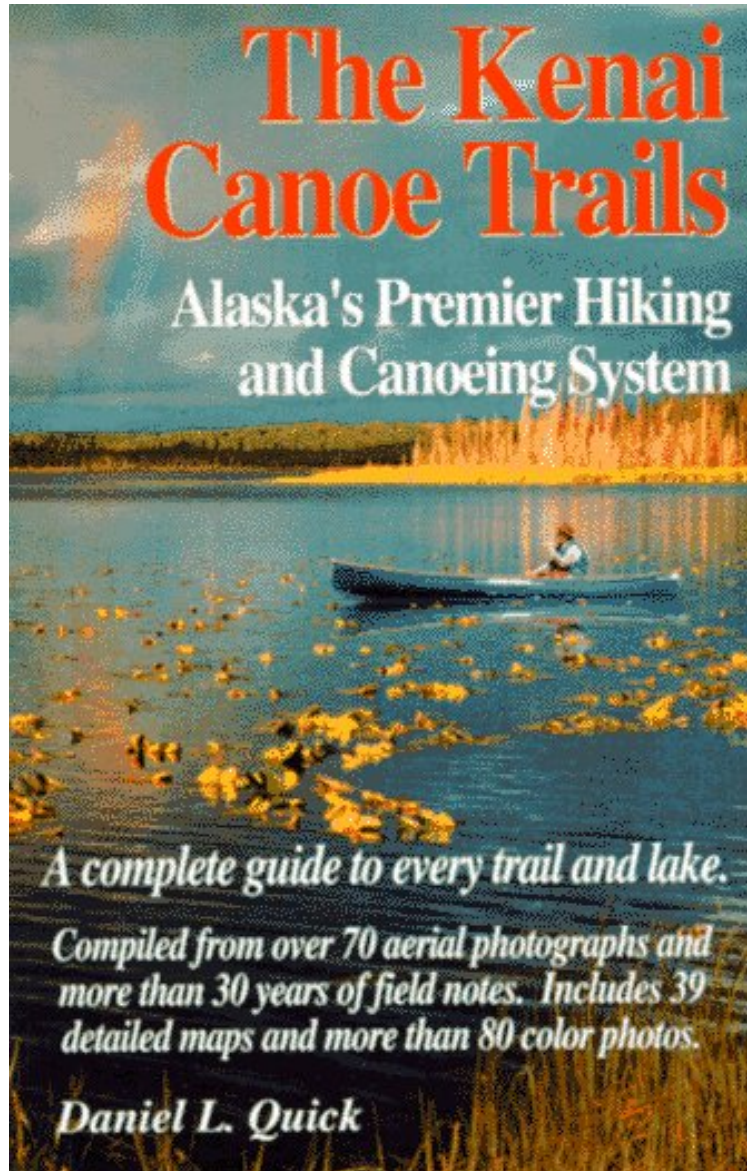


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The Kenai Canoe Trails

Daniel L. Quick

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Daniel L. Quick : The Kenai Canoe Trails before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Kenai Canoe Trails:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Alaska's Boundary Waters By Art F West coast version of Boundary Waters. Great read, and I'd love to canoe there. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Book of trail By Lane Hughe Book of trail Ive been waiting for this. thank you 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By

GlennJust what I expected and wanted.

Trails is the definitive guide to the vast pristine canoeing system of Alaska's Kenai Peninsula. Set aside by Congress as one of only two wilderness canoe areas, this is the other Boundary Waters. Every lake and trail is illustrated by aerial photo maps unique to this book and represent the most informative charting yet available of this area. Author Daniel Quick further illustrates the book with outstanding color photographs, personal observations and practical facts -- camp sites, trail lengths, fish species, water profiles (pH, conductivity, alkalinity, hardness). Compiled from over 70 aerial photographs and more than 30 years of field notes, this work includes 39 detailed maps and more than 80 color photos. This indispensable field guide is easy to handle in the field and comes with a waterproof laminated cover. Be you casual visitor, an avid paddler, or just an armchair dreamer, you're sure to find this account of the Swanson River and Swan Lake Canoe Trails a most valuable and often reread addition to your adventure library. QUOTE: "The Kenai Canoe Trails is an accurate and informative guide to one of the great canoeing systems and national wilderness treasures of the United States. Mr. Quick has written the definitive work on this pristine area. It is destined to become a classic field guide and planning resource for canoeists, hunters, ice fishermen, Nordic skiers, in fact anyone that travels this system of lakes and trails. I doubt that I will ever enter the area again without having a copy of this book close at hand.

