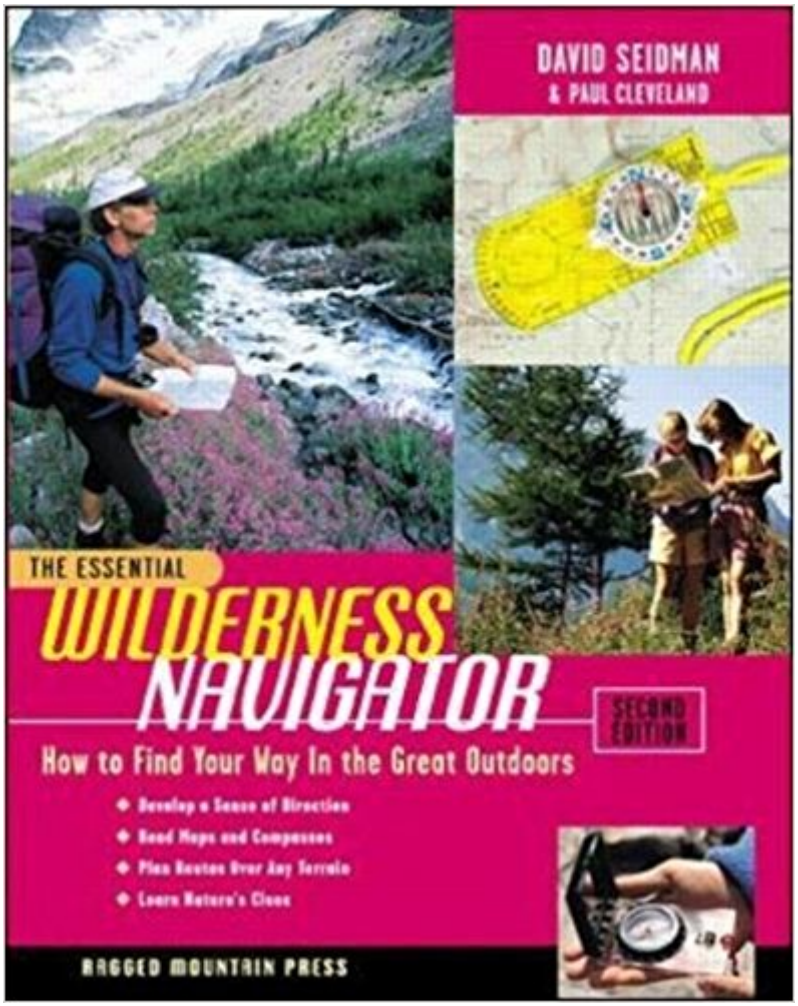
# The Essential Wilderness Navigator: How To Find Your Way In The Great Outdoors, Second Edition



## Synopsis

Now with full-color topographic maps and featuring the latest on electronic navigation, The Essential Wilderness Navigator is the clearest and most up-to-date route-finding primer available. Providing readers with exercises for developing a directional Ã¢â ¬Ëœsixth sense,Ã¢â ¬â„¢ tips on mastering the art of map- and compass-reading, and comprehensive updates on a range of technological advances, this perennially popular guide is more indispensable than ever.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Essential Series--Your Trusted Guides "Puts the world of wilderness navigation in the palm of your hand."--Adventure West "Teaches the essential disciplines of compass and map-reading . . . but goes beyond the basics with useful, eye-opening advice on how to read nature’s highway signs--vegetation bands, wind-whipped ripples in sand or snow, and the positions of the sun and stars."--Northeast Outdoors If you’re at all unsure of your backwoods direction-finding skills, The Essential Wilderness Navigator is the guide you’ve been looking for. It teaches you how to observe--to see, smell, hear, and sense the details of the environment around you. Then, to supplement your newly enhanced sense of direction, you’ll learn to read maps, use a compass, and find your location and route with reference to landmarks. This updated second edition also includes The basics of global positioning system (GPS) navigation and CD-ROM maps A full-color section on reading topographical maps Navigating in deserts, mountains, and snow Whether you’re planning an extended wilderness trek or a day hike on marked trails, here’s how to stay found.

David Seidman has spent a good portion of his life finding his way around the world. He's crossed oceans, toured central Asia and Mongolia without a map or the ability to speak the language, and found a Mayan ruin in Guatemala. He is the author of The Essential Sea Kayaker and The Complete Sailor and is an editor at Boating magazine. Paul Cleveland has worked as a wilderness ranger in New Mexico and designed and built trails in the Appalachians. He is a frequent contributor to Backpacker and Climbing magazines and the Gorp.com Web pages. He guides whitewater rafting trips and teaches CPR and first aid for the Red Cross and wilderness navigation for Outward Bound.

