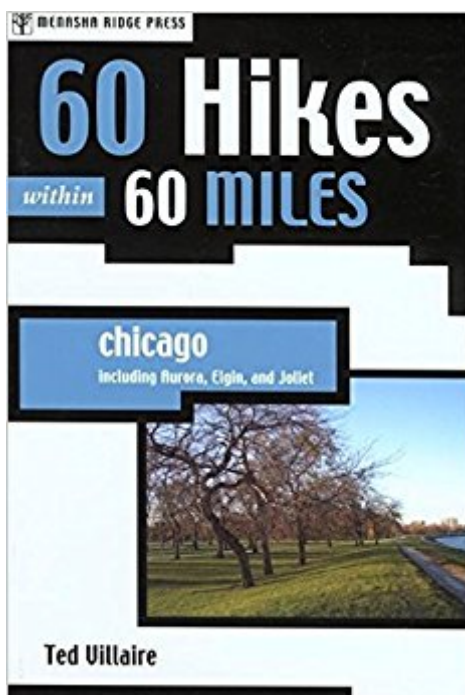


The book was found

60 Hikes Within 60 Miles: Chicago: Including Aurora, Elgin, And Joliet



Synopsis

Chicago residents grab your boots and get outside! Using clear and entertaining narrative, *60 Hikes within 60 Miles: Chicago* eliminates doubts about where to hike and what to expect when you get to the trailhead. To locate and assess the best hikes within a 60-mile radius of the Chicago area, this guide is indispensable. *60 Hikes within 60 Miles: Chicago* blows the lid off the myth that you can't have a great trek close to home. The Windy City may be an ever-expanding metropolis, but there are still plenty of thrilling hiking options. Choose among short and long hikes, hikes for children, hikes for dogs, hikes for birding, for wildflowers and for waterfalls, historic and scenic hikes, and many others.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for the series: "To help take the sweat out of finding a trail near you...buy one of the 60 Hikes Within 60 Miles guidebooks."--Newsweek

It's time to take a hike! Chicago residents grab your boots and get outside! Using clear and entertaining narrative, *60 Hikes within 60 Miles: Chicago* eliminates doubts about where to hike and what to expect when you get to the trailhead. To locate and assess the best hikes within a 60-mile radius of the Chicago area, this guide is indispensable. *60 Hikes within 60 Miles: Chicago* blows the lid off the myth that you can't have a great trek close to home. The Windy City may be an ever-expanding metropolis, but there are still plenty of thrilling hiking options. Choose among short

and long hikes, hikes for children, hikes for dogs, hikes for birding, for wildflowers and for waterfalls, historic and scenic hikes, and many others." Trail Descriptions allow you to assess each trail before you hike it." GPS-based Trail Maps provide you with accurate trail information." Elevation Profiles help you visualize each trail's altitude gains and losses." Detailed directions lead you to the trailheads. Whether you live in Chicago, Aurora, Joliet, or Elgin, 60 Hikes within 60 Miles: Chicago provides you with the information you need to choose the perfect day hike in your area, including trail lengths, hiking times, and trail difficulty. So lace up those boots, sling that daypack, and hit the trail!

With its extensive collection of forest preserves, state parks, and National Park Service lands, Chicagoland offers a plethora of hiking opportunities. Though it has some shortcomings, this guide will help you sort through the options to find a hike of interest. As the title suggests, this guide describes 60 hikes in Chicagoland. Most of the hikes are in Illinois, but the guide also includes 3 Wisconsin hikes, 9 Indiana hikes, and even a hike in extreme southwest Michigan. All of the area's famous hiking areas are covered including Indiana Dunes, Palos Forest Preserve, and Starved Rock State Park. Many of the hikes are fairly short at around 2 to 3 miles in length, but a few are quite long at almost 10 miles. Overall, the guide offers a good selection of Chicagoland hikes. Each hike contains a solid trail description, nice directions to the trailhead that start in central Chicago, public transportation information, and a decent bare-bones trail map. GPS coordinates are given for each hike, but they are given in the unusual easting-northing system rather than the usual latitude-longitude. Thus, they may or may not be of much help. While the potential for a good guide is here, a few issues hold this guide back. First, there is no summary table at the front of the guide, so it can be hard to find a hike that meets your desired geographic area and difficulty. Second, several of the "hikes" take place on bike paths, including two along Lake Michigan in downtown Chicago. While some of these destinations make for nice walks, the hiking purist would not consider them hikes. Perhaps this guide's greatest flaw is the maps: they show few details and no contour lines. The omission of contour lines is not a major problem because the terrain around Chicago is fairly flat. The guide does include a sideview elevation profile with each hike, but based on some hiking I have done in the area I am rather sure some of the elevation profiles show wrong information. Also, some of the maps are oriented the wrong direction: the arrow marked "north" points some direction other than north. These issues are below the expected standard for a published trail guide (especially for a 2nd edition), and they really

need to be addressed. In summary, this guide has some nice features, but it also has some problems that need fixing. I can recommend this guide to people interested in Chicago hiking but only with reservations.

Purchased this book several months ago and have completed about a dozen hikes from the book. This book has taken us to places we have driven by hundreds of times and introduced us to their beauty and their secrets hiding right in our own back yard. The book does a great job of listing out the where, why, and difficulty of each of the hikes, many of the hikes are short but Ted does a good job of listing how to extend hike and give other ideas of what to do in the area. There is just enough description of what to see and expect to get you excited about your upcoming adventure. The only issue we have found is to make sure you understand the hike and illustrations prior to hitting the trail, on several occasions we ended up several miles off course because we missed something in the description. With a little more preparation we have grown better but still reference the book quite a bit out on the trails. I highly recommend this book and get out there and enjoy some of these great trails.

The title of the book caught my eye, and the book itself more than lived up to it! I live in downtown Chicago and was looking for hikes that could be done as day trips - the 60 hikes included are within this distance. The book makes it easy to search by type - for example, river hikes, lake hikes, hikes for wildlife viewing, hikes with children, and then also by distance (1-3 miles, 3-6 miles, and 6+ miles). Each hike has a trail map, directions, a full description, and key info at a glance (e.g. length, configuration, difficulty, scenery, facilities, and even exposure - shady, sunny etc.).

This book will open your eyes to the natural beauty in and around Chicago, and anyone who likes a nice hike should buy it. As others have pointed out, some of these hikes are not within 60 miles of Chicago. Starved Rock and Matthiessen are probably more like 80 to 90 miles from Chicago; Lake Geneva Wisconsin is probably on the order of 70 to 80 miles away. But why quibble about a few miles when the reward is the stunning sandstone canyons of Starved Rock and Matthiessen State Parks? Or the beauty of a Lake Geneva walk?! I question the inclusion of the Chicago lakefront paths as "hikes," but I have been very satisfied by every other hike I have taken. Moreover, the directions in the book are accurate, and the incisive commentary on each location is welcome. This book is well worth the money.

Great detail - good for hiking and biking. Love the way the author points out the very best hikes in a given park. I have done almost all of the hikes over 5-6 years!

I love to hike. I always seemed to revisit the same spots in the Chicago area. I have used other books in the series - San Francisco, Seattle, and Boulder). These books are GREAT!!! They get you out and get you moving and give you all the info you need to enjoy your hike and nature. Enjoy!!!

This book ended up being worth a lot more than I paid for it. I have hit almost all the trails listed in his book and they are just about how the author said they were. I was very happy with the info in this book. This is a great buy for any hiker or anyone looking for trails to start hiking in. Well worth the money asked for. My hat off to this author.

Fabulous directions, inclusions and ideas of where to go when you want to explore something new and different for the standard trails!

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