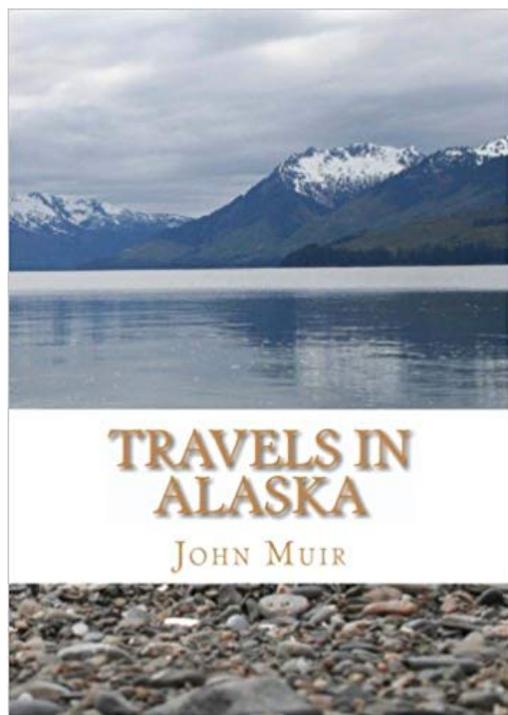


## Travels in Alaska *by* John Muir



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John Muir (1838-1914) was a Scottish-born American naturalist, author and advocate of preservation of the U.S. wilderness. "Every particle of rock or water or air has God by its side leading it the way it should go; The clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness; In God's wildness is the hope of the world." -- John Muir, *Travels in Alaska* Review "The richness of his writing roots deeper into the terrain than any other wilderness writer known to me." -- David Craig, Los Angeles Times Book Review



## Reviews of the *Travels in Alaska* by John Muir

### Freaky Hook

Most people associate the great conservationist John Muir with the Sierra Nevada and other mountains in California. However, from his early travels from Kentucky to Florida to this final book published in his lifetime, "*Travels in Alaska*," it's clear his interest extended far beyond California. He was particularly fascinated with southeast Alaska because he saw some of the same scouring in

the mountains there as he had found in Yosemite, and he traveled through much of Alaska's Inside Passage to support his theory that one of the key shaping elements in Yosemite was the glaciers that had covered much of the future national park during the Ice Ages. In "Travels in Alaska," Muir's intense curiosity and keen observational skills as a self-taught naturalist equally impressed his Anglo-American companions and native Alaskans who were the guides in his explorations there. Muir's respect for the tribal members is strongly evident in the book and his interest in their family lives and culture comes through in his observations. He was especially impressed with the love parents had for their children, and how he never saw them speak harshly to them or strike them. Despite some descriptive excesses common to writing of his time that can seem slightly quaint to modern readers, Muir's reverence for the land and all its creatures stemming from his Christian faith and his humility before the Earth's sublime natural wonders won me over as they have every time I read his works. His positive outlook, indefatigable pursuit of knowledge in every place he went to, and belief in the power of all creation to lift us and make us better human beings are all in this final book he worked on himself before his death

### **Manris**

Great book on adventures in the Arctic. If you like this book you will also want to read the following 99 cent books on Arctic adventures:

- 1 A Winter Circuit of Our Arctic Coast: A Narrative of a Journey with Dog-sleds Around the Entire Arctic Coast of Alaska (1920)
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- 3 An Eskimo Village (1920)
- 4 My Arctic Journal: A Year Among Ice-fields and Eskimos (1894)
- 5 A Year with a Whaler (1919)
- 6 By Eskimo Dog-sled and Kayak (1919)
- 7 Forty-two Years Amongst the Indians and Eskimo: Pictures from the Life of the Right Reverend John Horden, First Bishop of Moosonee (1893) (Active Table of Contents)
- 8 Journey from Great Bear Lake to Wollaston Land and Recent Explorations along the South and East Coast of Victoria Land (1852)
- 9 Robert Peary's Short Narrative of His "GREAT WHITE JOURNEY" across Greenland (1894)

### **You ll never walk alone**

Descriptions of the stunning scenery of the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, and John Muir's reaction of it, are revealed in these newly published pages from his journals. This book is for anyone who loves nature and the descriptive writings of John Muir. Muir's travel to this area came toward the end of a life spent in the presence of natural beauty, yet he was still able to appreciate what he saw. This book adds even more to his stature as America's premier naturalist.

### **GoodLike**

In preparation to my monthlong visit to Alaska, I read this book by John Muir! What a fascinating and tenacious man he was! He withstood many hardships.....at least they would be hardships to us but Muir seemed to take all kinds of weather in stride and love it in a way that catches your breath! His descriptions are poetic. Not only is his writing beautiful, but one gets a sense that he is there in the wilderness with him. His way of speaking and vocabulary are different from modern day vernacular, but it gives a real life glimpse into the world of a great explorer and glaciologist! My visit to Alaska will be greatly enhanced after reading this book! I cant wait to leave next week!

## Zugar

The beauty of this wonderful reprinting is how it shows John Muir as a person, how it helps us to understand the dynamic and overwhelming beauty of Alaska, and the changes in the people of Alaska. Muir's complete, tireless, and joyful commitment to nature comes through on every page. The book unintentionally provides an excellent portrait of the kind of inexhaustible devotion it takes to change the world as did Muir. The book also provides a stunning portrait of Alaska in the latter part of the 19th Century and allows one to compare the Alaska of those days with Alaska of earlier times and of today. The biggest changes are in the glaciers and in the people. The glaciers have receded dramatically as a natural part of their centuries' long retreat. It is interesting to compare what Muir saw with the experience of Vancouver almost exactly 100 years earlier (ca. 1793). Vancouver could hardly enter Glacier Bay. Muir could enter quite some distance, but the glaciers were still the dominant features. Today, the glaciers have largely receded into deep valleys. Muir encountered people in Alaska living largely as they had for centuries. They were hunters and fishermen and lived in small groups along the shore line. As Jonathan Raban points out in the intricately woven fabric of his sublime book "Passage to Juneau," the people of southeast Alaska considered the sea to be the real environment of their lives while the land was considered dangerous and unknowable. They lived along the shore and knew how to live off and with the sea year round. The lives of the Alaskan people are very different today but greatly influenced by the past. Raban often characterizes Muir's writing as overblown and florid. However, it is a portrait of a man, a maritime land and a people. To do justice to those three, the book had to be what it is - an astonishingly colorful and detailed portrait in words.

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