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Adventure in the Great Outdoors, Nonfiction Books

Wild but true tales from coast to coast and around the world. Includes accounts of hunting, travel, exploration, and more. To order any of these titles, contact the library by email, phone, mail, in person, or through our [online catalog](#). Select titles can be [downloaded from BARD](#).

Full Moon Over Noah's Ark an Odyssey to Mount Ararat and Beyond By Rick Atonson

Read by Peter Holdway

Reading time 11 hours, 44 minutes

Chronicle of the author's participation in an expedition to climb Mount Ararat in eastern Turkey and his further travels in Iraq, Iran, and Armenia. Discusses the history of the region, including border disputes, the role of Ararat in biblical and mythological floods, and personalities who have explored the mountain. 2016.

[Download from BARD: Full Moon Over Noah's Ark an Odyssey to Mount...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB086667

Give Your Heart to the Hawks a Tribute to the Mountain Men By Winfred Blevins

Read by Jim Zeiger

Reading time 12 hours, 51 minutes

Spur Award-winning writer profiles early-nineteenth-century explorers, trappers, and traders including Kit Carson, Jedediah Smith, and John Colter. Portrays men such as Hugh Glass, who after being mauled by a bear and left for dead, crawled two hundred fifty miles to safety. Some violence and some strong language. 1973.

[Download from BARD: Give Your Heart to the Hawks a Tribute...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069064

The Man Who Ate His Boots the Tragic History of the Search for the Northwest Passage By Anthony Brandt

Read by Mark Ashby

Reading time 17 hours, 54 minutes

Chronicles Great Britain's quest for an arctic sea route connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Covers expeditions from an 1818 trip to the late nineteenth-century search for John Franklin, an explorer who vanished in 1845. Discusses allegations that Franklin's final journey ended in cannibalism. 2010.

[Download from BARD: The Man Who Ate his Boots the Tragic History of...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073182

A Walk in the Woods Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail By Bill Bryson

Read by Michael Consoli

Reading time 10 hours, 6 minutes

Bryson relates the adventures and misadventures of two totally unfit hikers as he and longtime friend Stephen Katz traverse the 2,100-mile Appalachian Trail. Returning from more than twenty years in Britain, he set out to rediscover his homeland, but the two men find themselves awed by the terrain and stymied by the unfamiliar local culture. Some strong language. Bestseller.

[Download from BARD: A Walk in the Wood Rediscovering America...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB046519

The Oregon Trail a New American Journey By Rinker Buck

Read by Alec Volz

Reading time 19 hours, 5 minutes

Journalist and travel writer Rinker Buck not only describes the historical Oregon Trail but also recreates the westward journey himself. Over the course of four months, Buck and his brother travel the route by wagon, and Buck recounts their adventure. Strong language. 2015.

[Download from BARD: The Oregon Trail a New American Journey](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB082587

Return to Treasure Island and the Search for Captain Kidd By Barry Clifford

Read by Jon Huffman

Reading time 9 hours, 19 minutes

Undersea archaeologist Barry Clifford combines biographical details of Captain William Kidd with an account of his own search for Kidd's scuttled pirate ship, Adventure Galley, near Madagascar. Discusses Kidd's rise to respectability and ignominious demise, legal and logistical difficulties of shipwreck recovery, and Clifford's conflict with a rival scientist. 2003.

[Download from BARD: Return to Treasure Island and the Search for...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072282

Flâneuse Women Walk the City in Paris, New York, Tokyo, Venice, and London By Lauren Elkin

Read by Laura Giannarelli

Reading time 12 hours, 26 minutes

Woman reflects on exploring international cities where she has lived over the years. Discusses growing up in New York City, studying in Paris, and eventually moving on to London, Venice, and Tokyo before returning to Paris and New York once more. Discusses famous female residents of the cities. 2016.

[Download from BARD: Flâneuse Women Walk the City in Paris, New...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB087715

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR21976](#)

Also available in braille BR021976

The Black Penguin by Andrew Evans

Read by Bill Burton

Reading time 10 hours, 59 minutes

Journalist recounts his trip from Washington, DC, to Antarctica almost exclusively using buses as his means of transportation. Discusses people he met on his travels, challenges he faced, and the impact of the trip on his life. Reflects on growing up Mormon and being gay. Some strong language. 2017.

[Download from BARD: The Black Penguin](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB088673

Walking to Listen 4,000 Miles Across America, One Story at a Time By

Andrew Forsthoefel

Read by Robert Sams

Reading time 12 hours, 31 minutes

The chronicle of the author's year-long walking trip across America. After graduating college, Forsthoefel set out walking from eastern Pennsylvania to California. Recounts conversations he had, people he met, and adventures he experienced. Explores the changing nature of human connection in the twenty-first century. Some strong language. 2017.

