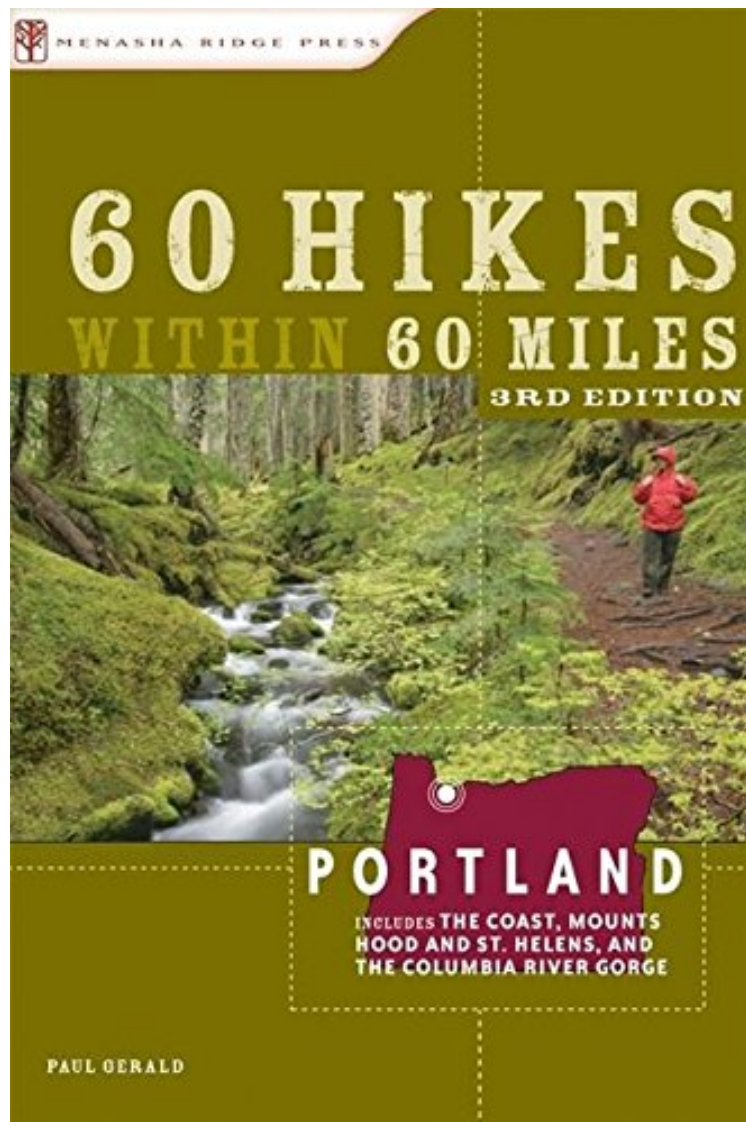


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60 Hikes Within 60 Miles: Portland: Including the Coast, Mounts Hood and St. Helens, and the Columbia River Gorge

Paul Gerald

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Paul Gerald : 60 Hikes Within 60 Miles: Portland: Including the Coast, Mounts Hood and St. Helens, and the Columbia River Gorge before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised 60 Hikes Within 60 Miles: Portland: Including the Coast, Mounts Hood and St. Helens, and the Columbia River Gorge:

31 of 32 people found the following review helpful. A marvelous read, especially for a hiking guide

By Frank Paris Over the past 25 years I've bought dozens of Pacific Northwest hiking guides and this is just about the most enjoyable one I've ever owned. It is about the only hiking guide I've ever sat down and systematically read from cover to cover, simply because it was such a joy to read and because it contained so many treasures. The author isn't merely interested in telling you how to get there and how not to miss a turn in the trail, but he shows a genuine love for each of these hikes, pointing out what is amazing about each of them, often giving a little history about the trail or other anecdotes associated with a hike, including personal experiences which are genuinely amusing or informative. I especially enjoy his appreciation of trails through old growth forests, something you don't often see in hiking guides. Most hiking guides seem to get worked up only by big, expansive views, but this author sees beauty and magnificence on all scales. Although I was familiar with at least half of these hikes, I learned about a lot of new ones that I've already started exploring. For example, check out the old growth noble firs along the PCT from Barlow Pass to the overlooks at White River Canyon. These trees are absolutely mind-boggling, not because they're big around but because they grow so amazingly tall and straight. It stimulated me to read more about these trees and I learned that they can soar into such heights with so little girth because the wood is hard and light. No Douglas Fir could get this tall without putting six feet of girth on themselves. Here you see flawless, branchless trunks as straight as nature can make them, no more than three to four feet in diameter with no perceptible taper rising two hundred feet like the pillars in a cathedral before finally displaying a puff of foliage at the top no more than 15 feet wide and 30 feet tall. And then the emerald forest of moss-infested silver firs and mountain hemlocks that follow closer to timberline have the head shaking in wonder over such stunning beauty. Thanks to this author, I discovered this incredibly beautiful section of trail after hiking all over Mt. Hood for 25 years without having discovered it. There are lots of other new possibilities of this magnitude for me that I am eager to try out, thanks to the enthusiasm and attention to detail of this author.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Buy this book

By Joshua Lee Johnson I choose this book because I live in portland and love hiking. I have only gone on nine of the hikes but plan on doing the other 51 hikes. The book gives you a great over view of what the hike offers as well as how difficult it will be. In short if you live in or near portland and love the outdoors you should already own this book.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

waterfalls!

By B. J. Ward This book has us completely intrigued and hoping to be able to hike to some of the waterfalls, even as we visit this winter. So glad that the book says which hikes work all year round and which are definitely just for spring, summer and fall. Wish there was a fold out map with these hikes, like we use with a day hike book for the Smoky Mountains and their many trails.

The authoritative guide to Portland's best day hikes just got better updated maps, new hikes, new photos, and brand-new trailhead coordinates provided as UTM and latitude/longitude formats make this guide even more useful than before. The Portland area is a hikers dream, with a wide variety of accessible, well-maintained trails and no shortage of places to find maps, gear, and walking companions. This book profiles 60 select trails which give you a little of everything there is to enjoy around Portland: mountain views, forest solitude, picturesque streams, strenuous workouts, casual strolls, fascinating history, fields of flowers, awesome waterfalls, and ocean beaches. Whether you're a seasoned hiker or lacing up your first pair of hiking boots, this guide has the trail for you!

About the Author Paul Gerald is a professional freelance writer and lover of the outdoors whose work has appeared in newspapers around the country, as well as Northwest Airlines WorldTraveler, Dish Magazine, Weissmann Travel Reports, and Nikes web site.