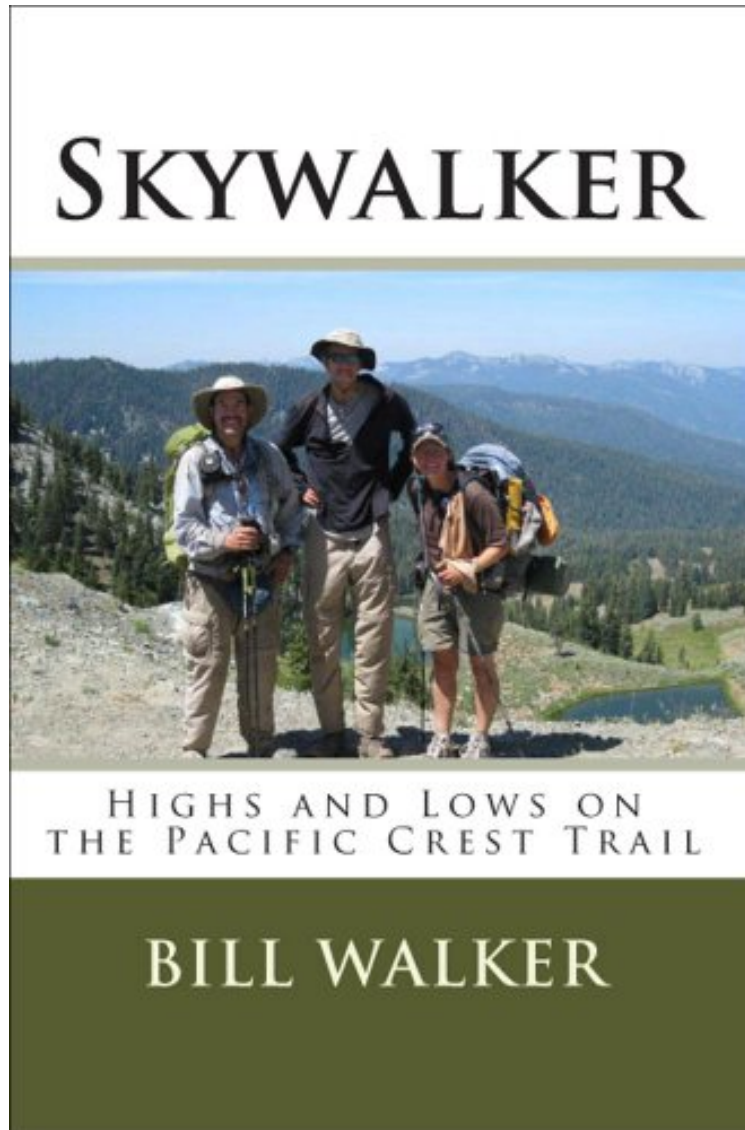


[Download free ebook] Skywalker: Highs and Lows on the Pacific Crest Trail (English Edition)

Skywalker: Highs and Lows on the Pacific Crest Trail (English Edition)

Von Bill Walker

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Von Bill Walker : Skywalker: Highs and Lows on the Pacific Crest Trail (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Skywalker: Highs and Lows on the Pacific Crest Trail (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Fluently written narrative of the author's own thruhike on the Pacific Crest Trail - alas with some annoying flawsVon Manuela

