

Never Get Lost Again

How To Navigate Anywhere

Table of Contents

Navigation for the Ancients

How to Read Maps

Using a Compass

Wilderness Navigation

Coastal Navigation

About Global Positioning

Survival Tips When Lost at Sea

Survival Tips When Lost on Land

Preparing a Survival Kit for Water Trips

Preparing a Survival Kit for Land Adventures

How to Avoid Getting Lost

Proudly Brought To You By

[National Parks Depot](http://www.Nationalparksdepot.us)

DISCLAIMER: This information is provided "as is". The author, publishers and marketers of this information disclaim any loss or liability, either directly or indirectly as a consequence of applying the information presented herein, or in regard to the use and application of said information. No guarantee is given, either expressed or implied, in regard to the merchantability, accuracy, or acceptability of the information.

Navigation for the Ancients

Navigation Tools and Techniques for the Ancients

It is the nature of man to explore the world around him. That is why during the ancient times, thousands of years ago, sailors traveled in ships, crossed oceans, reached different continents and conquered many islands.

Observing modern navigation will surely get you to thinking that traveling by sea, by air or even by land is a very complicated task. Having maps at hand during such travels will be of great help. But without the benefits and usefulness of modern technology and sophisticated navigational tools, how did the ancient people manage the task?

Numerous researches about early navigation techniques of different civilizations have found that almost all ancient navigators, most of them sailors, have relied on the placement and regular appearance of the sun, the moon and the stars for navigational purposes. Analyzing the findings, you will conclude that the techniques to use celestial bodies as points of reference for travel make sense.

In fact, there are still many sailors and travelers today that use celestial or heavenly bodies to aid navigation during air, land or sea travel. But with the modern tools of today, of course, everything is made simpler and less complicated.

The history of celestial navigation

Studies and diggings have revealed that perhaps, seafarers made the earliest recorded distant travels in 3500 BC. During those times, not many navigation aids and tools were yet discovered and developed, researchers theorize that they made use of celestial navigation primarily for distant sea travels.

According to studies, most sea travelers during those times simply used landmarks when traveling. For example, they used hills, mountains and other landmarks to identify destinations and places. But of course, that system only worked for shortdistanced travels. What about long ones, or those that involved crossing different oceans?

That is how celestial navigation probably set in. Ancient celestial navigation involved the observation of the placement in the sky of the sun, the moon and the stars. That is because out in the open water, no other landmarks could be seen or observed.

Out in the ocean, people can see nothing but horizons. Everywhere the eyes look, there's just endless sea underneath, and the sky above. Because the sun, the moon

and the stars regularly rise and set as the day goes by, ancient travelers have inferred that those celestial bodies could be used as effective reference points for traveling.

And surely, they did. By looking at the celestial bodies, you can easily infer directions. Of course, the sun and the moon rise in the east and set in the west although the seasons also bring angles into play. The stars, unlike the sun and the moon, don't change angles depending on the season.

So, the stars have been considered more reliable in celestial navigation. The ancients probably learned to create line of sight systems to observe celestial bodies for navigation.

For example, the North Star is always located in the North. In the evening sky anywhere in the world, people will see the North Star as a distinct bright star that looks like a guide.

Ancient travelers may have used the North Star as an early reference point in traveling. Thus, through the North Star, they could identify directions. North Star is always in the north direction, and from there, it would be easy to infer other directions like the east, the west and the south.

Other ancient navigation tools

There were other navigation techniques or tools used by ancient travelers. Studies note that different civilizations developed different navigation tools and techniques for sea travel. For example, celestial navigation was widely used by European travelers.

In the Pacific, ancient Polynesian travelers were found to have learned how to navigate using wave observations. The concept is very simple, but is so sensible that you may be awed how such a simple idea could have been a very important aspect of navigation way back then.

You know that small waves are observed in deep waters and shallow waters are usually where huge waves can be seen. That is due to the presence of shallower land bottom of the sea on seashores. Polynesians knew that so they detected nearby land areas during travels using such simple knowledge.

In the Mediterranean, ancient travelers learned to use wind as indicators of directions. For example, in the Mediterranean, warm winds are coming from the south, cold breeze is from the north, dry is from the east and humid or wet is from the west.

Ancient navigation is full of wonder. Ancient travelers should be commended for being so smart and resourceful to develop ancient navigation tools and techniques.

How to Read Maps

How to Read Maps

The ability to read maps is a must for everyone. It is especially essential for people who are into nautical navigation because map reading is important in coordinating and determining the ship's exact location and course.

If you are not familiar with nautical navigation, it is helpful if you have even the slightest knowledge on how to read maps. That is to prepare you for any emergency situation when you would inevitably be required to pin down locations using maps.

You may think that you know how to read maps. You probably think that it is just like reading any document, only that you won't be reading entire texts, but captions and names of places embedded in drawings or sketches of a place or location.

