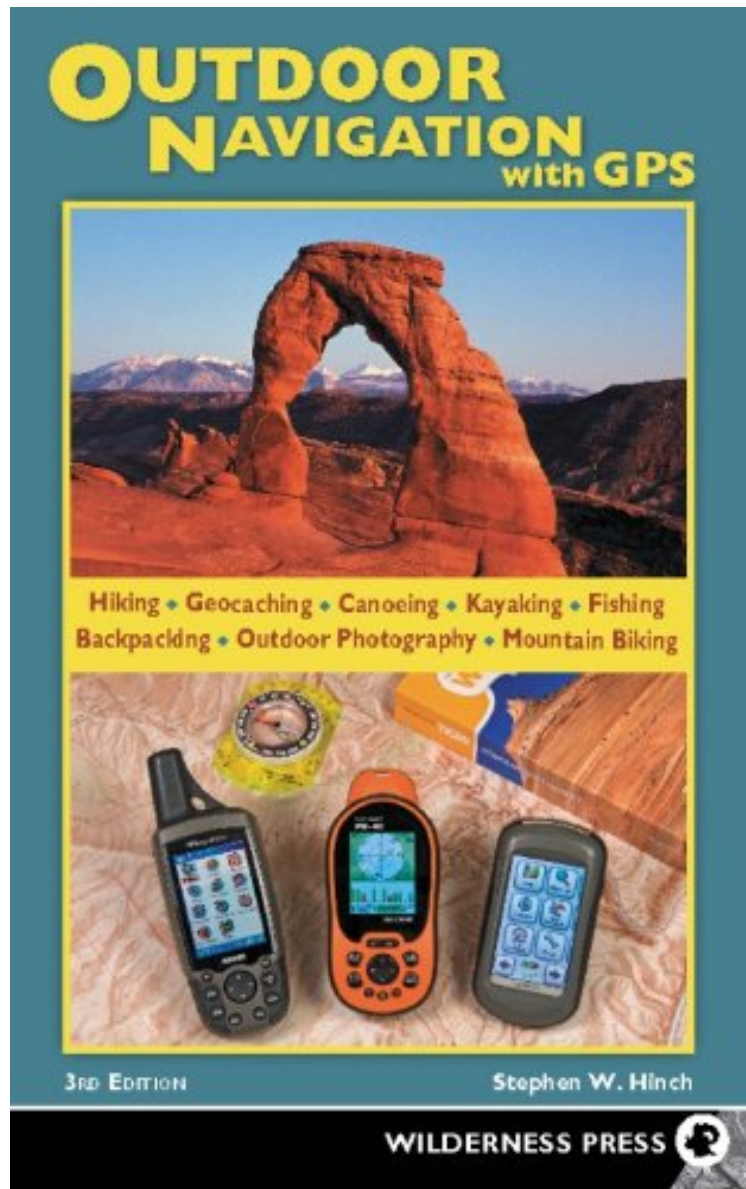


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Outdoor Navigation with GPS

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Stephen W. Hinch : Outdoor Navigation with GPS before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Outdoor Navigation with GPS:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Covers a wide range of GPSr applications By Michael M. Turner First DO NOT GET THE KINDLE VERSION. It is weird on my Kindle reader and has thousands of pages listed, but jumps dozens of page numbers at a time to get to the next page. Sometimes it jumps too many, and I have to manually

type in a list of trail page numbers to get to the real next page. Also, the printed book has technical illustrations which need to be viewed and used in precise dimensions, which the Kindle version warns are not correct in that format. As for the book itself, it is the most useful book on the subject I have found. Its one drawback is that it needs to be updated constantly to keep current with today's GPSr units. It tries to cover too wide a spectrum of handhelds, and becomes confusing as a result. There simply is too much variety in what different brands and even models within brands offer as operating methods and features. Advanced GPSr units seem to come with a horrible manual based on the assumption that the user is upgrading from a progression of simple to more complicated handhelds. If one buys a top of the line unit as a starter, the learning curve can be very steep. This book can be, for such a person, indispensable. The warnings, and the guidelines for getting out of trouble should your GPSr fail when "out in the woods" should be learned by anyone considering using such a unit in that situation. This book is the next best thing to having a private instructor take you through the process of learning about GPSr units and how to operate one in real world situations.

67 of 67 people found the following review helpful. Great book
By Natalie
It's a great book geared towards navigating in the outdoors in particular, rather than autonavigation, marine navigation, etc. It goes in depth into how to use bearings, orienting yourself, direction finding, and a substantial amount of info in navigating without a GPS by using a compass, paper topo maps, the sun, the stars, and so forth. It is, by design, not an outdoor survival guide, but it does cover the basics for hiking and points to more detailed sources when necessary. I really enjoyed how well the author taught the concepts of latitude, longitude, bearings, datums, declination, and so forth. Towards the end of the book, the author even includes some fun GPS-based games you can organize, discusses geocaching, and compares different GPS receiver models. This book goes beyond the receiver's manual and actually teaches you how to navigate. One of the big points it makes is to find what direction you need to go, find an intermediate waypoint, PUT YOUR RECEIVER AWAY, and head off in the proper direction. This keeps you from walking over poison ivy, off of cliffs, into trees, and generally aware of your surroundings. Once you get to your intermediate destination, pull the receiver out and find your next step. I'm new to wilderness navigation and this was certainly an "aha" moment. Who wants to be focusing on the GPS device the whole time when you could be taking in the beauty of your surroundings instead!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent GPS "Essentials" Book
By Desert Dogs2
This is my favorite GPS book. Does a great job explaining GPS navigation (backcountry or car) so that anyone can understand it. Lots of good screen shots of the major brands of GPS. Good review of map and compass orientation for when the GPS doesn't work or gets broken, lost or whatever. It's a small book and very easy to read, but I really think it's the best GPS book around. It taught me stuff about my GPS that I never knew! Downloaded it to my Tablet so I have it handy on the trail. This is a "must have" book for anyone with a GPS--great for GPS "newbys" and for review by GPS "experts"!

For outdoor adventurers who hike, fish, kayak, cross-country ski, or mountain bike in the backcountry, a GPS receiver can help them reach their destination and return safely -- but only if they know how to use it! Here is the guide to getting the most out of a GPS receiver, from basic consumer advice to advanced techniques. It even includes fun solo and team games that utilize GPS. Starting with essential definitions and moving on to creating waypoints, and using your GPS with a computer, this succinct book teaches the basics of navigation and outdoor GPS use. Advanced techniques are covered, such as creating custom maps, and new technologies are discussed, including using GPS-enabled mobile phones, and how to use GPS with Google Earth and Google Maps. With years of experience as a GPS instructor, Hinch is well-versed in all aspects of navigation and GPS use, and he covers them in a jargon-free, easy-to-follow style.

"Stephen W. Hinch is a breath of fresh air...[this book] is expert advice from a very experienced teacher." -- Fred Zahradnik, About.com GPS, February 2008
About the Author
Stephen Hinch has taught courses in GPS navigation to police and fire personnel, park rangers, search-and-rescue staff, and recreational outdoor enthusiasts since 1998. When he was young, his avid rockhound parents would pack up the family and head out to remote desert locations in search of semi-precious stones nearly every weekend. These desert explorations honed his navigational skills and taught him the importance of not getting lost.