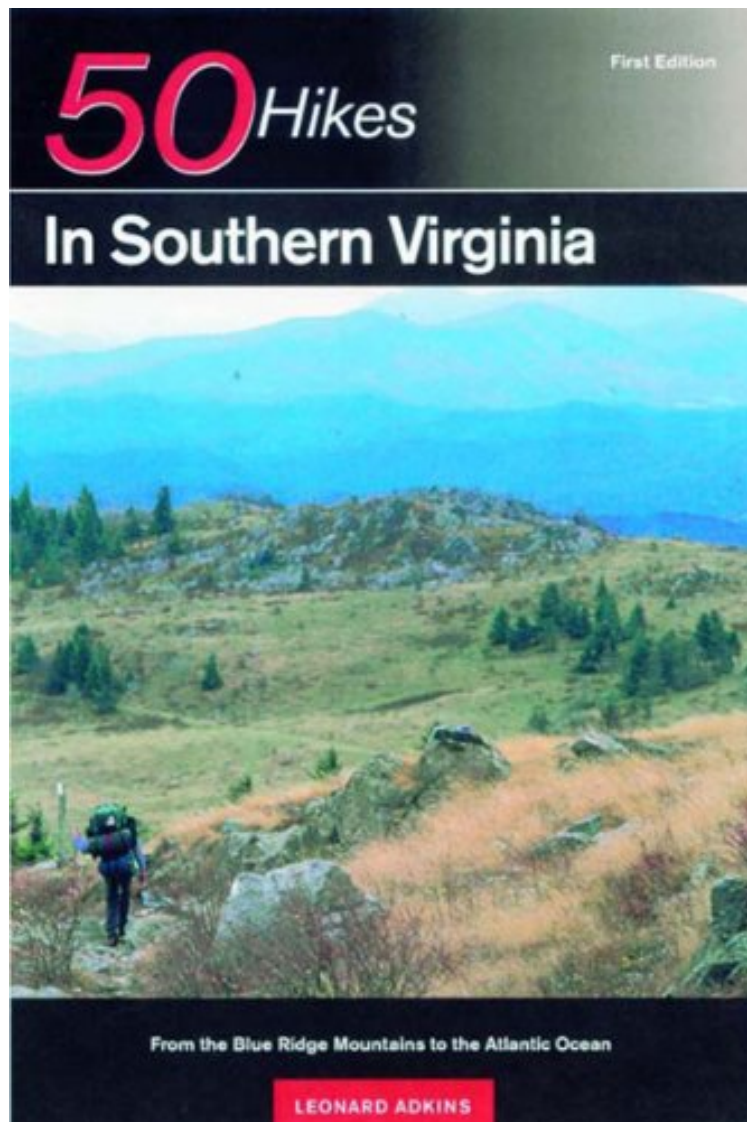


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Leonard M. Adkins

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Leonard M. Adkins : 50 Hikes in Southern Virginia: From the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Atlantic Ocean, First Edition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised 50 Hikes in Southern Virginia: From the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Atlantic Ocean, First Edition:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful Guide with a Couple of ShortcomingsBy David

PragerWritten as a companion to "50 Hikes in Northern Virginia" by the same author, this guide indeed describes 50 hikes ranging geographically from Cumberland Gap National Historical Park in the west to False Bay State Park in the east. In this author's reckoning, southern Virginia more or less means south of US 60. All of the major hiking destinations in this region are given ample treatment, including Dismal Swamp, Mount Rogers, the Appalachian Trail, and of course the national forests. Hikes range in difficulty from a 1 mile boardwalk in Dismal Swamp to a 35.9 mile multi-day backpack to some of Virginia's highest summits. The trail descriptions are informative and detailed without being too technical, and each hike contains a map copied from a USGS topo map. Thus, the hiking information contained in this guide is second to none. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for a couple of other areas. First, while the author does provide nice driving directions to the trailhead, they are not set apart from the rest of the trail description. Hence, you will need to either mark them off yourself or have a very good idea as to where you are going before you set out for the trailhead. Second, of the 50 hikes described in this guide, 17 of them are 9 miles or more in length, making them too long for a comfortable day hike. I appreciate the inclusion of backpack treks, but with so many such hikes, the guide would be more usable by dayhikers if the author would suggest some shorter options to the multi-day journeys. Of course, dayhikers could find these options themselves, but that defeats the purpose of buying a hiking guide. In sum, I can't give this guide 5 stars for the reasons mentioned in the previous paragraph, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't own it. Combining this guide with the Northern Virginia companion makes for the best available guide to Virginia hiking. I would buy either of these guides (let alone both) over the comparable Falcon guide. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Probably pretty good information, just not inspiring. By B CI was pretty excited about the concept of this guide, but without any color pictures, and relatively little photography, it is hard to get a feel for the hikes. I like the page that has all the hikes numbered on the same map so you can compare where they are relative to each other. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars. By Tim C Found a lot of great routes in this one

A new hiking guide to the enormous variety of terrain to be found in southern Virginia: coastal plain, tidewater, piedmont, mountains, and river valleys. Leonard Adkins is your guide to the incredible variety of terrain to be found in southern Virginia, from sea level on the Atlantic Coast to the highest peak in the western mountains. Here you'll find hikes on sandy beaches, into dark swamps, beside rushing rivers, through open meadows, to historic sites and Civil War battlefields, and to alpine zones, mountain crests, and hidden valleys. Adkins covers the most popular hiking destinations in the region, but also leads you to little-known, out-of-the-way trails where crowds are at a minimum. An overview chart provides information on the trips at a glance and makes it easy to pick a hike. Each hike description includes a topographic map, information on distance, difficulty, and rise, and a detailed route description. Adkins also provides information on the human and natural history you will encounter on the trail, with details and insights into the lives of the state's plants and animals. 40 black and white photographs 51 maps Index

About the Author Leonard Adkins, a freelance writer and lecturer on long-distance hiking, has walked the length of the Appalachian Trail four times. In all, he has hiked more than 16,000 miles exploring the backcountry areas of the United States, Canada, Europe, and the Caribbean. The author of numerous books on hiking and the outdoors, he has been awarded the National Outdoor Book Award and the Lowell Thomas Travel Journalism Award. He lives in Catawba, Virginia.