To be able to start learning how to read maps, it would be advisable if you would begin reading normal street maps. These maps are readily available. You could log

onto your favorite search engine, then type the name of your city and the word street map.

To read such maps, you have to be familiar with the places within the city or the area.

By that, you can easily pin point locations based on the adjacency to reference points or locators. To pin point your exact location on the map, find the nearest landmark.

Be accustomed to directions, and in no time, you can determine your location.

Using topographical maps

When you are into nautical navigation, the skill in reading the topographical map will be a requirement. Such maps are deemed much more useful than other maps because aside from indicating geographic locations and cities, topographical maps also show land terrains and other land features like structures, roads and even mines.

You will find such maps much more useful, accurate and helpful. However, reading such maps isn't as easy as you might think. Terrains and specific land features will make your map reading experience much more complicated.

However hard it may become, learning how to read the topographical map isn't just fun but also enlightening. You will be able to pin point an area's exact standard

location. How could that be? Well, here are several simple guidelines that will help you learn to read such maps.

To know the general description of the map, read the map title first. The title is usually located at the right hand corner of the material. Normally, titles are written in bold capital letters so you can't miss them. To find the exact topographical map you may need, read the map title first so you know if you have the right map for your purpose.

Know about latitudes and longitudes. These terms may sound a little technical for you, but it would be helpful if you would learn the basic information about them. The latitude is the horizontal line dividing the map into the upper and lower or north and south. The typical topographic map has a latitude line exactly at the equator. As you move up from that line, the latitude increases until 90 degrees when you reach the northernmost part of the North Pole and the same goes to the south.

The longitude, on the other hand is the vertical line dividing maps from east to west. The prime meridian is the equivalent of the equator.

Take note of the map scale. At the center of the bottom part of the map, the map scales are usually indicated. The map scale contains representation of the numerical relationship on the distance within the map. Measuring such distance on the map would be significant in computing the actual distance. For example, a

scale might indicate that a centimeter is equivalent to a kilometer on the map. That means, when you read the map, assume that the centimeter measures are actually in kilometers. Thus, you will better understand and estimate exact distances.

Overall, reading maps shouldn't be too complicated if you have the determination and the right drive to do so. Learn how to read necessary maps and discover how fun it is to know more about geography and locations.

Using a Compass



A Primer for Using a Compass

Navigation truly relies on the skill of the travelers to accurately detect locations though directions. Out in the ocean, you will find nothing but the vast array of the sea, the horizons and the sky. There aren't significant landmarks except for the celestial bodies like the sun, the moon and the stars, which all change directions throughout the day.

Thus, the compass is one of the most useful tools in all navigation. Experts will assert that sea travels won't be successful and complete without the use of the base compass. When you were a kid, you probably collected miniature versions of simple compasses that introduced you to the concept of real geographic directions.

Maps won't be useful without the aid of the base compass. Sure, maps already contain geographic sketches, locations and directions. But take note that all this information won't be complete if you aren't able to accurately determine exact directions as related to where you are.

This will call for the use of any type of base compass. By finding the true directions, you will be able to digest and interpret information contained in any types of maps. **Magnetic declination and bearings in the field**

Because the planet is basically made of thermal gradients, which are magnetic in nature, magnetism differs in different locations on earth. Magnetic declination is the angle in between a magnetic field and the true north.

To get your bearings in the field using a compass, just determine the magnetic declination in your location. Accurately pinpoint your geographic location and there you are, you can determine your true location.

Tips on using a compass

There are several guidelines that can help you use the compass more effectively. However, these tips can be simplified so you will be able to easily absorb, comprehend and remember them.

When using a compass, make sure you know what type of compass it is so you can read it well and correctly. Know if your compass' needle or the card beneath the needle is moving in relation to directions.

Use a compass simultaneously with a map as they are designed to work best together.

Chart your position well using the map and the compass. Take note of the directions and the bearing of the slopes where you are located. It may be hard to determine this at first, but as they say, practice makes perfect.

Compass Navigation

Finding your way around in the wilderness with a compass isn't really all that hard. It's one of the most basic survival skills, and seems like a daunting task for most people simply because fewer and fewer people in the modern, "civilized" age find reasons to go outdoors.

Before learning how to navigate with a compass, first you have to be aware of the different types of compasses available. The simplest and most basic type of compass is the thumb or orienteering compass; these are the classic and most common types you'll see, composed of a magnetic disk with a pointer, and markings on the outer rim of the compass indicating the compass points of north, east, south, and west.

Another type of compass is the map compass; this is attached to a map and is meant for more accurate direction finding, whereas the orienteering compass is used when you need to get your bearings quickly. Other derivatives of the normal compass include features like electronic barometers and thermometers, angle and altitude measurers, and nightlights. However, these are features that, while they can be helpful, shouldn't be relied upon. The more features a compass has, the greater the likelihood that heat or impact will damage it. The single most important feature of a compass is simply this: it should be able to tell you which way is north.

