

# Exploring England's Waterways: The Ultimate Canoe and Kayak Adventure

Embarking on a journey through England's captivating scenery is like stepping into a world of tranquil beauty, where captivating waterways wind their way through picturesque landscapes. For those seeking a unique adventure, diaries of trips made by canoe and kayak offer gripping tales of exploration and unforgettable experiences. In this article, we delve into the fascinating tales of intrepid adventurers who have paddled their way around England's waterways, and we'll uncover the hidden gems that await in Sweden for those seeking an extraordinary holiday.

## Setting Sail: Into the Heart of England

There is something magical about embarking on a journey by canoe or kayak. With each paddle stroke, you immerse yourself in the rich history and breathtaking beauty of England's waterways. From the tranquil canals of Birmingham to the stunning rivers of the Norfolk Broads, countless adventurers have documented their unforgettable trips, providing a treasure trove of inspiration for those yearning to explore.

The Kennet and Avon Canal, stretching from Reading to Bristol, is a popular route for canoeists and kayakers alike. As you navigate this historic canal, you'll encounter picturesque countryside, charming locks, and perhaps even catch a glimpse of local wildlife. In their diaries, many travelers describe the peace and tranquility that washes over them as they paddle along this idyllic waterway, making it a must-visit destination for any canoe and kayak enthusiast.



## Canoe Camps 1943 – 1955: Diaries of Trips By Canoe And Kayak Around England Plus A Holiday In Sweden

by June Pearton (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 5032 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 127 pages
Lending	: Enabled
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Another hidden gem is the River Wye. Flowing along the English-Welsh border, this stunning river is surrounded by lush greenery, dramatic cliffs, and historic castles. As you meander downstream, the diary entries of fellow adventurers will guide you towards hidden waterfalls, cozy riverside pubs, and secluded camping spots, enabling you to create your own unforgettable experience.

### Exploring Sweden: A Scandinavian Escape

As you embark on your journey through England's waterways, the tales of exploration don't end there. Sweden, with its enchanting landscapes and stunning archipelagos, offers an extraordinary holiday destination for those seeking new adventures. Whether you're an experienced paddler or a novice looking to try something different, a trip to Sweden promises to leave you spellbound.

The Stockholm Archipelago, consisting of over 30,000 islands, is a paradise for kayak enthusiasts. Paddle through crystal clear waters, maneuver between rocky outcrops, and discover secluded beaches where you can relax and soak up the sun. The diaries of fellow adventurers will guide you to the most breathtaking spots, including picturesque fishing villages where you can experience Sweden's rich maritime heritage.

If you crave a more challenging expedition, head to the Klarälven River in West Sweden. This untamed river offers stunning wilderness, complete with dense forests and pristine camping spots. With each bend in the river, thrilling rapids await, providing an adrenaline-fueled adventure that will forever be etched in your memory.

## **A Journey into the Unknown**

As you delve into the diaries of those who have explored England's waterways and ventured to Sweden, you'll notice a recurring theme - the allure of the unknown. Each diary entry captures moments of pure awe and fascination, as these intrepid explorers navigate through uncharted waters, discovering hidden corners of the world that are untouched by mass tourism.

So, if you're seeking a truly unique adventure, consider embarking on your very own trip by canoe or kayak. Immerse yourself in the diaries of seasoned adventurers for inspiration, and paddle your way through the heart of England's waterways. And for a holiday that will take your breath away, Sweden awaits with its captivating landscapes and exhilarating paddling experiences.

Unlock the secrets of these diaries and embark on an adventure of a lifetime. Whether you choose to explore the enchanting waterways of England or embark

on a thrilling expedition in Sweden, your diaries of trips by canoe and kayak will become a testament to your own extraordinary journey.



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This book describes several multi day trips made by canoe and kayak in the 1940's and 50's and gives an insight into the lives of young Britons during and shortly after the Second World War. It's compiled from diaries and notes made at that time, and includes reproductions of some of the original route sketches other drawings and photographs.

