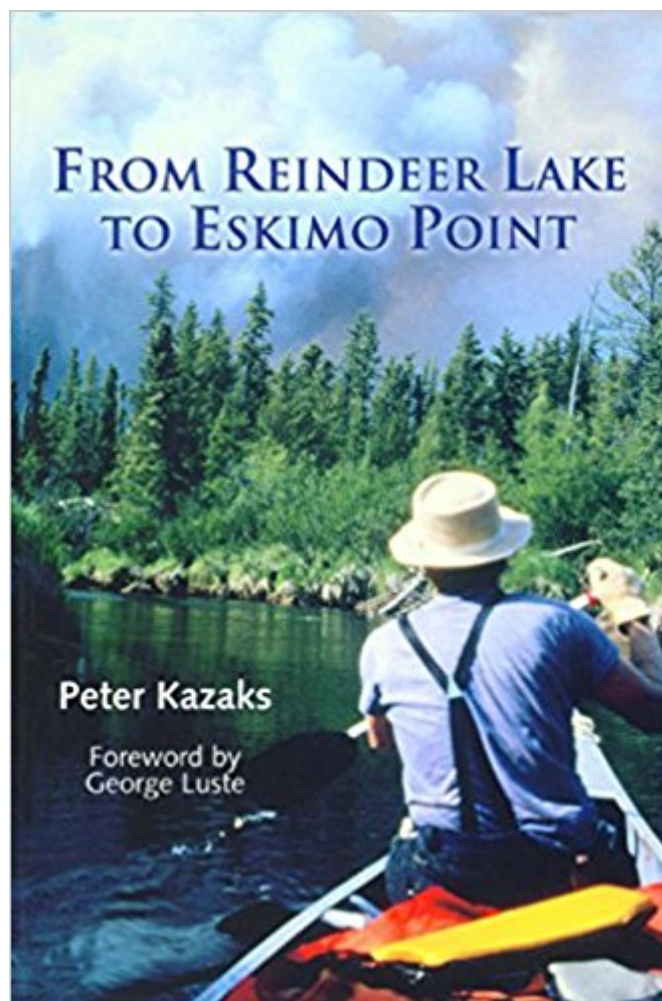


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From Reindeer Lake To Eskimo Point



Synopsis

Canoe across large lakes, up and down rivers and rapids; labour over portages and through a miasma of blackflies; bask in the golden evenings of the Subarctic. In this account of an 800-mile canoe trip — which begins at Reindeer Lake on the Manitoba/Saskatchewan border, continues into Nunavut past the treeline, and ends on Hudson Bay — Peter Kazaks conveys the experience of being in the north by describing the daily details that bring the trip to life. He captures the flavour of an extended wilderness canoe trip and reflects on living in unfettered wilderness. The reader will also grasp something of the serene beauty of the barren lands and begin to understand why its intoxicating nature keeps drawing some back. The first half of the trip, essentially from Reindeer Lake to Nuelin Lake, retraces P.G. Downes' voyage described in his classic *Sleeping Island*. Next the four men of this expedition, led by George Luste, entered the barren lands and followed the Thlewiaza River, the Kognak River, South Henik Lake and the Maguse River north and east to the shore of Hudson Bay. These lands, seldom visited, are close to a true wilderness — one of the few remaining ones.

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Customer Reviews

Canoe across large lakes, up and down rivers and rapids; labour over portages and through a miasma of blackflies; bask in the golden evenings of the Subarctic. In this account of an 800-mile canoe trip — which begins at Reindeer Lake on the Manitoba/Saskatchewan border, continues into Nunavut past the treeline, and ends on Hudson Bay — Peter Kazaks conveys the experience of being in the north by describing the daily details that bring the trip to life. He captures the flavour of

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Peter Kazaks studied at McGill University, Yale University and the University of California, Davis. He was a physics professor and an administrator at New College in Sarasota, Florida, from which he took early retirement. He now lives in Davis, California, and does some teaching and some soccer refereeing. In recent years he has travelled with one or more of his children in the Pacific northwest, Nevada and Utah, but future trips will probably take him to visit his children and grandchildren who are dispersed along the east and west coasts of North America.

The book gives a nice picture of the planning and execution of a long canoe trip. The book reads well and gives a good idea of what it feels like to take this kind of trip. I would have been happy to read more, but the trip ended and so did the book.

This is an excellent book. I've been reading canoe related books since the beginning of the year and this is without question of doubt the best of the bunch. Peter Kazaks is a gifted writer and this account of his first long expedition up North is told with honesty and detail. You feel right there with him and his three companions all the way. If you ever want to know what it is like undertaking a major wild wilderness canoe trip, this book is for you. I loved it!

In 1981, four paddlers set out on 800-mile, 38-day canoe trip in the barren region west of Hudson Bay where Saskatchewan, Manitoba, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut come together. Their complicated itinerary on these seldom-visited waterways included Reindeer Lake, the Cochrane River, the Thlewiaza River, Nueltin Lake, the Kognak River, South Henik Lake, and the Maguse River, ending on the western shores of Hudson Bay. It was the first real wilderness trip for the author who had very little canoeing experience. Fortunately his three partners had lots of paddling miles under their belts and taught him many of the ups and downs of travelling in the wilderness. As

a result, this book is filled with astute observations by a curious newcomer to the country and the best way to explore it, the paddling, the portaging, the camping, the vast vistas, the cold wind, surviving the clouds of black flies. It all made a deep impression on the man and it comes through in his writing that reflects, often in well-observed detail, on his new experiences in this harsh but breathtakingly beautiful country. The author also talks about his personal feelings and growth, the evolving relationships between the four men, and the insights he gains from being part of a team on an extended northern trip. The numerous black-and-white photographs, made by George Luste-who also contributed the excellent Foreword -are on the whole quite good in illustrating the country and how the four men travelled through it; unfortunately the quality of their reproduction in the book is not always satisfactory. This well-written book should also have had a more inspiring title and a better cover photograph.

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