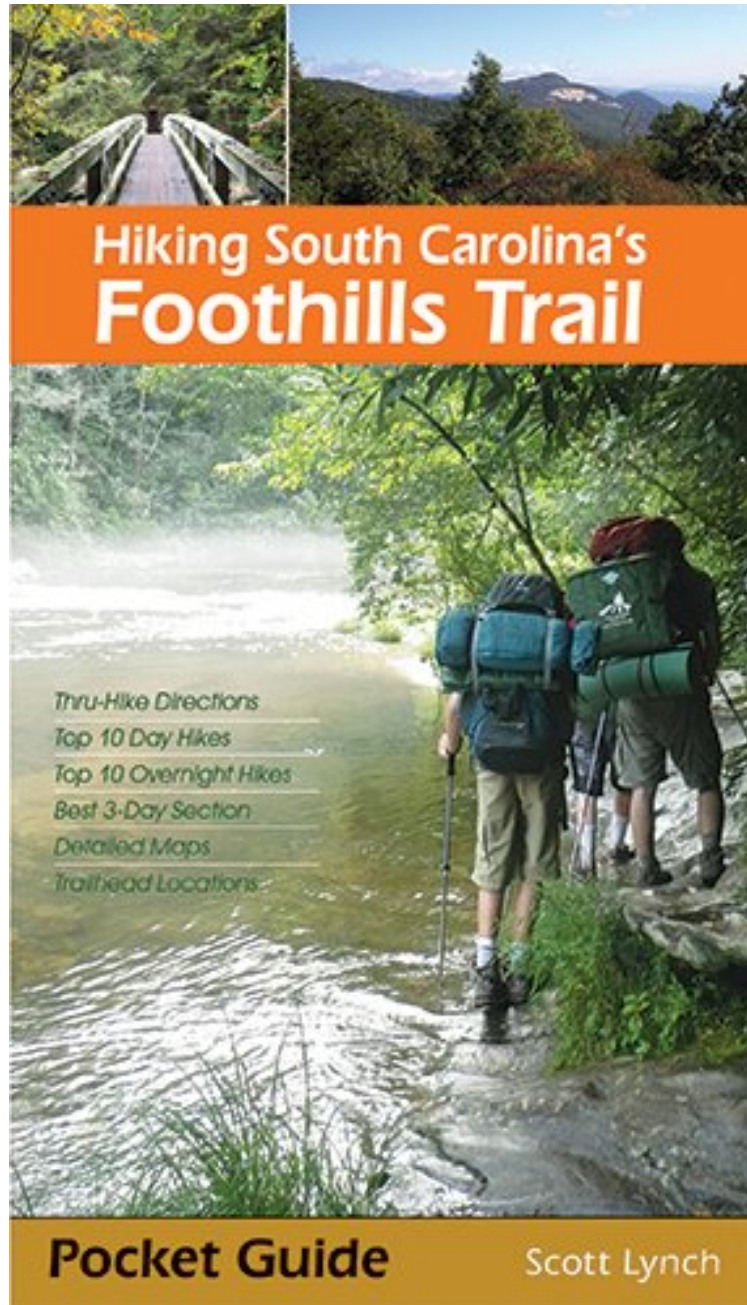


[Free and download] Hiking South Carolina's Foothills Trail

Hiking South Carolina's Foothills Trail

Scott Lynch

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Scott Lynch : Hiking South Carolina's Foothills Trail before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hiking South Carolina's Foothills Trail:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Must for hiking FHT, leaps bounds above the "official" guide
By AtlantaHikerDaveI just finished my 6 day thru hike on the FHT. I couldn't of done it without this pocket guide. As a comparison, I thru-hiked the FHT back in 2009 using the so-called official guidebook from the FHT Conference. This book blows it away! Not only does the author leave out all the misc junk (like the history of the trail, who built what bridge) but he added information that is desired by thru-hikers. I had two favorite things about the book: first, the fact he tells you exactly your daily mileage expectation and where to camp on a 5, 6, or 7 day thru hike. Where has this information been hiding for the past two decades FHT Conference? This made planning my trip so easy. Second, I like the fact that when you get to a water source, the author tells you how far it is to the next water source. This is brilliant. Again, he's taken the guesswork out of planning your water filtering. I really do believe he's hiked the trail 5 times (according to his bio info.) I did the hike from Oconee to Table Rock, but he has directions both ways, and then he adds what he calls the "crown jewel," which is the 30 mile middle section of the trail. And something I've never seen for FHT guidebook/information, it has the top 10 day hikes and top 10 overnights. Bottom line: awesome guidebook, don't hike or backpack the FHT without it, leaps and bounds above the official FHT Conference book, should be the template for other guidebooks, especially with the water location information! Highly recommend.
OCTOBER 2017 UPDATE: Just got back from another thru-hike of the FHT. This time, I did it from Table Rock to Oconee. Again, I used this guidebook. Just like the first time around, it made selecting campsites and water sources very easy. There are a couple updates that could be made to the guidebook, but it's nothing you can't figure out on your own. The trail was a little rough in a few places due to the recent big storms that have passed through this season. I ran into another couple that had the so-called "official" FHT Conference guidebook and chatted for a while about the trail and the books. They were envious of this book over the bulk, tons of unnecessary information, and general 1980s look of the "official" guide. Bottom line: even after 2 years and now 2 thru-hikes with this book, in my mind, THIS is the new OFFICIAL guide to the Foothills Trail. Good job author!
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The guide to get
By Brian J. CipperlyI just used this guide for my thru-hike, though it would be equally helpful for anyone wishing to do a day or section hike of the Trail. It's very well-organized, with not only thru-hiking walkthroughs for either direction but also a bunch of great day hikes, or short overnights. The mileages and descriptions were accurate and helped greatly in budgeting time. I have looked at the "official" guide the FTC puts out, and this one is much nicer for actually carrying in a pocket. If I had to choose one, I'd take this one, hands-down. If I were to make any improvements to this, they'd be the following minor ones:--some of the spur trails mentioned don't have distances listed, so it's hard to know if that waterfall off the main trail is 0.2 or 2 miles away (not all of the trail signs have this info either). If there's something you're interested in seeing off-trail, definitely research the distances elsewhere before you go.