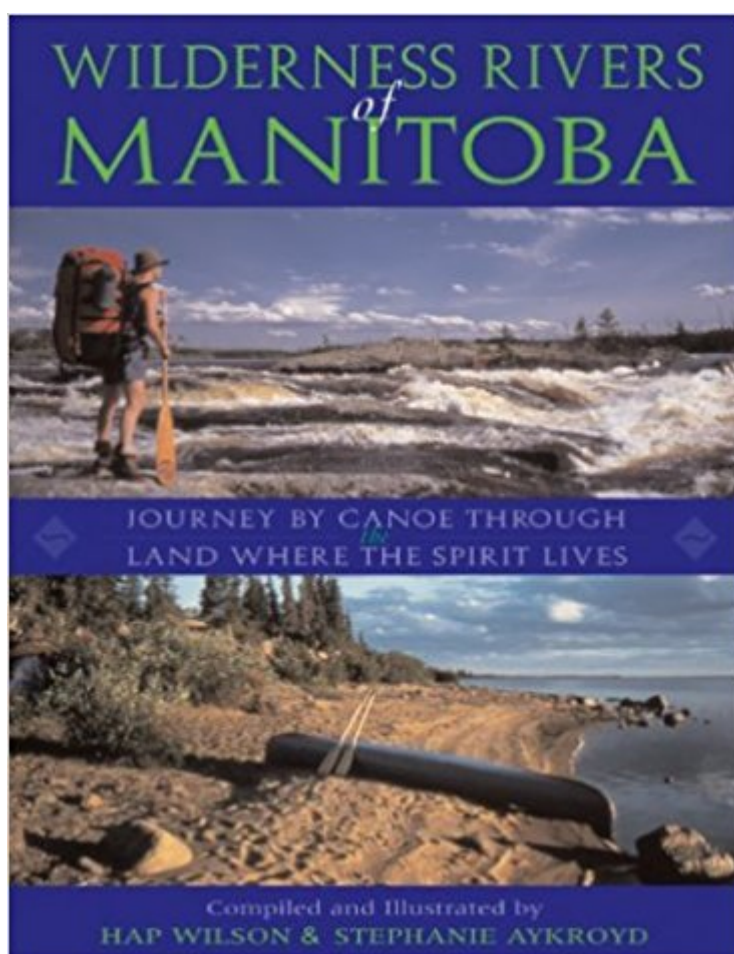


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# Wilderness Rivers Of Manitoba: Journey By Canoe Through The Land Where The Spirit Lives



## Synopsis

Manitoba is a canoeist's paradise with more than 100,000 lakes and rivers flowing through rolling prairie, boreal forests, delta marshlands, rugged Precambrian shield country and northern tundra. Wilson spent four years traversing 2,500 miles of historic fur-trade routes and traditional native water routes to research this book. *Wilderness Rivers of Manitoba* unlocks the mysteries of navigating this remarkable landscape, providing both regional and international canoeing enthusiasts with essential expedition information. Trips include: Le Petite Nord Bloodvein River Gammon River Pigeon River Berens River The Middle Track Hayes River Cochrane River Grass River Land of Little Sticks Thlewiaza River Caribou River Seal River Manigotagan River Sasaginnigak and Leyond River

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Detailed information... Hap Wilson has personally explored the rivers. (Wildlife Activist 200410) Personally documented maps... far more information than a volume size might lead the reader to expect. (Linda Turk Thunder Bay Chronicle-Journal ) Sound advice on important topics... Anyone planning a canoe trip to the areas covered by Wilson will benefit greatly. (Glenn Perrett Cottage Times ) Engaging and idiosyncratic... the clear pen-and-ink maps are full of details. (J.A. Lamont Canadian Camera )