[Download from BARD: Walking to Listen 4,000 Miles Across America...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB088885

438 Days an Extraordinary True Story of Survival at Sea By Jonathan

Franklin

Read by Don Feldheim

Reading time 9 hours, 39 minutes

The chronicle of the author's year-long walking trip across America. After graduating college, Forsthoefel set out walking from eastern Pennsylvania to California. Recounts conversations he had, people he met, and adventures he experienced. Explores the changing nature of human connection in the twenty-first century. Some strong language. 2017.

[Download from BARD: 438 Days an Extraordinary True Story of Survival...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB084159

Eighty Days Nellie Bly and Elizabeth Bisland's History-Making race Around the World By Matthew Goodman

Read by Catherine Byers.

Reading time 19 hours, 34 minutes

Chronicles the historic 1889 around-the-world journeys of New York World reporter Nellie Bly and her rival Elizabeth Bisland at the Cosmopolitan magazine, as the women attempted to break the record of Jules Verne's fictional hero Phileas Fogg in the novel *Around the World in Eighty Days* (DB 53171). 2013.

[Download from BARD: Eighty Days Nellie Bly and Elizabeth Bisland's ..](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077521

The Lost City of Z a Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon By David Grann

Read By Ted Stoddard

Reading time 10 hours, 50 minutes

An investigative reporter examines the strange disappearance in 1925 of fifty-seven-year-old explorer Percy Fawcett and his team, who were searching for the ruins of a mysterious lost civilization in the Amazon Basin. Grann's research takes him on his own adventures into the jungle. Bestseller. 2009.

[Download from BARD: The Lost City of Z a Tale of Deadly Obsession...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068618

God's Middle Finger into the Lawless Heart of the Sierra Madre By Richard Grant

Read By Jim Zeiger

Reading time 11 hours, 46 minutes

Award-winning British travel writer recounts his ill-advised journeys into western Mexico's Sierra Madre--mountains rife with outlaws, drug lords, and assorted outcasts. Describes visiting a folk healer who prescribed rattlesnake pills, attending bizarre religious rituals, and running from cocaine-fueled locals bent on killing him for sport. Strong language. 2008.

[Download from BARD: God's Middle Finger into the Lawless Heart...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067469

The Motorcycle Diaries Notes on a Latin American Journey By Che Guevara

Read by Jeremy Gage

Reading time 6 hours, 3 minutes

Guevara's diary of his 1952 trip through Latin America when he was a twenty-three-year-old Argentinian medical student. Among the musings of a privileged youth taking a year off for a road trip, he also reveals hints of the revolutionary he was to become. 2016.

[Download from BARD: The Motorcycle Diaries Notes on a Latin...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB087828

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR21956](#)

Also available in braille BR021956

Among Flowers: A Walk in the Himalaya by Jamaica Kincaid

Read by Michele Schaeffer Reading time 4 hours 15 minutes.

Caribbean-born novelist recounts her journey to eastern Nepal to gather seeds for use in her personal garden in Vermont. Chronicles her month-long trek through remote, mountainous terrain where, while searching for specimens, she and three botanist friends endured daily deprivations, altitude sickness, leeches, and encounters with violent Maoist guerillas.

[Download from BARD: Among Flowers a Walk in the Himalaya](#)

Into Thin Air: a Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster By John Krakauer

Read by Roy Avers Reading Time 8 hours, 57 minutes

A journalist's first-hand report on the ill-fated Mt. Everest expedition of May 1996 in which a freak storm claimed the lives of nine adventurers. Describes the grueling ascent of the climbers, their sense of elation at reaching the peak, and the tragic events that followed. Strong language. Bestseller. 1997.

[Download from BARD: Into Thin Air a Personal Account of the Mount...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB044525

Pirate Hunters Treasure, Obsession, and the Search for a Legendary Pirate Ship By Robert Kurson

Read by Ray Porter Reading time 8 hours, 26 minutes

Author of Shadow Divers (DB 58650) chronicles the story of John Chatterton (born 1951) and John Mattera (born 1962) and their search for the Golden Fleece, a pirate ship sunk off the coast of the Dominican Republic in the 1680s. Discusses challenges faced until the ship's 2008 discovery. Commercial audiobook. 2015.

[Download from BARD: Pirate Hunters Treasure, Obsession, and the...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB081865

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR21111](#)

Also available in braille BR021111

Charles Kuralt's America by Charles Kuralt

Read by Barry Bernson

Reading time 9 hours 15 minutes.

