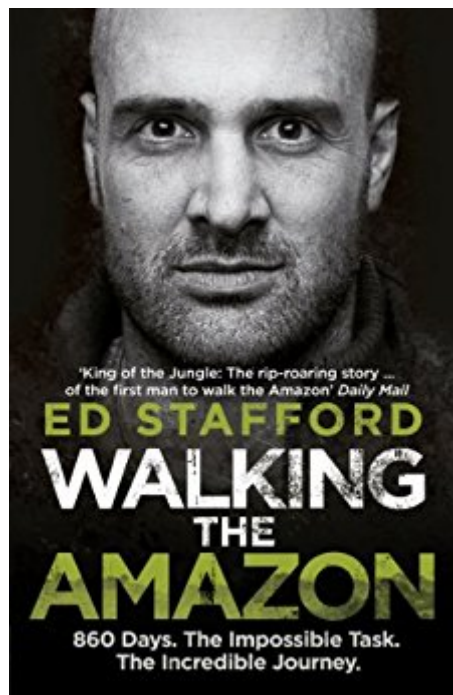




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# Walking The : 860 Days. The Impossible Task. The Incredible Journey



## Synopsis

In April 2008, Ed Stafford began his attempt to become the first man ever to walk the entire length of the River . Nearly two and a half years later, he had crossed the whole of South America to reach the mouth of the colossal river. With danger a constant companion - outwitting alligators, jaguars, pit vipers and electric eels, not to mention overcoming the hurdles of injuries and relentless tropical storms - Ed's journey demanded extreme physical and mental strength. Often warned by natives that he would die, Ed even found himself pursued by machete-wielding tribesmen and detained for murder. However, Ed's journey was an adventure with a purpose: to help raise people's awareness of environmental issues. Ed had unprecedented access to indigenous communities and witnessed the devastating effects of the deforestation of the rainforest first-hand. His story of disappearing tribes and loss of habitats concerns us all. Ultimately though, *Walking the* is an account of a world-first expedition that takes readers on the most daring journey along the world's greatest river and through the most bio-diverse habitat on earth.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ed Stafford's epic expedition from the source of the to the mouth of the Atlantic ocean is absolutely

astounding in concept alone. His account in "Walking the " digs into the deeper experience of struggling through swamps of bramble and quagmire, the difficulties of managing the expedition, and the struggle to manage himself mentally and emotionally through the self-imposed ordeal. This walk is not a stroll, so if you're interested in flora and fauna you won't find it here. What you will find is a man struggling through the thickest bramble, swamps, mud, and with his own self as he accomplishes something which had never been done before. Hostile and fearful natives, bizarre beliefs about "white men", and bureaucracy all add to the complexity of this mission.

I remember browsing about Ed Stafford's journey briefly and decided that I had to know more about the journey that took him from the source of the all the way to the sea. Stafford's detailed analysis of what it was like to be the first known human in history to walk the entire length of the is one tale that will leave you feeling like you stepped into the jungle with Stafford himself. Each chapter flows really well into the next. Battling both mental and physical obstacles on this expedition, from feelings of loneliness, mosquitoes, pit vipers, and feelings of doubt, there are also moments of joy, camaraderie, and gratefulness. Stafford manages to conquer each obstacle in his own unique way, all the while setting out to do what no one had done before. With every thorny bramble and river crossing, this heroic Englishman is proof that, with determination and preservation, we are capable of great things! This was one of the best books I have ever read. I have gained another great role model in Stafford. For the "armchair explorers", the truly adventurous or those wishing they can leave their rat race existence behind for a while, this book is one that should be on every literacy list! Upon every completed chapter, I would brag to friends about Stafford's escapades as if I had done exactly what he did! Now you know that is a great read!

A little drab in the middle, I felt like he was pissing and moaning about his emotional / mental state more than even describing why/what he went through physically to be exhausted along with his travel mates, what he saw including wildlife, etc. Although he does express the mind-numbingness of the expedition. Overall it was a good book, and a truly amazing accomplishment!

I've dipped into virtually every part of the trip that the author walked, step-by-step. but I did nothing like Stafford did in striding the whole thing. While in Iquitos, Peru on the headwaters of the , I offered to join him for a week walking, but he misunderstood and replied he already had a guide. Ed is either a terrific writer or had a strong editor, for the book is a pleasure to read, whereas a lesser told tale would have grown stale after the first millionth step through that most inhospitable environment on

earth.

A big thumbs up to Ed Stafford; what a truly amazing achievement. A big thumbs down to his publisher, however. The text needs editing, perhaps even ghost writing. Ed is clearly an extraordinary guy but his impressive talents don't extend to writing yet. His publisher should have recognised this and helped him with it because this seemingly raw, unedited manuscript detracts from what should be a more polished and gripping read.

My local (county) library system did not have the softback. I was a motivated buyer, being intrigued what such an adventure would entail. The inertia to conceive, plan then execute the walk was typical of two brash guys having a few beers, then actually following through on the idea. The author's personality was certainly an asset to soberly attempt the feat. The description of the strategy to walk around (too) much of the River, made me wonder if it was really a walk of the . His description of the many challenges (sometimes seemingly humanly impossible) were vivid, both physically and mentally. His choice to NOT pack weapons was a wise choice, though at times probably seemed liked a foolish choice. The partner who started with Ed, decided his heart (or wisdom) was not into the goal. The many encounters with indigenous folks of the (not the online business), was entertaining as well revealing a characteristic security system for warding off outsiders. The worries of the Red Zone (Narco running infest), the disguise of governments permissive destruction of the Rain Forest was disheartening. The naive reader perhaps would gain an appreciation for the Machete as a necessary tool in the thick Rain Forest and a common staple called "Farine" that aided survival when little food was available. The author experience much depression and isolation being surrounded at times with people whose English was inadequate, and the author's inability to speak local languages. You also gained an appreciation of what is necessary to fund such an attempted feat, and why you can't plan for everything. Overall, you wonder how anyone could continue such an effort when faced with such threats, disappointments, and seemingly endlessly strings of little or no progress. A good insight to anyone who has ever contemplated an adventurous journey.

The book is really about his walk. It's not about the jungle, the flora and fauna. It's not about the people he meets. It is unfortunately very weak in even giving a good portrait of his longest walking partner (over two years), Cho. It has only passing mention of the terrible things that have happened to the tribes. It barely considers the political situations. Ed slogs and his book is about a 860 day

slog. It's interesting in it's own self absorbed, myopically focused way (poor me! I got myself addicted to valium in the jungle), but it could have been so much better. That said, many record setters ARE myopically focused. Someone with more interest in what is around them or the people they talk to (I can't believe he didn't learn Spanish or Portuguese in preparation) might not have gotten the feat done.

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