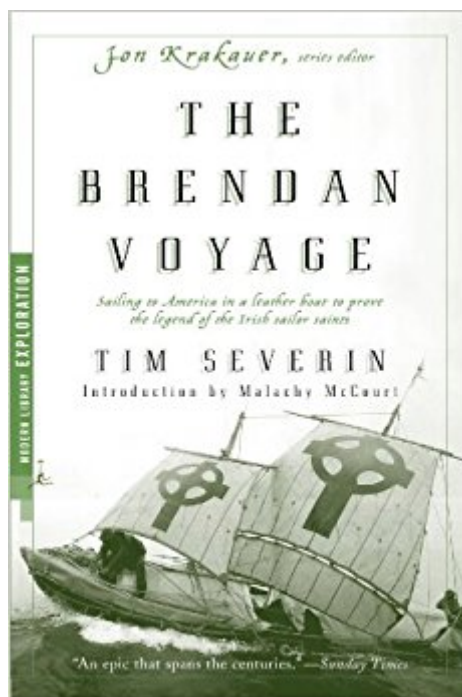




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# The Brendan Voyage: Sailing To America In A Leather Boat To Prove The Legend Of The Irish Sailor Saints (Modern Library Exploration)



## Synopsis

Could an Irish monk in the sixth century really have sailed all the way across the Atlantic in a small open boat, thus beating Columbus to the New World by almost a thousand years? Relying on the medieval text of St. Brendan, award-winning adventure writer Tim Severin painstakingly researched and built a boat identical to the leather curragh that carried Brendan on his epic voyage. He found a centuries-old, family-run tannery to prepare the ox hides in the medieval way; he undertook an exhaustive search for skilled harness makers (the only people who would know how to stitch the three-quarter-inch-thick hides together); he located one of the last pieces of Irish-grown timber tall enough to make the mainmast. But his courage and resourcefulness were truly tested on the open seas, including one heart-pounding episode when he and his crew repaired a dangerous tear in the leather hull by hanging over the side--their heads sometimes submerged under the freezing waves--to restitch the leather. A modern classic in the tradition of Kon-Tiki, *The Brendan Voyage* seamlessly blends high adventure and historical relevance. It has been translated into twenty-seven languages since its original publication in 1978. With a new Introduction by Malachy McCourt, author of *A Monk Swimming*

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## Customer Reviews

"Enthralling!"--The Guardian "An extraordinary explorer." --The Independent

Could an Irish monk in the sixth century really have sailed all the way across the Atlantic in a small

open boat, thus beating Columbus to the New World by almost a thousand years? Relying on the medieval text of St. Brendan, award-winning adventure writer Tim Severin painstakingly researched and built a boat identical to the leather curragh that carried Brendan on his epic voyage. He found a centuries-old, family-run tannery to prepare the ox hides in the medieval way; he undertook an exhaustive search for skilled harness makers (the only people who would know how to stitch the three-quarter-inch-thick hides together); he located one of the last pieces of Irish-grown timber tall enough to make the mainmast. But his courage and resourcefulness were truly tested on the open seas, including one heart-pounding episode when he and his crew repaired a dangerous tear in the leather hull by hanging over the side--their heads sometimes submerged under the freezing waves--to restitch the leather. A modern classic in the tradition of Kon-Tiki, "The Brendan Voyage seamlessly blends high adventure and historical relevance. It has been translated into twenty-seven languages since its original publication in 1978. With a new Introduction by Malachy McCourt, author of A Monk Swimming

I learned about this book when I was at the place in Ireland from whence this Brendan Crew departed. I found the story to be incredibly intriguing. After I finished it, I bought a copy for my father-in-law. He builds model ww1 bi-planes so I thought he might appreciate how much attention to detail the author gave to building a boat as St. Brendan would have done. Anyone with an appreciation for authentic, high quality, craft reproduction and nautical adventure may well enjoy this book. I am so glad that the author was able to find true craftsmen to help build the Brendan boat before the art was lost to death (of such men.)And I love all I learned about whales & sea life.

I just finished this ebook today and loved it. I'm of an adventurous spirit, but only in my armchair. I actually bought this book because of my dad. Although he was an air force veteran, he was a sailor at heart. He came from the Portsmouth, VA, area, and always loved the water. I bought him "Kon-tiki" years ago. I don't know if he ever heard of this adventure, but when I read the reviews, I thought of him and ordered it for myself. I enjoyed reading about how the trip came together as much as the trip itself. Thought it was very well documented, and, having actually lived in Newfoundland myself as a child, was quite excited when they finally made landfall. Would recommend the book to anyone who likes low-key adventure, with a good bit of danger thrown in to spice it up.

I'm a sucker for books and TV shows that recreate the ancient world. The Brendan Voyage is a

great true story about a man who tried to recreate the legendary travels of St Brendan to the as-yet-undiscovered New World. The author's adventures don't \*quite\* match the mythic voyage of the intrepid sixth century Irish monk, but he recounts plenty of real-life adventures along the way that make this account a fascinating read. Especially recommended for anyone who enjoys maritime tales and modern experiences with ancient technology. I first read this in paperback when it was selected by my book club. Later gave it to a friend who loves tales of the high seas, and then regretted letting go of it, so when BookBub advertised a sale on the Kindle version, I bought it again. Now I'll never have to let go of it.

Having grown up with the story of St Brendan as told at school, I found Tim's book an exciting read and one you couldn't put down, what an amazing story of courage and perseverance, maybe he had the spirit of St Brendan tethered to his sail. This modern day re-enactment was such an epic undertaking and has been wonderfully narrated and documented in this book. For me "The Brendan Voyage" really raised all thoughts as to the myth, mystery or truth of this determined six century Irish Monk St Brendan. This link [The Voyage of Saint Brendan: The Navigator](#) is the latest translation I could find done by Gerard McNamara which brings alive beautifully the magical and compelling story of St Brendan which is just great to read after Tim's story.

This is a recount of 4 guys, in 1976-77, who re-enact St Brendan's 500 AD ocean voyage from Ireland to North America in a leather curragh!! Amazing! Author and captain, Tim Severin, of "Brendan" does a great job of aligning the sights and sounds of his voyage to the ancient passages in the "Navigatio", explaining what the fantastical sights and creatures described in the "Navigatio" could be and probably were. I enjoyed the historical connection, as well as reading about the dangers and challenges the guys faced. Sometimes the history was a bit tedious as I was hoping for more excitement in the man-vs-nature challenge. But, on the whole, I enjoyed this book.

Quite technical for someone not familiar with boat/ship building and sailing but what an exciting adventure. I skimmed through some of the more technical info but it was fascinating to read about the determined effort to recreate history. Love that there are still skilled craftsmen in Old World styles. (well..still at the time of writing this a few years back). Not my usual genre but I am glad I read it!

Very interesting, especially if you are familiar with nautical terms. A bit tough to follow in places if

you aren't. Also very interesting if you are a history buff, as I am. I read Kon Tiki, by Thor Heyerdahl, years ago and thought this would be along those lines, in a different ocean.

I enjoyed the book up to the point that Trundar harpooned a whale just for the fun of it. They had tried to save little birds but a whale was fair game even though it was too big to do anything with. I had to admire the work and research that went into building that boat and the hardship that they went through.

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