Following his retirement from CBS in 1994, Kuralt set out to spend a month each at favorite places during their best seasons. In his easygoing style, Kuralt describes the places he went and the people he met from Alaska to Key West and Louisiana to Maine. He comments on Charleston in the spring; Ketchikan, Alaska, in June; the lakes of Minnesota in July; and New York City at Christmas.

[Download from BARD: Charles Kuralt's America](#)

The Wild Places by Robert Macfarlane

Read by Bill Wallace.

Reading time 10 hours 32 minutes.

Macfarlane recounts his journeys in search of the remaining "wild places" in England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. Describes his adventures to remote islands, beaches, marshes, forests, and mountaintops as he simultaneously reflects on the interconnectedness of nature and humanity and his transformed understanding about the notion of "wildness."

[Download from Bard: The Wild Places](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069068

Down the Nile Alone in a Fisherman's Skiff By Rosemary Mahoney

Read By Alice Rosengard

Reading time 11 hours, 21 minutes

Rower and award-winning author recounts her 120-mile solo journey along the Nile between the Egyptian cities of Aswan and Qena. Describes her search for a boat, her excitement in finding ancient ruins, and the obstacles she faced as she confronted searing heat and cultural differences. Strong language. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Down the Nile Alone in a Fisherman's Skiff](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067048

Into Thick Air: Biking to the Bellybutton of Six Continents by Jim Malusa

Read by Ray Childs

Reading time 15 hours, 15 minutes

Tucson botanist and writer Malusa describes realizing, through writing assignments, his dream to travel by bicycle to the lowest elevation points on six continents. Expands on blog entries that he wrote en route to Lake Eyre, the Dead Sea, the Caspian Sea, Salina Grande, Lac Assal, and Death Valley. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Into Thick Air Biking to the Bellybutton of Six...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067737

Wild by Nature from Siberia to Australia, Three Years Alone in the Wilderness on Foot By Sarah Marquis

Read by Nicola Daval

Reading time 7 hours, 31 minutes

National Geographic explorer chronicles a 10,000-mile solo hike from Siberia to Australia. Discusses logistical considerations for her hike, adventures she encountered--including having to deal with the Mafia, drug dealers, thieves on horseback, sickness, and setbacks--and her ultimate triumph. Shares feelings she experienced during the trek. Translated from French. 2014

[Download from BARD: Wild by Nature from Siberia to Australia, Three...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB085348

A Pearl in the Storm: How I Found my Heart in the Middle of the Ocean By

Tori Murden McClure

Read by Faith Potts

Reading time 10 hours, 19 minutes

The author recounts her quest to become the first woman to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean. McClure details a harrowing but failed 1998 voyage in a twenty-three-foot boat that forced her to confront her personal demons and a later attempt that brought love, enlightenment, and, finally, success. 2009.

[Download from BARD: A Pearl in the Storm: How I found my Heart in...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070111

They Shoot Canoes, Don't They? by Patrick F. McManus.

Read by Jim Zeiger.

Reading time 6 hours 43 minutes.

Tongue-in-cheek tales about a sportsman's life. McManus celebrates the hidden pleasures, and the opportunities for disaster, in the recreations of camping, hunting, and fishing. Includes amusing accounts of his dog Strange and an incorrigible old woodsman, Rancid Crabtree.

[Download from BARD: They Shoot Canoes, Don't They?](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB056691

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR15723](#)

Also available in braille BR015723

Northern Nurse By Elliott Merrick

Read by Jill Ferris

Reading time 10 hours, 36 minutes

Memoir relates the adventures of Australian nurse Kate Austen, who in the 1920s--after a postwar stint in Paris--traveled to the subarctic region of Labrador, Canada, to work at a mission among impoverished settlers and natives. Written by Austen's husband Elliott Merrick with a foreword by Lawrence Millman. 1942.

[Download from BARD: Northern Nurse](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072332

Grandma Gatewood's Walk the Inspiring Story of the Woman Who Saved the Appalachian Trail By Ben Montgomery

Read by Jennifer Hubbard

Reading time 8 hours, 14 minutes

Biography of Emma Gatewood (1887-1973), who left her family in Ohio in May 1955, saying only that she was going for a walk. Four months later she completed a solo hike of the Appalachian Trail, from south to north--the first woman to do so. Details her trip and subsequent celebrity. 2014

[Download from BARD: Grandma Gatewood's Walk the Inspiring Story...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB080502

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR21504](#)