Not just prairie fields and grain elevators, Manitoba owns some of Canada's hottest canoeing rivers in North America. From prairie fringe where prickly-pear cactus grows to arctic tundra and the

largest concentration of beluga whales and polar bears dwell, the wilderness rivers of Manitoba offer a diverse collection of adventure possibilities. Four years of exhaustive research and cartography went in to producing this classic guidebook, detailed right down to the last boulder in every rapid. Routes are graded by environmental zone and proximity to Winnipeg, for the level of difficulty and remoteness, and general risk factor. Maps are detailed, illustrating classification of rapids, running channels, portages and campsites. Planning logistics are also made simple with a current listing of available services and outfitters. Fourteen river descriptions including information on Woodland Caribou Provincial Park in Ontario, Atikaki Wilderness Park in Manitoba, Bloodvein/Hayes and Seal Heritage Rivers. A note about all of Hap Wilson's Guidebooks: Although these are field-friendly travel guidebooks, they are written and illustrated to charm and fascinate the couch-traveler as well. For help on selecting routes, or about current guided trips taking place in any one of these Canadian guidebook favorites, please feel free to contact the author(s) as listed with each title. Find more information at our website: [sunriseadventures.com](http://sunriseadventures.com).

This is a great book. The narrative is compelling, but the part I like best is the large number of annotated diagrams of whitewater, etc. I highly recommend this book to those who enjoy wilderness canoe trips.

very good book interesting. Making plans for a future trip. And you got it to my very quickly Thanks much

I enjoyed this book and it is in many ways a very unusual book. It was written by Hap Wilson with the help of his wife Stephanie Aykroyd. They are experienced wilderness activists, canoe adventurers, and photographers. Hap has written other similar books and they live north of Toronto in Ontario, Canada (the province next to Manitoba) in a semi-wilderness and cottage area know as Muskoka. They are very passionate about their wilderness experiences and their various views on the environment and canoeing. I am from Manitoba originally, owned a canoe in that region, and know a little bit about the area. Having said that, this book covers some of the most remote areas of the province and the rivers - especially the most northerly - are rarely travelled by the general public. So this book is a bit of a pioneering effort and a great introduction. Some of the river trips last months. The book is a combination of personal philosophy about the use of wilderness areas, an introduction to river canoeing, river etiquette, photographs and maps. The book can be enjoyed even if you never leave home. After hearing about polar bears some will want to stay at home. Once

we get passed the introduction, there is an approximate 25 page long guide to the climate, vegetation, and wildlife of Manitoba along with tips and techniques for camping and preparing for the river trips. This is mainly text and photos with a variety of hand sketches. Next they follow a formula approach where each river system is discussed and presented as a trip - which Hap and others have made - accompanied with a river guide, hand drawn sketches of the rivers down to the sub kilometre level to show rapids and boat paths through rapids, photographs, comments on rapids, portages, degree of difficulty, insects, wildlife, length, access, etc. This takes about 130 pages. They cover 11 rivers starting in the southeast with the Manigotagan that flows through a forested region and they continue northward, river after river, finally to the Caribou River that runs through northern rolling Precambrian plain to Hudson Bay. This river runs through a northerly region that has a July mean temperature hovering around just 13 C or 56 F, and is almost but not quite void of life. They go to great lengths and according to the authors it took years to produce detailed guide. They describe each river in detail, river by river, each river with comments so that one can use the book as a practical river guide - supported with additional maps. I have two minor complaints. The author likes to embellish the book with complicated words when simpler will do and because he is not John Updike it does not add to the book and some long words somehow feel out of place, i.e: "a landscape so discrete and multifarious as to beguile the senses", etc. just seems out of place when compared to the rest of the writing. My second peeve is the introduction. The author spent a lot of time and effort making the trips and doing the required research and making the maps, and detailing each river in a standardized format - all great stuff. But the introduction contains a lot of sentences and phrases that as I mentioned above seem out of place but shed little light on the subject and where the book will take us. It would be better to have a crisply written executive type summary at the start that summarizes where the book is summarized, saying for example, I travelled down the Pigeon River in 1998 in July with two other people during medium flow and warm and sunny weather. It took us 10 days. The trip down the Berens River was made a month later and took a week, etc. so we get a general feel for how long all the trips took and when and at what time of the year the trips were made. I read the book once and then found myself jumping back and forth to generate my own overview of the situation of what he did in terms of trips and dates. It is still not clear to myself. These are minor complaints but a better introduction/summary would help with simple English - constructive criticism - I hope. Otherwise this is a great book, I am glad that I purchased the book. It shows what and where a novice can do to start, and what river to take, and how to plan a trip. Also it alerted me to the fact that the authors have other similar nature books.

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