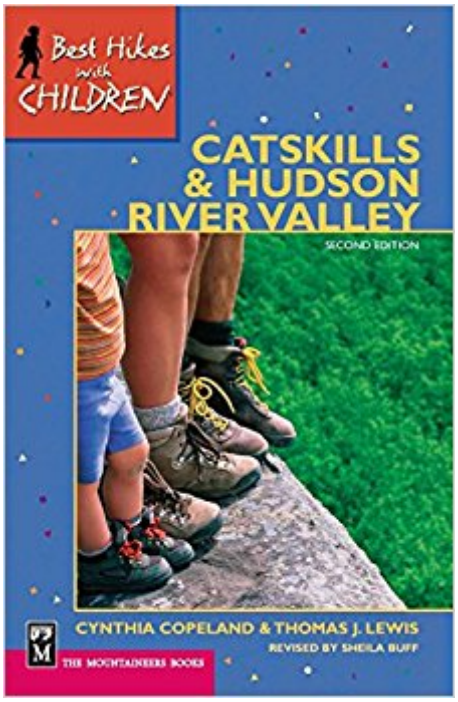
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Best Hikes With Children In The Catskills And Hudson River Valley



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Synopsis

* Guidebook to short, easy hikes and trails your children will be comfortable on* Includes ideas for keeping the kids engaged and having funNew York's Catskills have long been an outdoor playground for families escaping from the city. Here's a guidebook that shows you hikes that the whole family can do. Best Hikes with Children in the Catskills and Hudson River Valley, 2nd Ed. includes games that will keep the kids engaged and enjoying the trails. From Catskills State Park, Bear-Mountain-Harriman State Park, Hudson Highlands, Shawangunk Mountains, Southern Taconics, the Long Path, and the Appalachian Trail, there's something for everyone in this all-inclusive guidebook.Hikes detailed include shorter two- and four-mile hikes to six-plus miles and overnighters. Practical information on hiking with children -- setting a realistic pace, playing games, and encouraging personal and environmental responsibility -- make this a guidebook to recommend.

Book Information

Series: Best Hikes with Children

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Mountaineers Books; 2 edition (March 6, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0898867835

ISBN-13: 978-0898867831

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.5 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 0.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.3 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,435,954 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #29 inÃ Â Books > Travel > United States > New York > Catskills #301 inÃ Â Books > Travel > United States > Northeast > General #403 inÃ Â Books > Travel > Specialty Travel > Family Travel

Customer Reviews

Back in the day, you loved hiking, but lately the only communing with nature you do is during play dates in the park. Get back to the woods with your kids (and pry them away from SpongeBob for a while) with the Best Hikes with Children series. (Real Simple)This newly updated version of a classic can give you many opportunities to find places that will give you outdoors memories to last a lifetime. It's part of our treasure, so be sure to enjoy it! (Middletown (NY) Times Herald)We all know about the hiking bounties of the North Cascades, but few of us think to look over the border at the

trail offerings of our northern neighbors. This book remedies our provincial prejudices. (The Every Other Weekly (Bellingham))

CYNTHIA COPELAND is the co-author of three books on hiking with children in the Northeast.THOMAS LEWIS is the co-author of three books on hiking with children that cover hikes in the Northeast.

OK I admit I do not use the driving directions in this book so I can not address that. But for researching hikes for my little ones this book is perfect. Yes I double check any hiking routes and pick up this year’s trail maps as trail maps change over time due to weather, fire and other forces. But for deciding where to hike with toddlers this is a wonderful resource.

Great concept for a book. The hikes themselves look great. However, be warned, there appears to be major problems with the driving instructions - at least the two we followed.1. Page 40: Hike #1: Pine Meadow Lake - The book states "From New York City, take the Thruway (I-87) north to Exit 15." This is in error. The correct exit is 15A - NOT Exit 15!!! Taking Exit 15 (as we unfortunately found out) will take you in the wrong direction. What this means is all the directions to Harriman State Park from New York City are wrong in this book.2. Page 118: Hike #22: Hudson River At Staatsburgh Mills Mansion State Park. The book states "From New York City, take the Thruway (I-87) north to Exit 10." This is a REALLY bad mistake. The correct exit is Exit 9. Going to Exit 10 as the book directs (and we followed) takes you to the wrong side of the Hudson river!!!Incidentally, these are not new or recently-revised exit numbers.These were the only two sets of directions we followed so far and both were very wrong. Needless to say we are very disappointed in the book - especially one that is so newly revised. There needs to be a lot more attention to detail and fact checking by the authors.Are there any more mistakes? Who knows? I guess we’ll find out the hard way. It’s not to much fun following their driving directions to the letter and then getting lost with a 5 year old in the backseat.This book has the potential be a 4 or 5 star if it weren’t for these profound problems.

I’ve taken some awesome hikes with my kids based on this book. I’ve also gotten incredibly frustrated and lost, when the information on the page and the reality on the ground have diverged completely. Since this book was originally published in 1992, the far Western Catskills have experienced several devastating floods that have closed some roads and trails for good. So get this

book -- but triple check everything online before you set out to hike.

This book is written in an offhand, casual way and uses unofficial maps that do not provide clear guidance. Our family including 2 young kids misread an instruction and ended up lost in NY's Harriman State Park. We came close to spending the night in the park, if we hadn't had our cell phones, coverage, and a very helpful ranger available who came to our rescue at nightfall. The ranger said he had rescued many (tens) of people from the park who had used this book and that his office had called the publishers to address the issue. I recommend that you DO NOT USE THIS BOOK.

In the age of instant maps via the internet, I will put aside the complaint about any poor directions. Overall, I have enjoyed the hikes in the book. We have hikes with very young children and with teens. Each hike is outlined well, with idea for keeping the young folks interested (though I find that my kids are very good at keeping themselves interested along a trail). I am thankful for the season guide, the altitude guide, and other details that are significant when hiking with children. I only wish there were guides for more regions, especially in the southern states.

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