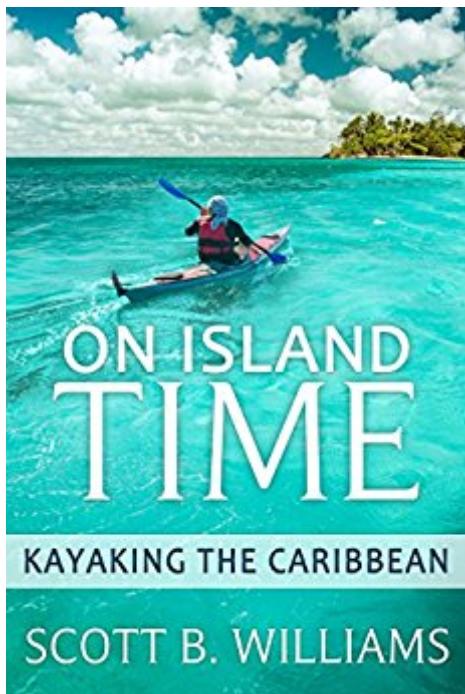


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# On Island Time: Kayaking The Caribbean



## Synopsis

What would it be like to sell everything you own and paddle away to the islands? It was a question that Scott B. Williams could only answer by going to find out. Twenty-five years old at the time, he set to paddle alone to the West Indies in a seventeen-foot sea kayak. His journey took him to the uninhabited islands and wild coastlines that Caribbean tourists don't see from their resort hotels and cruise ships. His open-ended quest to see how far south he could paddle led him to many unexpected adventures no amount of planning could have prepared him for. Weeks turned into months as he worked his way down the west coast of Florida, through the Bahamas, and on to Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. *On Island Time: Kayaking the Caribbean*, his narrative of this journey of a lifetime, describes the wonders of discovery as he makes landfall on pristine cays. Relentless headwinds, dangerous surf, countless beaches declared off-limits to trespassing, and aggressive sharks that ram his kayak and snap him out of his musing remind the adventurer that this paradise is far from perfect. Every day of the journey required constant vigilance to stay alive. With no one but himself to depend on and often no one even knowing where he was for weeks at a time, Williams learned what it means to be self-reliant and to adjust to "island time." With just a simple craft and the few belongings that would fit in it, Williams explores pristine cays and beaches rarely accessed by the typical island tourist.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a nice story about a twenty-five year old man, Scott Williams, who is not ready to settle for his nine-to-five corporate job. On a favorite kayak trip with his brother, Scott hatches a plan to paddle from his home area of Mississippi through the Bahamas and Virgin Islands and on through the Caribbean, eventually reaching South America. Like so many romantics before him, Scott quits his job and sells everything he owns to scrape together the money he will need to sustain him for an unspecified length of time. With no experience in paddling big water, he chooses the wrong kayak. He immediately blows out a waterproof bulkhead in his plastic sea kayak the first time he gets into big water on the Gulf. He manages to get to shore before his boat sinks. Scott realizes that his dream will require a new, more appropriate boat if he is to continue. The story of how he acquired a new boat with little money in just three weeks time is just one of the ways that the universe was looking out for Scott. There are many more examples of positive serendipity in this tale. Scott never makes it beyond the Virgin Islands, but the stories he tells of the characters he meets and the kindnesses extended by fellow seekers makes for a great story. There's no high adventure here. But the kind of adventure written about in this story is accessible to many of us, if only by degree. At the end of his Caribbean adventure, Scott tried unsuccessfully to re-integrate into his old life in Mississippi. He retreats to that old favorite paddling spot where he planned his Caribbean trip. He lived in the woods for a month while hatching a plan for another adventure. Eventually he settles down, but to an unconventional life as a boat builder and sailor. This is an entertaining book. It doesn't demand too much from the reader, which makes it easy to put down and just as easy to pick up again. Kind of like a level 1 or 2 Sudoku puzzle.

Reading Williams' *On Island Time*, you can almost feel the waves lapping over the bow of the kayak and feel the shark bumping you from below. If you can't afford to take off for months to the Caribbean, this book is the next best thing.

Enjoyable tale of kayaking in Florida and some Caribbean islands. However if you prefer man really pitting himself against the elements and dicing with death you might prefer Don Starkell's *Paddle to the Arctic* or *Paddle to the Arctic*.

This book was a breath of fresh air. I am a beach lover and a kayak fishing enthusiast, so needless to say, I really enjoyed this read. So many of us live monotonous lives; full of schedules, work, and bills. I often catch myself wondering what it would be like to just say "screw it" and take off on an adventure like this. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys the outdoors, especially tropical climates. I hope to find some more reads similar to this one.

Adventures done by true adventurers are rare these days. Rarer still, is an excellent written account of just such a man and just such an adventure. If you have ever done anything like this you find a true kindred spirit in Scott B. Williams. If you haven't, you'll quickly become immersed in the journey in all its many and well written details. I found myself feeling like I was a guy in the number two hatch on a twin seated sea kayak, so real and so vivid is the story telling art of Scott. He really does make it all come alive in a wonderful and captivating manner. Do yourself a large favor and catch a little "Island Time" with Scott and ride thru this adventure with him. I have read many of Scott's books and I have thoroughly enjoyed all of them. Pick out and pick up anything by Scott and you'll be in for a real treat. Great stuff. Scott is a true adventurer in the classic tradition, and a great writer to boot!

This was a well-written book with a lot of useful information for anyone who is planning a kayak trip through the Caribbean. Many of this guy's struggles were against the prevailing winds, and it would be good to know that those kinds of struggles aren't necessary. Going with the winds would be a much better trip, and one could see and explore the same territory.

Awesome book. I read it cover to cover in about 2 days and couldn't put it down. I am now waiting for slightly warmer weather to purchase a canoe and start hitting up some of our local rivers with my son. Five stars because I can't give ten.

A wonderfully informative, yet intense adventure read. Scott's travels around the Caribbean will make you want to go exploring. His simple, yet very seaworthy means of travel allows him to explore places that boaters in larger craft can only steam by while seeking the nearest marina. Well written. I highly recommend this book!

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