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The Vail Hiker And Ski Touring Guide



Synopsis

A trail guide to the back country around Vail, Beaver Creek, Avon, Eagle and Minturn, Colorado including all of alpine Eagle County. Forty trails with key statistics including elevation gain and degree of difficulty. Topo maps and photos accompany each 2-page trail description. A fold-out map gives users a clear definition of the whole county trail network. Features include Special Hikes for Kids and Trails Selected by Difficulty, with plenty of easy hikes as well as advanced trails for all kinds of users. A feature of The Vail Hiker is the number of trails into the spectacular Holy Cross Wilderness area and the rugged Eagles Nest Wilderness. The book's wire-O binding allows it to lay flat in your backpack or on the seat of your car while following driving directions. A sturdy laminated cover resists rain.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A few years ago she wrote the very successful and popular Summit Hiker book. The Vail Hiker is a companion volume ...This is an excellent book and I would recommend it to you. One of the charms of books by Mary Ellen is that she not only gives you a trail guide and description, but she captures the beauty of the area in her prose. "This edition is a good addition for any mountain hiker library." -- Columnist J.D. "Colorado" Farr in The Summit County Journal, July 1988"

Mary Ellen Gilliland has just completed her second trail guide, The Vail Hiker. She hiked each of the trails, rehiking the ones where forks could lead people in the wrong direction. Some of them she hiked as many as two or three times." -- Summit Sentinel, June 3, 1988"

Mary Gilliland's book The Vail Hiker is only 40 trails but the contents are as big as all outdoors." -- The Vail Daily, June 8, 1988"

This 102-page book

contains 40 hiking and ski trails in the County, from Vail Pass to the Gypsum area. ...Adding great dimension to the guide book are the chatty narratives about what hikers can expect to see, including tidbits of information about bygone mines, the flowers, and the surrounding mountains. Also of note are the special hikes for kids, such as a waterfall on Cataract Creek near Camp Hale or the big sandbar on Black Gore Creek. Gilliland says she hiked every trail. "I feel that's important," she said, "because there's always a fork where the trail goes into the trees and people have created the beginnings of a misleading path," -- The Vail Trail, July 1, 1988"Very thorough in its approach," said sports writer Steven Weinmeister. "A 'must' for and cross-country skiers." -- The Denver Post, Jan. 25, 1989

This book highlights backcountry trails around Vail, Colorado. High hidden lakes, alpine cascades, historic relics and high passes serve as destinations. Visit meadows awash with bright wildflowers and explore weathered buildings the once housed gold rush prospectors. A new, revised edition features the just-debuted North Vail Trail, easily accessible to visitors without cars by foot from Vail Village. Carefully-compiled trailhead directions and easy to follow trail instructions get hikers to their destinations. Working closely with the U.S. Forest Service, Gilliland has produced a reliable handbook and companion to her best-selling trail guide, The New Summit Hiker and Ski Touring Guide. In winter, snowshoe enthusiasts and cross-country skiers find an avenue to a white world of alpine tranquillity. Winter users will find snowshoe and ski trails to snow-blanketed beauty

Maps are poor and hard to read. The graphic design of the book leaves a lot to be desired. Book is hard to read if your eyesight is going. Directions to trail heads are poor. Book is poorly written. Would be nice if color was incorporated. This is the only book for hiking Vail so incentive to upgrade is low. I am veteran of many hikes in the Vail area.

Being a naturalist hiking guide, I recommend this book to everyone! Detailed directions to the trailhead, accurate difficulty ratings, fairly accurate times (on the trail, that is!) Thorough descriptions of most of the best hikes in the Vail area.

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