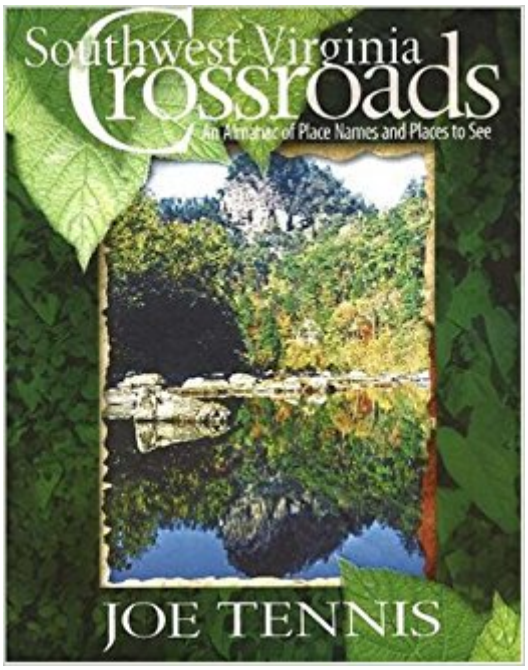
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Southwest Virginia Crossroads: An Almanac Of Place Names And Places To See



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Synopsis

The mountains, rivers, and lakes of Southwest Virginia have invited explorers since the mid-1700s. Now this land beckons the modern traveler with its siren song of beauty, wonder, and history. Southwest Virginia Crossroads: An Almanac of Place Names and Places to See extols the virtues of this national treasure and serves as a guide for those who want to find the best of America. As you journey with author Joe Tennis through Southwest Virginia Crossroads, he relates the history of the land and its people, chronicling the fascinating stories birthed in this fabled region, as well as age-old place-names and their origins. County maps and detailed directions lead you to all the little- and best-known attractions housed in cities and towns like Bristol and Abingdon or sheltered within the rolling farmland and weathered mountains. Even those familiar with the area will want to visit waterfalls, lakes, towns, cities, restaurants, and historical sites discovered in the! pages of this comprehensive work. Whether on the car dashboard or at home on the coffee table, Southwest Virginia Crossroads is a wealth of knowledge and a delight to read.Ã Â This book was released in a second edition in 2017, staying true to the original local bestseller of 2004 yet loaded with updates, expansions and even more photographs showcasing Southwest Virginia.Ã Â

Book Information

Series: A

Paperback: 166 pages

Publisher: Overmountain Press (June 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1570722560

ISBN-13: 978-1570722561

Product Dimensions: 11 x 8.3 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,539,175 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #30 inÃ Â Books > Travel > United States > Virginia > General #628 inÃ Â Books > Travel > United States > South > General #1911 inÃ Â Books > Travel > United States > South > South Atlantic

Customer Reviews

"History lovers will have a festival reading about the origins of places and happenings of bygone days." -- THE ROANOKE TIMES Nov. 28, 2004"a mesmerizing, detailed, brilliantly researched account of our region which will make the public proud of where they came from." -- Abingdon

Virginian Wed. Aug. 25, 2004"much to see and do in Virginia’s Southwest, and Tennis provides a good starting point in this tour guide." -- Richmond Times-Dispatch Sunday, Aug. 15, 2004Joe Tennis has produced a masterpiece -- V.N. “Bud” Phillips, author of Pioneers in ParadiseWhat a fantastic comprehensive summary of the heritage and beauty of this area. -- Kitty Barker, Executive Director Blue Ridge Travel Association