PinggeraWell written, even entertaining at times to the point of laughing out loud, this book makes for a fast read on Skywalker's PCT hike. Peppered with little anecdotes, long-distance hikers are bound to experience along the trail, you get a unique perspective of this author's hiking mates and the little stories all around them. This is the grain that makes such narratives so worthwhile reading - every hiker is bound to have their experiences, but they sure are different from those of other hikers. As an additional plus, the reader gets short references on interesting historical details along the author's hiking route. So far, so good. Now the downside - as it was for me, while reading on: Skywalker seems to be quite a nice fellow, along his lines though, I couldn't help having increasingly more code-red alerts when it came to his permanent seeking company with other hikers to the extent of clinging on to them. When he prepared for this trip, did it not occur to him that he might want to check for a hiking companion before he got started, since he obviously isn't a person who can do well by being alone? He did the Appalachian Trail, obviously not once but several times, so didn't he gather enough experience with himself on this trail to realize he wasn't comfortable as a solo-person? As Skywalker's narrative unfolds, there are many occasions where I really couldn't help but think: Jeez, man, now give these people a break or they eventually will be fed up with your company for good! Which actually happens in the end, and which predictably was bound to happen. Not only his permanent clinging on to other hikers, but also such severe aspects as not having brought adequate gear (no crampons, no ice-axe for the icy snowpacks in the High Sierras(!)), going without gloves in high alpine areas on account of pack-weight (!), not learning from previous mishaps on the trail (bleeding in high altitudes, but still not caring enough to get his first-aid-kit up to date afterwards in town ASAP, but then keeping up a hiker when it happened again, even getting in a hysterical fit), not being able to navigate with compass and map - and therefore even being dependent on other hikers, who, after a while, obviously must have started to feel as if they had been imposed with having to take responsibility for him. You just can't do this. Of course, they all bailed out on a pretext to get rid of him. Doing a thru-hike on any long-distance trail requires some hard work, day in day out. Every hiker out there has enough to do with his or her own stuff. But having to drag along somebody who is prone to get into severe problems because of wrong gear, his very own health issues and what not all; on the other hand isn't much of a help to the group, and this when hiking out in the middle of a vast mountainous wilderness with snowstorms on the brink to blow in - well, excuse me buddy, but that's a bit tough, is it? As a seasoned Appalachian Trail hiker, that Skywalker seems to be, I really need to ask which skills he actually had learned while thru-hiking this trail, if any at all. Of course, both trails are different, but still you do learn some precious outdoor skills through experience on such a thru-hike, which serve you well on any trail. I did the AT twice, a Northbound and a Southbound, and both thru-hikes were great teachers in outdoor skills. I wouldn't repeat mistakes I had made the previous hike. I also experienced huge weight-loss. But nonetheless I would carry the pack with all the gear and food I needed, because safety goes first. Also, I wouldn't dwell on that weight-loss as a "problem", since this isn't the right mind-set to help it. My experience with the AT had shown that even though I lost a lot of weight, I still had the strength of an athlete to continue hiking. So I carried more food to eat while on trail. Which helped keeping my weight. It is not necessarily true that more packweight equals in less daily miles and more calories burned along the daily hiking process. It was still common for me to average in 25-mile days on the AT with a packweight of 20+ kilos, depending on resupply-status, and being down to 55 kilos bodyweight on 1.67 meters body height. I also have a photo, taken on my Southbound thru-hike in Cheshire, Massachusetts, still a long way from Georgia, where I look like an emaciated anorectic around my upper torso. As already said: my experience from the previous Northbound hike had taught me how to handle this, and to adapt to the situation. So you carry more food to be able to eat more food, and forget about this seemingly one-fits-all ideology of light-weight packing. If it doesn't fit with your personal needs you simply can't do it, period. All in all, Skywalker's narrative really makes for a good read - I got the book yesterday in the afternoon and was through today in the morning, having enjoyed Skywalker's fluent writing style as well as his anecdotes. Only his attitude in some aspects got me very annoyed, that's why I inserted my Appalachian Trail details in here. The reason is not to pound on my chest, bragging, look what a superhiker I am - but simply to pipe in: Hey dude, that's not right, what you're sayin'. I got a different experience. Also annoying was this claim, AT-thruhikers wouldn't do well on the PCT - and Skywalker had nothing smarter to do but to repeat it mantra-like as if this was a given law. Even if some AT-alumni had bailed out - so what? Since when is every hiker alike - every AT-thruhiker the same, to justify such superficial generalizations? Don't even listen to such nonsense! Back in Virginia, by the way, on the Appalachian Trail, I took a photo of a log-entry at Maupin Field Shelter, coming from a hiker who had done the PCT before, and was so terrified from them Virginia mountains of the Priest and the Three Ridges Wildernesses, that he wanted to get off the trail in Waynesboro for good, unless his buddy, whom he wanted to seriously call would prep-talk him into keeping on hiking to Maine. Frankly, the PCT can't be that bad, if you get to read such entries of accomplished PCT hikers wanting to quit the Appalachian Trail - and this in Virginia, of all places! Don't y'all remember them Virginia flats - blink, blink?... 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Fun to read with lots of interesting things to learn about the trail... Von technik-bastian I hiked the PCT in 07 myself so I know a bit about it. The book is very well written and a lot of fun to read. It tells a bunch of stories around the trail and the places it goes by that are very interesting. Most of them I never heard before... A good one to read - I recommend it. Read "Wild", too. Liked that one as well, but this

one tells more about the trail about thru-hiking it as "Wild" is more about the authors personal life...

KurzbeschreibungSkywalkerHighs and Lows on the Pacific Crest TrailAuthored by Bill Walker The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT)is the perfect place for an average person to do something extraordinary. Bill Walker ("Skywalker"), who stands 6'11", might seem like anything but average. Yet in a brutally honest tone, he lays to bare all his considerable weaknesses and fears. Among these are crushing weight loss and fatigue, along with a fear of getting lost or a bear stealing his food. Nonetheless, he is bound and determined to hike the PCT, which at 2,663 miles, runs all the way from Mexico to Canada. The PCT's calling card is its stunning beauty. It has a diversity of geography unequaled by any footpath in the world. Haunting and beckoning the PCT hiker are the implacable desert, the towering majesty of the so-called High Sierra, and the ruggedly bleak, northern Cascade range. Indeed, the PCT hiker faces much greater extremes of terrain and climate than on the famed Appalachian Trail. Completing this demanding challenge calls for overwhelming clarity of purpose. Walker's signature characteristic as a writer is his real talent in capturing people ("Skywalker's humor, his delight in human foibles appeal to a broad audience."--Jeff Minnick, Smoky Mountain Book News). Obviously, he is a people person because he runs into and vividly describes a truly colorful cast of characters from seemingly all walks of American life. Among these are Uber Bitch, Shit Bag, and Serial Killer; the reader learns how these hikers ended up with their names (hint: blunders). The reader need not worry that Walker is a bully. Throughout this irreverent narrative, he turns his considerable supply of humor back on himself in ruthlessly self-deprecating fashion. It all makes for a delightful read.Publication Date:Oct 26

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ber den Autor und weitere MitwirkendeBorn and raised in Macon, Georgia Bachelors and Masters Degree University of Georgia in Accounting. Commodities broker in Chicago and London for 14 years. Teacher of English as a second language in four Latin American countries for three years. Author of Skywalker--Close Encounters on the Appalachian Trail. Just finished a book on the Camino de Santiago (The Best Way--To see the Old Continent).