That said and done, we then go on to the absolute basics of direction finding: the compass points. To keep the explanation simple, picture an old school clock. North is 12:00, east is 3:00, south is 6:00, and west is 9:00. Other directions are based on these four simple points.

So, given this, the most basic way to use a compass is to remember that the needle always points north. When out in the wilderness, assuming you get lost but know that you headed out due south-east from your camping spot, then traveling in a north-western direction will get you reasonably close to your starting point.

Most normal orienteering compasses will have a big arrow pointer that is used to align the direction you want to travel in, and a rotating rim with compass points on them. The first thing you do is to rotate the rim until the direction you want to travel in is aligned with the big arrow pointer. Using the example above, you'd rotate the rim until the pointer aligns with northwest.

After making this alignment, you then hold the compass out flat on your palm, and wait until it settles down; the compass will point north. Spin the compass around until the magnetic pointer on the inside aligns with NORTH on the outer rim. This will mean that, by walking along in the direction of the pointer arrow, you will travel in the general bearing you set earlier with the rim.

Keep in mind however that compasses are prone to magnetic interference; what this means is that compass needles are tiny magnets, and having anything metallic, magnetic, or even electronic near it can throw it off course. When getting your bearings using a compass, make sure that you don't have anything near it that can disrupt it. Even simple things like wearing a metal wrist watch while taking compass bearings have been known to get people irrevocably lost.

Compasses tend to shine the most however, when paired with a map. Using a compass with a map is really simple, assuming two things: One that you know WHERE you are on the map, and two, that you know how to read the map. Using a method of alignment similar to the one given earlier, draw a line on the map from your starting point to the end point. Then, lay the Direction arrow of your compass along this line, and rotate and align the rim's North bearing with the direction North indicated on the map. Lastly, like before, lay the compass flat on your palm and spin it until it's magnetic pointer aligns with North on the rim. Then just walk in the direction indicated by the Direction arrow.

One last thing you should remember is that compasses are also subject to magnetic declination. All compasses point to a magnetic north determined by the earth's magnetic field; maps, on the other hand, are drawn to a geographic north, meaning the North Pole. Before setting out, find out if the place you're going to has any magnetic declination; this will usually be expressed as a few degrees of pull to either

the west or east. Factor this extra angle into your bearings when rotating the rim towards the Direction arrow.

You can find the best lensatic compass here:

<http://nationalparksdepot.us/products/lensatic-compass>



Wilderness Navigation

Getting Back to Civilization In One Piece: Wilderness Navigation

We all love the idea of getting back to nature. Well, maybe it's not for everyone, but there are still a lot of people who find the idea of nature treks romantic, or an appealing form of exercise. While wilderness travel can indeed be fun, it can also become dangerous if you manage to get lost. Even if you're with a friend or guide who's experienced in wilderness travel, it's a good idea to know exactly how to

find your way back home in case you get separated and find yourself blundering out in the woods with the wolves and bears.

Okay, the first thing you need to know about wilderness navigation: you'll need two things, a reliable compass, and a map of the area. And please, please make sure it's a good, detailed map with things set to a scale that you can read; having a map of the entire country is useless if you get lost in an area that's only the size of a city. Having a ruler and pencil will also be helpful.

The most basic skill you'll need to know is getting a fix on your current position using a map. Forget about latitudes and longitudes; find a good field map with clearly marked terrain features that are easy to spot, like large, oddly shaped boulders, hills, clumps of trees, and such. These landmarks are a lot easier on the brain, and more practical, than trying to figure your exact position right down to your altitude and angle.

When you find yourself lost, immediately start looking for terrain features that match those marked on your map. Then, lay the map on the ground and draw lines from those landmarks you can see, to your approximate position. Where the lines from several landmarks intersect is a good rough estimate of where you are. Mark this off as Point A.

Next, you have to determine WHERE you want to go. This will be point B. Once you have both points marked, it's time to start planning how to get there. You'll need a good compass at this point. A good compass will have a direction arrow that gives you the direction you want to be traveling in, and a rotating outer rim marked with the compass points of north, east, south, and west.

First, lay the direction arrow onto (or parallel to) a line on the map that you draw from point A, where you are, to Point B, where you want to go. Then, rotate the outer rim's dial until it's North indicator is also pointing to North on the map. Finally, stand up and hold the compass flat on your palm, and slowly revolve around until its magnetic arrow (most are divided into red and black segments; RED is north!) aligns with the North indicator on the outer rim.

This said and done, the direction arrow will now be pointing in the general direction of Point B. Look in that direction and fix a landmark in your memory then keep walking towards that landmark. Once you get there, repeat the process you just did; eventually you'll get to point B.

