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50 Hikes In Ohio: Day Hikes And Backpacks Throughout The Buckeye State (Fifty Hikes Series)



Synopsis

A lot of hiking can be found in a state as diverse and as committed to preserving its natural heritage as Ohio. In an extensive system of state parks, wildlife areas, natural preserves, and historic sites - not to mention the state-long Buckeye Trail - you will find trails that follow old wagon roads, primitive game paths, and abandoned railroad beds. The 50 hikes in this guide are grouped geographically and range over the entire state, from the rugged Appalachian plateau of Shawnee Forest in the south to the Ottawa Wildlife Refuge on the shores of Lake Erie. Even if you live in one of Ohio's major metropolitan areas, there's a hike just a short drive away. There are outings for every ability, from easy walks to rigorous overnight backpacks. Each hike write-up includes: trail access and parking information; route distance and hiking time; a contour map; and mile-by-mile directions. In addition, the author's commentary on plants and animals, geology and local history makes each hike a way to learn something new about a diverse and compelling region.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book was a gift for my husband who is an avid hiker. Since our home is in Pennsylvania, he is very familiar with local forests, like Allegheny National Forest and Cook Forest. However, Ohio is less than a half hour away, and he needed more information about where to hike and where to take the Boy Scouts for both hikes and camping trips. We never realized Ohio had such wonderful and great sites until we saw this book. The maps and descriptions and information about difficulty of hiking for the various trails are great (except at least one map we used need updating for changes in the path). What is really enjoyed is the historical information given. Sometimes the Scouts need to

be given some historical information to make the hiking more interesting, and history always aids in making memories. For an example in the section on Beaver Creek State Park there are a bunch of old locks and dams. One of the locks on the canal was named after the daughter of a worker on the canal who died. Her casket was buried in the lock, and when the worker was finished in Ohio he dug up the casket to take it back to his country. The ship sunk on the ocean and both the worker and the casket were never retrieved. This type of story makes the history of the time period more accessible to both the Scouts and to anyone who is hiking in the area. It certainly is a good reminder of how easy our lives are compared to the 1800's... Great reference book. Karen Sadler University of Pittsburgh

Ramey knows all the obscure places to hike in Ohio and this book's organization by region lets you see what is available in your corner of Ohio. The mileage is useful, though the estimated hiking times are a little long in many cases. I may just walk too fast. I think this book is essential to help find new places to hike, that would otherwise go unexplored. One problem that takes away a star is confusing directions to the trailhead and sometimes on the trail. I try to research places before I go so I have back up directions. However, I'm thrilled that he has written a second book with 50 more hikes.

Great book! Super fast shipping.

Most excellent book. It was a present for my bird watching trail hiking friend. six more words are required here

Wonderful book with a lot of tips and destinations reviewed. Very helpful in helping me plan my future hikes and my vacation, itinerary.

I agree with all the reviews. I still bought the book after renewing the library copy 3 times. I have lived in OH for 50 years and I still find new hikes from this book. What makes this book useful to me is that it is written by a naturalist, so here is valuable information about what special trees or plants I may find on this hike, and if it's a good area for birds or waterfowl or butterflies. He also gives his feelings about a natural area, so that if you are trying to decide which park or preserve is a good choice for you, you can read the first section of the trail description and, if it is a special place, he will tell you, and why. If it is mature forest, he lists that at the beginning. If it is successional, he lets

you know, so you don't spend time in shrubs when what you want is to hike among giants. He will tell you about special places along the way. You should still get a trail map from the park system and check in at any park visitor center you go to. Much as I dislike taking the time to do this, it would have saved me from wasting time in more places than I can mention. I have read other hiking guides that are far less helpful because they just give hike details without giving you any idea why you would want to hike that particular trail vs any of the other 50 trails. If you only have 2 days to spend in an area, how do you know which hike is the best one for you? But it's not perfect. One hike states that the trail length is 2, 3, or 10 miles----without showing these 3 different trip lengths on the map or in the description. I have found that most guide books leave out some crucial information. You can easily check with the park before you hit the trail. I thank the reviewer that gave the info on the trail at Glen Helen because I might have done the same thing--that's the great thing about the review pages.

I give this hiking guide two stars because it has given me a lot of places to go hiking I would never have known about otherwise. However, as far as actually using the guide to hike the trails, it's virtually impossible. Ramey leaves out major forks and landmarks and does not tell you near enough about the trail's conditions or difficulty level. For example, today I tried to follow his route through the Glen Helen Nature Preserve. First, he tells you to start outside the museum at the stone terrace. There are two forks--one a major route down the stone steps that probably 99% of the park visitors take. The route he actually wants you to take is a small, side path that's almost overgrown and not as well maintained as the main trail. He never mentioned that it wasn't the main trail, so I went 1/2 a mile down that one before realizing I was wrong and had to climb the extremely steep stone steps all the way back up to the museum and ask for help. Then, this trail that he was talking about is pretty difficult and dangerous--portions go along a very narrow and rocky ridge where it would be easy to fall, and like I said before this is a rarely used trail. If you did run into trouble, it would probably be a long time before you were found. In my opinion, it's not a trail that should be hiked alone even by an experienced woodsman, and Ramey never mentions these conditions at all. I also usually take my dog with me when I hike. Thankfully, I didn't on this occasion because the trail would be twice as dangerous with a pet to supervise, another thing Ramey neglected to mention. In short, this book will give you ideas for good day trip hikes that you will enjoy, but do NOT rely on it for directions or safety. Research Ramey's route and get complete directions from park personnel before attempting any of these hikes.

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