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About the Author Daniel Quick has lived on the Kenai Peninsula since 1969. He has explored much of its wilderness area and has spent most of his adult life capturing its beauty on film. Daniel has traveled extensively on all of the trails and waterways described on these pages. He has compiled a unique and interesting record of one of the world's most fascinating canoe systems. I would like to dedicate this book to my son Matthew (M.J.), who has shared with me many of the adventurous spots described herein. I would also dedicate it to any others who have felt the thrill of the back country and still long to explore what might lie just around the next bend. I know of no better way of doing just that, than having a fine canoe under one's seat, a sleek paddle in one's hand, a little bug dope in your pocket, and a harmonica near the top of your pack. Hope to see you on the trails.

Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. The following excerpt is taken from the opening chapter of The Kenai Canoe Trails. For more than twenty years I have been scratching around the back country of Alaska, and particularly the Kenai Peninsula. When I was a little younger and in better shape, I would tend to invest most of my efforts in the high country, up where the sheep and mountain goats roam. This was a magnificent realm of clouds, ice, and tundra, and it totally captivated my imagination. Though as much as possible I would stay on the high and lofty ridges, I often found myself spending lazy afternoons gazing down on the sparkling lake country of the northwest section of the Kenai. Someday I would explore that vast country. Someday when time allowed. A few of my early excursions would take me close to that area, out the Swanson River Road and on to the end of the Swan Lake Road. These gravel thoroughfares allowed me to penetrate, at least a little, this great basin of lakes and forests. But with the dust of the road and the thickness of the brush, I always felt like I had somehow missed something primeval, even magical, that was lurking just beyond the leafy barriers along the roadway. I knew of the existence of the Canoe Trails and even mused over maps and charts, exploring the lakes and portages with a wondering eye and a sharpened pencil. On a few occasions I would even paddle some of the lakes near the Swanson or Swan Lake Roads. But it was not until much later that I would discover firsthand the treasury of trails and waterways that make up the Swan Lake and Swanson River Canoe Routes. Each successive journey into these systems would draw me farther away from the road and deeper into a wondrous area. Though the country maintained a certain sameness to its rolling hills of birch and spruce, I was pleasantly surprised by the unique character each lake presented. None were quite the same. Each had its own flavor, its own way of presenting the wild places. As my excursions would take me deeper into this land of lakes, I became increasingly aware of how very little was known or written about this wilderness. The maps and brochures dealing with the systems were meant to be guides to paddlers, but were woefully lacking in meaningful information. Where were the camps? Was the portage easy or challenging? What was the lake like? Were there fish here or there, and if so what kind and how many? How deep was this lake and what was its bottom contour? Should I stop here or carry the canoe on to the next lake to set up my camp? It was because of such questions, and because of the lack of available resource material to draw any answers, that this book was conceived. I started a systematic search for answers and began gathering information from any and every source possible. It has taken several years of exploring and many months of pouring over official field notes and records of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. I have probably read nearly every scrap of information about the Canoe Trails, some of which dates back to the early 60's, and in some cases was nothing more than a scribbled field note. This information, along with my own personal notes and conversations with fellow explorers, has been the foundation for

the material presented on the following pages. And the work goes on. I continue to be amazed at how much is left unknown. Many of the lakes have never been tested for water quality or depth. Much of the fishery information that has been gathered over the years is fairly old now and needs to be updated. In short, there is a lot of the Swan Lake and Swanson River Canoe Routes that remains a mystery, and I suppose will remain so for many years to come. Therein lies much of my continued interest and involvement. As I look through these pages I am struck with the many question marks still evident in the information. Needless to say, future updates of this material will most likely be forthcoming, and I'll probably be searching and exploring this vast area for as long as I am able. Let's be clear about one thing. This book is not a scientific analysis of the area nor is it a thesis with something to prove. It is only an attempt to provide the reader with some practical answers to those common questions I kept asking as I began to explore these waterways and trails. I have presented the information from the perspective of a canoeist, but much of what is on these pages, and particularly the maps of each area, should prove useful to anyone wishing to enter this wilderness, no matter what the season or what their purpose. This is a practical field guide with information that will be helpful to the paddler, hunter, cross country skier, or to anyone who might want to explore one of the world's truly great wilderness areas.