This book is good, and would have warranted four stars, when published back in 2001 (Second Edition). The general navigation and wayfinding techniques are clearly discussed and illustrated, but there have been some key developments in the mapping world that the authors should address in an updated edition.First, the authors are unfairly dismissive of grid systems like UTM. Now, back in 2001 this was acceptable since the USGS really didn't have an accepted grid system. They put both UTM and Lat/Long grid tics on the topo quad sheets and basically said "use what you like". This attitude has caused endless confusion among topo map users in the US. However, post 9/11 and Katrina the USGS has agreed to adopt the US National Grid system, which is nothing more than the Military Grid Reference System extended across the US. The USGS has also begun producing the excellent US Topo series of maps as a substitute for the old 7.5 minute quad sheets, and these new maps all have the US National Grid overprinted on them. These two developments alone should be enough to force the authors and publishers of all land navigation handbooks and guides to update their works.Next is the GPS appendix. Like it or not, GPS receivers are now a standard part of most hiker's kit and consumer GPS technology has come a LONG way since 2001. I don't really think it is useful to discuss specific GPS navigation techniques in a book focusing on map and compass navigation, that is really a better topic for a separate publication. I DO think it is important to address both the benefits of having a GPS unit available and to have a frank discussion of GPS system limitations based on things like receiver design, satellite visibility and geometry, masking, the effects of canopy cover, etc. Just as important, the (serious) limitations of GPS units embedded into devices like smartphones.The use of the internet for planning should be addressed. There has been an explosion of useful tools on the web that can help the the wilderness traveler better plan his or her adventure. One is the availability of free digital copies of all USGS topo maps directly from the USGS Map Store in GeoPDF format and tools like the NOAA web tool for calculating the current

magnetic declination for any area in the US [...]Admittedly, all of the above comments were not valid when this book was published in 2001, and in the context of 2001 this is a very good book. If the reader keeps in mind and takes advantage of the advances I discuss then this can be considered a very good wilderness navigation book and from that perspective I can recommend it.However, there are some issues that are fundamental to the book and reflective of the style and experience of the authors that I do have some reservations about.First is the discussion of types of compasses and their use and limitations (I should note that this is something a lot of wilderness navigation authors are guilty of). For example, I have a collection of about 18 liquid dampened compasses by the big name makers (Silva, Suunto & Brunton). About half of them have air bubbles in the capsule and several of these bubbles are so large they interfere with the compass needle operation. I EXPECT a liquid dampened compass to develop air bubbles and for this reason I always carry a backup. However, I have never had an induction dampened compass fail. The selection of induction dampened compasses is admittedly limited. The most common example is the US Army lensatic compass, and it is an excellent choice for the wilderness traveler. The techniques of use for the lensatic compass are just slightly different, but no more difficult, than those used with baseplate compasses.While ordinary baseplate compasses are great for orienteering or short range wilderness navigation they start to show their weakness when trying to determine accurate bearings to distant landmarks, particularly in desert environments. A sighting compass, like the Silva Ranger, is a much more accurate tool and provides the best features of the baseplate compass. For serious navigation work where accurate bearing determination is critical I strongly recommend a sighting compass accurate to 1/2 degree, like the Suunto KB-14.Last, I’m somewhat concerned by the authors weak coverage of how to adjust for magnetic declination. The authors try to talk their way through the topic, and offer some useful memory jogs in the appendix (like "declination east, compass least"). However, my experience is that the use of the ’greater - lesser angle’ diagram pioneered by the US military is the easiest to teach, easiest to visualize and the least error prone. I find that once students ’get’ the diagram they find it easy to hold in memory and many of them never even bother to make use of the declination offset features available on their compasses. The concept of declination - both grid and magnetic - is too important to not cover clearly and in depth in any serious work on wilderness navigation.