--it would be nice if there were some very basic topo information on the maps. There is an approximate profile as part of the graphic design of each section's title, but I'd prefer some contour lines and/or some markers on the profile for the different waypoints.--the book has a great form factor for putting in your pocket, though I almost wish it were spiral-bound so you could take out pages you don't need on a specific trip or so you could leave it open to the page you're hiking on.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good general information, but needs improvement
By J. MeliaWe used this for our one week thru-hike of the trail in May 2017, and were disappointed by a number of features. Not knowing the length of the spur trails was a problem, since we didn't know if it would be worth it to go see whatever the trail might lead to. The basic elevation profile was so small and unlabeled as to be nearly useless, taking up 1/4" vertically on the page to show all of the elevation changes. Not mentioning many of the potential camping spots was difficult if you choose to follow your own schedule and daily mileages, instead of the ones the author lays out. But all of these were minor compared to the inaccuracies about stream crossings. There would be a mileage listed to a "stream crossing, bridge" and we would then cross 3 or 4 streams with bridges. Did the author mean the first one? One of the middle ones? How many more will there be? Should we tank up at the first one and then carry liters of water that we really don't need, or is that the only stream crossing for several miles? We were often perplexed and carried water we didn't need. Of course, it was spring, so some of the streams may be seasonal, but that should be noted in the guide. Once the guide said 0.5 miles to water, and then didn't mention where that was. When we hiked the 0.5 miles, to Burrell's Ford access, there was no water. I left the family, hiked down the gravel access road half a mile and found water. We then continued along the Foothills trail, to find a stream crossing in 1/4 of a mile. At another place in the guide it said "benches, views of Lake Jocassee," so we stopped and took a long break at the first set of benches, but the trees were overgrown and the views were limited. The guide didn't tell us that there were two more sets of benches, and that the view would be best at the 3rd set (coming from the south). Since we had just taken a break a 1/4 mile back, we didn't stay long. We never got lost and had a general idea of where we were from this guide, but I would have probably preferred a more thoroughly researched guide with better maps, elevations, etc.

Although the 76.2-mile Foothills National Recreation Trail begins and ends in South Carolina, it traverses two beautiful mountain counties in North Carolina, also crossing five rivers, passing numerous spectacular waterfalls, and climbing to the highest point in South Carolina. This pocket guide has concise thru-hiking directions from either end of

the trail, detailed maps, major and minor trailheads; the best day hikes and overnights; campsites, water sources, and GPS coordinates. All in a slim, easy-to-use reference format that will help keep your pack small and light.

About the Author Scott Lynch has been hiking, backpacking, and camping along the trails of the Carolina's since 1989. A former outfitter and hike leader, he is also the author of Family Hikes in Upstate South Carolina.