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Appalachian Trail Thru-Hikers' Companion: 2002

Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association
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Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association : Appalachian Trail Thru-Hikers' Companion: 2002 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Appalachian Trail Thru-Hikers' Companion: 2002:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Everything You Need to Thru-HikeBy Jack TarlinThe Appalachian Trail Thru-Hiker's Companion appears each year in late winter, just in time for it to be used by those planning extended trips on the Trail. It is a joint effort of two fine hiking organizations, The Appalachian Trail Conference, and The Appalachian Long-Distance Hiker's Ass'n. Updated, improved, expanded, and fact-checked each year, the Companion contains vital information for those planning to spend serious ammounts of time on the A.T., and is incredibly useful for those contemplating, or actually preparing, a thru-hike of the entire Trail. In a concise, easy to use format, the Companion covers the Trail from Georgia to Maine, containing information on Trail features, highlights, campsites, shelters, water sources, points of interest, and natural and local history. In addition, the Companion contains detailed information on Trail facilities and services, including road crossings and access points; location of stores and re-supply opportunities; lodging places catering to hikers; restaurants; outfitters; medical clinics; banks; ATM locations; etc. Do you want to know where to get camping fuel along the Trail? How about an inexpensive motel or an all-you-can-eat restaurant? Need to know where to get your gear fixed or replaced? Internet access possibilities? How about where you can receive mail from home? Information such as this, and much more, can be found in the Companion, as well as updated maps of principal Trail Towns. All of this makes the Companion incredibly useful for those planning their trips, and wondering about where to stop, where to camp; where to re-supply

or take a break; the book also comes in incredibly handy DURING your trip, as it tells you what lies ahead on the next stretch of Trail. Another great advantage of the Companion is that it is put together annually by a dedicated group of long-distance hikers who all have extensive, recent experience of the sections they're discussing; most of the book's editors have hiked the Trail in its entirety in recent years, which gives them great authority in discussing conditions on the Trail, and how it has changed over the years. The information contained here-in has been gathered and checked by contemporary hikers who are superbly qualified to share their experience with others. I am presently planning my seventh traverse of the entire AT. Both before I leave, and after my journey has started, I would not consider hiking without this book; the Companion improves each year, and in appearing improved, and appearing on time each year, it has clearly established itself as THE book to have if you're planning any serious amount of time on the A.T. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Not designed for thru-hiking By A Customer The Companion has a lot of information, but most of it is designed for people who are interested in things that are in towns or off the Appalachian Trail, not for thru-hikers. It is harder to follow than the other guides, and is sometimes confusing in that it rates places based on only a few people's feedback it seems. If you are planning to do a thru-hike and want to do mostly hiking and not touring towns, then I would use The Thru-hiker Handbook by Wingfoot. It is easier to follow and doesn't try to tell you everything, just what you need as a thru-hiker. I traded my Companion for Wingfoot's book and never regretted it. 3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Geared for tourist, not thru-hikers By Paul Morris I am thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail right now (today I'm resting in town and using a computer at a church). I started with this book and found that it did not work well for me on the AT. It has lots of stuff that just isn't needed by a thru-hiker which makes it soooooo heavy and it is hard to follow. I switched to wingfoot's handbook, which is more condensed and to the point. I got criticized by some people who were using this one, but it's one of the best things I have done to make my thru-hike successful so far. I threw my companion away and haven't regretted it. Get a handbook!

The Appalachian Trail Conference and a group of A.T. thru-hikers collaborate on a guide especially designed for potential thru-hikers who want the basic information for a five- to six-month trek in the woods, at a reasonable price, but also want the adventure of finding out the extras for themselves. With research by more than a dozen thru-hiker volunteers in 14 states, backed by the first-hand information of the Trail's volunteer and staff maintainers and managers.

About the Author Stacy Mikkalsen of Louisville, Ky., new coordinator of ALDHA, is the editor of the 2002 edition, backed up by 28 thru-hiker field editors in 14 states, two illustrators, and two other thru-hikers who provided specialized information on elevations.