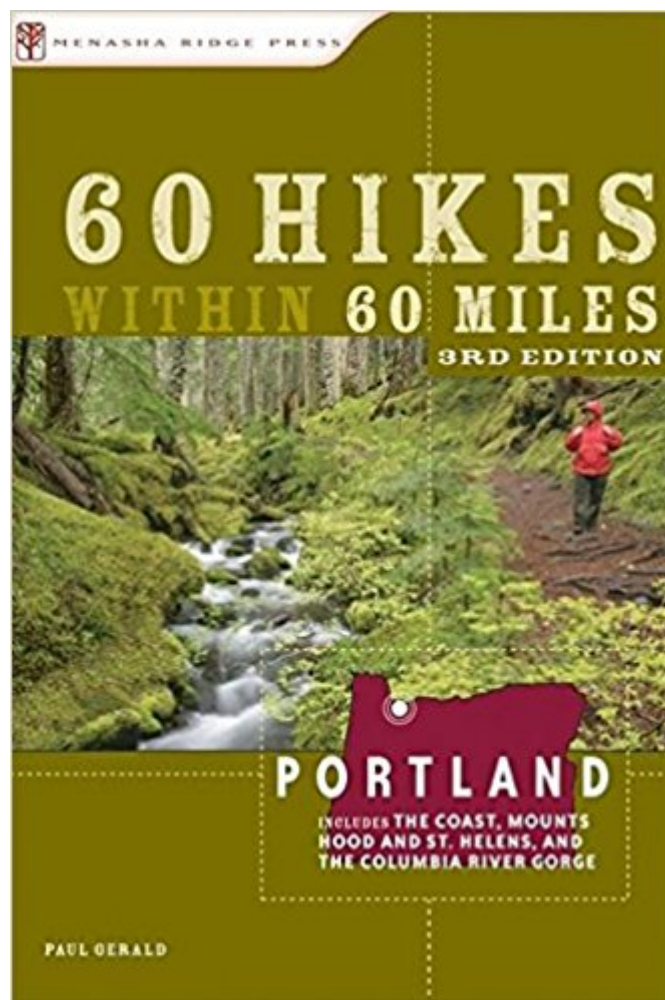




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60 Hikes Within 60 Miles: Portland: Including The Coast, Mounts Hood And St. Helens, And The Columbia River Gorge



Synopsis

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 hiker's 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!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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 Nike's web site.

As you drive out Interstate 84, you can actually see Angels Rest, a flat-topped rock outcropping sticking out over the road at the end of a ridge. What looks like a building on top is actually a clump of trees. And if it looks like its way up there, just remember that if you take your time on the way up you'll have plenty of breath left to be taken away by the view up top. The trail starts with a

moderate climb through the woods and has an early reward: a rare view down at a waterfall, in this case 100-foot Coopey Falls. Soon thereafter, the trail crosses Coopey Creek on a wooden bridge and then starts climbing just a little more steeply. After about a mile, you'll start switching back through an area that burned in 1991; note the blackened trunks of some of the bigger trees. It was mostly just the underbrush and smaller trees that burned, opening up the forest floor to the sun and letting wildflowers come in to take your mind off the climb. When the trail traverses a rockslide for 100 yards, you're almost done. Just past the slide, the trail goes back into the woods briefly, and you turn left out onto the final ridge. This last stretch of the trail is why you might think twice about bringing small children: It gets a little narrow, with cliffs to the east falling away a few hundred feet, and in one spot you'll have to scramble up about ten feet of rocks. When a trail goes off to the right on the ridge top, stay straight. The reward for this small effort is a view to rival any other in the Gorge. To the east, you can see Beacon Rock and the high walls on either side of the river. To the west you can see the Vista House and the hills falling away toward Portland and the Willamette Valley. The Columbia River, right below you, seems so close that you could get a running start and jump into it. You might see some windsurfers out there; on one trip, I watched a floatplane practicing touch-and-go landings on this stretch of the river. All in all, it's hard to imagine a better place to have lunch.

This book has great info - it is a real asset to anyone who lives in or is visiting the Portland area. It allows you to quickly pick out a hike that will suit your needs, based on hike length, location, elevation, etc. It's great for anyone looking for options for daytrips outside of the city, and the variety of options available is stunning. The only reason that this guide doesn't get five stars is because the design is ugly and a bit clunky (look at that cover... the same design philosophy persists through the book).

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.

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.

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.

This books covers some of the best hikes in Washington and Oregon that are near Portland. Good information on which hikes to take and when for flowers and avoiding snow. Basic maps of the trails and directions to trail heads are provided.

I was nervous about trying to find good, informative books on hiking. My experience has been that I'd have to purchase several books in order to get all the information I want. I have found that this

book is not only thorough, but it is organized in a way that is easy to read, easy to flip through, and well organized. The only thing I could complain about is that I wish there were more maps--in Oregon there are so many very rural places and some of these places aren't all that close to much--but to see what it was closest *to* might help. BIG plus is the elevation maps. I love those.

Great book. Has all information you need to know.

Love this book! I keep it next to my reading chair. I put a copy of instructions and maps in my day pack and find this is the best book I've found for the Mt. Hood, Columbia River Gorge and SW Washington areas. A must have.

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