Also available in braille BR021504

Crazy for the Storm: a Memoir of Survival By Norman Ollestad

Read by Andy Pyle

Reading time 8 hours, 8 minutes

Author describes being the lone survivor of a small-airplane mountaintop crash in 1979 when he was eleven. Vignettes from his childhood with a father who pushed extreme sports explain his having the stamina necessary to make it down the mountain alone. Strong language and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Crazy for the Storm a Memoir of Survival](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069509

Around the World in 50 Years My Adventure to Every Country on Earth By

Albert Podell

Read by Jason Culp

Reading time 14 hours, 34 minutes

Journalist describes his travels to every country on Earth, including seven that no longer exist, since he began in 1962 with a trip to Canada. Describes personal relationships with his family and girlfriends, coleading the Trans World Record Expedition, and ways he entered countries closed to tourists. 2015

[Download from BARD: Around the World in 50 Years My Adventure to...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB081883

Marco Polo Didn't Go There: Stories and Revelations From One Decade as a Postmodern Travel Writer : with Special Commentary Track By Rolf Potts

Read by Peter Johnson

Reading time 11 hours, 23 minutes

Backpack traveler recounts his off-the-beaten-track adventures in far-flung places around the globe, including almost crashing the set of a Leonardo DiCaprio movie in Thailand, joining a Tantric sex class in India, and following a celebration of the Virgin Mary in Central America. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Marco Polo Didn't Go There...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072921

The Lost City of the Monkey God a True Story By Douglas J Preston

Read by Bill Mumy

Reading time 10 hours, 31 minutes

Coauthor of the Pendergast series--including The Obsidian Chamber (DB 86193)--recounts the expeditions he joined to explore what was believed to be the remains of Hernán Cortés's lost city of gold in Honduras. Describes the area's history, previous expeditions, and the challenges he and his team faced. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2017.

[Download from BARD: The Lost City of the Monkey God a True Story](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB087296

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR21848](#)

Also available in braille BR021848

Between a Rock and a Hard Place by Aron Ralston.

Read by Steven Carpenter

Reading time 11 hours 38 minutes.

Spring 2003. Author's account of becoming trapped while hiking in the Utah wilderness. The twenty-eight-year-old recalls the five days he spent alone in a canyon pinned in place by a boulder. Describes his desperate decision to amputate his own arm, rappel down, and seek help. Strong language.

[Download from BARD: Between a Rock and a Hard Place](#)

Atchafalaya Houseboat My Years in the Louisiana Swamp By Gwen

Rowland

Read by Nona Pipes

Reading time 4 hours, 36 minutes

Collection of mostly previously published essays about living in the Atchafalaya swamp in the 1970s. Discusses building their houseboat from scrap supplies, growing and catching their food, the community of fellow swamp dwellers, and more. 2006.

[Download from BARD: Atchafalaya Houseboat My Years in the Louisiana](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB088280

Following Atticus Forty-Eight High Peaks, One Little Dog, and an Extraordinary Friendship By Tom Ryan

Read by Gary Tipton

Reading time 9 hours, 31 minutes

Newspaperman examines his unique relationship with his hiking partner, miniature schnauzer Atticus M. Finch. Explains how a fund-raising effort after a friend's death started man and dog's years of climbing in New Hampshire's White Mountains--188 peaks over three winters. Some strong language. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Following Atticus Forty-Eight High Peaks, One...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074367

The Last Frontier, Incredible Tales of Survival, Exploration, and Adventure from Alaska Magazine edited by Jill Shepherd.

Read by Steven Carpenter. Reading time 11 hours 8 minutes.

Fifty-eight of Alaska magazine's most compelling tales of survival, exploration, and adventure published between 1935 and 2002. Articles about diverse topics from wildlife management issues to heroic sled dogs depict the fantastic landscape and its inhabitants as well as record the ever-changing face of America's largest state.

[Download from BARD: The Last Frontier, Incredible Tales of Survival...](#)

The Log from the Sea of Cortez By John Steinbeck

Read By Robert Sams Reading time 12 hours, 47 minutes

This narrative account of John Steinbeck's 1940 expedition to the Gulf of California with his friend, biologist Ed Ricketts, describes their four-thousand-mile journey--from chartering a sea vessel to collecting specimens--combining adventure, science, and philosophy. Includes a 1951 appendix "About Ed Ricketts." 1941.

