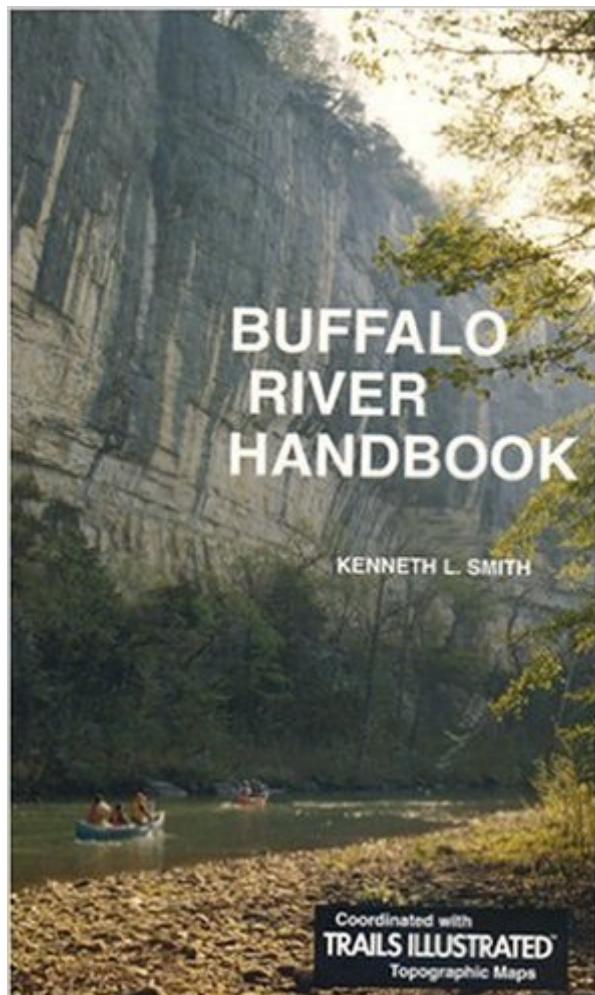


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# Buffalo River Handbook



## Synopsis

Ken Smith's life-long accumulation of knowledge about the Buffalo River country, including complete trail and river guides and a fascinating sourcebook for geology and history of the Buffalo river area. All in a compact size, with more than 170 photos, maps, and diagrams. Coordinated with National Geographic Maps, Trails Illustrated. Ken Smith is the author-photographer of The Buffalo River Country, the Ozark Society Foundation classic now in its ninth printing.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (23 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #576,097 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 inÂ  Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Rafting #195 inÂ  Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Canoeing #266 inÂ  Books > Travel > United States > South > West South Central

## Customer Reviews

Admittedly, it is difficult to be comprehensive and remain a "handbook," meaning something that you could take with you and refer to while on the trail or the river. If you are looking for specific maps for trails, I would recommend books by Tim Ernst, or if you are looking for details on running the river, A Canoeing & Kayaking Guide to the Ozarks are both superior for their individual information. This said, if you want something to refer to in general with historical as well as geological information along with talk of the flora and fauna with generalized information on trails and the river this book is outstanding. Excellent color and black and white pictures, and a searchable index.

I purchased this book for a recent trip down the Buffalo. I primarily wanted the mile-by-mile descriptions to help to know what to not miss on the river. The author provides a lot of information in one place and a level of detail that is probably not available anywhere else. I believe this is considered the definitive guide to the river. My biggest complaint is the seemingly endless geological formation descriptions. These are great if you are a geologist or geology enthusiast but become

wearisome when you're just trying to find out what's ahead. (I understand Mr Smith's passion for geology and find some of it quite interesting but this is too much.) Too late now, but he probably should have included a separate mile-by-mile geologic description section instead of embedding this in the rest of the river description. Also, the author mentions that the Trail Illustrated maps are essential to use with the book, prompting me to order them. I found them useful but not much more so than the USGS maps I already had.

If you are interested in learning about the trails, river, people, geology and biology of the Buffalo River . . . this is the place to start. No one knows the Buffalo River country better than Ken Smith. It has been his passion for more than 40 years. An earlier book he wrote, Buffalo River Country, played a key role in the creation of America's first national river. He knows the Buffalo River trail as no one else can. He laid it out and supervised its construction. He is actively involved today in the extention of it from Hwy 65 to Hwy 14. This trail will ultimately make it possible for a hiker to travel by trail from St Louis, Missouri to near Ft. Smith Arkansas. Buffalo River Handbook easily rates five stars for anyone going to the Buffalo. I would also buy the Trails Illustrated maps of the Buffalo which he also edited and which go hand in hand with the Buffalo River Handbook.

Most guidebooks are the short version with a discription of equipment, easy or hard points of the trail or waterway, and so forth. This book is the long version and goes beyond the how-to of hiking or boating. As I've gotten older, this has become more and more important to me. If you are interested in going beyond the excitement of the moment of conquering a rapid, or looking out on a scenic overlook, this book should cover your niche. Its good to know what you are looking at. It will add some weight to the pack but, worth the effort to carry it.

This book contains over 400 pages of everything about the Buffalo River and the park imaginable. It is filled with all kinds of information and history about the Buffalo River plus a step by step break down of the river listed by mile marker. This book also has plenty of illustrations to accompany the vast amount of material. This book along with the National Geographic Trail Map are a must have for anyone wishing to spend time on the Buffalo National River.

This book gives a history of the geology, settlement and mile by mile descriptions of the beautiful Buffalo National River. In conjuction with the 2 maps sold here it tells of every camping site and bluff along the way and provides interesting tidbits that enhance the trip. My brother in law and I keep it

open, in our canoe on our annual, 3 day Fall trip which will be next month. The River is made better by this book. You should buy this book and make that trip yourself. It also makes interesting reading at home in your easy chair.

Good river guide with plenty of natural history. If you bring only one book on the Buffalo River, this should be it. Plenty to read too, if you're laying about camp with nothing to do. Reviewed by Peter Stekel, author of, Final Flight: The Mystery of a WWII Plane Crash and the Frozen Airmen in the High Sierra.

I guess I was looking for a book that would tell me where the best photo ops were, this book does that but you have to do an awful lot of reading to dig out the info you want. Despite my small complaint it's a very informative book that gives the history, trails, maps and reading that is packed with interesting and useful information.

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