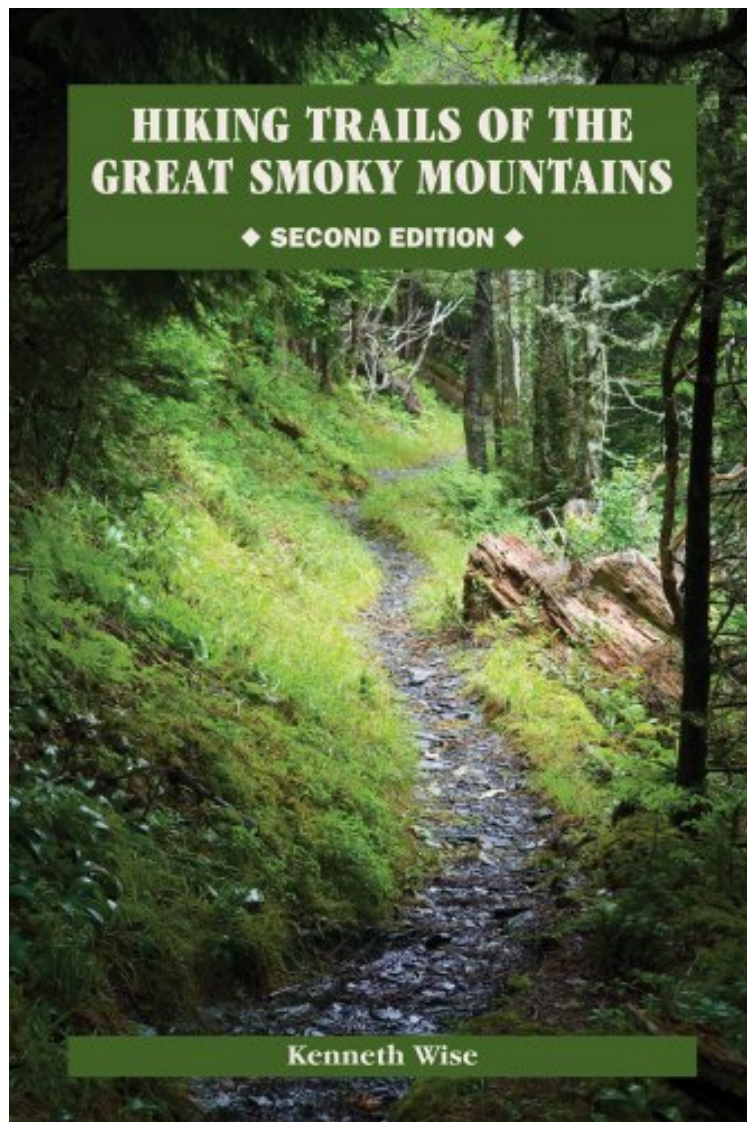


(Ebook free) Hiking Trails of the Great Smoky Mountains: Comprehensive Guide (Outdoor Tennessee Series)

Hiking Trails of the Great Smoky Mountains: Comprehensive Guide (Outdoor Tennessee Series)

Kenneth Wise

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Kenneth Wise : Hiking Trails of the Great Smoky Mountains: Comprehensive Guide (Outdoor Tennessee Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hiking Trails of the Great Smoky Mountains: Comprehensive Guide (Outdoor Tennessee Series):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A perfect complementBy WNCmuddlerThe second edition of Wise's

guide is still in league with and outpaces most other guides in comprehensiveness and readability. The only other guide that might lay claim to the distinction of best hiking guide is the "Brown Bible," the Hiking Trails of the Smokies. By comparison, Wise's is the more readable of the two; while the narratives in the Brown Bible are helpful, Wise accounts less for what the hiker meets on the trail than its historical setting. Plus, the size of Wise's book makes it feel like an armchair read rather than a backpack guide like the Brown Bible. From a reader/hiker who only knows the second edition, this is easily a four star read. But anyone who knows the first edition (1996) is struck by obvious omissions: for instance, the information on elevation gain and max. elevation for each trail (thoroughly managed by the Brown Bible); the black and white photos; the comprehensive index; and, most notably, the extensive coverage of official and unmaintained trails and manways. Wise's first guide picked up with the old blue Sierra Club hiking guide left off. Perhaps for the purposes of responsible stewardship and safety, these latter "trail" types deserve less attention than Wise gave them in 1996. Fewer hikers make for faster recovery. Perhaps Wise is simply keeping pace with the Brown Bible, preferring to make a general, passing mention of such trails, in the same way that his trail elevation information defers the other guide, as well. I wonder what Wise's current edition would look like if he had had the help and resources from the Great Smoky Mountains Association that have pushed the Brown Bible through five editions since 1994. Wise has been able to publish two since 1996. Regardless, Wise's book (alongside the Brown Bible) is indispensable for any Smokies hiker. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Ok, worth the price if you are really in ... By Hans Ahlstedt Ok, worth the price if you are really in to the history and details of this park. Not for someone who just need a quick reference or for packing with you. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding Guide for Hiking the Trails of the Smokies By C. Campbell I have several hiking books/guides on trails in Great Smoky Mtns National Park but this the only one that one would need.

"Hiking Trails of the Great Smoky Mountains" is an essential guide to one of America's most breathtaking and rugged national parks. The second edition of this compellingly readable and useful book is completely updated, giving outdoor enthusiasts the most current information they need to explore this world-renowned wilderness. Included here are facts on more than 125 official trails recognized by the Park Service. Each one has its own setting, purpose, style, and theme, and author Kenneth Wise describes them in rich and vivid detail. For every route, he includes a set of driving directions to the trailhead, major points of interest, a schedule of distances to each one, a comprehensive outline of the trail's course, specifics about where it begins and ends, references to the U.S. Geological Survey's quadrangle maps, and, when available, historical anecdotes relating to the trail. His colorful descriptions of the area's awe-inspiring beauty are sure to captivate even armchair travelers. Organized by sections that roughly correspond to the seventeen major watersheds in the Smokies, Wise starts in Tennessee and moves south into North Carolina, with two major trails--the Lakeshore and the Appalachian--that traverse several watersheds treated independently. Further enhancing the utility of this volume is the inclusion of the Great Smoky Mountains' official trail map as well as an informative introduction filled with details about the geology, climate, vegetation, wildlife, human history, and environmental concerns of the region. A seasoned outdoorsman with more than thirty years of experience in the area and codirector of the Great Smoky Mountains Regional Project at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Wise brings an exceptional depth of knowledge to this guide. Both experienced hikers and novices will find this newly revised edition an invaluable resource for trekking in the splendor of the Smokies.

About the Author In addition to being codirector of the Great Smoky Mountains Regional Project, Kenneth Wise is associate professor at UTK's John C. Hodges Library, coeditor of "Terra Incognita: An Annotated Bibliography of the Great Smoky Mountains, 1544-1934," and coauthor of "A Natural History of Mount Le Conte."