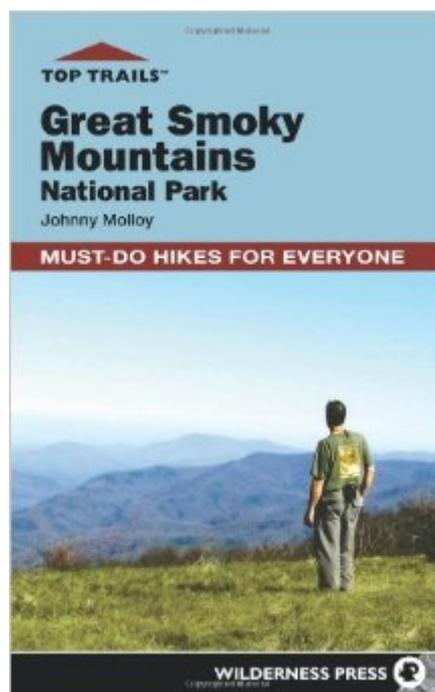


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# Top Trails: Great Smoky Mountains National Park: Must-Do Hikes For Everyone



## Synopsis

The best way to enjoy the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is to get away from the roads and into the heart of the park, letting all your senses absorb the very essence of these old mountains. But with the overwhelming mileage of trails, an uninformed hiker in the park is faced with a hit or miss choice of hikes. Weather, season, and day of the week can make a trail alluring or as overcrowded as Newfound Gap Road on a weekend summer day. Why take a chance on a hike that might not suit your needs? That's what this book is for -- to help you make the most of your precious time while in the Smokies. Day hiking is the best and most popular way to break into the Smokies backcountry, which is where you want to be. Information at the beginning of each hike includes trail use, length, vertical feet, a rating system for difficulty, as well as a list of hike features and nearby facilities. • Best time • tells when to enjoy the hike, finding the trail gives concise directions. A running narrative follows, telling hikers what they will see along the hike. A photo, trail map, quick glance hiker milestones, elevation profile and are outlined for each hike, making this a user friendly guide. One-way hikes take you to a particular rewarding destination and back on the same trail. Going over the same trail twice can have its advantages, though. The return trip allows you to see everything from the opposite vantage point. Loop day hikes go to a destination as well, but return you to your point of origin without having to retrace your steps. Some hikers just can't stand the thought of covering the same ground twice with the hundreds of untrodden Smokies trail miles that await them. Loop hikes are generally longer and harder than the there and back hikes, but a bigger challenge can reap bigger rewards. For those with the inclination, the several overnight hikes offer yet another great way to explore the Smokies. These overnight loops take you into the backcountry for 3 days and two nights, offering the best backpacking in the park. This book will help you make every step count, whether you are leading the family on a brief day hike or undertaking a challenging backpack into the remote reaches of the Smokies. With your precious time and the knowledge herein imparted to you, your outdoor experience will be realized to its fullest.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a "must have" book. You can spend several weeks on the internet trying to find all these hikes; or yes; it is all summarized in this book. What I liked was it was in summarized and then detailed. You can find the hike in miles; time; length and many other ways. Just a great overall book. Nice size. . Great to have while at the Nat. Park. My goal; go on each one. . . . and there is room along the side to write notes.

This book was a great help to us! We recently took a family trip and wanted to do longer day hikes, 2-3 hours and 4-6 miles and wanted to be sure that a 7 year old could keep up. We found the detailed descriptions in this book to be extremely helpful! and we enjoyed several hikes that we probably wouldn't have known about or would have been intimidated to try based on some of the small descriptions in the official National Park guides. Our bigger hikes were the Alum Cave Bluff hike and Cucumber Gap/Little River Trail, and we enjoyed them a lot. We also did some smaller trails and drives in the park. As much as I liked this book, I would advise anyone to stop in one of the National Park Visitor's Centers and buy their excellent trail maps for about \$1 each--as we planned each day, we use the NPS guides to find the area we wanted to go to, get a general idea of hikes available, then we used this book to read more about it. Between these two sources and some websites, you can put together appropriate hikes for your situation, I think-- When we visit another National Park, I will look for more guides by this company.

I'm a day hiker. I really liked the format: The key was the summary table of hikes at the beginning of book that listed the more important attributes of each hike for easy selection (Distance, difficulty, type, use & access, terrain, etc). You can "look inside!" beginning of book to see what I mean. The full hike descriptions themselves have all usual information.

Nice that it includes elevation profiles. I also bought the Falcon Guide as I like to compare and

contrast several sources when selecting and planning hikes. We just returned from a great week of day hiking GSMNP and this book (along with Internet sites) was much more helpful than the Falcon guide.

Last year we used a different book to backpack Mt. Sterling and found the descriptions to be subpar and unfortunately got us semi-lost and reaching the top in the dark and cold. Dangerous to say the least! So this year for Maddron Bald I searched many books and bought this one for my Kindle App on my iPhone. The descriptions and mileage points were so spot on! I used my Garmin Forerunner I normally use for running to keep track of mileage and it was nice to know what was ahead. It even pointed us to some vistas we might have otherwise passed by. I highly recommend this book not only for choosing a destination, but also to keep you safe and "found" in the backcountry.

Perfect trail book for the Smokies. We took this along on vacation and it fit easily in hand or the backpack. Trail descriptions were good and maps were clear and well marked. We will be using this guide on future trips to the park. A fair number of hikes with varying distances and in different locations in the park are included.

This is an excellent resource for anyone wanting to hike in the GSMNP. The author gives you all the detail you need to make the right decisions for the type of hike you want to take on. I would recommend this book to anyone who is thinking about hiking in the GSMNP. I have several of the author's other guide books, which are packed with details and his suggestions for a successful trip. Most notably A Paddler's Guide to Everglades National Park. Which is "the" guide book to have for people paddling the area. With the amount of detail in this guide and the other guides that I own, I would certainly be comfortable buying any guide Mr. Molloy has written

Since I live in North Carolina and I am just getting started into hiking I found a lot of good information. This book is well written and will be a good read for anyone hiking the Smoky Mountains. Also there is a lot of great trout fishing in the area.

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