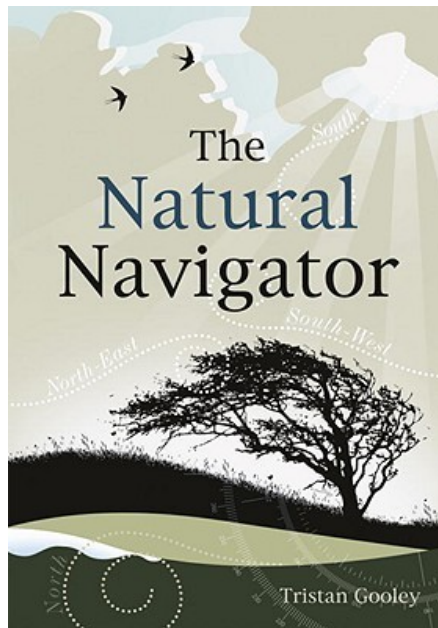




The Natural Navigator

Tristan Gooley

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The Natural Navigator Tristan Gooley

Starting with a simple question - 'Which way am I looking?' - Tristan Gooley blends natural science, myth, folklore and the history of travel to introduce you to the rare and ancient art of finding your way using nature's own sign-posts, from the feel of a rock to the look of the moon. With Tristan's help, you'll learn why some trees grow the way they do and how they can help you find your way in the countryside. You'll discover how it's possible to find North simply by looking at a puddle and how natural signs can be used to navigate on the open ocean and in the heart of the city. Wonderfully detailed and full of fascinating stories, this is a glorious exploration of a rediscovered art.

The Natural Navigator Details

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Author : Tristan Gooley

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Genre : Nonfiction, Environment, Nature, Science, Travel, Outdoors

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From Reader Review The Natural Navigator for online ebook

Lynda says

A bit dry of a narrative but full of interesting facts about the natural world which may carry the reader through it.

Darren Kirby says

Rather clever and entertaining. The 'tips' are so densely packed in and brief of description as to make this book rather impractical as a 'how to'. That's not necessarily a bad thing. If one considers the lore contained within as features of the natural world to be mindful of, rather than tips to be directly employed then this is a lovely book.

AK says

A pleasant and easy-to-read overview of the art of natural navigation. Tristan Gooley has got about a dozen books out on the topic, I think others are much more practical in terms of how-to. This was more anecdotes and trivia woven together with a few thoughts on why we should still bother to think about where the sun is in the sky, where the wind is coming from, etc. I finally learned that winds are named from the direction they are coming from, not the direction they are blowing, which is something I'd wondered for a long time but never bothered google. Now I know!

Andy says

It seems that my outdoor adventures are in the past these days (though hopefully as the kids get older it will become easier). Armchair exploration it is then, at least for the time being.

The Natural Navigator is an eminently readable and enthusiastic guide to figuring out where you are, packed with insightful tips, philosophical musings and rich anecdotes. Despite some complexity at times, it never comes across elitist or patronising, instead it revels in the joys of the natural world. Gooley has a clear passion and does a good job at selling it.

Worth the read.

Elaine says

This book has a lot of great observations that can be used to find direction or location-stars, trees, the moon, animals, the wind, etc. You'd have to have some prior knowledge about prevailing winds in the areas or about constellations or phases of the moon or where the sun rises/sets at particular times of the year, so you won't be able to just read this book and know how to navigate. It does give the reader a lot of options to start on the journey of using these techniques, so they can seek out the necessary information needed. I enjoyed

learning how much you can deduce by these natural clues, even though realistically I'll never have to use the information to travel. I have to admit, some parts of it was beyond me to understand-like how to tell the direction by the phase of the moon and the time of the year and time of the day. That was just too many pieces for me to try to piece together and determine my position. It was fascinating that it's possible, but I think I'll use the North Star or by GPS.

Rosie says

This is an incredibly interesting book. There are signs all around, often very obvious ones, that without the knowledge of the cause behind or the meaning of something go unnoticed. This really opens the eyes to the incredible amount of information on the world around you that is laid out before you.

I'm looking forward to working my way through his series of books and improving my observational skills and knowledge. To be able to go for a walk and have this information learned in my mind to apply to my surroundings.