Been developing & delivering training materials for many years. Mr. Seidman shows how it should be done. The first 20 pages are so engaging, it sent me off thinking about "bigger picture" ideas, beyond navigation. I’d ponder a few seconds, then (happily) re-read a certain passage to ensure it

stuck. It seems each sentence was honed for maximum meaning with minimal words, and does so with an almost lyrical quality. Damn. Seidman & Cleveland, the beer's on me.If completely disinterested in the topic, I'd still enjoy this book. But I AM interested, and having read it cover to cover, I have learned first, how to THINK like a navigator, and second, to use tools and techniques to BE a navigator.Dining room table - covered in topo maps, a baseplate compass, and this book. I periodically go outside and plunge sticks in the ground and stare at shadows. Watch sun, moon, stars. Compass bearing, look for a transit. I'll let you discover for yourself "the foundation stone of all wayfinding" on page 11. :-) Can't wait to get out in the woods and do this for myself, and find engaging ways to share this with the kids we bring along on some trips.BTW, I bought another book on this topic at the same time, which I opened first. I'm betting that this "bible" on the topic is great, but the first 20 pages is of no value to the actual topic. I got antsy, went outside and did some chores, then came back and read Seidman's book and...(see above). I'll get back to that other book soon.

I see other reviews here going bananas over issues I didn't spot. I read the book, went out to the middle of nowhere in the woods, and didn't get lost. The book was easy to read, author had fun tid bits, and in general it helped all over. I'm happy I bought it.I might mark it lower later, but for now it is a great beginner book.Edit: I have now read 3 full books on navigation, and chapters from a few "all around" books for wilderness survival. This one is the best. Does a passable job of GPS, Magnetic Fields around the earth, travel without map or compass, things that make a compass fail. This book does an exceptional job at teaching map and compass. Simply put, this book is the best.I encourage the authors to come out with a new addition, add 20 pages or so expanding on longitude/latitude, magnetic fields, travel without map and compass. This is such a great intro, the best so far. The only real con is the it doesn't have a lot of fun exercises like "Be expert with map and compass". Other than that small con, the rest is amazing. Again I encourage the authors to put out a third addition, they have a following and this really can be a one stop shop for everyone.

Descriptive, thorough and well written. If you are looking to start adventuring off the beaten path and don't want to be up the creek without a paddle this is a must for you to own and really sit down and read carefully taking in all the knowledge you can from it as it covers more than one would expect. From compass reading, map reading to basic real time land reading, tips and processes. If it had anything more it would talk about edible and useful plants.

The Essential Wilderness Navigator: How to Find Your Way in the Great Outdoors, Second Edition Official Netscape Navigator 3.0 Windows: The Definitive Guide to the World's Most Popular Internet Navigator Laxiba The Fructose Navigator: The Standard for Fructose Intolerance (The Nutrition Navigator Books) (Volume 2) Eric's Big Book of Wilderness Survival Hacks: The Ultimate DIY Field Guide For Adventures In The Great Outdoors (Life Hacks 4) Camping and Cooking Beyond SÃ¢â ¬â„¢mores: Outdoors Cooking Guide and Cookbook for Beginner Campers (Happier Outdoors) Outdoors with Kids Boston: 100 Fun Places To Explore In And Around The City (AMC Outdoors with Kids) Real World Clinical Social Work: Find Your Voice and Find Your Way Essential Oils: 50 Essential Oil Dog & Cat Recipes From My Essential Oil Private Collection: Proven Essential Oil Recipes That Work! (Essential Oil Pet Private Collection Book 1) Essential Oils: Essential Oil Recipe Book - 30 Proven Essential Oil Recipes ::: My Essential Oil Private Collection Vol. 1 (Private Collection Essential Oils) The Navigator's Handbook: Essential Methods and Equipment--And How to Use Them to Go Anywhere at Sea Nate the Great Collected Stories: Volume 1: Nate the Great; Nate the Great Goes Undercover; Nate the Great and the Halloween Hunt; Nate the Great and the Monster Mess A Millennials Guide To Live Your Dream: The Most Likely To Succeed Will Find That Elusive Something That Leads Them To Success and Happiness. Find Your Inner Super Power! The Great Big Search and Find Activity Book: Over 500 things to find, color and spot! The Natural Navigator: The Rediscovered Art of Letting Nature Be Your Guide Ultimate Guide to Wilderness Living: Surviving with Nothing But Your Bare Hands and What You Find in the Woods Utah Camping Guide : The essential handbook for planning and enjoying your next outdoors trip Guide to Arizona's Wilderness Areas (Wilderness Guidebooks) The Complete Guide to Colorado's Wilderness Areas (Wilderness Guidebooks) Into the Wilderness: Wilderness Saga, Book 1 Bushcraft: 25 Skills To Survive In The Wilderness: (Bushcraft Basics, How to Survive in the Wilderness)