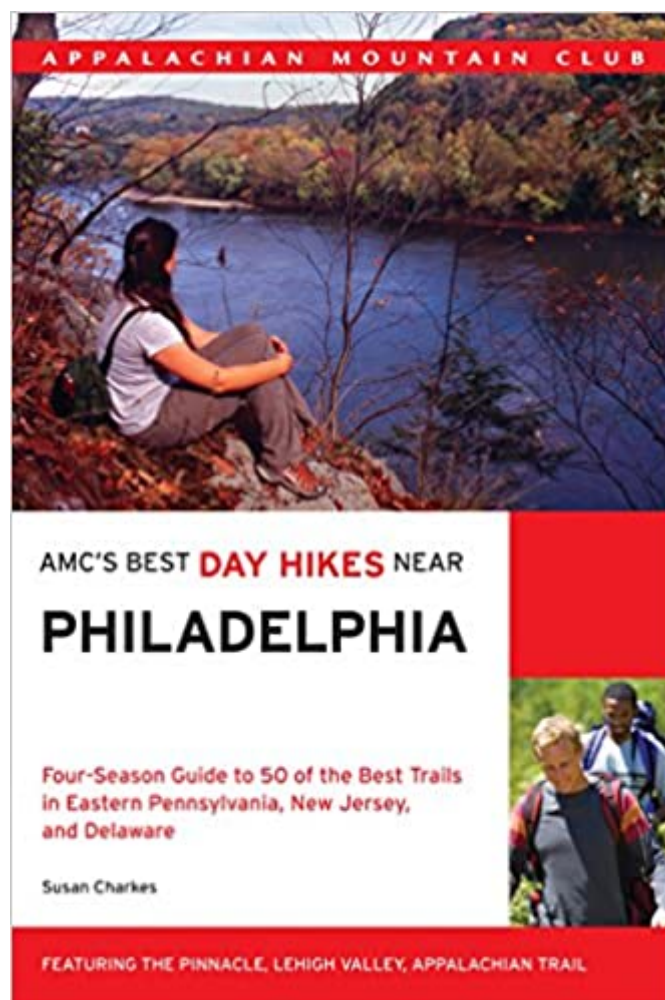




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AMC's Best Day Hikes Near Philadelphia: Four-Season Guide To 50 Of The Best Trails In Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, And Delaware





Synopsis

AMC's Best Day Hikes near Philadelphia will take you through 50 of the region's best hikes for all levels. Ideal for families, tourists, and even locals, this easy-to-use guide will help you explore Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware year-round, from lesser-known excursions to area favorites, including several hikes on the Appalachian Trail. Take a walk through historic Valley Forge, discover the beautiful French Creek State Park, see the Pinnacle's spectacular views, and visit New Jersey's famed Pine Barrens. Each trip includes useful information such as a detailed map showing parking areas and natural highlights, and a summary of trip characteristics. Several hikes are accessible by public transportation, making it easy for you to get out on the trail. You'll even find tips on the area's best snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, along with essays on the region's flora and fauna.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

AMC's Best Day Hikes near Philadelphia will take you through 50 of the region's best hikes for all levels. Ideal for families, tourists, and even locals, this easy-to-use guide will help you explore Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware year-round, from lesser-known excursions to area favorites, including several hikes on the Appalachian Trail. Take a walk through historic Valley Forge, discover the beautiful French Creek State Park, see the Pinnacle's spectacular views, and visit New Jersey's famed Pine Barrens. Each trip includes useful information such as a detailed map showing parking areas and natural highlights, and a summary of trip characteristics.

Many hikes are accessible by public transportation, making it easy for you to get out on the trail. You'll even find tips on the area's best snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, along with essays on the region's flora and fauna. • Inside You'll Find: GPS coordinates to the start of each hike Locator Map and "At-a-Glance Trip Planner" for easy planning Detailed maps showing parking areas, trails, and natural highlights Summaries of time, distance, and difficulty level for each trail Hiking and safety tips, including advice on what to carry in your pack Essays about the flora, fauna, and historic landmarks of the Philadelphia area

Susan Charkes lives in southeast Pennsylvania, and is a hike leader with AMC's Delaware Valley Chapter and a trail maintainer with AMC-DV and Batona Hiking Club of Philadelphia. She writes frequently on nature, environment and the outdoors, including the "Nature's Way" and "Nature of Bucks" columns for the Bucks County Herald. She works in the land conservation field.