Really insightful and enjoyable read!!

Josh Bush says

Fantastic guide to learning how to use natural cues to orient yourself and hold a course, but goes beyond this to help anyone enjoy the outdoors even if you don't need to use the skills for navigation.

The author doesn't just give a list of rule-of-thumb pointers in nature, but starts the discussion by talking about the major factors that shape the natural world. Light from the sun, wind, water, and how the Earth rotates and orbits around the sun are the reasons behind the rules-of-thumb found in so many other navigation books. Each section of the book provides a basic foundation of knowledge about how these things affect the world around us, and then gives practical examples of how to use them for natural navigation. Because of this approach, the book goes beyond a navigation guide and becomes a tool to help you understand what you see around you.

If you understand how the plants and land react to sun and wind, then you can begin to make your own inferences about direction and the natural history of a location even if you can't remember exactly what side of a tree some book said moss is supposed to grow on -- which, by the way, is no side of any tree where I live. Tips about north or south easily become useless when you don't understand the reason why they work. I don't need to spend my time looking for moss that isn't there when I could just be looking for growth patterns in everything that is there. That is what this book tries to teach you to do.

The most interesting and unique part of this book, I think, is the section on the moon. I learned things about using the moon to infer direction that I had not read anywhere else. After learning why and how it can be used, I wondered why the reason wasn't just obvious to everyone and in all the books.

This is a great book even if you don't care about navigation and just want to appreciate what you see in the world around you.

Mike Murray says

pg 55

Grim-Anal King says

Liked some of the insight concerning landscape, but there was too much reliance on anecdotes and psychological waffle here, too much dependence on a small number of pet sources. Firm ground became a quagmire.

Idyll says

I don't think this book has been successful with teaching me how to find my way without a GPS, but it has changed the way I enjoy a casual stroll. Now, when I look at the trees, the clouds, the rocks, the lichen, the water and the stars, when I feel the wind across my face, the sun on my back and the mud under my feet, when I smell the tangy salt air, when I hear the bees buzzing and the birds chirping, I see the universe conspiring to show me the way! It's a delicate dance that has been finessed over many million years and carried out to perfection! Thank you, Tristan Gooley!

Susan says

I liked it very much, but sometimes it was a bit science heavy. I just started his new one, and it seems much more conversational, and so it seems to flow better for me.

Rebecca says

There's plenty to learn from this book, including ancient folktales and myths. I found this was more of a "look at the index & find topic" type of book. There is simply too much to absorb by cover to cover reading.

Aaron says

I read this out of mild curiosity rather than taking instruction, but I think it would be a stupendous resource to beginning that base of knowledge on this subject. It's filled with lots of thought provoking bits of info but how humans move about in the world. Very cool, but did take me some time to complete as I engaged differently with the each subject it covered.

Malcolm Handoll says

Brilliant book - very readable and well researched. Draws upon rare earlier books and a lot of first hand experience, then presented clearly and with passion. This will become a classic.

Tristan practices what he teaches and has over the years assimilated a lot from earlier books, such as

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/32...> by Harold Gatty.

This latest book synthesises probably all that is currently published and known about the subject of natural navigation - and yet because of Tristan's passion and personality it is compelling and easy to read.

There are few pictures, this is not a technical book, more a thought provoking and highly enlightening discussion - you cannot help but be positively moved by the book and you will see your world afresh as a result. Good stuff indeed.

Though it will look good on your shelf of as christmas gift, it really is best when well thumbed, read and re-read - so trust me and read it. I guarantee you will learn something simply wonderful.

Randy Wambold says

A for informative, D for engaging.

Even adjusting my standards for a work of non-fiction whose objective is clearly to inform and not to entertain, this was a tough read. There is no doubt that Mr. Gooley is a passionate expert in natural navigation. And I learned a lot, some of which I hope to retain and put into practice. But I began to feel like wave after wave after wave of information was coming at me. The few attempts at humor did more to convince me that Mr. Gooley is a very serious navigator indeed. In the end I found this a dry, difficult work to plod through - even though I'm sure I'm the more enlightened navigator for it.