A newer edition of this book was released on March 29, 2017

I lived for a long time in Southwest Virginia. What surprises me so much is how ignorant and careless (even disparaging!) I was about this area while I was living there. Then, I moved.Now I wax lyrical about Virginia’s "forgotten" region at any opportunity. If you’re heading south on I-81, it all starts after you pass Roanoke, at Salem, as you start the ten-mile climb up the mountain to Christiansburg. Welcome to Southwest Virginia. An even more dramatic approach hits you heading north on I-77 out of Charlotte, NC. From Mt. Airy, NC, you start up the hill to Fancy Gap, with beautiful views of the North Carolina piedmont to the southeast. Stay with I-77 for another 20 miles and the lovely town of Wytheville welcomes you to Southwest Virginia. As a student at Virginia Tech, and as a young, struggling professional living in Roanoke shortly thereafter, I took this magnificent landscape for granted. Now, I miss it enormously.Where do I begin? There’s so much history, so many beautiful towns, so many gorgeous country roads through well-cultivated, rolling green hills, so many lakes and rivers, forests and trails, hills and mountains, music and food, colleges and universities... no wonder those with the wherewithal (and the financial means) headed west from the earliest colonial days! It’s a small-town, nature-lover’s paradise, and the very antithesis of metropolitan Washington, DC, in northern Virginia. As early as 1730, the word was out all along the colonial eastern seaboard. Enter Daniel Boone, and other important pioneers from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Tidewater Virginia.You should begin to get a feeling for the region with this book. Here’s your comprehensive guide to "poor" Southwest Virginia. This book is NOT a travel guide, so it’s not the best choice if you’re looking for restaurant and hotel listings. This is really a cultural and natural encyclopedia to points of interest for the region beginning immediately south and west of Roanoke. Actually, the title describes this book well, and it’s written by THE authority of the region, Mr. Joe Tennis. Roanoke itself is not included in the book, and counties in West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina very much LIKE those in Southwest Virginia are purposefully excluded.The book is organized by county, and includes descriptions and black & white photographs of historic sites, natural features, roads, towns, and regional items. The entries are

written in accessible style, but offer a depth of historical and cultural insight not found in mass-market travel guides. Not really intended for your coffee table, this book is a serious reference work. It’s an excellent companion resource to your standard travel guide, for those looking for more in-depth information, a local perspective, and more than a few hidden treasures.Buy this book, and by ALL means, go for a visit. By the way, the secret is already out!

We first discovered this book 12 years ago, when we were vacationing with 3 pre teens. We were tired of the Disney World experience and hopped into the car with mountains on our minds. Stopped in the Meadows of Dan, and in a small store found this "bible" full of things to do and places to go in Southwest Virginia. We all had a wonderful time exploring. Years later, my husband and I still use it as our map. We use this book as a diary. Everytime we visit a place, we write the date, time and experience in the margin. We have happily traveled all of these by roads thanks to Joe. This book is a perfect gift for people who have just moved here and for those who say that there is nothing to do here. This book is a true gem, just like Southwest Virginia...and this is why we have chosen this beautiful place to be our home.

Good book with lots of good information. I’m planning on making a road trip to Southwest Virginia later this year as that’s where many of my ancestors on my mother’s side came from. The pictures are good but mostly black and white. This book will definitely accompany me and be a good resource during my upcoming trip.

Interesting read regarding my ancestors!

This book gave me history of many places that we plan to visit. I am a fan of social history.

Very interesting book. Lots of facts and history for the newly arrived, as well as the born here local resident.

A newspaper journalist friend of mine wrote this book over ten years of trapsing the hills and mountains of his ancestral home of Southwest Virginia, chasing stories for the paper, and meeting everyone and uncovering nearly every story and beautiful place of Virginia’s wilds along the way.If you want to hike with the wild but friendly ponies of the Southwest Virginia Blue Ridge mountain ranges, climb Virginia’s highest peak, or just find out the history of old Virginia places, like the

stunning Burke’s Garden, this is the book for you. These are just some of the experiences I have had using this book as a guide through Virginia’s backyard. The good directions and maps will get you there to trail heads and take out points along the way.I don’t live in South West Virginia, and before I read this book (now in its second printing), I thought of Virginia in very local terms. Since then, I’ve realized that the history that starts here in my area, continues there in SW Va., the historic frontier. I’ve also been venturing out to "undiscovered" streams and waterfalls, getting away from the grind. The book makes for good weekend getaways, and you can afford to make these frequent, as SW Virginia tends to be less expensive than the rest of the state.For everyone, and especially if you are from Southwest Virginia, I think you’ll find the book indispensible for its history of your area, neglected too long. You’ll not only know where to take out of town guests, but how to answer their questions about the things you’ve probably always wondered too -- just how did Hungry Mother State Park get its name? And what sight raised the hair on arms and necks leading to the name Goose Pimple Junction anyway? And what about Daniel Boone, Revolutionary and Civil War sites, ancient churches & communities, missing settlers, Virginia Indian Tribes still here, Blackbeard, railroads, oil and gold strikes, salmon and the best view east of Colorado? Southwest Virginians have a place and history they can be proud of, but I wonder how much of it is being passed on to the kids. This book will give you the stories to tell as you drive down the road. It will serve as a jump point for further investigation. And it will introduce you to places you will love, even if you’ve lived in Virginia all your life.Interested in the project, I have been looking for a while at what else is out there. I know you’ll find that this is the most thorough book of its kind for Virginia’s beautiful but wild back yard; it’s worth taking some weekends away to trace through the South West Virginia Crossroads.

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