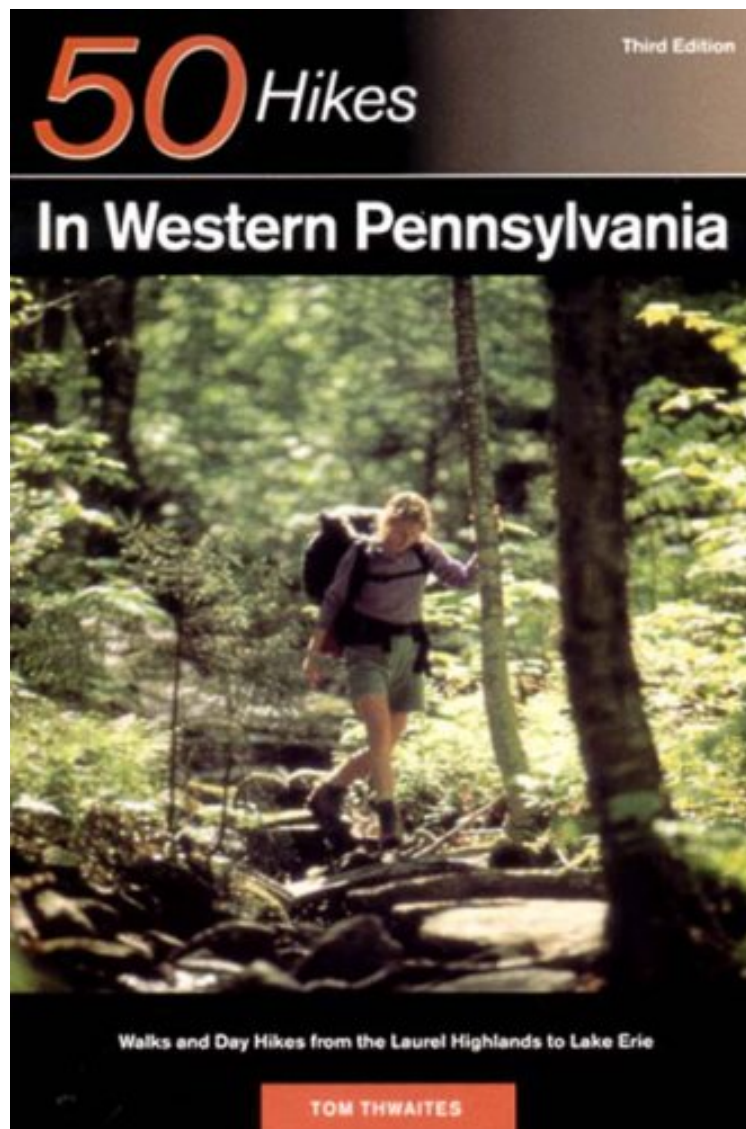


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Explorer's Guide 50 Hikes in Western Pennsylvania: Walks and Day Hikes from the Laurel Highlands to Lake Erie (Third Edition) (Explorer's 50 Hikes)

Tom Thwaites

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#544752 in BooksSize: O/S N/A W.W. Norton Co 2000-03-17Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .70 x 6.10l, .76 #File Name: 0881504734216 pagesAuthor: Tom ThwaitesISBN: 9780881504736 | File size: 64.Mb

Tom Thwaites : Explorer's Guide 50 Hikes in Western Pennsylvania: Walks and Day Hikes from the Laurel Highlands to Lake Erie (Third Edition) (Explorer's 50 Hikes) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not

