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Walking The Blue Ridge: A Guide To The Trails Of The Blue Ridge Parkway



Synopsis

For this updated edition of the classic Parkway trail guide, Leonard Adkins has rehiked many of the trails, reworked the descriptions of their physical features, added new trails, and deleted trails that have closed. The book includes hikes for every skill and interest level, from five-minute "leg-stretchers" to overnight hikes. In addition to trail length and difficulty, Adkins notes points of interest and natural features to be found along each trail. "We value the detailed and well-organized information contained in Adkins's book and consider it a fine asset for our visitors. It provides the most complete information on our trail system, and our trail planners refer to it regularly. We know it provides reliable information."--Larry Hultquist, Blue Ridge Parkway Resident Landscape Architect "A model of what a guide for hikers and backpackers ought to be."--Rock Hill Herald --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Paperback: 255 pages

Publisher: University of North Carolina Press; Revised edition (June 1991)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0807844012

ISBN-13: 978-0807844014

Product Dimensions: 9 x 4.5 x 0.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.7 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,038,060 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #44 in [Books > Travel > United States > Virginia > General](#) #2487 in [Books > Travel > United States > South > South Atlantic](#) #4864 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Hiking & Camping > Excursion Guides](#)

Customer Reviews

"A model of what a guide for hikers and backpackers ought to be." --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I turned to Walking the Blue Ridge recently when I needed a short hike on the Blue Ridge Parkway fairly near Pisgah campground, where I would be able to take my dog on a leash and -- very important -- avoid the crowds. And I did see the crowds -- their cars filling the Graveyard Fields parking lot (milepost 418.8) and spilling down the road shoulders for a quarter mile in each direction. Whew! But thanks to Adkins's book I found the Bearpen Gap Trail 10 miles farther down the

Parkway, and there was nobody there! It was great. Exactly what I was looking for. As a result of that experience, I bought another copy of *Walking the Blue Ridge* as a birthday present for a hiking friend. I recommend this book to those who need clear directions to trailheads all along the Blue Ridge Parkway, along with a good sense of what to expect on the trail. Whether you seek the famous places (like Shining Rock, with its crowds) or the less-used trails (like Bearpen Gap with its solitude) I think you'll find them all here. (Much of the Mountains to Sea Trail is covered also, as it parallels the Parkway.) The format is a brief introduction to each trail followed by a mile by mile description of it. The book's shape is tall and narrow, so that it will fit in the side pocket of a pack or pants. The author seems to have spent most of a lifetime hiking and driving the Blue Ridge Mountains. A *WALKING* guidebook keyed to the Blue Ridge Parkway (which is all about automobile tourism) is particularly valuable because people who drive there in their cars will then find it easy, with Adkins's help, to get out and take a short walk or even a longer hike.

The Blue Ridge Parkway, almost 450 miles long, connects Shennandoah National Park in Virginia with Great Smoky Mountains National Park astride the North Carolina - Tennessee border. In between it traverses some of the most beautiful mountain areas in North Carolina and Virginia. Although it provides splendid views from the road itself and from its many roadside overlooks, it is much more than a scenic drive. It is a ribbon of land administered by the National Park Service, at several places broadening into wider mini-parks. All of those parks as well as various other spots along the parkway's route have hiking trails that give visitors a closer look at the many natural wonders there. This book, as a comprehensive guide to those trails, is the one most indispensable guide to getting beyond your car and the overlooks in this remarkable National Park Service land. All of its official trails are rated in this book as to difficulty, from very easy to quite strenuous. Thus there are ample hikes for whatever level of wilderness adventure you're up for. Each hike is described in details, with points of interest described in the order you'll encounter them, with mileages to each from the trailhead. Some hikes described herein also get beyond the parkway's own lands, into National Forest lands that border the parkway in many places, as well as occasional adjacent commercial attractions such as Grandfather Mountain. Any visit to the Blue Ridge Parkway should be quite rewarding, and this book is one of the best resources for making it even more so, showing that you'll never be very far from places to park and take a walk for a more intimate view. And you definitely should sample at least some of the shorter and easier walks, if not the longer or more challenging ones, depending on what you're up to. This parkway is a natural treasure well-worth exploring, and this book may well be the quickest way to learn that there is so much more

there than meets a casual eye.

My wife and I have just come home from a 3 week trip along the entire parkway. We started the trip with Hiking the Blue Ridge Parkway, but ended up buying Walking the Blue Ridge at one of the visitor centers. While Hiking was ok, we found Walking the Blue Ridge to be the better of the two. It was very easy to use, easy to find information, and full of wonderful tidbits. The way the mileage data was set up in a vertical way made it very easy to use while we were hiking the trails, simple to always know where we were. In the Hiking book we had to wade through a lot paragraphs just to match up the descriptions with where we actually were on the trail. Also, it was obvious that the author of Walking the Blue Ridge had actually walked every one of the trails he was writing about. It was also nice knowing that it gave descriptions of every one of the trails along the parkway, even if it was just a short pathway; the other book neglected some that we found to be truly delightful. In addition, its smaller weight and size made it much easier to carry while on the hikes. All in all, we were happy to have found Walking the Blue Ridge and will be using it often.

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