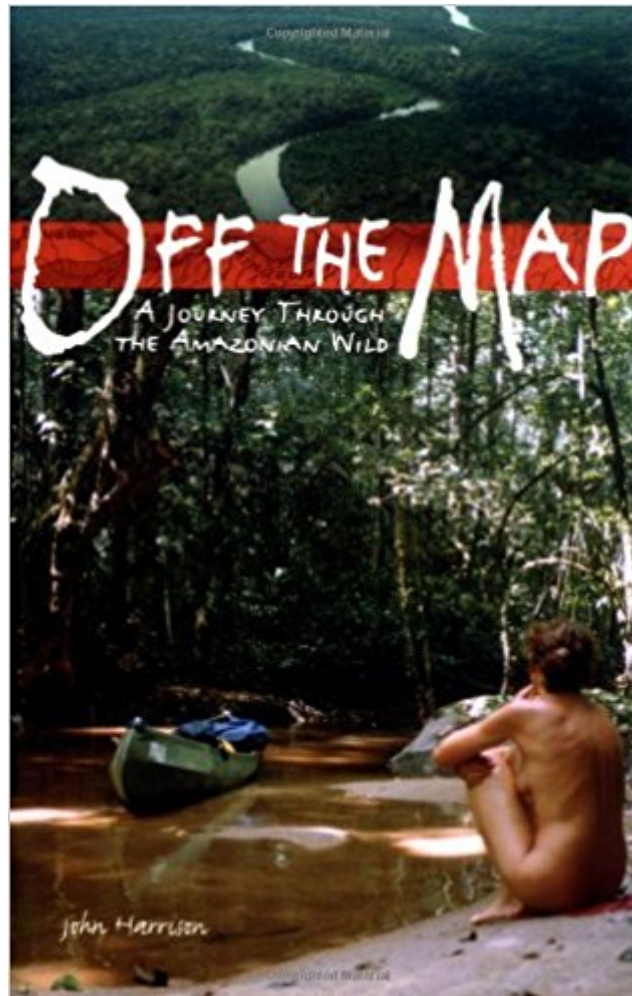




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Off The Map: A Journey Through The Ilan Wild



Synopsis

This true-life adventure-travel story follows John Harrison and his wife Heather deep into an unexplored region of the rainforests in the Guiana Highlands that border Brazil. With just a canoe and a shotgun, the newlyweds followed the most remote tributary of the River without any means of contacting civilization. Harrison tells their story as, unaided and off the map, they encounter jaguars and poisonous frogs, are threatened by malaria, and almost lose their way entirely. While experiencing travel at its most raw, they struggle to keep their deteriorating sanity and relationship intact in one of the most hostile and unforgiving places in the world. Far more harrowing than reality shows like *Survivor* and *Amazing Race*, this is armchair adventure at its most honest and compelling.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“An absorbing account of an obsessional journey into South America’s unknown dark heart. At times hilarious, at times terrifying, John Harrison has created the best book on the lure of truly wild places since Jon Krakauer’s *Into the Wild*.” —Matt Dickinson, author, *The Death Zone*
“This is the real thing: the excitement, delight, hardship, beauty, and danger of paddling into unexplored forests . . . told with charm and knowledge.” —John Hemming, author, *The Conquest of the Incas and Red Gold*

John Harrison has been a tour leader in South America and has extensively explored the , the Niger, and rivers in North America and Europe. He has been profiled by National Geographic TV, is

a fellow of the Royal Geographic Society, and has chaired their tropical forest workshops. He has also lectured on ships traveling up the for a number of cruise lines.

Incredible writer. Immensely enjoyed it. Ultra realistic depiction of nature with a healthy dose of biting humor. Few travel books reach his caliber of talent and depth.

I must admit that the cover photo caught my attention at the local library and I'm sure glad I found this hidden gem! John Harrison has the audacity to attempt an upstream traverse of a remote tributary...yes, upstream, against and around raging rapids, fallen trees, swift currents and for me, the horror of horrors...multiple hornet and wasp nests! Then he plans on hauling his canoe and all the gear 15 kilometers over a small mountain range to a river that makes it's way to the northern coast of South America. On an old Indian trail across these mountains that may not even still exist. And not by himself or with another seasoned, masochistic adventurer like himself, but with his wife! Need I say more? This book is a must read for anyone who enjoys REAL adventure stories where there is no quick rescue should things go wrong. So order it today (or go to your local library) and start reading because you won't be disappointed!

People who are interested in reading about the rain forest or French Guyana should in fact read another book called "Antecume", a true biography written by the Andre Cognat, who dared to venture alone on a small canoe on the Oyapock River (at the border of Brazil and French Guyana), got lost and injured, and was miraculously rescued by Amerindians (the "Wayanas", a tribe with whom he still lives among today), many years before Mr. and Mrs. Harrison and at a time when much of Guyana was still unexplored. I have my doubts as to whether the events narrated by the Harrisons have indeed truly happened or not, or at least the way they are depicted in this book. It is my impression that the authors' exploits have been quite exaggerated. I visited Guyana several times and I have not heard of the Harrisons. In fact, Guyana is no longer such a risky place in the wilderness to venture into! It has been quite modernized since colonial times and 'the bagne' over the past decades; especially after the rocket launching site was build near Kourou. There is now easy access to healthcare facilities, and transportation and telecommunication equipments are quite modern and widely available. In fact, the most remote areas located at the East and South of the Guyanese territory are stricly delimited and called "zone interdite": in other words, it is even illegal to enter them without the authorization of the local government.

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