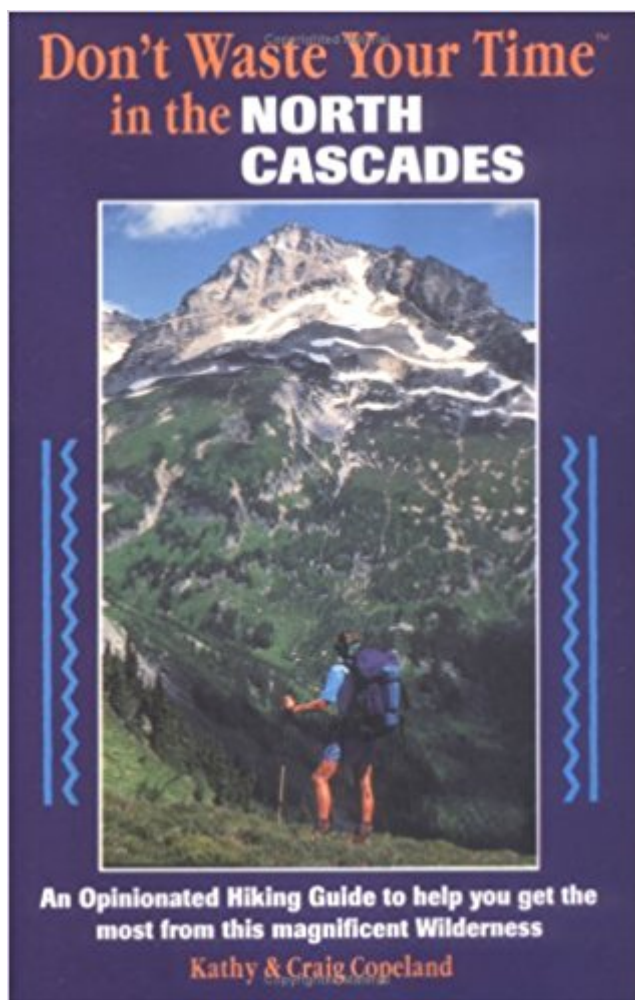


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Don't Waste Your Time In The North Cascades: An Opinionated Hiking Guide To Help You Get The Most From This Magnificent Wilderness



Synopsis

Book by Copeland, Kathy, Copeland, Craig

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Opinionated, indeed! But with so many breathtaking hikes in Washington State's North Cascades, it's a pleasure to find a guidebook that attempts to separate the magnificent from the merely splendid. With craggy, glacier-clad peaks, magnificent ancient forest, and towering volcanoes, this remote region offers outdoors enthusiasts a seemingly endless variety of hiking and backpacking options. Many hikers consider the North Cascades--also known as the American Alps--the jewels of North America's mountain ranges. *Don't Waste Your Time in the North Cascades* rates the best trails for experiencing such a diverse wilderness--and also mentions which trails to veer away from at all costs. Occasionally the book's tone can be grumbling, but the authors are trying to do hikers a service; when it comes to crowded trails and uninspired treks, a little grumbling is OK if it serves as ample warning.

I bought this book to help guide me as I zeroed in on a location for a backpacking trip to the North Cascades. The book is broken into Day Hikes and Backpacking Trips, and then again by a rating system -- outstanding, great, good, don't bother (not exact wording). I was able to determine a list of top 3 routes based on the mileage we were looking to do on our trip and the terrain we wanted. But that's about as far as the book helped. First, determining in what area of the region the hike is, you have to rely on this clunky map at the front of the book that in which the hikes correspond with a

number on the map. I wound up having to flip back and forth, back and forth to see what area of the region the routes I was interested in hiking were in. Second, on the route pages, there were no maps or drawings of the trails in relation to the surrounding area. Lastly, most of the route descriptions were too prose-y. It was hard to discern where to "turn right" or "turn left" or "hike 5.2 miles before reaching the waterfall." In short, I'd say pass on buying this book - unless you're from the area and are looking for other books to simply give you ideas of new backpacking spots.

I bought a lot of different guidebooks preparing for my trip to the Cascades but none stood up to this one. Sometimes an opinion is exactly what you need. I found their descriptions excellent, extremely helpful and this book was essential in planning an amazing trip. I particularly loved Hidden Lakes and Ptarmigan Ridge

What a great book, especially for those who know they will have a limited amount of time to explore the area. The authors' ratings in this book really helped us pinpoint exactly which hikes we wanted to do and had time for, and their comments were right on the money. Very happy I bought this book.

While I found the comments to be very spot on from the hikes we did, I would not discourage one's own exploration as we all get different things out of hiking. But for those who love those wandering amongst mountain views, these reviews are spot on.

Just what I wanted.

Great little book with multiple good hike ideas. gives good directions to wonderful places in the pacific northwest get out there enjoy Gods Blessings

I just came across this book on , looking for another book, but must leave a review. Why? I purchased this book late '90's when I was getting into hiking. It was and is fabulous - still have it, still use it. Great directions, wonderful layout, accurate rating system. I've owned many other hiking, climbing, scrambling books since, but this one will always be one of my faves. Only word of caution is road conditions may not be accurate on some hikes due to the books date and washouts since, but that goes with any hiking book really. Get it!

My wife and I are day-hikers which means, of course, we have a perspective that would be different

from long-distance hikers and backpackers. There are recommendations for all types of visitors but I think day-hikers would get the most use out of the book. We found the guide to be excellent for our needs. Since we live on the East Coast, our time in the Pacific Northwest is limited. The title of the book, "Don't Waste Your Time in the North Cascades," sums it up. We've used it for two trips to northern Washington state and think it's really handy. The book's rating of trails and hikes allows the reader to get right to the best spots. A numbered map and rating-chart make it easy to narrow the choices down to what best suits your needs for a particular day, including "shoulder season" recommendations. As any good hiker's guide should, the distances and elevation gains are noted, as are directions on how to get to the trail-heads. Of course everyone has an opinion about what's the most scenic or worthwhile hike. One contributor here mentioned off-trail destinations. That's fine for one or two people to explore but I don't think we want hordes of visitors breaking trail and damaging the fragile environment. The paths that have already been worn through the mountains should provide enough recreation and adventure for the vast majority of us. All guidebook suggestions are a matter of opinion. It's up to the users to determine whether they agree or not. For one, I think the authors did an excellent job. It obviously took years of effort and a passion for the area to put this guide together. The respect the authors have for the North Cascades is a wonderful contribution to what we need to know to make for an enjoyable trip. The research had to have been conducted by actually "walking the walk" and, of course, there's no substitute for firsthand experience. Again, as an outsider, I greatly appreciated this quick, easy-to-navigate instruction on one of America's most fantastic wilderness recreation areas. Those who live in Washington state might not feel there's enough detail or that it lacks coverage of the entire region (which would be a daunting task). For someone who wants to make the most of a short vacation (which I suspect applies to most visitors), the book is definitely worth the price.

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