Very well written and extremely helpful. As a novice, I feel like I have a veteran looking over my shoulder advising me on where to hike and what to expect

This was a gift to a friend who was most pleased.

Very clearly written and great maps for hiking. Very detailed descriptions. Glad I bought it !

Loving this book. If i had to recommend changes it would be to include more information in the summaries (ie beginning of each hike description and the "at a glance planner" so that you could quickly narrow your choices before having to read the full description. Cant wait to try some of the places in here. Not sure PennyPack Park earns the accolades heaped on it here. I also have the AMC "Outdoors with Kids" book which is excellent. These books definitely overlap on several locations but with the different focus i need for when alone vs with the shorties. Also, while this book isnt as spanking new as the OwK, it is relatively new, in fact appears to be the newest of the Philly hiking books available which was a major decision factor for me. Recommended

I do find this book helpful for eastern-Pennsylvania hikes, as it contains more detailed info on each than, say, Jeff Mitchell's very good Backpacking Pennsylvania. However, I beg the author or the AMC to do an update, as this book frequently has inaccuracies in its text and its maps. For example,

under Kelly's Run it shows a non-existent trail leading northwest from the Pinnacle Overlook. Under The Pinnacle and The Pulpit, it shows the Hamburg Reservoir uphill near the Pinnacle Trail, while in reality this body of water is down near the trailhead. The worst I found was the Glen Onoko Falls/Lehigh Gorge State Park, where the text misplaces power lines by miles, and fails to mention a network of broad, mowed service roads. (Unfortunately, park maps and blazes on this hike are also not very good.) We never found some key turnoff and had to retrace our steps. Maps have scales and North marked on them, but are hand drawn. They also lack elevation contour lines, which would be a helpful upgrade. Generally, I recommend this book, but take along some supplemental maps and online descriptions as well.

I've read many books about the best hikes in a given region, and this, by far, is the most thoroughly researched, best written, most informative and enjoyable one I've come across. Most books in this genre focus on navigating a trail--providing maps, mileages and trail head coordinates, recommending scenic spots, and estimating the time and experience levels necessary to complete a hike--but Susan Charkes' book leavens basic trail information with observations and essays on history, geology, geography, zoology and other subjects. Unlike any other "best hikes" books, her book is something you would want to read for pleasure, not just to get a perspective on a trail. Or, to read in order learn about a trail you may have hiked dozens or hundreds of times, this time literately narrated by an expert guide. It's like the difference between reading a Fodor's or Frommer's guide on a destination and then reading Theroux or Bryson or Steinbeck writing about it: rather than getting a litany of facts and salient details, you get a fuller, more personal sense of place, and thus may take pleasure from the narration and observations. For example, I've hiked the trails of Valley Forge Historical Park hundreds of times. And of Hickory Run State Park. I know each area well, but I was surprised to learn new details of these familiar places from Susan Charkes' book. Although I may not hike all 50 of the hikes in her book, reading her book has enticed me to add new hikes to my familiar hiking repertoire.

This year I am hiking all 50 trails, in order as they are listed in the book- 1/week. I can't complain about the list- so far, all of the trails I've done have been scenic, interesting, and fun. Overall, the maps and descriptions are very helpful. The background info on the trails and sights along the way are great, and it makes the hikes more interesting when you know some of the history. We have noticed some changes since the book was written- some side trails that no longer exist, changes to the colors of trail blazes, sections closed for renovations, etc., but this can usually be resolved by

picking up the latest map from the park. Although it wasn't really a problem, some of the mileage estimates were off- one in particular was listed in the book as 8 miles (3.5 hours), but two of us each got 5.5 miles (2.5 hours) on our Runkeeper phone aps, hiking the exact trail path as described in the book. The GPS tracked path that we took was identical to the path in the book, but for some reason was 2.5 miles shorter. Didn't really impact our hike, other than trying to figure out the difference. But I highly recommend the book- while I knew of some of these trails, I am amazed at how many great hiking spots there are in our area.

I have about 6 or 7 hiking guides to the Philadelphia metropolitan area, and really didn't need another one. I saw this at a bookstore and was impressed, took it out of the library, and decided that it was a must have. It includes several hikes that the others do not, and I have found it to be a very accurate description of the places that I am familiar with, so would trust it as a guide to new places. Some hiking books seem more like works of fiction than trail guides, this one does not. Highly recommended.

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