A few tips here though; since compasses are magnets, avoid having anything metallic or magnetic near it when you get your bearings; there's nothing worse for getting lost than getting north turned into west or east because you have another magnet in your coat pocket, or wearing a metal wrist watch.

Again, another tip to remember is that compasses point to Magnetic North, while maps are designed with a Geographical North in mind. Magnetic north is determined by the earth's magnetic field, while geographical north is fixed at the North Pole. Before venturing out, ask if the area you're in has any deviations between magnetic and geographical north; this is called Magnetic Declination. If there is any difference, it will often be expressed as a few degrees to either east or west; meaning the compass needle swerves a bit in one direction or the other by the stated number of degrees. Factor this extra angle in when you turn your compass rim while getting your bearings, and you'll be fine.

You can find the best lensatic compass here:

<http://nationalparksdepot.us/products/lensatic-compass>



Coastal Navigation

Coastal Navigation Facts

First, let's review. Classic nautical navigation is a complex course dedicated to reading water and star charts to allow a person at sea to find their way around. Unlike navigation on firm terrain, there are no landmarks at sea to allow someone to navigate. Instead, people rely on the night sky, compasses, and nautical charts.

Coastal navigation is much easier than deep-water navigation, as this involves navigating in relatively shallow water, and often with a large coastal line in sight at all times. Using a method of triangulation similar to that employed in regular land based direction-finding, coastal navigators are able to use two coasts in sight to determine their position out on the water.

Even coastal navigators, however, are well served to have at least a basic knowledge of deep-water navigation, in the event that a storm blows them off course into waters out of sight of land. Fortunately, there are plenty of online courses in nautical navigation that offer reliable, certified instructions for people looking to expand their knowledge in this direction.

The biggest thing that separates nautical from land-based navigation, however, is the sheer number of charts involved. Where on land, a map or two is often enough to help a person get his bearings, nautical navigation has numerous charts which also take into account not only positioning, but also the fact that the sea is subject to weather and tidal patterns.

For example, tidal charts take into account the changes in the depth of waters based on tidal influence. Coupled with maps showing shallow reefs that may get exposed during low tides and an intimate knowledge of the ship's berth (clearance of the ship's hull for maneuvering), tidal charts help mariners avoid scraping or even tearing out the hull of their ships on a shallow reef exposed by the tides. Old tidal charts were based on experience and observation, using records kept by mariners to predict patterns. Modern tidal charts are made with computer programs that predict the changes.

Before going out into the water, mariners should also keep a close ear for weather predictions; a sudden and intense storm or large incoming tidal waves can be disastrous on the open waters. There are some weather programs that keep an eye on patterns near the coasts specifically to provide assistance to coastal mariners.

Because of the relative complexity of nautical navigation, there are various safety aids implemented internationally that are used to help coastal and deep water mariners get back to shore safely. One of the most commonly used systems is a watermark, which are floating buoys created for a variety of reasons. These marks are especially important for coastal mariners; as the "spots" marked by buoys often involve hazards that crop up in shallower waters.

Lateral Marks are a type of buoy used to indicate safe passages in waters with lots of coral reef formations that can damage a boat's hull. The buoys are often various colors and have light patterns which mariners must learn to distinguish, as these lateral buoys will tell a person whether to keep the buoy to the port or starboard side of a ship, what approximate berth is allowable in those waters, etc.

Another type of marker buoy is the Safe Water and Preferred Channel marks. Safe watermarks are pretty self-explanatory - they tell mariners that they can operate in the immediate vicinity of the buoy with no hazards. Preferred Channel marks are used in a manner similar to the lights on an airport runway - in especially hazardous waters, they mark the safe routes through which a ship must steer.

These buoys and others like them conform to standards set by the Uniform State Waterway Marking System, and like knowing how to interpret road signs before getting a driver's license, knowing this system and the signals it employs are essential for coastal navigators before going out on the water.

All in all, the buoy marker system and charts given above have seen uniformity across the United States, though other countries have their own standards and systems which a coastal navigator should read up on and commit to memory before taking a boat, yacht, or ship out into foreign waters.

About Global Positioning

Facts about GPS

GPS stands for Global Positioning System, and is a fairly new technology that is starting to see widespread use in various fields. Originally made with military purposes in mind, GPS units utilize satellites which orbit the earth to track special transmitters on the planet's surface and find them, allowing a GPS computer to track the transmitter's location anywhere on the globe and even place it on a digitized map.

GPS systems are composed of three major parts. The first part is the space system, which is composed of the actual physical satellites which orbit the planet and whose purpose is to send and receive data from the other two components, which are the Control system and the Transmitter system. The number of

satellites for a full working GPS requires that at least 6 satellites at any one time have full line of sight to any and every location on the earth's surface.

