



GPS vs COMPASS



For hundreds of years man has trudged the unknown world finding his way by means of a crudely drawn map and magnetised needle floating on water. Eventually came a neat hand held compass, a gadget familiar to Scouts worldwide and Ordnance Survey gave us accurate mapping.

Then came satellites, and with them the Global Positioning System with an accuracy of as much as 30 feet.

What is the difference?

COMPASS

All a compass does is point to North but with a good map, good map reading and some visible recognisable landmarks, you can safely negotiate a route from A to B. With good back-bearings and two points of view you recognise, and a map of the area, a compass can tell you where you are. It is easy to learn.

Get into unknown country, and you are lost.

In its favour a compass runs without batteries.

G.P.S.

The simplest GPS units on the market can accurately pinpoint where you are, and with a map you can never be lost.

GPS units also have an electronic compass, which works better whilst you are on the move.

Many GPS units have an onboard map of the area, crude and simple in most cases, but not only shows you where are but also give you an accurate 10 digit Grid reference, with some 30 feet accuracy or better.

With the proper software you are able to input 'routes' on a GPS unit, which you are able to follow as you walk, or check occasionally as you walk along your route.

Other benefits available? - Distances walked, altimeter, lots more.

But if batteries run out.....take a compass with you anyway!