In 1943 teenager John Pearton set off on the first of what proved to be a lifetime of canoeing adventures. As a beginner John's prior experience would have been limited to reading about the sport, he had also read the Grey Owl books and, yearned for the wild outdoors which they describe. However, the limitations of the Second World War required that he started his paddling in southern England. The

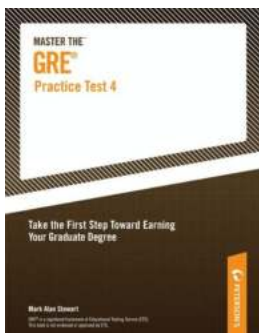
first trips are completed in hired open canoes. John and his friends wild camp or obtain permission to put their tents up on farmland. They usually cook over wood fires and we learn they have a great interest in their meals, no doubt as a result of the food rationing at the time. The occasional reference to air raids and their meetings with troops are reminders of the war.

In 1944 John buys his first boat, a folding kayak which he uses for the rest of the trips in this book. For much of the time the characters continue to camp but on occasion they sleep in hostels and hotels. In 1948 I take my first weekend away with John. We had to have separate accommodation, a reflection of those times.

The book ends with our 1955 summer holiday, a canoeing trip in southern Sweden, which we took with two other friends. The first of what proved to be many paddling adventures abroad.

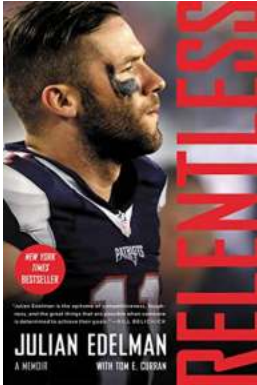
The earliest diaries are exercise books written in John's curling looped schoolboy hand and are bought alive by sketches. Canoeing in the twenty first century is very different to the events described. The stories are very much of their time, I hope that I have captured both their zeitgeist and the perspectives of the characters in this edition.

Whether you are a canoeist or simply interested in history I am sure you will enjoy the book.



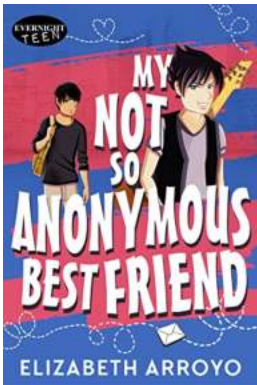
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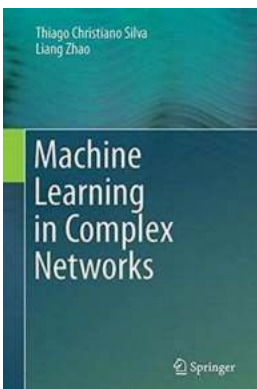
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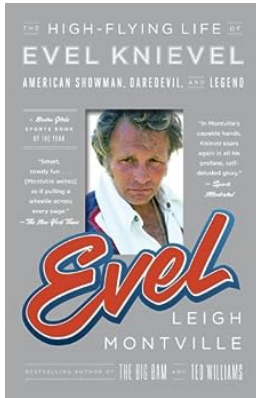
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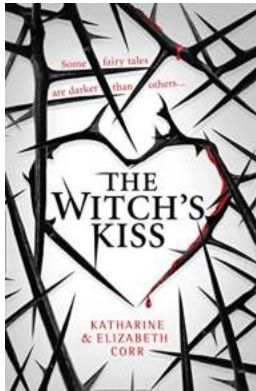
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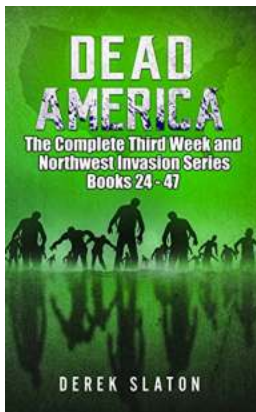
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