The actual Control system of a GPS network is composed of a series of ground-based installations that monitor frequencies from the satellites, as well as uploading commands to the satellites. The main base which acts as the hub for all worldwide GPS control centers is located in a Master Control Station in Colorado.

The user segment is perhaps the easiest part of a GPS system. It is a small transmitter that sends and receives signals from the satellites and allows the user to be tracked globally. Whereas before this technology was fairly bulky, recent advances have made transmitters so small that they can be integrated into car radios and cellular telephones.

One of the civilian uses for a GPS is navigation. Where before people who got lost in the wilderness had to rely on a conventional map and compass for finding out where they were, a modern GPS unit plugged into a laptop can display a fully digitized map and show the user's location. This use of the GPS has also found it's way into aviation and shipping travel, making it much easier for ships to navigate across oceans and aircraft to determine their location accurately.

Another use of the GPS is in modern cars; GPS units in cars allows people to not only find out where they are; it also includes rough street maps and even information on the approximate speed the car is traveling and distance traveled within a specified length of time. While this is no real replacement for a speedometer, it does have its uses for people who want to regulate their gas mileage.

Naturally, the broadcast signals of a GPS satellite differ between civilian and military usage. Regular civilian signals also include a clock that gives the accurate time for the time zone where the transmitter is located. Civilian GPS units can also monitor the position of the satellites and the number of satellites accessible at a given location. Military signals are heavily coded and, for obvious reasons, transmit much more detailed data than civilian signals.

The process of determining a unit's location on a GPS isn't completely accurate, but is at least close enough to offer approximates. The transmitters send periodic pulses to all detected satellites in range, and the Control installations monitor the time spent from when the pulse is first emitted to when it "bounces back" to the user's unit. This gives the control tower a good estimate of the distance of the unit from ONE satellite. By meshing the data from all satellites that received the signal, the control computers can then triangulate the position of the user's unit on the global map.

While this offers only an approximate location of a GPS user unit, the approximate is still far more accurate than the general estimates made by more classic navigational methods. For example, triangulation using a map, a compass, and landmarks on the map will often place a person's location at a deviation of 50 to 100 meters (or more) from the actual location, depending on things like the scale of the map, the nearness of the landmarks, and the magnetic accuracy of the compass. This doesn't even take into account human error.

GPS units, on the other hand, have a deviation of only 5 meters at most for atmospheric interference, 2 meters for satellite clock timing errors, 1 meter for distortion errors caused by other radio signals, and half a meter for local terrain interference from buildings and trees. So assuming worst-case scenario, a user's location will be 8 and a half (maybe 10 on a bad day) meters away from his actual position. Compared to fumbling with a compass, map, or star and tidal charts, this makes the GPS an essential modern tool for navigation.

Survival Tips When Lost at Sea

All Overboard! Survival Tips You Can Follow If You Are Lost at Sea

In this age of satellite maps and global positioning system equipment, getting lost at sea may seem impossible. However, even the most advanced technology can get

soaked in saltwater and conk out; even the most advanced satellites can miss a small square kilometer of ocean; and not all earthly waters are friendly or safe. You will need to know how to cope with being lost at sea. You will need to know how to survive.

There are many ways by which you can be lost at sea. You can be accidentally thrown overboard off a cruise ship, be left behind on a scuba diving trip, land in the middle of the ocean after a plane crash, or swim too far from the shore and find the waves dragging you even farther away into the deep. You have to be prepared for all these possible scenarios by knowing what survival equipment is available, and how you can use them to stay alive for as long as possible.

If you are on board an aircraft or a sea vessel, you will need to find out exactly what survival gear and equipment are available to you, where they are placed, and how many people can benefit from them. Always take note of how many lifeboats, life jackets, and rafts are on board; what safety and signaling equipment they carry; and if you have emergency provisions, such as food, medicine, and water readily stowed away for easy carrying.

If you know how many people the craft and gear are designed to support, you will know how to divide and ration your stores. You can also calculate how long it will take you all to survive.

While in the Water

If you suddenly find yourself lost at sea, you also need to know what the greatest dangers to your life are. For instance, if you are in icy waters, you are in greatest danger of dying from hypothermia. If you are in the tropics and find yourself lost at midday, you can die easily from dehydration. In all these cases, don't leave yourself floating in the water. Find your way to a safety boat or raft, or any large debris floating.

Do your best to relax your body. The human body is naturally buoyant, and will float.

You need only minimal movement from your legs to keep your face above the surface of the water. If the sun isn't too high, float on your back and breathe easily.

You can also dog paddle or use the breaststroke or backstroke to get to a life raft. If you are in the midst of flammable debris, such as oil or jet fuel, swim underwater for as long as possible before going to the surface to breathe.

The key to your initial survival is relaxation. You need to clear your mind to prepare you for the longer wait ahead. You also need to use as little of your energy as possible, so don't panic.

