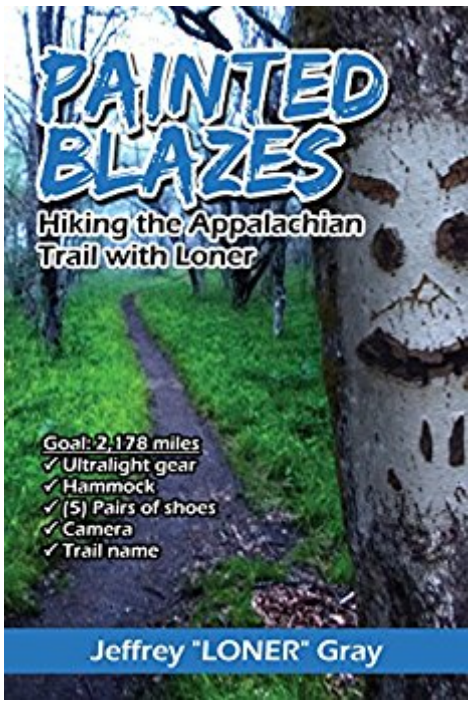
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Painted Blazes: Hiking The Appalachian Trail With Loner



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Synopsis

A chance meeting led to JeffÃ¢â ¬â„¢s discovery of the Appalachian Trail. Who would have ever guessed that during his journey, Ã¢â ¬Å“LonerÃ¢â ¬Â• as heÃ¢â ¬â„¢s known in hiker circles, would be bitten by a dog (and a lobster), happen upon a plane crash, chat with a wanted fugitive, come face to face with a black bear, see a ghost, be in a car accident, run completely out of money (twice), spend the night under a jail, lose 80 pounds, and find the girl of his dreams. All to have the time of his life, feel the kindness of others, and ultimately learn, heÃ¢â ¬â„¢s not a loner after all.Documenting his trip on YouTube for friends and family, thousands more also followed along, vicariously. This story captures the excitement, sometimes sadness, and danger of a thru-hike with many added details, funny characters, and dozens of incidents never revealed before.More than just a memoir, aspiring thru-hikers will find Ã¢â ¬Å“Hiker TipsÃ¢â ¬Â• on ultralight backpacking (LonerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s pack weight was just 13 pounds), hammock camping, living on a budget, etc. Readers will also gain rare insight into a subculture with its own ethics, trail names, hostel system, language, and folklore. Happy hiking! And donÃ¢â ¬â„¢t forgetÃ¢â ¬Â¦Find some adventure - in your adventure!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've been watching and re-watching Loner's videos since 2012 trying to duplicate his Ultra-Light equipment. Even after moving up from a Terra Nova 20 to a Terra Nova 35, I can't match Jeff's AT base weight. Maybe his next book will go into more detail than his video #20. I'm still trying to figure 4 days of food in that pack. I really believe he had a Llama carrying supplies and equipment not shown in his videos.Chris (O-Boy)

This book needs to find a place on the shelf of anyone who is dreaming of, planning or even completed a thru or section hike of the Appalachian Trail. My wife and I followed Loner's hike on YouTube and found it to be deeply honest, inspiring and entertaining. His book reveals the same humble yet insightful style of his videos but now combines them with hard learned hints and well researched history that will inform every hiker. Loner's unique quirky style make this book easily readable, entertaining and different than the other books we have read of this genre. His statement that the hardest part of his thru hike was "the suffering of others" reveals a great deal about the quality and heart of the author. While saturated with insights it is also loaded with nuts and bolts information that we have immediately included in our preparation for starting the trail in '18.

I know it marks me as slow and behind the times, but Loner's video blog of hiking the Appalachian Trail was the first such video series I watched, and while I've viewed several by this point, his is still the best. And that's with amateur production values and other rough edges. Part of the charm._Painted Blazes_ retains that rough hewn charm. I give this five stars despite distracting (and easy to fix) textual errors, as they remind one of the home-made nature of the narrative. This is an AT hike story presented as itself, without any distortions added to make the tale more palatable or familiar to a reader. This just is how it was. The only convenience for us readers is the nature of the journey itself gives it a beginning, a long middle, and an ending that comes too soon; one almost wishes the story continued....There are more polished AT narratives out there, and they too have their charms. What you'll take from this one is a raw sense of the sustained effort it takes to hike the AT. I've hiked enough of it to assure readers this is the real deal, warts and all. Loner shares the struggle, reveals great ultralight hiking tips, and provides his view of the AT in all its glory. His hike influences how I hike today!Photo: near the AT, Shenandoah National Park, just short of the Hogback Ridge overlook (east of Rileyville VA)

I have been interested in the Appalachian trail for years and have ready many books on the subject.

I think this is one of the best on the subject. It gives look into trail life and some very interesting facts on the trail. The best part is the author is a great guy. My husband and daughter watched his thru hike video's on YouTube in 2012. These video's were one on the reasons My husband and daughter (13 years old at the time) hike the A.T. in 2013. Jeff was a great supporter of that hike and of many other thru hikers since his hike in 2012. I highly recommend this book to any one interested in the Appalachian trail.

The quirky characters Loner meets along his epic hike makes this book stand out from other hiking tomes. Loner is great at finding the good in folks' quirks (including his own). A hiking novice, I also enjoyed the tips scattered throughout the book. Also entertaining are the pictures and fun facts. But it is Loner's dogged determination to complete his goal, despite a myriad of issues, that really makes this book shine. Nicely done!

There are many books about hiking the Appalachian Trail (AT). I have read about a dozen of them. What sets Painted Blazes apart is the depth and breadth of knowledge Loner gives the reader. At the core Painted Blazes is a story of one man's long walk up the backbone of the eastern United States. You get the running commentary you expect from a trail journal. Discussion of the miles hiked, interactions with other hikers, town stops and interesting events along the way. But Painted Blazes goes deeper than that. Loner gives suggestions of which campsites or hostels to consider when planning your own hike depending on price, amenities and location. Hiker Tips are included throughout the book to help anyone venturing into the woods. The appendices in Painted Blazes are also a good resource. They show the would be thru hiker the minimal items needed for the AT. Also included is a large glossary of hiker terms.The depth of Painted Blazes continues by including local history, both on and off the trail. Loner does a fantastic job of giving the reader some local flavor. He includes what hikers in the past experienced while on trail but also what events occurred that shaped the towns along the way. This makes Painted Blazes much more than a trail journal.Loner's inclusion of the cast of characters he encountered while hiking the trail adds various story lines to the book (Appendix E contains hiker updates). Outside the book he answers questions from aspiring hikers and leaves supportive comments on YouTube videos of hikers on the trail. This is why I consider Loner the AT's patron saint of encouragement. I think you will agree when you read the book.Be sure to watch his YouTube videos filmed as he was hiking the AT as a nice companion to the book.

This is a good book for new hikers as well as, seasoned ones. There are details about the trail that really are not anywhere else. Loner give "tips" that are informative and funny. I would place it in the top 10 of Appalachian Trail books. It holds its own up against Bryson’s "A Walk in the Woods". If you are looking to get a feel of what a "thru hike" is like then "Painted Blazes" is the book you want to read.Watch "Loner" on youtube to make the complete experience. Thanks for sharing.Ken "the Bearded GND Hog" (formerly "hikehunter") Reaves

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