughts as considerate adventurers do. In 2004, I knew through a mutual and now belated friend, that David was a week or so ahead of me, below the headwaters. We didn't meet, but later went over detail in a way that only two people sharing the same experience can do. Of extreme importance to anyone considering a venture such as paddling the Missouri, are the threads in David's words of planning/scouting ahead, using local knowledge to revise/improve one's plan, and executing with discretion, a cool head, and a quick, sure hand. His consistent emphasis on those things most important to a paddler is a crucial key for any would-be adventurer. I saw a great number of paddlers who would have benefited greatly from his sage advice and suffered the consequences of not having had it. The difference was that between a challenging, but enjoyable outing and a disaster. The succinct and varied references to the Lewis and Clark expedition information data base will enrich the reader's experience greatly, if time is taken to skim them, at least, lightly before and then fully, during the trip. Lastly, David's approach of safety considerations first and letting discretion, be the better part of valor, is right on target, since a lot of the time, only you are going to get yourself out of trouble when paddling the remote parts of the Missouri River. Hat's off for a job well done, David. Good Luck and Steady Winds, Wayne A. Willkomm

All around good book. I sat down and read it like a novel. Easy read and informative. I'm glad the book didn't go over too much on how to go camping but stayed on the topic of paddling the Missouri.

The Complete Paddler, by David L. Miller, is not a "How to" or a Bible for kayakers as the title would suggest. The work is, however, an outstanding and professional guide for on taking on the Missouri River in a shallow draft paddled boat. At the start of the book, Dr. Miller lays out his intents,

methods, and gear, offering a solid framework for the reader to use for the trail guide that composes the bulk of the work. He explains the various maps and GPS system he used for navigation, the strengths and limitations of paddled water craft, and his choice of camping gear. After describing a typical day of life on the journey, he begins the journey at the headwaters of the Missouri and continues a step by step account of the river trail to its end at the Mississippi. All in all, as a long time river rat, I found myself dissappointed when the book ended--I wanted more. This work covers the utilitarian aspects of the journey, but Dr. Miller adds color in the right places, drops in pinches of Lewis & Clark's historic adventure, and lists resources at every step of the voyage. I highly recommend this book for pleasure reading as well as a guide to the Missouri river.

This book is THE "bible" for paddling the Missouri River!!!! More information than a person can ever dream of! All 2400-miles of the river is broken down. Info on camping, water sources, resupply, navigational hazards, Lewis & Clark historic camps, planning, maps, gear, and humor!!!! A great resource for the serious paddler wanting to do the entire river...or just learn about your area. The book can also be used to start a fire when you are late season paddling and the cold, snow, rain and winds kick up on the river...and you have no means of starting a fire! Make sure you bring matches too! Get this book!!!!

Very informative book. The writing style was very easy to follow. This book can be a part of your arsenal if you are planning to explore the Missouri River. I loved it and it will come in very handy. Thanks David Miller for a great book.

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