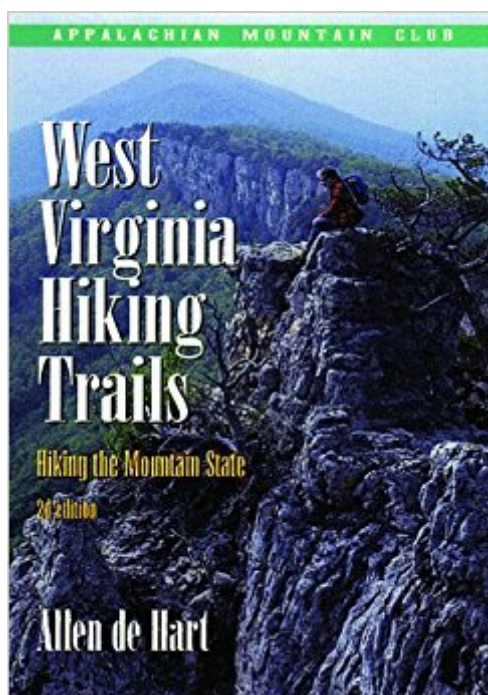


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West Virginia Hiking Trails, 2nd: Hiking The Mountain State



Synopsis

NORTH CAROLINA HIKING TRAILS

Book Information

Series: AMC Hiking Guide Series

Paperback: 400 pages

Publisher: Appalachian Mountain Club Books; 2nd edition (September 1, 1997)

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Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

West Virginia offers breathtaking wilderness and some of the best hiking in the East. Tucked away among the hills and valleys are uncrowded trails, natural gardens, cool cascading streams, and geological treasures. This book is the only comprehensive trail guide available for the Mountain State, with completely updated descriptions of more than 500 trails and nearly 2,000 miles, including the 300-mile transstate Allegheny Trail.

WV Hiking Trails is not the first book by Allen deHart that I have read, and it certainly is not his best. Allen can describe a trail or a patch of forest with the best, there is no argument. This book is no exception. Where WV hiking trails misses the mark is the hasty organizing of the maps section. The trail descriptions do not refer you to the specific map(s) for the trail. This leads you to backtrack through the book searching for the right map for the trail you are reading about. This can be a real problem if using the map to find a trail head. The maps are also too small to use as trail maps or highway maps. My belief that this edition was put together in a rush and the editors didn't spend enough time reviewing the maps section. I suggest you buy his Hiking Guide to the Monongahela National Forest instead.

Purchased as a gift., along with a couple other WV hiking books Individual that received it said she was happy with the content/quality.

If you are into trails... this is the book you need for West Virginia... everything from how to get there to what you can expect on the trail. I know Mr. DeHart personally and he walked every inch of every trail that he wrote about.

If I were to choose one word to sum up this book, it would be "quantity." Allen states that he describes over 500 trails, and though I did not count them, that number sounds about right. Trail length ranges from about 1 mile to overnight backpack trips. Some background information is provided for each area, and a brief trail description (usually one paragraph) is provided. Maps are provided for the national forest lands (about half the hikes) but not for state parks or other land. The book is pocket-sized so that it can be carried easily on hikes. No matter how much hiking you have done in West Virginia, you will certainly find some destination in here you have not been. Unfortunately, to fit 500 trails into 350 pages, something has to be omitted, and in this case what is omitted is details. I already mentioned the lack of maps, but many of the trail descriptions are nothing more than directions for walking. Few insights are given as to what will be seen on the trail. This lack of detail combined with a lack of trail summary (a table listing all the trails in the book) make it very hard to choose a trail to hike. In summary, if you are looking for a comprehensive trail guide to the state of West Virginia, this is definitely the book for you. If you are looking for the best hiking West Virginia has to offer, this guide will help only slightly. Despite its shortcomings, this is still the best guide to West Virginia hiking on the market. It should be considered by those planning a hiking trip to the Mountain state.

I have both the first and the second editions of this excellent hiking guide. When I was a newcomer to West Virginia, Mr. de Hart's book helped me find some great trails and served as a wonderful introduction to the Mountain State. I found the book to be very comprehensive and helpful. The directions to the trailheads were well done, the maps great, as were the descriptions. I highly recommend this book for anyone wanting to know what hiking opportunities there are in West Virginia.

This book has excellent information on a large number of trails in the Mountain State. The descriptions are detailed and, on the trails I followed, are very accurate. However, little attention is

paid to summit data such as elevations, directions for side trips to reach summits, etc. As a person who is interested in "peak bagging", I was somewhat disappointed. There are about 173 summits in West Virginia over 4,000 feet and there is almost no reference to this attribute. This book is essential and has a tremendous amount of useful information, but does not go far enough.

I find the organization of this book very poor. Monongahela Forest is divided by Ranger Stations. It would be more helpful if it were organized by county or region, rather than technical designations (State forest, County park, etc.). It is not for the casual hiker at all.

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