

Dan Buettner has made a career exploring the world's extremes to promote understanding and education. In addition to cycling, he writes and photographs professionally. His work has been featured in *Bicycling*, *Outside*, the *Chicago Tribune* and *Sports Illustrated*. His reports have aired on CNN, the CBS radio network, National Public Radio, and National Geographic Explorer. He has appeared on the Today Show, Late Night with David Letterman, and PrimeTime Live.

Dan has traversed five of the earth's seven continents by bicycle, establishing himself as the world's premier long distance cyclist. He also holds world records for cycling around the world (Sovietrek, 1990) and for a 15,500-mile ride from Alaska to Argentina (Americastrek, 1986-87). In 1995 he received the Minnesota Book Award in children's non-fiction for his book *Sovietrek*, and a Emmy award for the Africa-trek documentary.

Douglas Mason is a professor of photography at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Besides being an accomplished professional photographer, Doug is also an amateur herbalist, a practice he put to good use on the *MayaQuest* adventure. He lives in Martins Creek, Pennsylvania.

MayaQuest is also an interactive CD-ROM! Join the *MayaQuest* bike team to explore the collapse of the ancient Maya civilization. Become part of the actual adventure as you unravel the greatest mystery of all time. From MECC, a leading publisher of educational software. Available at computer and software retailers near you. Or call MECC at 800-685-6322, ext. 529 for more information.

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"Traversing the world's land mass on a bicycle, Dan Buettner has had adventures which T.E. Lawrence, Richard Halliburton, Sir Richard Burton, and Marco Polo would envy, as indeed they would envy his skill in communicating what he has seen and learned via books and the Internet. Here he describes his latest undertaking—a foray on his bicycle—in the land of the Maya in search of reasons why this great civilization collapsed. None of the afore-

mentioned adventurers could have done better!"

—GEORGE PLIMPTON

"*MayaQuest* is one hell of a good ride. Mayans, pyramids, mud, bugs, bikes,

satellites, the Web: Even as Dan Buettner and friends mined the past they mapped the future, for *MayaQuest* may well signal a whole new style—indeed a whole new era—in the exploration of our planet. Read it for fun, come away inspired." —JOE KANE

"This is an exciting book—a true-life adventure story that gives a new view of Maya archaeology and archaeologists. It is also a vision of the future in which an online audience can participate in an adventure and help direct it."

—DR. T. PATRICK CULBERT, ARCHAEOLOGIST

Bicycle adventurer Dan Buettner took 40,000 school classrooms and more than one million Internet companions on a thrilling journey of discovery through the Mayan lands in Mexico, Belize, and Guatemala. Dan and his team of cyclists and archaeologists intended to search for the cause of the collapse of this once-majestic civilization. What they found was much more compelling—a mix of new and old, of the modern-day Maya struggling to survive by gaining knowledge through the teachings of their ancestors, as well as the surprising historical clues they went looking for in the first place.

Onion Press will donate a portion of the sales from *MayaQuest* to benefit Maya research.



Buettner & Mason

MAYAQUEST

The Interactive Expedition

MAYA QUEST

The Interactive Expedition

Dan Buettner

Photos by Douglas Mason & Dan Buettner
Foreword by David Freidel



\$39.95 US
\$54.95 CAN

MAYA QUEST

The Interactive Expedition

When the *MayaQuest* team of cyclists and archaeologists struck off into the jungles of Mexico and Central America, they weren't alone. The computers and satellite dish they carried on their bikes linked them via the Internet to more than a million people. These online adventurers not only helped direct the expedition, their collective intuition and expertise helped the team illuminate perhaps the greatest mystery of all time: The collapse of the ancient Maya civilization.

What follows is a bold experiment—an attempt to fuse the essence of two journeys into one composition. From the land journey, we present a distillation of more than 22,000 images; from cyberspace, we offer eighty-five gems winnowed from more than 850 pages of online contributions. Together and in tandem they comprise an attempt at a new genre and, perhaps, another chapter in the book of exploration.