



SAS Survival Handbook: How to Survive in the Wild, in Any Climate, on Land or at Sea

John Wiseman

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"The SAS Survival Handbook" is the Special Air Service's complete course in being prepared for any type of emergency. John 'Lofty' Wiseman presents real strategies for surviving in any type of situation, from accidents and escape procedures, including chemical and nuclear to successfully adapting to various climates (polar, tropical, desert), to identifying edible plants and creating fire. The book is extremely practical and is illustrated throughout with easy-to-understand line art and diagrams.

SAS Survival Handbook: How to Survive in the Wild, in Any Climate, on Land or at Sea Details

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Author : John Wiseman

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From Reader Review SAS Survival Handbook: How to Survive in the Wild, in Any Climate, on Land or at Sea for online ebook

Ben says

If Oprah was really interested in helping people, she'd add this book to her book club. "Read it TODAY. Steadman!!! We need a survival kit and a survival pouch. And one for the cocker spaniels. And Gayle. Get off the Xbox."

Zombies: come at me bros.

Craig says

The SAS survival guide provides a wealth of information on how to survive in different situations ranging from a volcano eruption to being lost at sea and tells you how to perform useful tasks like building an igloo and amputating an arm. While I am undoubtedly better prepared to fend for myself if I get lost in the woods the lack of detail on certain topics and the focus on long term (1 month +) survival prevented me from rating it higher.

I didn't find the organization as bad as some other reviewers the book is broken into 11 categories (essentials, strategy, climate and terrain, food, camp craft, reading the signs, on the move, health, survival at sea, rescue and disasters). It often does tell you to flip to another section for more information, which is annoying and breaks flow but it is clear this book is intended as a reference guide. The sections on navigation and movement were especially thin and the part on disasters could have been left out completely since it was so brief it wasn't useful. What was really missing was a list of other books that focus specifically on certain topics to read if you want more information.

Overall this is a great place to start if you want to feel a little more confident about your abilities to survive being lost. It is clear you'll need to practice everything in the book in the safety of your backyard (maybe not the part about fighting large animals) before trying it in a survival situation. I'm sure many of the things that look easy are frustratingly difficult. Still, I can sleep easy knowing if I ever need to send signals to air rescue or deliver a baby I'll have some idea what to do.

Christopher says

The SAS SURVIVAL MANUAL won acclaim upon its publication in 1986, both because of its clear organization and the illustrious career of the soldier behind it, John "Lofty" Wiseman who served for 26 years and participated in operations all over the world. Having examined a range of survival manuals, I decided to sit down and read this one in depth, and all in all I'm happy I did. There are clear, often colour illustrations for edible and poisonous plants and for tying knots, while the instruction on how to properly butcher a deer or sheep are easier to grasp than in some other manuals. There's a fine section on eating insects that is missing from other guides.

Still, one wonders how much this venerable old manual has actually been revised and corrected for the 2008 edition when it still says that quinine is a good treatment for malaria. Or when it still recommends the folk remedy of smearing chemicals on a tick to remove it instead of firmly pulling it with tweezers. Also, the final section on surviving disasters in the city feels unnecessary, as I imagine most readers are thinking of the wilderness when they pick this up. But learning proper survival would require more than just reading this book, so perhaps those inaccuracies would be corrected in further research.

Will says

I love this small wonder! I take it with me whenever I go hiking, camping or hunting. It isn't waterproof (maybe they'll do it in a new "weather-proof edition"!), but I just throw it in a zip-lock sandwich bag, because it is THAT small, and it goes right in the pack. It covers everything you'll ever need to know, plus a ton you hope you won't need. It includes colour images of edible plants and of those that are poisonous. For anyone who is interested in survival in wild, buy this book! I only paid \$10 (CAN), and it was worth every penny.

Terra says

After the fires in N. California where I live, it has changed my perspective. I feel that I need to be more prepared. This book really helped although practical application is really what is needed. This would also be good to learn about camping too.

Gina says

What a bizarre, interesting book! I now feel prepared should my car drive off of a cliff onto a frozen tundra. Seriously, I was fascinated by this book, and I have the strangest urge to buy a good knife and always keep it on my person now...

Bernard Chen says

I don't really remember what made me get this book. I've long been a fan of the outdoors and I'm thoroughly impressed by Les Stroud, aka Survivorman. (Bear Grylls is flat out crazy and suggests things no one should ever do.)

This manual covers survival techniques across all climates. This is a good toilet read and something valuable to consult before heading out on any outdoor trip. For a city-mouse like myself, I may 'read' the book, but I'm not likely to remember more than 1/4 of the info contained inside.

There was a particularly interesting chapter on snares and traps that look like they only require a survival knife and possibly some shoelaces. That chapter was particularly fascinating to read because our not-too-distant ancestors probably knew those tricks *_very_* well, where I have to learn about them from drawings in a book. Of course, to understand that chapter better, I'll have to practice.

If the squirrels start disappearing from my front yard...

Sundeepr Supertramp says

THE BEST SURVIVAL GUIDE EVER PUBLISHED...

I am a outdoor kind of guy.. It is very essential for me to learn survival tactics incase of emergency and all..

ABOUT THE BOOK:

It is THE BEST... Nothing can beat it.. It covers each and every worse-case sceanrios provided by the Mother Nature.. It covers all the regions from Desert to Glaciers.. Swamps to forests... hot to cold to tropical to humid... It is a one-stop deal for survival situation..

If you got lost in a wild place like (any)forest and if you have find this book in your backpack, man, you are most luckiest person on this earth..

