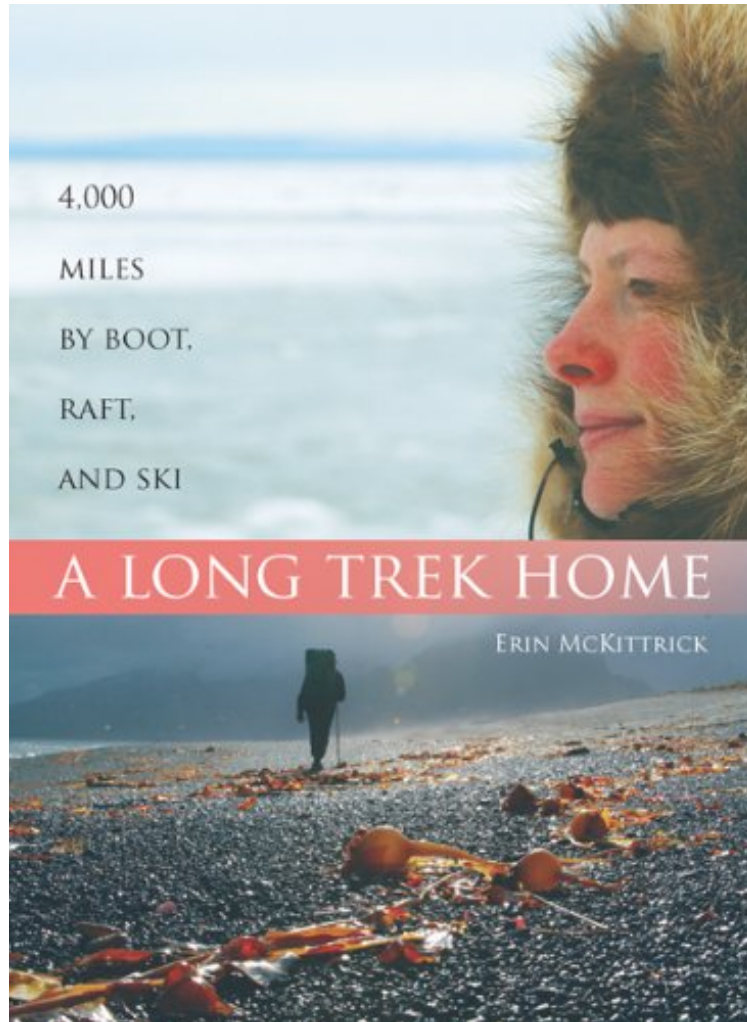


(Ebook free) A Long Trek Home: 4,000 Miles by Boot, Raft, and Ski

A Long Trek Home: 4,000 Miles by Boot, Raft, and Ski

Erin McKittrick

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Erin McKittrick : A Long Trek Home: 4,000 Miles by Boot, Raft, and Ski before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Long Trek Home: 4,000 Miles by Boot, Raft, and Ski:

15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Very EnjoyableBy Beach GuyAlthough I love the outdoors and I value books that describe the adventures others have had there, I felt I was taking a gamble when I bought this book. It's apparently the author's first book,and I've often been disappointed by new authors' first efforts. Also, the publisher's description emphasized that "environmental concerns" had motivated the book and the trip it described. So I was concerned the book might be preachy and narrow minded. I was pleasantly surprised to discover that none of my concerns were justified. Although the author is indeed concerned about environmental issues (who isn't?), her discussion of these issues was balanced and unobtrusive. In most respects, this was a genuinely interesting description of what must have been a truly great adventure. Frankly, I'm somewhat awe struck that the author and her husband

actually completed their amazing trek. And the writing is so good that I look forward to reading more by this author. I believe she has a great future ahead of her, not only as an adventurer but as a writer. I strongly recommend this book to anyone who loves the wilderness and who cherishes the life-changing experiences that they and others have had there.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. 4,000 miles in 200 pages
By Paxson Woelber
You might expect this book about a 4,000-mile two-person trip to pivot around the personal dynamics between author Erin McKittrick and her husband Hig, but it really doesn't. Hig has maybe one full page of dialogue in the whole book; the fact that he's there is often signified just by a change in pronoun: "we" rather than "I". You might also expect the book would try to entertain readers with poetic descriptions of exotic places and perilous events, but again, it really doesn't. A few well-placed adjectives add just a little color to a writing style that is overwhelmingly unadorned and unpretentious. There is no Muir-ish gushing over the scenery, and the dangers of the trip, from spooky bear encounters to the ocean waves rolling over the bows of their tiny boats, are retold with Scandinavian understatement. So why is this a five-star book? Because what it does well it does almost perfectly. A single paragraph will fling you from a forested valley over a soaring ridge, down the other side, and across an ice-clogged bay to a desolate beach covered in bear tracks and driftwood. The pace of the book is a lot like how I imagine the journey itself must have felt: plodding restlessly, hypnotically forward with every step and every page. At 200 pages, the book flies through 4,000 miles at 20 miles per page, and this dizzying pace gives the book a surreal, captivating, dreamlike quality. You soon come to see that the sparseness of the writing and the restrained presentation of the characters are two of this book's greatest strengths. It would have been easy to write a monster volume about every little event, detailing every tussle with her husband, every animal encounter, every desolate stretch of coastline. Instead, Erin McKittrick manages to tell a quietly beautiful, understated, and immensely enjoyable story of an epic odyssey through one of the least-traveled corners of the Earth.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Remarkable Journey
By caroljeanne
Erin and Hig completed a most amazing, epic journey with only the most spartan of creature comforts. They kept pretty good spirits and good health throughout, and rarely (maybe never) actually required help from anyone else. They had everything planned and mapped out well in advance. I am most intrigued by the packraft they had with them always. It was almost a character in its own right. They could not have done this trip without it. Where can I get one? Somehow Erin was able to keep a lovely journal throughout and I am glad for that. This journey was much more than putting one foot in front of the other. I look forward to reading more of Erin and Hig's adventures, now exploring with their kids!

[CLICK HERE](#) to download the first chapter from *A Long Trek Home** Compelling adventure with an environmental focus* An informative natural and cultural history of one of our last wild coastlines* Author is a pioneer in "packrafting," an emerging trend in backcountry travel
In June 2007, Erin McKittrick and her husband, Hig, embarked on a 4,000-mile expedition from Seattle to the Aleutian Islands, traveling solely by human power. This is the story of their unprecedented trek along the northwestern edge of the Pacific Ocean—a year-long journey through some of the most rugged terrain in the world—and their encounters with rain, wind, blizzards, bears, and their own emotional and spiritual demons. Erin and Hig set out from Seattle with a desire to raise awareness of natural resource and conservation issues along their route: clear-cut logging of rainforests; declining wild salmon populations; extraction of mineral resources; and effects of global climate change. By taking each mile step by step, they were able to intimately explore the coastal regions of Washington, British Columbia, and Alaska, see the wilderness in its larger context, and provide a unique on-the-ground perspective. An entertaining and, at times, thrilling adventure, theirs is a journey of discovery and of insights about the tiny communities that dot this wild coast, as well as the individuals there whom they meet and inspire.