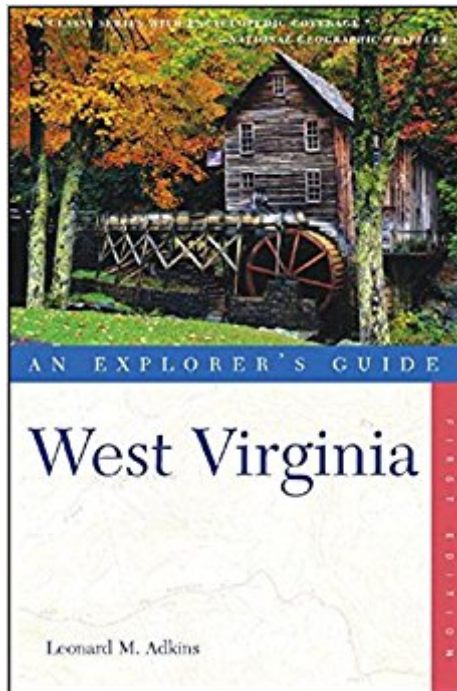




The book was found

West Virginia: An Explorer's Guide (Explorer's Complete)



Synopsis

Leonard M. Adkins has explored his native state for decades and his expertise and knowledge guide you through the vast quantity and quality of its hiking, biking, whitewater rafting, kayaking, fishing, and other outdoor activities. Historic sites, scenic drives, walking tours, and museums – from one-room personal ones to the world-class Huntington Art Museum – are assiduously covered. Adkins steers you to places often known only to the locals, such as hidden swimmin' holes and cascading waterfalls. He has visited and stayed in hundreds of B&Bs, resorts, and lodges, and dined in scores of restaurants to provide you with opinionated and detailed profiles. *West Virginia: An Explorer's Guide* is the most thorough exploration of the state available, and Adkins has made sure that each and every destination is worthy of your time and vacation dollars.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Leonard M. Adkins has walked the length of the Appalachian Trail four times and has logged more than 16,000 miles in backcountry areas of North America, Europe, and the Caribbean. The author of numerous books on hiking and the outdoors, he has been awarded the National Outdoor Book Award and a Lowell Thomas Travel Journalism award. Adkins lives in Virginia.

I'll have to admit it was not what I was expecting. As a listing of various attractions and amenities in different locations throughout the state (parks, lodging, restaurants, etc.), it is surprisingly complete,

but this I can get from a quick search on the internet. The format takes each of nine geographical divisions of the state, subheads different categories (such as parks or bed and breakfasts), and then just plunks down a short paragraph for each pertinent location within that area and subdivision. What I had thought I would be getting was something more like a travelogue, describing the collective glories of each location from different angles, which would have been more fun and more useful for deciding where to go to check things out. It would also have allowed the author to put more attention on things that would really attract someone to a location, rather than having to put everything into 1-paragraph modules. All the basic information seems to be there, if you look hard enough, but it could have been much more.

I purchased this book last year to help plan a weekend trip to the Beckley, West Virginia area. We were travelling with an infant and I wanted to be organized and be able to plan parts of the trip before we left. I was instantly impressed with geographical organization of the book as well as the conversational style of writing used by the author. My husband laughed and was quite skeptical when the book arrived in the mail; however, he later apologized for his skepticism after visiting the Exhibition Coal Mine, which Mr. Adkins wrote was a must-see-if-you-can attraction. The mine was absolutely amazing and my daughter still talks about how she was in a coal mine and how it was completely dark in the mine when the tour guide turned off his flashlight (by the way, she is usually easily frightened, but the complete darkness did not scare her at all). The tour guide was a retired coal miner and made the tour of the mine an educational and fun experience. My husband then asked to see the book for himself while we were having an excellent dinner at the author-recommended Pasquale's restaurant in Beckley. It was a wonderful restaurant and my entire family enjoyed their meal. My husband is returning to Beckley later this year; however, the children and I will not be able to go with him. He recently stated that he will take the book with him for the restaurant recommendations. I wish to thank Mr. Adkins for helping make our family trip to West Virginia fun and memorable. UPDATE: The book also has wonderful information for Oglebay Resort in Wheeling!

What many tourists miss about West Virginia is that it is as much a cultural attraction as it is a geographical attraction. The relatively small cities and towns of West Virginia present a rich fabric of American life, from the plantations of Lewisburg to the architecture of Wheeling and the coal mines of Beckley. Few states in the country are, at once, as culturally diverse and regionally distinct. These facts about West Virginia make it a state fascinating for tourists, and notoriously hard to

capture for guidebook authors. Of the few guidebooks that currently exist for West Virginia, this one is the most comprehensive and the most balanced. Though the author is clearly more comfortable in the geographic context, cultural and historic sites are well represented. Those familiar with Explorer's Guides will be immediately comfortable with the format. The book is arranged into chapters by geographic region, further divided into subject (attractions, festivals, lodging, dining, shopping) within each chapter. The details written into each of the listings gives the reader confidence that the author has actually visited them, and this is one of the distinguishing features of the book. Listings are up-to-date and well chosen. This book, as with other Explorer's Guides, is more of a pragmatic guide than an historic armchair tour. It's meant to be used. That said, it's still possible to visualize your experience without leaving your home, so it's a good book for trip planning. The relatively few photographs are all black & white. Maps are simple and regional.

This book is full of hidden places that one who lives in W Virginia, or planning on vacationing here, can find. Little out-of-the-way gems and places to tour that would not be on the normal vacation books. I have taken several of these day trips and loved them all.

This book was very helpful during a recent vacation in West Virginia.

Covers many attractions in West Va. My only (minor) complaint is that I would have preferred more photos, preferably in color.

Well written. I am native West Virginian. Love the conversational style of the writer. Provides nice insights into places to visit.

I bought this travel guide for our White Water Rafting trip last year. This book was very helpful and the content of the guide was great. I would recommend this book to anyone traveling to West Virginia.

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