The feature of the book which really fascinated is the GLOBAL EDIBLE PLANTS list.. There is a big list of edible, medicinal and extremely poisonous plants in the book.. which colour illustrations.. I never saw this feature in any other survival guide ever..

It has got the procedures of gutting the animals and all, clothing for a particular kind of region.. kinds of shelter that can be made with props around you..

DON'T JUST GO OUT FOR ADVENTURES WITHOUT THIS PIECE OF MANUSCRIPT... IT CAN BE A GOD'S GIFT...

Connor says

When disaster strikes, it is always good to be prepared for any type of emergency. Even if houses have an “Emergency Kit”, the question is whether the family knows how to use the materials properly. The SAS Survival Handbook is great for learning how to learn with equipment, or nothing but hands. SAS Survival Handbook, written by an ex-SAS, John ‘Lofty’ Wiseman, was written so that anyone can learn how to survive with nothing in any situation or climate.

Survival dates back to when the first man walked on earth searching for food. Survival brings common people back to their basic thoughts and instincts. In the book, Wiseman brings some focus about listening to instincts and letting the “inner caveman out”. Being in a survival situation is not ideal but being prepared can never hurt. Wiseman makes learning easy by separating sections that relate to each other so there is not confusion. With the author’s chapter-by-chapter topics, learning new material is easy.

Topics that are focused on in the book are wide in variety. Reasons such as this make the book seem well organized. Wiseman focuses on topics such as setting up essentials, being mentally prepared, finding food, navigation, staying healthy, natural disasters, climates, and survival at sea. The author’s style helps comprehend the variety of topics. Wiseman uses a layering technique where he builds off of previous

chapters. This is great for reading straight through because it reviews older material so it is not forgot. Just because chapters build does not mean information cannot be quick. For example, if I need to learn quickly how to reduce blood loss, I can look up the Health section where it goes deeper to what I am looking for. The information is simple and easy to understand. There are also many pictures that help. With these techniques, anyone can learn how to survive the worst situations.

If the reader does not believe that they would not benefit from this book because they would not read it, having a copy around cannot hurt since it covers topics varying widely. I would recommend this book to everyone. The reader does not need to be alone on an island for this information to be relevant. Blood loss is possible around the house where it needs to be dealt with immediately. I would also recommend this to everyone because I enjoyed reading it. Although some parts were gruesome, it is all part of life and survival. I found the information to be the perfect amount where it keeps attention and get the information through. Reading about how humans had to survive attracts me to human behavior and the will to live. If I were in a survival situation, I would just need Wiseman's SAS Survival Handbook to live a long and healthy life.

Sam says

This book covers every survival question you can think of and loads that you can't. It covers every major climatic region and survival at sea and how to get through various man-made and natural disasters. It also covers:

- what you can and can't eat
- identification of edible and medicinal plants
- animal tracks and signs
- trapping, killing and preparation of animals
- where to locate and how to build a camp
- first aid from minor to major injury and illness
- signalling using yourself, morse code and stuff you find nearby

Written by a professional SAS soldier, Lofty really knows his stuff and conveys it clearly, in such a way that anyone will be able to understand and follow his advice and methods. This book is a must for anyone who goes out and about for whatever reason and will definitely be a part of my survey kit from now on.

Spyros says

Probably the best, most realistic, compact and complete survival guide out there.

It has everything you 'll ever need in a survival situation, but don't get too excited. Reading about it and implementing it in a real survival situation are two different things.

Worth reading, better yet studying.

Lauren Bedson says

I had read about this some time ago as being the "definitive guide" to wilderness survival, a topic of great interest to me. This book is fantastic - based on a lifetime serving in the Special Air Service (SAS), an elite British army unit, Wiseman packs this invaluable book full of comprehensive, clear, practical information about building shelter, finding food and water, and staying safe and healthy in all emergency scenarios and situations. The diagrams are very clear, and his writing style is quaint. Very enjoyable to read, and who knows, one day it could save your life!!

On a related note, check out the CDC's fun and educational illustrated narrative on emergency preparedness, zombie style: http://www.cdc.gov/phpr/zombies_novel...

Omar Alhashimi says

This book is actually one of the few that I always take with me whenever I travel or go on a trip. This could potentially save your life and it is really so detailed it is crazy. Having the pages able to survive water is also so useful. Going from every environment, to what plants you can eat, to setting up traps and shelters this has EVERYTHING. I never travel without it beside me, it could save your life one day, so I think it's better to be safe than sorry. Even if you aren't that adventurous it's cool to read just as info.

Dan says

This book is poorly written, terribly organized, and horribly (I mean HORRIBLY) edited, but I almost gave it four stars. Obviously, you don't read a book like this expecting great literature. The guy who wrote it isn't a writer (and apparently neither were his "editors") -- he's a legit survival expert. The sheer amount of useful information in this book makes it worth owning and worth actually reading. Besides the obvious worst-case-scenario imagination-stimulation, you might actually learn something that could someday save a life or two. Two caveats though: 1) The quality of the writing and (I think) the information itself trailed off a little by the last few chapters; and 2) there were three or four places where the writer was either "stretching" beyond his actual knowledge or had someone else slap together that section for him. For instance, despite instructions to the contrary, on a raft or any other vessel that's just floating with the current (river or ocean), a rudder will not work at all. (Just a few questionable passages in a book that's almost 600 pages long is not too shabby...)

Gard says

Practical pocket sized book that I will be sure to bring with me come doomsday.
