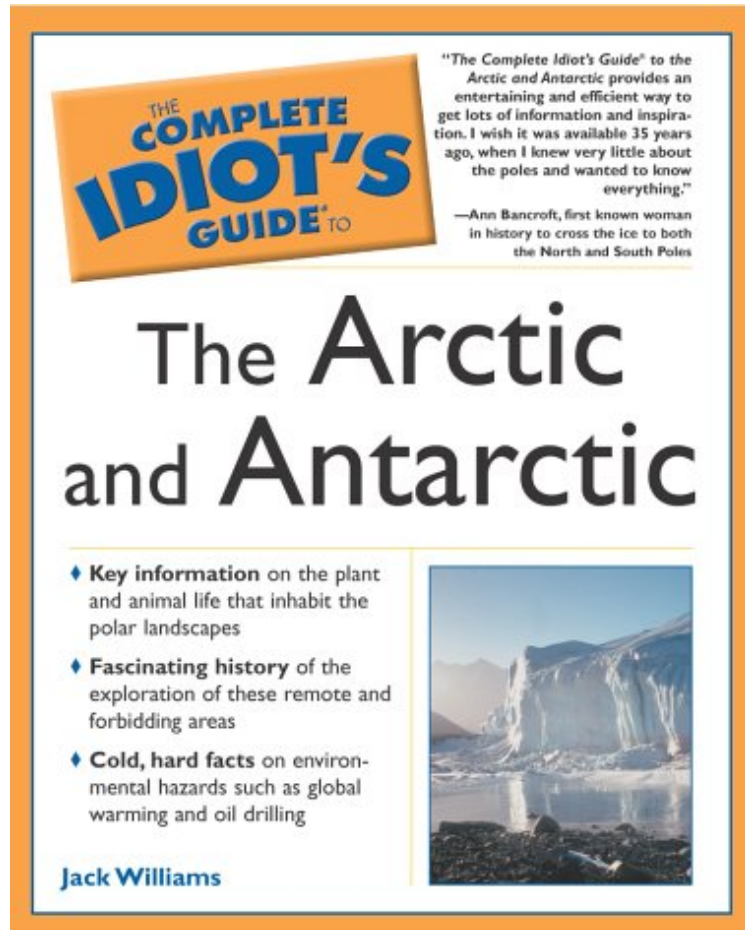


The Complete Idiot's Guide to the Arctic and Antarctic

Jack Williams

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Jack Williams : The Complete Idiot's Guide to the Arctic and Antarctic before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Complete Idiot's Guide to the Arctic and Antarctic:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Clear and comprehensive, definitely go read it!By heres_looking_at_youI learnt many things from this book, though years have passed since I read it (that is a bit of a disclaimer).It covers and contrasts the Arctic and Antarctic within each section. So if you don't read headings, you might lose track of which pole you are on, but it will get clearer as you read on. For those who do read the headings, no problem.The Idiots Guide covers famous trips made to each locale, actual trips made recently, and the likelihood that you could go visit or even afford to: some trips cost in the \$60,000 - plus range. Unfortunately, if you have certain health problems, you likely won't get to visit anyhow, and staying at the US Antarctic research station is then out. However, I recommend you further research it, if interested, as things do change, and this book cannot be the final word on travel / stays, due to its age.It covers the wildlife and various forms of sea creatures that dwell in the differing regions, and some that travel between both hemispheres. Krill and penguins are local to Antarctica, while polar bears

are Arctic. Whales and certain birds travel. It covers changes in ice patterns and types of glaciers and icy-ness of the seawater. Thereby it leads us to issues of global warming and holes in the ozone layer. It gets into stories of researchers in Antarctica, how they live and what they do. Since this book was published, we have had amazing discoveries, including underground lakes, bacteria life deep under ice, and a massive canyon under the ice of Greenland bigger than any other in the world. So a revision or a book II would be appreciated. For the environmental impact and weather aspects alone, you should go read this book. For the adventure or armchair traveler, it is outstanding, but dated. Well-written, it will likely whet your appetite for more on the Antarctic and Arctic, and the poles. You might want to follow up with the reckless adventure of Sir Ernest Shackleton, in which his faithful dogs, sadly, had to be shot to allow the men to survive, and many photos were taken though the Sir destroyed a number of them, you might guess why. The (fool)hardy-ness of man and life to survive in those cold conditions is awesome. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

