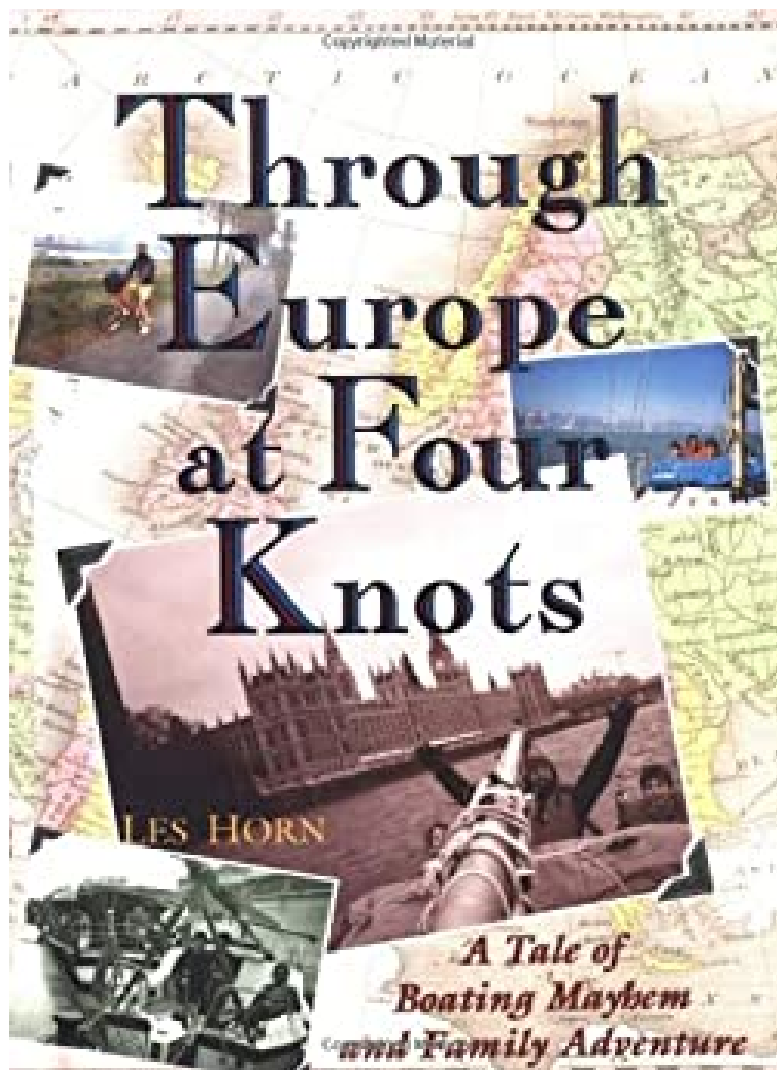


# Through Europe at Four Knots: A Tale of Boating Mayhem and Family Adventure

*by*

Les Horn



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## Synopsis

In 1990, teacher Les Horn had a brainstorm: why not navigate Europe's inland waterways, from England to Greece, in a small sailboat? Much to his surprise, he sold his wife and preteen son and daughter on the idea, and the following summer, installed in their 24-foot fixer-upper, Alea, the Horns set sail on the family odyssey chronicled in this amusing, satisfying tale. Traveling at a snail's pace, foraging for provisions, and propelled more by British pluck than by their temperamental outboard motor, the Horns eventually made it to the Aegean, but not without their share of uproarious misadventures in France, Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, and Turkey. Combining a wry sense of humor with a journalist's eye for the telling detail, Les Horn weaves a shrewdly funny family farce within a delightfully engaging travelogue packed with vivid observations of Europe's variegated landscape, history, and people. A rousing good read for both actual and armchair sailors, travelers, and adventurers.



## What people say about this book

Steve, "Travel with humor. My wife and I are reading this book aloud - and laughing aloud a lot! Besides that, charting the course of the trip along with the landmarks described is proving both educational and enjoyable. Don't look for a point to the book. This is simple travel literature with a dash of family, a splash of self-deprecation, and a liberal dose of humor."

Ebook Tops Reader, "... Les's book when it was a manuscript and really enjoyed it. I first met him and Despina in .... I read Les's book when it was a manuscript and really enjoyed it. I first met him and Despina in Dunedin in the 1970's and then again in Christchurch in the late 1990's. Sadly both have passed away now but their memories live on in this book and I am glad I found a copy."

Davie, "Five Stars. Great book! Wonderful family adventure."

Anne Mustoe, "Delightful Family Adventure. An avid armchair traveller, I am always on the lookout for books of travel adventure. This book was a delightful addition to my library. The book chronicles the Horn families' voyage by boat from the North Sea through the canals of Europe to the Black Sea and the Aegean. The author is adept at chronicling the interesting details and amusing incidents that allow the reader to feel if s/he is along for the voyage. Rather than just writing a travelogue, Horn records the trials and tribulations of daily family life in a small boat, their tears and their triumphs. Their adventures are sometimes amusing, sometimes hair-raising, but always interesting. This is a book that I will read again."

Delta Sigma, "enjoyed it. A relative bought this book for me knowing what a fan I was of cruising the English and French canals on my own boat. I was not disappointed. However, I think I will stick to England and France and not venture to Bulgaria and Romania. Unlike the 1-star reviewers, I was not looking for a "how-to" book, more of a "this is how it was for us" book, and I got exactly what I expected. I really enjoyed this book. It was especially interesting to follow along with Google Earth. I wish the author would contact me."

Peggy Vincent, "Snail's pace sailboat trip from England to Greece. Sweet little travel adventure tale. Les Horn navigates Europe's inland waterways from England to Greece on a 24-foot sailboat. He manages to show us this family farce (his wife and 2 preteen kids come along for the ride) at the same time he shares his vivid observations of central and Eastern Europe's varied landscape, history, and people. Good armchair traveler material."

Mary Brown, "A gripping and very unusual adventure. An amazing journey recounted in a straightforward direct way that's a pleasure to read. Two adults and two large children in a 24 foot yacht for the best part of 8 months, facing all kinds of perils - dogs, bureaucrats, eastern bloc food queues, border guards and bad weather. I loved it. Just a shame that there wasn't an

appendix with a few more facts and figures. We also have a 24 ft yacht but I don't think I'd follow in their footsteps ...”

Anectine, “Very funny!. Nice book to bring for a vacation. Funny, easy to read, you travel along with the narrator. I loved it and my husband too. Both of us are day sailors and had a lot of fun reading about the good and not so good times this family experienced on their trip of a lifetime.”

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