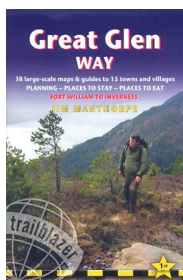


Great Glen Way



Jim Manthorpe
Trailblazer, The Old Manse, Tower Rd,
Hindhead, Surrey GU26 6SU
 978 1 905864 80 5
 180 x 120mm
 174 pages, paperback
 23rd Mar 2017
 £11.99

The Great Glen Way long distance footpath uses the towpath of the Caledonian Canal for much of its length or else, on the loch sections, beside the lochs or higher up, looking down on them. Only after Drumnadrochit does the route move away into the mountains.

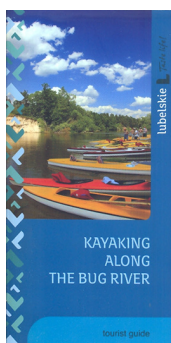
The introduction to this book is actually longer than the guide itself and, as usual for Trailblazer, is quite heavy on environmental aspects. You might be interested to know how to sex shaggy highland cattle, a different technique than for smooth southern beasts while trying to spot the bull in a field where you are launching or landing. (Highland cow horns turn up while bull horns turn down.)

Photos are limited, mostly standard examples of flowers that might be seen while on foot, but include the bridge at Invermoriston. The guide runs southwest to northeast, as that is what the weather does most frequently, and is supported by maps at 1:20,000 scale, predominantly along the footpath, as you would expect, although this is often also the towpath. Towns and villages, of which there are few, have large scale maps with the locations of accommodation and where to eat shown, supported by written descriptions and details in the text. Even wild camping spots are suggested.

It is not all walking, however. Three campsites for canoeists are described. The fact that they are called Trailblazer sites is stressed on various occasions by this publisher. There is a paragraph on canoeing the Great Glen, 'probably the most relaxing' way to travel it, and the official canoe trail along the canal is mentioned.

Finally, there is a section on climbing Ben Nevis and on Glen Nevis, which may assist white water paddlers. Nothing ever stays still, however, and a new footbridge was placed across the river for climbers a few days before the book hit the shops.

Kayaking Along the Bug River



Józef Tworek
Marshal's Office of Lubelskie Voivodeship,
20-074 Lublin, ul Spokojna 4
 978 83 63221 41 6
 220 x 120mm
 140 pages, paperback
 2nd edition
 Free

For much of the 400km covered by this guide, the River Bug forms the border between Poland and first the Ukraine then Belarus. More importantly, it is the EU border and so there are complex regulations. Paddlers may not cross the centreline of the main channel of the river and,

where the river makes a loop into Belarus, a 16km portage may be required. Paddling is permitted only from half an hour after sunrise to half an hour before sunset. Group leaders, who must have skills paperwork, need to report to border guards when launching and when coming off the water. There are restrictions to land along the banks and bans on campfires and swimming in the river. The latter means that paddlers are the only people permitted to reach the most easterly point in Poland.

Despite all the regulations, the river is popular for flat water touring, especially in double kayaks. Only a handful of bridges cross the entire 400km and the river is rural with good scenery and wildlife. Sand martins frequently nest in the banks and the forested areas often include stands of pines. In places the rapid expansion of beavers is resulting in their becoming pests.

Taking photographs of distance markers is not permitted, although samples are shown in the book. The spacing of these is not consistent, generally in the order of 800m apart, and a totally different numbering system is being introduced. Many are included in a detailed distance guide in the book. The pictures used are mostly small. Map sheets have

quite a lot of detail despite only being in the order of 1:400,000. In an area of low population, the guide to features introduces mostly natural history, churches and battles, particularly those in the 20th century. The complex political history of the area is part of the mix.

Also included are guides to several tributaries on the Polish side, which run into the bureaucracy if followed right to the River Bug.

River instruction or warning signs are illustrated and there is advice to ensure that mobile phone calls are not routed via the Ukraine, where charges are much higher.

A section on safety for beginners is helpful except for an ill advised set of drawings on how to tie a bowline round your body with one hand. Hire centre contact details are given and there is a glossary of maps and relevant books, all in Polish, unlike this book which is in good English. For touring in eastern Poland this book would be indispensable.

Rivers & Lakes in Serbia

Rivers and Lakes in Serbia



Rozana Sazdic
National Tourism Organisation of
Serbia, Cika Ljubina 8,
11000 Beograd
 978 86 6005 462 5
 A4
 36 pages, paperback
 2nd edition 2016

Plentifully illustrated, this is an introductory guide to Serbia's rivers and lakes. The map marks rafting locations but not canoeing, which is ubiquitous with plenty of hire centres.

Pictures range from a trio of sprint K1s to a single red open canoe and there is reference to the big daddy of European canoe tours, the TID, which includes the Serbian section of the Danube.

The booklet is laid out river by river and lake by lake, making it easy to relate the pictures to the text, which only gives an overview of each.

Our Beaches



Câmara Municipal de Lagoa,
Largo do Municipio,
8401-851 Lagoa
 210mm sq
 42 pages, paperback

Covering the Lagoa section of the Algarve, this booklet has a double page spread for each beach. One page has an attractive full page photograph and the other a brief description in Portuguese and in English which is hard to follow.

A series of icons indicate what facilities are available at each beach and a GPS reference is given.

The beaches are divided into three categories, bathing, natural and wild, an indication of how hard each is to reach and how busy it will be. The wild beaches are often accessible only from the sea and are listed but not described, unfortunate as these may be the ones of greatest interest to sea paddlers except for launching.