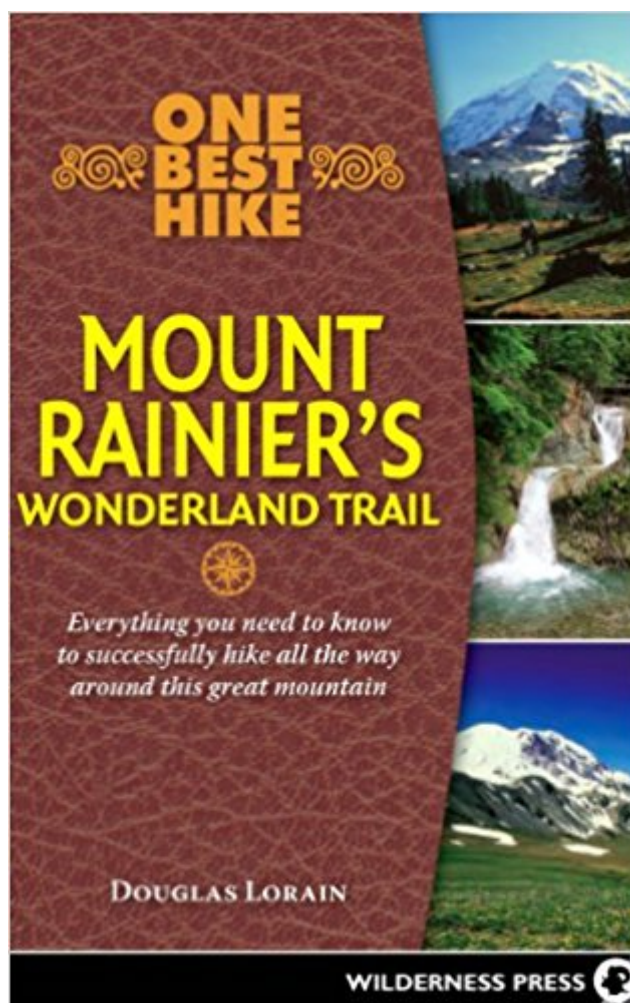


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One Best Hike: Mount Rainier's Wonderland Trail



Synopsis

This is the only comprehensive guide dedicated to this one classic trail. All alternate routes are also described (unlike the more general mentions in books that include other trails as well). Hikers will learn about all the best hidden side trips, discover great planning tips, find out how best to snag one of the coveted permits, and have complete sample itineraries available to help with planning, making this guide indispensable to anyone planning to tackle the Wonderland Trail.

Book Information

Series: One Best Hike

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Wilderness Press; 1 edition (August 14, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0899976557

ISBN-13: 978-0899976556

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.5 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,227,271 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 in [Books > Travel > United States > Washington > Mount Rainier](#) #387 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Exercise & Fitness > Walking](#) #2686 in [Books > Travel > United States > West > Pacific](#)

Customer Reviews

"This is an excellent book for a novice hiker who's interested in hiking the Wonderland trail. It's also an excellent book for a more experienced hiker planning to spend time on the Wonderland Trail. Loraine gives exact, detailed advice on what to pack, when to go, what to expect, how to get in shape and so on." --Seattle Backpacker Magazine, October 2012

Douglas Lorain's family moved to the Pacific Northwest in 1969, and he has been obsessively hitting the trails of his home region ever since. Over the years he calculates that he has logged well over 30,000 trail miles in this corner of the continent, and despite a history that includes being bitten by a rattlesnake, shot at by a hunter, charged by a grizzly bear, and donating countless gallons of blood to "invertebrate vampires," he happily sees no end in sight. Lorain is a photographer and recipient of the National Outdoor Book Award. His books cover only the best trips from the thousands of hikes and backpacking trips he has taken throughout Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

His photographs have been featured in numerous magazines, calendars, and books. He is described by the Seattle Times as the "next great Northwest trail guide author."

I bought this guide because of the author's experience on the Trail, but it turns out this strength is also a weakness. The author seems to have fallen into the trap of "my way is the best way" and though that works for suggesting side trips and best starting points, it is not so good for things like gear and map suggestions. For example, the author says that under no circumstances should someone use a down bag because of what happens when down gets wet, but after hiking two long distance trails (the AT and the PCT) I can't name one hiker who didn't carry a down bag, even in extremely wet conditions. (Stick it in a trash bag people!) As far as maps go, he gives three suggestions for maps, then tells us which is the best one, but not why it's the best or any of the qualities of any of them. Finally, the bulk of the book is devoted to extensive trail description, which is nice, but I would have really enjoyed a Data Table that contained mileage, major features, water sources and other pertinent info. This would make trip planning a lot easier than having to read through pages and pages of description. Overall this book is a fair starting point and has information you'll definitely need, but if you are new to backpacking there are better sources.

I have been backpacking for over 50 years. I previously hiked the Wonderland with another group 10 years ago next summer. My coming trip I will be the group leader and so was looking for a small reference book to pack for that trip. This book just fits the bill. Several pages are devoted to less experienced hikers and their packing demands, wilderness safety, leave no trace, etc. The trail description is just what I wanted. Side trips are highlighted and rated as ok or worth the effort and so on. I'm very happy I bought it and recommend it to others.

I have purchased several other Wonderland Trail books and this book by far had trail details that will help a hiker navigate not just the Wonderland but many other sites and trails. While some readers found Doug Lorain as being less poetic and flowery in his descriptions, I appreciated his writing style and maps. I plan to write my own poetry about my hike and need no other authors inspiration in that. I recommend that several travel logs be purchased and information gleaned...but this is the book I plan on bringing with me.

this guy recommends carrying a pack that would be upwards of 50 pounds. That's dangerous and silly. His information about the trail seems to come from a guidebook. Tami Asars's book is the one

to get. She really knows the trail and has tons of useful info.

Great book on providing information on the clockwise direction of the wonderland trail, however, it would be nice if a book came out providing info for the counter-clockwise route. The clockwise route is not always available, and using this book to figure out the counter-clockwise info is sometimes annoying.

I found this book to be helpful but not amazing. His writing is very subjective. He offers a lot of opinions as hard fact. I would not purchase this book again.

Info on obtaining permits was correct and easier to understand than the park service site. I took along the hike descriptions and read ahead each evening to see what was coming up.

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