

# Marion Shoard

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## **Marion Shoard Never Travels Without...**

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**A necessity:** A notebook, small and hardbacked if possible, and a ballpoint. My worst ever outdoors experience (worse than getting chased by heifers or stranded on cliff ledges) was the realisation, as I scoffed waffles and cream on Oslo railway station, that I had left my notebook jammed with impressions of the Norwegian countryside on the sleeper.

**A luxury:** An enthusiast to open up some new aspect of the outdoors of which I know little- clouds, for instance, or how to harvest and price up timber commercially. No one is expert enough to grasp all that is involved in one piece of countryside; it's wonderful to see the country through new eyes, such as those of a geologist, sculptor or balloonist.

**If only:** I could take with me the people I have met trapped in inner cities- often elderly or those without cars - who long to escape into the countryside. And if only cars could be de-invented, and all those people trapped in their capsules would try making contact with their rural surroundings on a bike, train, or country bus.

*Marion Shoard is the author of A Right to Roam (Oxford University Press, £8.99)*