While on the Raft

Salvage all useful floating survival equipment, such as food containers, clothing, parachutes, or rations. Make sure that you take nothing that can puncture your life raft. If there are other rafts close by, lash all of these together until the rafts are about ten feet apart; use a knot that will enable you to bring the rafts nearer when a rescue plane arrives. Your density in the water can make you more visible to passing aircraft.

Make sure that your raft is buoyant and free from leaks at all times. If your raft is coated with any fuel, wipe it off, as this can weaken the surface of the raft and break down the joints. Find a way to drag or anchor yourself in place: it will be easier for rescue vessels to find you if you do not wander off too far from your original location.

If you are in a cold area, stay dry and cover your body to protect it from the cold. If you are under the sun, shield your body or cover it with sunscreen. Soak your clothes in seawater to keep fluids in your body. Don't keep yourself from drinking fresh water: salt water will drain the water faster from your body; fresh water will allow you to preserve your energy, but moisten your throat, tongue, and lips first before you swallow.

If you don't have water, don't eat. You may also find excess water in marine animals, such as in the spines and eyes of fish. If it rains, collect rainwater and keep it for your fresh water rations. When desperate, relax, and don't consume alcohol or urine.

Sharks are also a great danger for those lost at sea. If you see sharks or other menacing animals, don't fish or let any blood get into the water. Avoid throwing any of your garbage overboard, and don't let any of your extremities hang over the edge of your life raft. If the sharks come close to you, keep quiet and don't move; if it begins to attack, hit the shark with an oar or bulky object, but not with your hands.

These are only a few tips to aid you in your survival at sea. For more tips, do some research on how you can survive in the different scenarios you may find yourself in if you are lost at sea. Your survival depends on your lucidity and energy, so remember not to panic and to always keep a clear head.

Survival Tips When Lost on Land

In the Middle of Nowhere: Surviving When Lost on Land

Even with the most advanced technology and locating equipment, getting lost on land isn't an impossible feat. There are deserts on earth that haven't been completely charted, forests that haven't been completely mapped, and even dangerous wildlife species that haven't been discovered or described. You will need survival tips to guide you on your way if you suddenly find yourself lost in the middle of nowhere.

Your main concerns might be getting lost in the desert, where you are in danger of dying from dehydration; in the snow or ice, where you are in danger of dying from hypothermia; in remote mountain ranges, where you are in danger of dying from the bites of wild animals or even hunger. The key to surviving in any of these terrains is to prepare to get lost in the first place.

Before the Trip

As you plan your land trip, be sure to inform important people about it. Leave information on your route, date and time of departure, and expected date and time of return with close relatives at both your destination and home. If you make any changes in your itinerary along the way, find a way to get in touch with your main contacts back home or at your destination. If you are suddenly lost, these people will know where to start looking for you.

You will need a complete map of the area you want to explore. Such a map should show the relative elevation of certain areas, weather conditions, and rest areas or places where to find medical assistance. If you are planning to trek through an area with which you aren't familiar, plan out an itinerary that will keep you from straying from any paths or routes.

Study the terrain and weather so that you can pack your gear and clothes accordingly. If you are traveling through a desert, bring cool clothes to cover you

during the day, and warm clothes to protect you at night. You are in danger of dying from dehydration if you don't shield your body from the heat of the sun. You are also in danger of dying from hypothermia, since the desert can be very cold and even wet at night.

Pack a Survival Kit

You will need a pair of walking shoes, as well as protective clothing. Pack food and snacks that won't melt, but will give you energy. You also need at least a gallon of water for each person, for each day that you expect to travel. Keep a first aid kit handy, containing burn medicine, bandages, iodine, and gauze.

If you need to camp out, pack waterproof matches in a watertight case, along with signaling equipment such as flashlights or road flares. Bring camping tools with you, and pack these with your maps and compass. Never forget your maps: these can be your only guide to getting to safety. If you are traveling by car, have spare spark plugs, clamps, fan belts, and tires ready.

You can find your perfect survival starter pack here:

<http://nationalparksdepot.us/products/survival-starter-pak>

may have thought it best to keep water rations, but didn't know that they needed water to give them energy.

If you suddenly find yourself lost, be sure to keep your energy for the long wait for your rescue ahead. Make yourself visible, but don't overuse your signaling equipment. As long as you have energy and a clear head, you will find your way to safety, or your contacts back home will help in rescuing you successfully.

Preparing a Survival Kit for Water Trips

What to Pack in Your Water Trip Survival Kit

The key to survival in any situation is the right preparation. If you are going on a land trip, you need to inform important people about your intended route. You need to avoid changing plans, but if you have to, make sure you have means of telling your contacts about these changes. If you are going on a water trip, you will need to pack protective and signaling equipment to guide you on your way.

