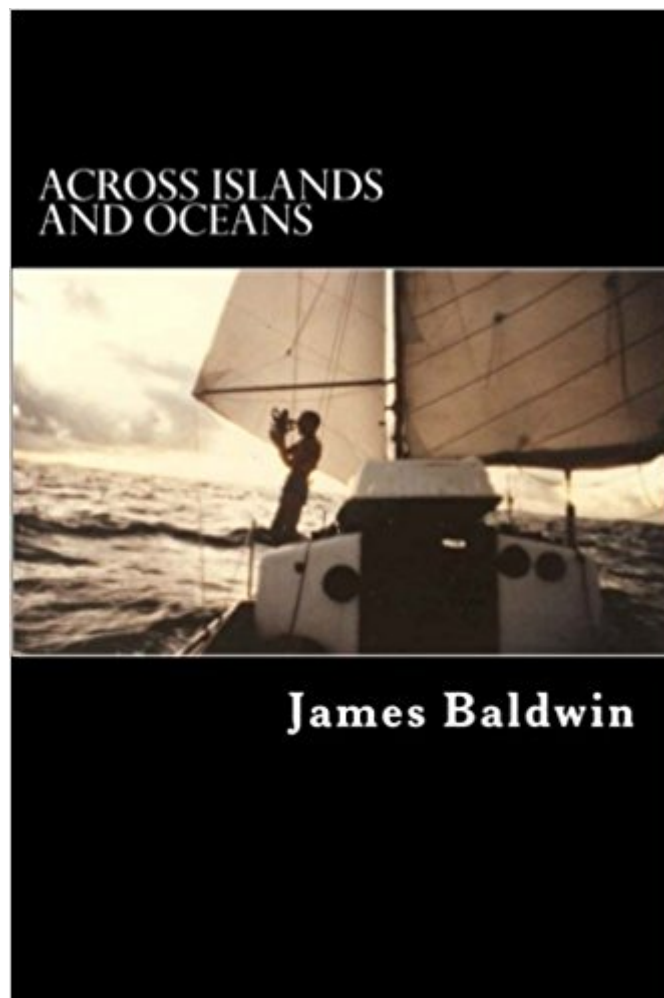




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Across Islands And Oceans: A Journey Alone Around The World By Sail And By Foot



Synopsis

Across Islands and Oceans is the memoir of twenty-five year-old James Baldwin and his epic two-year, solo circumnavigation in Atom, his trusty but aging twenty-eight foot sailboat. Early on and "as broke as [he] dared to be," James determined not only to sail around the world, but also to hike across every island that he visits. His inland forays are unique in the literature of circumnavigators as he finds danger, humor, friendship and romance in places most sailors will never visit. James' story unfolds in his earnest exploration of distant lands and seas, his meditations on the people whose lives he touched, and his greater voyage to explore his own private ocean of solitude. His adventure is not merely an attempt to seek thrills, nor even to tempt death, but rather a voyage of discovery as he set out in the direction of his youthful dreams to meet the life he imagined. "Go seek what you will, where you will, but be a seeker all of your life." -James Baldwin

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Customer Reviews

"Baldwin's crisp, clear writing carries the reader forward...the book has a reflective tone as Baldwin examines his own growth during the journey and the many lessons he learned that only the sea can teach." -Practical Sailor Magazine, July 2012

"His tales of the hikes and the people are as fascinating as the stories of his voyages and times at sea. This book is a wonderful addition to anyone's cruising bookshelf and likely to become a classic someday." -Good Old Boat Magazine

"This is the well-crafted story of a young man's voyage of self-discovery coupled with a desire to absorb and learn from the people and cultures he experiences." - Cruising World Magazine, October 2012

James Baldwin not only had a dream to sail the world, he fulfilled it and then some. "Across Islands and Oceans" is a complete account of a sailing adventure and a thoughtful reflection of the explorations that extend beyond the ports of call. Baldwin not only sailed the oceans alone, enduring storms and torturous encounters with rugged lee shores, he also explored the interior of the islands he visited. His descriptions of landscape and culture and the relationships he forged with locals add a richness to an already adventurous story. The personalities of sailing's greatest solo sailors are referenced throughout this book. Inspired by Joshua Slocum, Bernard Moitessier, Robin Lee Graham, among a few others, Baldwin worked in a land locked steel foundry to save enough money to finance his travels. His writing is exquisite and contains the thoughtful reflections of one who spends time thinking about the larger context of humanity. If being transported on an armchair adventure via some good reading is what you are looking for, "Across Islands and Oceans" is sure to satisfy the most discriminating reader. It is by far the best in its genre.

Most of us will never have what it takes to sail a boat solo around the world, but we can join Mr. Baldwin on his trip and have the adventure of our lives. He has such a wonderful way of making the reader feel as though we are sailing with him on his boat Atom, hearts pounding when the going gets rough, feeling the sun and sea spray on our faces, thrilling at the raw nature surrounding him, challenging and filling him with awe at every turn. His honesty and willingness to bring us along on his journey and showing us how this experience changed him as well as the forces inside him that compelled him to undertake his life-changing adventure makes this book enjoyable from start to finish. His unique insights and descriptions of the islands he visited and the colorful personalities who call them home was wonderful for those of us who love to immerse ourselves in other cultures and learn as much as we can about them whenever we vacation in foreign destinations. Anyone who enjoys sailing, is fascinated by other cultures and appreciates those who challenge themselves by looking within will love this book as much as I did. As a fellow sailor, I only wish there had been more in the book regarding the sailing itself, but I understand why it was kept at the level he included in the book as not everyone would enjoy such details. I know I will never be able to sail the world as Mr. Baldwin has done but I have enjoyed the next best thing with his book.

I have found "Across Islands and Oceans", a book by James Baldwin to be an outstanding read and an excellent value for the money in e-book format purchased at .com for the following reasons: The author describes in vivid detail the many interesting islands, cultures, as well as the fauna and flora that inhabit the places he visits. The prose is excellent and the diction varied. Behind the writing one

feels the presence of a sharp intellect. James describes how he dealt with the different cultures he encountered and the many friends he made not by having stereotypes or preconceived expectations, but by adjusting to the local customs and conditions. He keeps the reader under suspense as to what will happen as he explores the mountains and lonely places of the islands where he anchors his boat, Atom. At one island, a deep romantic connection develops between James and a lovely local girl. On a voyage around the world, the sailor is sure to encounter many adversities. These include difficult weather conditions and loneliness. These are described in detail, as are the ways to cope with them. I was impressed by the humanity and courage of the author as he dealt with the realities of apartheid in South Africa, and his tremendous knowledge of the peoples and animals that inhabited the lands long before man came. For anyone contemplating a long sailing voyage or even a similar feat of circumnavigation, there are plenty of lessons in the book on how to survive storms and other adverse environmental conditions. James was a purist, surviving on vegetarian food and the minimal use of sailing technology available at that time. When the book ended, I had the feeling that I was parting with a great friend. The book is about a voyage within as much as it is about a voyage without. Roberto

When I was younger, I spent a summer sailing on Lake Michigan. I've never returned to sailing, but I always said that, eventually, I would do so. This book captures the essence of the pursuit, chronicling an amazing voyage by an initially inexperienced sailor - but this book takes an amazing journey one "step" further by describing the author's experiences on land and the multiple cultures he interacts with. At times it's a bit wordy and perhaps a tad overdramatic/preachy, but you can't argue that it is not an emotional and very well-told journal of life on the seas.

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