Into The Polar Zones By Keith C. Heidorn

In my youth, I became fascinated by the Antarctic when I saw documentaries on the International Geophysical Year exploration and study of the southern continent on Disneyland, the flagship television show of Walt Disney in those years. I remember most the snow vehicles traversing the ice and the concern over hidden crevasses in the ice. And although I fancy myself a warm-weather lover with an aversion to prolonged cold and snow, I have kept that fascination with the polar regions through my life.

In The Complete Idiot's Guide to the Arctic and Antarctic, author Jack Williams, editor of the USA Today weather page and author of The USA Today Weather Book and co-author of Hurricane Watch: Forecasting the Deadliest Storms on Earth, I was able to again revisit those frontier regions. I have enjoyed William's other works and looked forward to another well-written, informative book. I was not disappointed.

The Complete Idiot's Guide to the Arctic and Antarctic is an overview of the two opposite ends of the Earth functioning as a specialized encyclopedia of information on the polar regions from history, geography, science and even employment and tourist opportunities. The book is divided into six parts: * Meet the Polar Regions Life in the Polar Regions * Going to the Ends of the Earth * The Polar Regions Today * Today's Polar Science * The Polar Regions and the Rest of the World

Each part contains a number of sub-chapters looking in greater depth at particular topics relevant to the main topic at hand for both the Arctic and Antarctic. The book can be read straight through or by jumping around to topics of interest. Thus, it will prove useful as a reference book for many polar topics. The book is liberally spiced with sidebar tables, definitions of terminology right where the terms are used, and useful illustrations (though not of the quality of The USA Today Weather Book). History buffs will find the exploration history overviews sending them out to read more detailed accounts of the searches for polar passages or the quest for the glory of being the first to stand at the ultimate global ends. The book falls within the series The Complete Idiot's Guides, each of which stands as an educational work with the foremost intent of introducing the subject to those not currently knowledgeable in the topic. The "Complete Idiot" portion of the series title is a bit tongue-in-cheek and a good marketing gambit in our self-deprecating world. However, having read Williams' treatment of the subject in The Complete Idiot's Guide to the Arctic and Antarctic, I think you could be a nearly complete idiot and still understand his writing, coming away with a new-found knowledge base. Even for those who consider ourselves on the opposite end of the knowledge spectrum, there is much to learn here, and Williams does not bore us with oversimplicity. With the polar regions so often in the news these days, whether through ozone depletion, climate change, new discoveries, or daring rescues of ill members of the Antarctic research colonies, you are well-advised to consider reading this book as background material. You may even find you too are a polar enthusiast and will begin to search out other, more detailed works.

The Complete Idiot's Guide to the Arctic and Antarctic is the best overview of the polar regions I have read since Isaac Azimov's The Ends of the Earth, and likely better in its breadth. It will be at close reach on my reference shelf. I highly recommend it to all my readers.

The Weather Doctor

Now armchair adventurers can find out about the physical, geological, and climatological conditions of the poles; their unique flora, fauna, and human inhabitants; the history of the greatest polar expeditions, the exciting scientific research being conducted there, and what changing climate conditions might mean to the future of this vast and fascinating realm.

About the Author Jack Williams, a meteorologist by training, is the chief editor for USA Today.com's weather section and runs the online forum "Ask Jack." He has visited both the Arctic and Antarctica to perform his own research. He is the author of several previous books, including Hurricane Watch.