You need a survival kit for a water trip, which will not only keep you sheltered from the elements, but also make sure that you conserve your energy as you wait to be rescued. There are many components that should go into a survival kit, but you shouldn't weigh yourself, or your lifeboat down. Such components may be available in your lifeboats, so check with your trip advisor or organizer beforehand.

In the event that some survival kit components are missing, bring them yourself.

Equipment to Keep You Warm

If you are at sea, you are in greater danger of dying from the effects of the elements on your body. The noonday sun will make water evaporation from your pores faster, while the icy air can drag your body temperature down to dangerous levels. You will need to protect your body against these dangers.

You'll need reflective blankets, such as those made of aluminum, to retain moisture and body heat. Sea storms can be especially strong, so bring along an emergency poncho made of light material to protect you against the rain. You may also need to check with your trip advisor if your lifeboats or rafts have brightly colored tarpaulin. This can provide you a shade during the day, and can alert passing vessels or aircraft to your situation.

Preserving Equipment to Keep You Alive

Pack a first aid kit before you board your sea vessel. This kit should contain sterile bandages, gauze, and pads, as well as spare plastic bags in which to store your medical waste. You shouldn't throw any bloody bandages or gauze overboard, as this can attract sharks.

Keep tweezers, first aid tape, disinfectant gauze, and a razor handy, just in case you need to cover up any wounds. You may also need to keep a bottle of aspirin handy. A roll of toilet paper is also useful to wipe off any petroleum or oil from the surface of your lifeboat. Any form of fuel can burn through lifeboat plastic and weaken it. Pack up sunscreen and lip balm. The dry sea air can drain water fast from your body, so you need to shield the delicate skin of your lips, nose, face, and extremities.

Food to Keep Your Energy Up

Dehydration is your greatest enemy, and water is your greatest, most precious commodity. You need to pack up water stores, as well as empty water containers to enable you to collect rainwater for your future stores. The standard water level for survival is a gallon of water for each person per day, so make sure that you ration water accordingly and pack it beforehand.

Pack up ready to eat meals, or foods with large amounts of energy, such as food bars or chocolate. You may be tempted to pack canned food, but be careful: the sharp edges of cans can puncture your lifeboat and put you in even more danger. You are better off packing emergency fishing lines and wires. You can also bring reflective aluminum sheets on which you can catch the sun and cook your fish.

Bring candy or gum along for a shot of sugar. Be careful, however: if you don't have water, don't eat, or eat sparingly. You will be even thirstier and less alert if you eat

food without drinking water. If you have fishing and fish cleaning skills, you can also scavenge water from the eyes and spinal columns of fish, but avoid consuming other parts of the fish. High protein can also drain water faster from your body.

Other Equipment to Keep You Afloat

Make sure that your lifeboat has an emergency position-indicating radio beacon (EPIRB) that can allow it to send distress signals to the nearest satellite. If your lifeboat doesn't have this, then pack up glow sticks or signal flares, along with navigation equipment and a compass. You will also need a complete survival guide to being lost at sea: there are thousands of other tips that you will need to take into account, depending on your situation.

Some lifeboats will have their own radar reflectors, desalting kit to render seawater potable, and an anchor to keep you in place. Don't take chances, however: pack your own survival kit, don't panic, and keep a clear head. Your survival depends on your will to stay alive, and your willingness to brave and endure the long wait for your rescue.

Preparing a Survival Kit for Land Adventures

Land Ho! Preparing a Survival Kit for Your Land Trip

Although modern technology can make it easier for you to be found if you are lost, you have to be prepared for any land trip that you may wish to take. You may find yourself lost in the middle of the desert, where water is scarce and the sun shines hotter; and where evenings are harsh and frosty, a far cry from the oppressive heat of the day. You may find yourself lost in the mountains, where the beasts roam wild and free amidst entangled paths. You may find yourself lost in a busy city, or in the suburbs, or on a back country road.

Never discount the possibility that you will get lost, you need to be prepared to meet any possible problems head on. One major preparation should involve you going to your closest friends and relatives before you embark on your land adventure. Leave information with them regarding your destination and how long you plan to stay there. Leave details of your travel route, along with the time and date of your departure, and the time and date of your expected return. The more well informed your friends and family are, the easier it will be to find you if you are indeed lost.

You also need to pack a survival kit for your land adventure. Here are a few basic commodities that you will need to have with you, all of them classified according to how they should serve to keep you alive as you wait to be rescued or found.

You can find your perfect survival starter pack here:

<http://nationalparksdepot.us/products/survival-starter-pak>

moisture. Just in case they are drenched, pack along heat tablets or black shoe polish as fuel. If burned, black shoe polish gives off a smell that will repel animals. If you have no tinder, you may need to chop firewood, so bring a saw; the saw can also help you make a temporary shelter should your tarpaulin not suffice.

