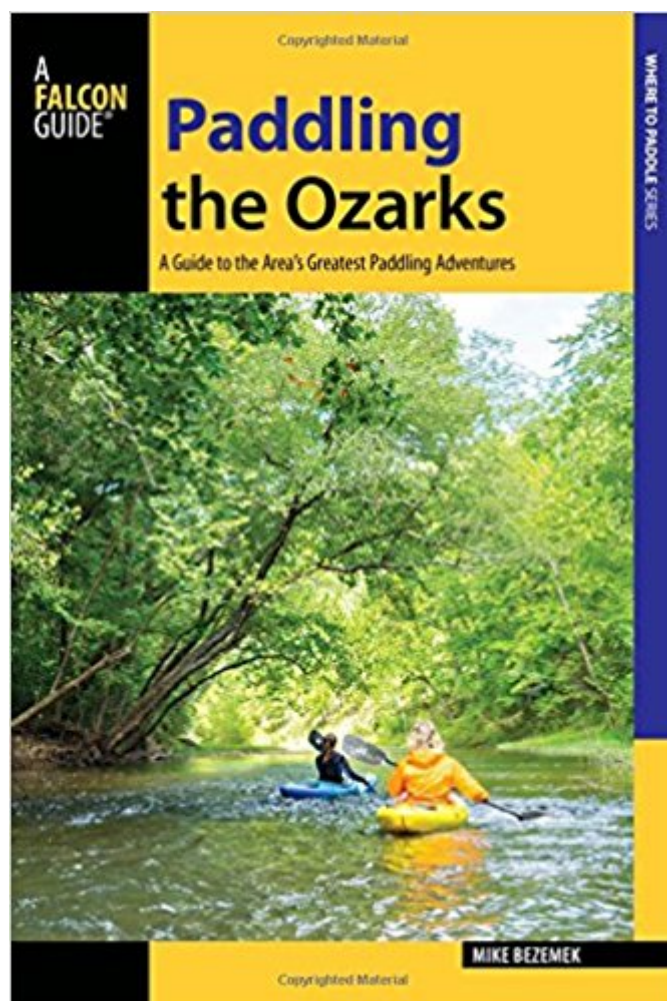


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Paddling The Ozarks: A Guide To The Area's Greatest Paddling Adventures



Synopsis

With gushing springs, clear-water streams, lush hardwood forests, and limestone bluffs rising hundreds of feet, the Ozarks offer enough paddling to fill a lifetime, including seven streams in the National Wild & Scenic Rivers system and three rivers protected by national parks. Paddling the Ozarks details 40 of the region's best paddling trips—classic floats, hidden gems, scenic lakes, and challenging whitewater. Waterways ranging from southern Missouri to northern Arkansas to Oklahoma—Cookson Hills with year-round classics like the Current River, Jacks Fork, NF White, and Eleven Point make this the essential guide to paddling the Ozarks. Paddling the Ozarks reveals that what some call flyover country is better described as paddle-through. Look inside to find: GPS coordinates for every put-in/takeout Detailed river descriptions Maps showing access points and river miles Level of difficulty, optimal flows, rapids, and other hazards

Book Information

Paperback: 237 pages

Publisher: Falcon Guides (May 15, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1493025422

ISBN-13: 978-1493025428

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #750,783 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #30 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Kayaking > Whitewater Kayaking #193 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Canoeing #263 in Books > Travel > United States > South > West South Central

Customer Reviews

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Mike Bezemek is an avid paddler of whitewater rivers, lakes, float streams, and seas across the U.S. and around the world. He contributes writing and photography to a variety of publications, including his columns Regular Paddler, Remarkable Waters for Canoe & Kayak Magazine and Bull On Tap. You can contact him and view his work by visiting mikebezemek.com.

I am very impressed with this guide. I own The Paddler's Guide to Missouri and it is very detailed and helpful for all of the rivers throughout the state. THIS BOOK on the other hand deals with the Ozarks, and not just the Missouri Ozarks, but VERY good details on some of the best floats in the United States on the Buffalo River, and Mulberry Creek. When I first received this book I was skeptical because it doesn't have some of the daylong floats that I personally love in it, but the more I read through it, the more I am impressed with the detail of the floats they included. The "trip finder" guide is pure genius. I would personally put the Eleven Point River float a little farther up the "best scenery" list, but who cares... They included best party floats, best spring-time runs, best summer runs, best wildlife, best freshwater springs, best fall runs, best family floats, etc. VERY VERY VERY well done.

This book is a great idea but it doesn't cover all of the kayaking rivers and streams and the Ozarks like I thought it would. It gives some good reviews of some areas but doesn't cover the whole Buffalo River for example.

I was excited to get this book due to the more recent publication date than my trusty old (2004 edition) of "A Canoeing & Kayaking Guide to the Ozarks". Unfortunately, this book is not a great resource due to huge gaps in information. First the good: Bezemek has an engaging writing style; there is a good summary before each river segment description that quickly lists relevant info such as coordinates, float time, rapids class, etc.; the book has several river segment lists organized in different ways - by general location (e.g. Boston Mountains), by season, trip length, by features (scenery, wildlife, whitewater difficulty, etc) which is great for trip planning. Now for the not so good:

My main frustration with this book is the large gaps information that I've found so far. A perfect example of this is the scant amount of information on one of Arkansas' most iconic rivers, The Buffalo National River. Its worth noting that the entire 133 miles of the Buffalo are paddle-able and fall into "the Ozarks" and yet only 26.6 miles (~20%) are described in this book. An Arkansas whitewater favorite, the Mulberry River, runs for 49 miles, 7.25 miles of it are covered in this book. Only 26 miles of the amazing Eleven Point River's 99 miles are discussed. Frog Bayou, Hurricane, Hailstone, Strawberry, War Eagle and numerous other smaller but amazing / popular Arkansas creeks and rivers aren't mentioned at all. There is a lot of "filler" like local lore, trip stories, a smattering of history, etc. as well as the cursory gear lists, safety warnings, etc that are common to guide books. Not, in itself, a bad thing but given the amount of stuff NOT covered in this "guide", it leaves me feeling like he resorted to filling the pages with that instead of doing some more paddling homework. I'm less familiar with MO waterways so I'll let someone else weigh in on that. Perhaps he did a more thorough job on those? Note: I bought this book from a non-seller. I have not received any compensation for my review.

Superb guide for beginners to veteran enthusiasts.

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