it would be worth my time, and all praised Explorer's Guide 50 Hikes in Western Pennsylvania: Walks and Day Hikes from the Laurel Highlands to Lake Erie (Third Edition) (Explorer's 50 Hikes):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great for getting outdoors in PA!By Hooty22This book is great. It describes the trails in a way that is understandable, and it's nicely organized in a way that makes it easier for you to find the type of hike that you are looking for. The included maps are helpful, and the notes given about poorly marked trails has definitely saved us from wandering around the woods looking for lost trail covered by fallen leaves. I have this book and the 60 Hikes Within 60 Miles of Pittsburgh, and while there is some overlap, this book is a great addition for times when I can travel further than an hour outside of the city. It's definitely worth the purchase, as it has definitely included some trails that I haven't come across in my online searches.14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. 4.49 stars out of 5By David PragerThis book describes 50 hikes in western Pennsylvania, which for this author means west of US 219. The hikes range in difficulty from a 1.8 mile stroll through a sculpture park in Johnstown to a 12.8 mile trek around Lake Wilhelm. Since 32 of the 50 hikes are drawn from the Laurel Highlands and the Allegheny National Forest, western Pennsylvania's premier hiking destinations, this book presents the best hiking western Pennsylvania has to offer. Several hikes are also drawn from greater Pittsburgh, so Thwaites does a good job of diversifying (geographically and in terms of difficulty) his hike selection.Each hike contains an excellent trail map copied from a USGS topo map. The trail descriptions themselves are some of the best I have ever read. In addition to being thorough and frank, Thwaites frequently finds clever and humorous ways to communicate information about the trails, a quality you won't find in most hiking guides. I found myself saying several times, "I can't believe the editors actually let him write that!" The trails described here are excellent as well. In the trail summary at the front of this and most good hiking guides, I have a habit of drawing a star beside trails I really liked and might want to hike someday. Usually I have 5 or 6 stars after I am through reading, but for this guide I had 16: the hikes are just that good.Despite all of these great features, this guide has one significant flaw: the driving directions to the trailhead. Most authors separate the driving directions from the trail descriptions so you can follow them easily as you drive: not here. The driving directions in this guide are presented as part of the trail descriptions, usually taking up a paragraph in the middle of the main text. This could present a real problem for someone who is relying on these directions to get to the trailhead. Because the driving directions blend in with the rest of the writing, you will either want to highlight the directions and/or have a really good idea where you are going before you leave home. Thus, having a good road map is essential to using this trail guide. Since many of these trailheads are located in rural, mountainous areas, you will need a detailed map showing the backroads: a Rand McNally USA road atlas or even a free Mapquest or other internet map simply won't do. The best backcountry map on the market is the Pennsylvania Atlas and Gazetteer published by De Lorme, and I highly recommend you buy that guide if you choose to purchase this one.In summary, I had to think long and hard about how to rank this guide. While the contents themselves are easily worth five stars, a five star guide, in my opinion, should be excellent in every significant respect. Due to the issue with the driving directions, this one falls short of that mark. Having said that, there is a lot of good information in this guide, and this guide is fun to read. So if you are interested in Pennsylvania hiking, this guide probably belongs in your library.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy P. JulNice book, very detailed

A bestselling guide by the dean of Pennsylvania hikers. The hiking trails of western Pennsylvania offer both novice and experienced hikers a tempting variety of natural terrain and human history. Now veteran trailblazer and outdoor activist Tom Thwaites has updated his bestselling guide to reflect the improvement and expansion of western Pennsylvania trails since the first edition was published in 1983. This third edition includes hikes for all tastes and abilities: introductory walks of 1-5 miles; intermediate day hikes of 5-10 miles; and "bootbusters" of 10 miles or more, some suitable for backpacking. Thirty-one hikes are based in the Laurel Highlands and Allegheny National Forest, with the remainder grouped around Pittsburgh and Lake Erie. Each hike description includes information on access, trail conditions and regulations, mileage and rise, detailed topographic maps, and highlights of human and natural history you'll find along the way. Black-and-white photographs and maps throughout

Tom Thwaites is one of Pennsylvania's most experienced and knowledgeable hikers . . . his guidebook for hikers not only tells where to find trails but gives information that makes the paths come alive. -- The Newport, PA News Sun , David ThompsonTom Thwaites is truly an authority on hiking in Penn's Woods. -- Keystone TrailsAbout the AuthorTom Thwaites is a preeminent authority on hiking the trails of Pennsylvania. An ardent trail builder and maintainer, he is a past president of the Mid-State Trail Association and an active member of the Keystone Trails Association, the Appalachian Trail Conference, the Sierra Club, and the American Hiking Society. He is the author of Explorer's Guide 50 Hikes in Western Pennsylvania, Explorer's Guide 50 Hikes in Central Pennsylvania, and Explorer's Guide 50 Hikes in Eastern Pennsylvania. He lives in State College, Pennsylvania.