You Have to Stay Healthy

Pack up a first aid kit containing bandages, first aid tape, gauze, pads, and disinfectant. You may need tweezers and razors as well if you need to repair wounds. Bring along hydrating salts and aspirin for emergency purposes: you may suffer from diarrhea or other similar infections along the way, and the last thing you need is for more water to be drained from your body.

If you are traveling through a forest or heavily covered mountain range, bring along insect repellent and soap. You may find a source of water to wash your body or wounds. If you are traveling through a desert or a dry place, bring along lip balm and sunscreen. Apply sunscreen to especially delicate areas, such as the thin membranes near your nose, and the areas around your lips and neck.

You Have To Eat

Water is an especially important commodity; so pack up at least a gallon for each person for each day that you will be gone. You may also encounter a water source,

so pack up water containers and iodine tablets to purify the water. Bring energy bars and ready to eat meals, which can include canned food or chocolate. If you don't want to carry food along, and if you know how to fish and will be in an area where fish can be readily available, bring your fishing equipment.

You may also need to bring along small candies or gum to give you a shot of sugar. You will be doing a lot of walking, so you need to pack in as much energy as you can for the long stroll to safety.

You Have to Signal Where You Are

Bring along flashlights, glow sticks, or signal flares to alert people to your presence. Don't rely on your memory to remember your path: bring a compass and a map, as well as bright orange tape that surveyors use to mark their paths. Bring along pen and paper as well: if your rescuers are hot on your trail, you can leave notes about your whereabouts.

Multipurpose tools, such as Swiss army knives, whetting stones, saws, and rope, should also be useful for your land adventure. You may also need to bring a whistle, to signal your presence; and a sleeping bag, just in case you need to camp out. Getting lost on land may be near impossible, but it is certainly not improbable. If you are well prepared for your land adventure, however, you can find your way to safety sooner, and with your energy – and sanity – still intact.

How to Avoid Getting Lost

Living Safely on Land and Water: How to Avoid Getting Lost

Many humans fear getting lost, whether on land or water. With today's tracking and navigational equipment, getting lost is almost impossible; to actually get lost would make a situation almost hopeless, considering that nearly everything the twentyfirst century can offer is already at your disposal.

There are tried and tested methods, however, that can make sure that you can survive any water or land ordeal. There are techniques, moreover, that you can employ to avoid getting lost.

Safety on Land

When on land, you can get lost in the middle of the desert, on a rocky mountain range, or in a forest. There are numerous dangers that you can encounter, including dehydration due to the heat, hypothermia due to the cold, or wild animals. If you know these dangers well, however, you can avoid them and find your way to safety.

Make sure that you pack a survival kit, along with a complete first aid kit and navigational equipment to guide you on your journey. Navigational equipment may include your map and compass; don't rely on your memory to guide you through paths. If you are an experienced hiker or traveler, you will undoubtedly have a clearer mind than most, but it is best not to take chances.

Keep yourself warm and fully clothed, even in the desert. By exposing your skin to the sun, you are hastening the escape of water from your body; moisture is essential to keep you walking and healthy. If you must walk to safety, walk only during the cool hours of the day, such as at early morning or evening.

Drink plenty of water, and bring a lot of it. Many corpses have been found in the desert, nearly all of them with half-filled water canteens. There is no sense in rationing water: you need it to function and keep your energy up, so drink it and moisten your lips regularly. If you can, pack energy bars and candies with you so that you have a constant burst of sugar to keep you alert.

Safety on Water

You can get lost in the ocean due to a number of factors. Your plane may crash, you can be left behind during your scuba diving tour, you can accidentally be tossed overboard while on your cruise ship, or your ship may sink and you can find yourself out in the middle of a stormy, raging sea. If you are in a tropical area, you face the

danger of dehydration due to lack of shade at midday. If you are near the Arctic or Antarctic, you are most in danger of dying due to hypothermia. In both cases, you are also exposed to the danger of sharks.

If you find yourself lost at sea, keep your energy up and don't panic. Use as little of your energy as possible by drinking water and shielding yourself from the sun. Eat little food if you have no water available, or scavenge water from the eyes and spines of fish. Stay in your life raft and keep your extremities out of the water. Avoid throwing anything bloody overboard, such as bandages or cleaned fish. This can cause a feeding frenzy in the water and draw sharks to you.

Okay, now that we've done a bit of review let's take a look at what is really important:

How to Avoid Getting Lost in the First Place

The best cure for surviving is avoiding getting lost in the first place. Plan your trip in detail: make sure that you know your route completely, and take note of important landmarks, including medical care stations and police headquarters. Make a detailed itinerary, and share this with friends and family at home, as well as those nearest your destination. Leave information on the exact date, time, and place of your departure, as well as the exact date, time, and place of your arrival. If you make any changes in your itinerary during your trip, you must first find a way to