[Download from BARD: The Log from the Sea of Cortez](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068309

Jungleland a Mysterious Lost City, a WWII Spy, and a True Story of Deadly Adventure By Christopher S. Stewart

Read by John Polk Reading time 8 hours, 26 minutes

Journalist recounts his 2008 search for the lost city of Ciudad Blanca in Central America. Discusses studying the 1940 expedition journals of American spy Theodore Morde, who claimed to have found the city. Compares Morde's journey with his own. Young adult appeal. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Jungleland a Mysterious Lost City, a WWII Spy...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076405

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19925](#)

Also available in braille BR019925

Wild from Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail By Cheryl Strayed

Read by Jill Fox

Reading time 13 hours, 27 minutes

Author recounts the three-month, 1,100-mile solo hike she took on a whim in 1995, after years of devastating personal losses. Describes her encounters with rattlesnakes, locals, fellow hikers, and her own thoughts during her trek from Los Angeles to Washington State on the Pacific Crest Trail. Strong language. Bestseller. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Wild from Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074646

Walking the Gobi A 1,600-Mile Trek Across a Desert of Hope and Despair

By Helen Thayer

Read by Michael McCullough

Reading time 8 hours, 55 minutes

New Zealand adventurer details the fulfillment of her fifty-year-old dream at age sixty-three. Describes spending eighty-one often-grueling days walking across the Mongolian Gobi Desert with her husband and two camels--after five years of planning and despite injuries from a car accident. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Walking the Gobi A 1,600-Mile Trek Across...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069721

K2 Life and Death on the World's Most Dangerous Mountain By Ed Viesturs

Read by Michael Scherer

Reading time 11 hours, 39 minutes

A mountain climber who has challenged K2's rigors explores the history of attempts to reach the summit of the Pakistan mountain second only to Everest in height but first in terms of fatalities. Discusses successful and tragic climbs on K2 and examines the questions they raise about mountaineering. 2009.

[Download from BARD: K2 Life and Death on the World's Most ...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071658

One Hundred Years of Hunting: The Ultimate Tribute to Our Hunting

Heritage edited by Voyageur Press.

Read by Jack Fox.

Reading time 6 hours 58 minutes.

A collection of eighteen hunting tales by notable historical persons and outdoor writers celebrating an American sporting activity over most of the past century. Includes Grover Cleveland's "Quail Shooting" (1906), Ernest Hemingway's "Remembering Shooting-Flying: A Key West Letter" (1935), and Jimmy Carter's "Learning to Hunt"

[Download from BARD: One Hundred Years of Hunting...](#)

Life is a Wheel Love, Death, etc., and a Bike Ride Across America By Bruce Weber

Read by Erik Sandvold

Reading time 12 hours, 57 minutes

To create a diary of his adventures, New York Times obituary writer expands upon articles and blogs he wrote during a cross-country bike ride. Weber offers observations about cycling, self-reliance, and the spirit of the United States--from the Oregon coast to New York City. 2014.

[Download from BARD: Life is a Wheel Love, Death, etc., and a Bike ...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB078796

No Barriers a Blind Man's Journey to Kayak the Grand Canyon By Erik Weihenmayer

Read by Holter Graham.

Reading time 19 hours, 36 minutes

The author of Touch the Top of the World (DB 51505) lost his sight as a teen but still seeks adventure around the world. He shares his experience kayaking the Colorado River and his efforts to help other blind people, especially children, learn to live adventurous lives. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2017.

[Download from BARD: No Barriers a Blind Man's Journey to Kayak...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB087291

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR21928](#)

Also available in braille BR021928

Walking the Himalayas By Levison Wood

Read by Levison Wood

Reading time 8 hours, 3 minutes

British explorer and journalist describes his trek the length of the Himalayas, beginning in Afghanistan and ending 1,700 miles later in Bhutan. Describes travel conditions he and his guides encountered, individuals he met, the cultures he was introduced to, and advice he was given. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2016.

[Download from BARD: Walking the Himalayas](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB084780

A Wall of White: The True Story of Heroism and Survival in the Face of a Deadly Avalanche By Jennifer Woodlief

Read by Theresa Conkin

Reading time 9 hours, 33 minutes

Chronicles the avalanche that struck the Alpine Meadows ski resort near Lake Tahoe on March 31, 1982, and killed seven people. Describes how search-and-rescue teams and their dogs found Anna Conrad after she was buried for five days. Some strong language. 2009.

[Download from BARD: A Wall of White: The True Story of Heroism...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071805

Lost in Shangri-la a True Story of Survival, Adventure, and the Most Incredible Rescue Mission of World War II By Mitchell Zuckoff

Read by Barry Bernson

Reading time 9 hours, 59 minutes

Recounts the experience of Margaret Hastings, John McCollom, and Kenneth Decker--three burnt and injured survivors of an army transport plane that crashed in the New Guinea jungle on May 13, 1945. Describes their discovery of and stay with a native tribe. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Lost in Shangri-la a True Story of Survival...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073456