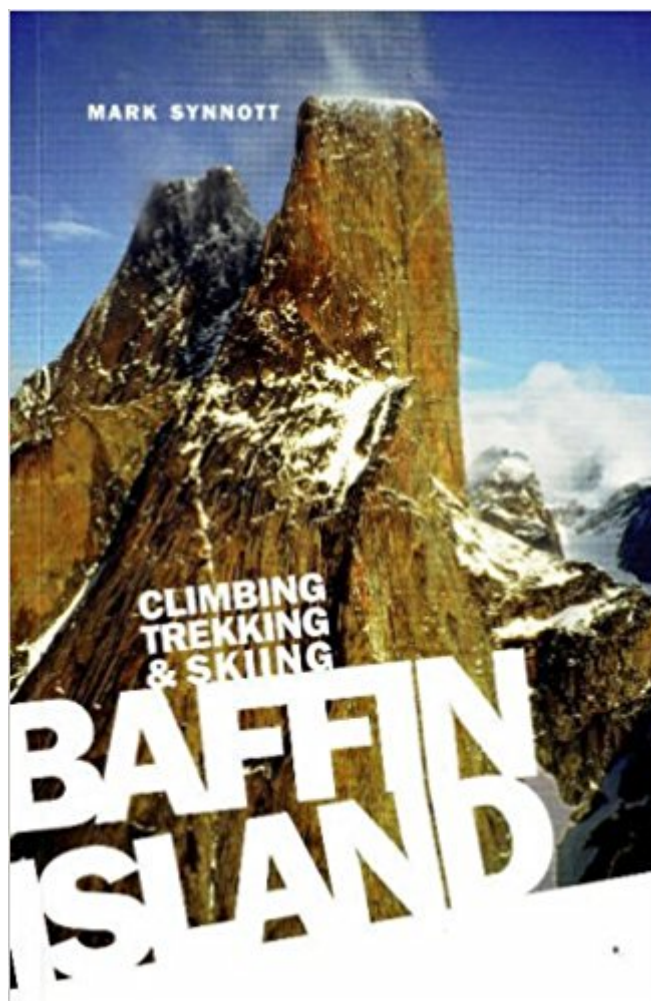


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# Baffin Island: Climbing Trekking & Skiing



## Synopsis

Complete with maps and an invaluable trip planning section detailing the information needed to make your trip an unforgettable success, Baffin Island is the first comprehensive adventure guide to the fifth largest island in the world, which is quickly becoming known as a premiere destination for climbers, skiers, trekkers and adventure travellers alike.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The author, Mark Synnott is a world-class alpinist who has climbed extensively throughout the world, including five trips to Baffin Island. Throughout his career as a professional guide and accomplished climber, Marks adventures have allowed him to work closely with The North Face, The National Geographic Society and Climbing magazine.

Synnott has produced a tremendous product. It's construction will hold up to all your climbing and skiing buddies beating the bejeebers out of the book, when you thought you were just loaning it out for a quick look (and get it back 3 weeks later). The photos alone are going to make them want to hang onto it. They are crisp, with very good color. Good enough to plot out some route you'd want to do up there, be it a rock wall, gully or traverse. The route descriptions are very good. There are even moderate climbs for this long on self-sufficiency and short on time to get honed. Doing one route up there is FAR more indepth than your average Everest expediton. Imagine doing years up there? Then, imagine compiling the history into a guide. And a great one at that. Will this book lay out every step for you? Not even close. This area is the definition of an adventure- crossing the

threshold into the unknown. How could the author know all my fears? Certainly others wouldn't want to read something that addresses that. We're always going to be stretching our capabilities on trips like these. What scares us about such trips simply highlights areas to shore up in our own toolbox of skills. There is plenty of information to dig up local transport, enough maps to get you to Google Earth and the AAC library. You must plan on going up here self-sufficient: in medical, navigation, technical travel skills, self-rescue, communications, etc. I feel a guide book is there to get you inspired enough to pack your bags. Man, does this accomplish that. Even if you never go, the photos are enough alone.

Incredible photography and stories of past exploration make me want to go there, even though I had barely even heard of it. The author is obviously the "go to" authority on the subject and I would definitely organize my expedition under his guidance...

The author has done a great job capturing and writing down the premier climbs in Baffin Island. This is a great sourcebook for climbers and trekkers that are heading up to Baffin Island and I am using it to plan my trip. The photographs are really outstanding and give a great sense of what a trip would be like. There are plenty of tips on the small but important details that you can't find out unless you've been there or talked to someone who has.

I write trail guides--Hiking North Carolina, Hiking the Blue Ridge Parkway, Southern Snow: The Winter Guide to Dixie--books that take a lot of time and passion, but the subject is my back yard. Imagine the effort, persistence, passion, and sheer willpower it took for Synnott to spend years exploring Baffin Island to the depth he has--let alone write what is likely the definitive book on the island. Without demeaning the book, I also know that guidebooks are at times great resources for the casual researcher, whether you're a student, possible visitor, or just interested in a region. If the Arctic is your area of interest--this book is an indispensable resource, one of the key references. If you're a climber or skier, the book is the ONLY resource. No backhand compliment that! This thorough, diverse, detailed, and stunningly photographed book is exactly what you'd expect from one of the great climbers of our time. Synnott has climbed all over the globe, he's a sought-after guide, and one of The North Face athlete-adventurers. He's also a great writer--a skill that somehow seems to land (lucky for us) on truly great mountaineers (Greg Child comes to mind). That's actually appropriate, when you imagine the scenes these people see, and how important it is that they tell us about it. In Synnott's case, the words and photos in this book measure up to the awesome beauty

and allure of his subject.

I probably should have done a little more research on the book before buying it. Reading the title and product description, I thought it would deal equally with climbing, trekking and skiing. In fact, the book provides far more information on climbing and skiing than trekking. Out of 240, only 12 pages are dedicated to the section on trekking, 5 of which are (beautiful) color photos. I guess there is only one trekking route on Baffin Island - Akshayuk Pass. The author does do a good job explaining this route, but what would have been helpful in this description, especially for those who have never been to Auyuittuq National Park, is a more detailed map that actually follows his description, with a key indicating trailheads, campsites, and other important markers that would help guide the trek. The map provided is too large-scale. Other than that, it's an excellent book! I just think the product description should have pointed out the discrepancy noted above.

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