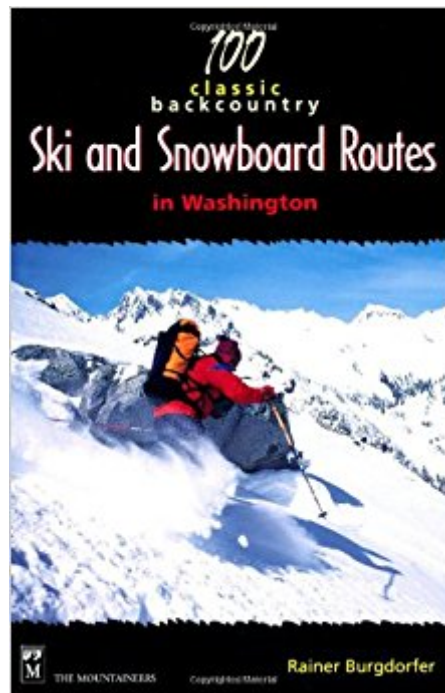




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100 Classic Backcountry Ski & Snowboard Routes In Washington



Synopsis

* Challenging routes for intermediate and advanced backcountry skiers and snowboarders* Includes many Washington tours easily accessible from the Seattle area* Includes backcountry day and multi-day tours* Illustrated with 80 photos and 80 mapsWith more than 100 backcountry Washington routes and tours for intermediate to advanced alpine skiers and snowboarders, Burgdorfer's guide was for many years the only reference to these adventures. Each trip description details the best times to go, including year-round opportunities, access, starting elevation and high point, tour length and time, maps, level and type of skill required, and permit information. Special sections cover avalanche conditions, snow survival, environmental considerations, weather, equipment, and techniques. A seasonal cross-reference table helps readers select tours by season.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.4 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

A practical, no-nonsense guide that leaves you feeling confident that each route goes as described. (Bob Woodward, *Ski X-C*) Rainer Burgdorfer has answered the prayers of the new generation of skiers. (Rock & Ice magazine) An ambitious and carefully crafted effort. (Seattle Post-Intelligencer)

A longtime backcountry skiing and safety instructor, Rainer Burgdorfer has been exploring the slopes, faces, and valleys of the Cascades on skis and on foot for over 30 years. He lives in Seattle, Washington.

Burgdorfer's book has a good selection of routes, from easy to difficult, short to long, less experienced to experienced. Route descriptions and gear advice are solid and match what you typically find in the wild. Each route description is prefaced with a short table that gives key facts, such as starting point, high point, duration, avalanche potential, difficulty and map reference. Few people in other reviews complain that there are not enough pictures and/or enough maps in the book. To me this is a non-issue since it would be hard for a book to offer detailed maps and high resolution pictures that come even close to what is being offered on the web now. The maps in the book are more than good enough to find the route on a higher resolution topo maps ([...]). For pictures, recent trip reports offer often much more relevant images.

Good book, but it tends to be a bit heavy on the more intense/extreme tours and peak linkups.

I'm just getting into alpine touring coming from snowshoeing and some alpine climbing. The book is good for showing where routes are but I find the route details to be a bit too sketchy for my comfort level. While I don't expect fully detailed contour maps, they are still pretty hard to follow with the text. Numbered labels would help this tremendously

not nearly enough picsonly 3 pages on Ranier which is what I was really interested in. Maps are very rudimentary

Reading the other reviews of this book, I felt that people were ganging up on the author and that I just needed to chime in with my two cents worth. I believe this book to be far and away the best backcountry skiing/snowboarding guide available for Washington. These are the epic routes and memorable peaks that are the stuff of touring legend. I have found the route descriptions to be highly accurate and the maps to be fine for the purposes of illustration. After all, you should really have a full USGS or at least Green Trails map when you go into these areas anyways. The only thing I wish had a bit more consideration are snowboard specific hazards such as long flat or uphill areas along the descent. These add drastically to estimated times, especially when postholing is involved. That, however, is my minor quibble. I've made several of the trips in this book and loved them all (even last weekend when I broke my splitboard out by the Sulphide Glacier). Hardly a weekend passes where I do not have this book out planning my next escapades with my climbing partner. An admirable job on highly variable subject matter. Now, if I can just find a book that accurately predicts what the snowpack will look like for a given day...

Everybody is a critic, including some twelve year olds. Talk about a scathing review, this kid really let me have it. However... * If you want to ride Tomyhoi in winter, get a snowmobile, or take a week off and make sure your life insurance is paid up. This is not a winter tour. As an aside, most of Washington's mountains are not accessible in winter. Blame God, USFS, or NPS. * I am not a self-proclaimed guru. Some publicist wrote that. I have a job. I try to get out and ride or ski. That's it. * The Publisher did the maps. My contribution was the relevant information, not the format. I'm sure the Publisher would be happy to create maps just for you if you would guarantee payment! *The avalanche zone indicator debate is obviously alive and well. I'm personally against showing the "danger zones" but Publisher insisted on it. And, if you read the book, you'll discover that you and I agree on this point also. *Photograph selection and captions, indeed the entire content of The Book is subject to the discretion of the Publisher. Gary Brill had agreed to provide images for this book but did not deliver by the Publisher's deadline. I had a contractual obligation to deliver and I did. Fourteen out of seventyfive aerial shots doesn't seem excessive, especially if they offer information not otherwise possible. *It is not muddled thinking to encourage dog owners to consider the consequences of taking their dog in the woods and show an image of a Husky inside the Stevens Pass Ski Area boundary. Personally, I enjoy outings with dogs. *My route times don't seem underestimated. Camp Muir is easily reached in under four hours by fit climbers, in good conditions, carrying a daypack. An hour for lunch and a nap, and an hour for a leisurely descent makes for a reasonable day. * Finally, my first guidebook was published in 1986, not two decades ago. It was intended as a year-around guidebook, not a winter guide. The current guidebook is a similar effort, with an added emphasis on snowboarding. Further comments or questions can be addressed to me at Burgdorfer@hotmail.com. Happy Trails! Rainer Burgdorfer

This is a much better alternative than the Seabury Blair book of a similar nature. Many of the pictures in this book will get you pumped to ski some awesome terrain. Most of these tours are for advanced skiers. The book is well put together, with maps for each tour, often indicating avalanche prone areas. There are also some nice touches, such as a section on figuring out Cascade weather. The pictures, while inspiring, are not as good as those in Burgdorfer's previous book. The ones that have been removed for this edition, which were the best ones, seemed to all be from one person... Gary Brill. Interesting. Perhaps he is intending to publish a ski touring book too? There is definitely room for improvement in a backcountry skiing guide for Washington, but this is the best there is right now.

This is the best book for backcountry skiing in Washington State. As noted by other reviewers, some of the tours are best done in the spring and summer---they are great when done it the right season. This is all covered by the authors and useful mileages are provided. Skiers and snowboarders looking for adventures in Washington State won't be disappointed by Burgdorfers suggestions---some of them are tough, but usually worth the suffering.

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