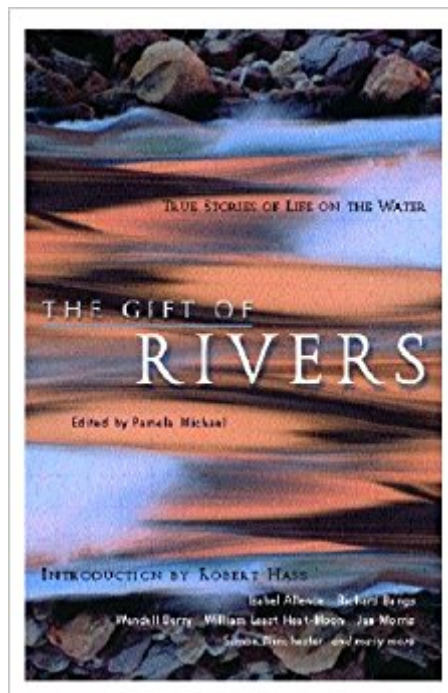


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# The Gift Of Rivers: True Stories Of Life On The Water (Travelers' Tales Guides)



## Synopsis

Rushing, rolling, flowing &#151; rivers provide the ultimate metaphor for movement. They carve borders, create livelihoods, provoke adventure, and offer healing. From white-knuckle rafting rides to fishing stories to eco-essays, this collection by top authors explores the historical, practical, and spiritual significance of rivers. Contributors to *The Gift of Rivers* include Isabel Allende, Barry Lopez, Wendell Berry, Jan Morris, William Least Heat-Moon, Richard Bangs, Simon Winchester, and many other distinguished and emerging voices &#151; all celebrating rivers, literally and symbolically. A thoughtful introduction by former U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Hass describes the way in which rivers have fueled the imagination and spawned cultures since the beginning of time.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I feel fortunate to have had the chance to read the precious river stories contained in this collection. Some brought me and my friends to fits of laughter, others to tears and amazement- most of all they inspired us to listen more carefully to the rivers and waterways that bring nourishment and joy to all our lives. Thank you Pamela Michael for sharing these stories from around the world with us!

If all of the world's rivers formed a giant continuous watershed (which in a sense they do), I'd put-in at the top and proceed to ride, glide and meander my way down the arteries of our earth. As I entered into each unique river system - Congo, , Seine, Futaleufu, Siuslaw, Mississippi, Narmada -

the human and natural histories of each river would be revealed to me, uncovered, discovered like the layers of time and tide of the Grand Canyon. At the take-out I'd be changed. I'd better understand John Calderazzo's observation that a river can "turn into a state of mind, a kind of feeling." That is the gift of rivers. Of course, there is no such thing as a put-in at the top of the world's watershed, but just as good is Pamela Michael's book, "The Gift of Rivers." Turn the page, enter into river time, hear the stories, and fall in love with our watery ancestors, the world's rivers.

This book really is a gift. Once you read former Poet Laureate Robert Hass's beautiful introduction, you won't want to stop -- and you won't be disappointed. We're talking range here -- from Isabel Allende's to Lorian Hemingway's Arkansas to William Least Heat-Moon's Mississippi ... and from icy mountain torrents like the En in Switzerland to cultural main streets like the Seine in France and the Nile in Egypt and the Ganges in India, to rivers choked by industry and neglect like the Columbia in the U.S. -- honestly, you'll laugh, you'll cry.

Of all the wonderful anthologies published by Traveler's Tales, the Gift of Rivers is my favorite. From the Pacuare in Costa Rica to the Tatshenshini in Alaska, I love rivers. Traveling on water is the easiest way to get into pristine, roadless wilderness areas. While floating effortlessly on calm stretches you can see wildlife on the shore without disturbing their environment. Your thoughts glide as easily as your rubber raft wandering softly over a panorama of constantly changing scenery. Being awakened by the thunder of white water ahead keeps the mind and senses alert for adventure to come. Rivers, once the favored mode of transport, harbor tales of ancient spirits. This collection of stories shares with us the richness of rivers. Each of the rivers included have their own "unique balance of menace and charm." This collection is like a candy store of adventures for this travel writer aching to know the pulse of more of the arteries nourishing our planet.[...]Lost Angel Walkabout-One Traveler's Tales

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