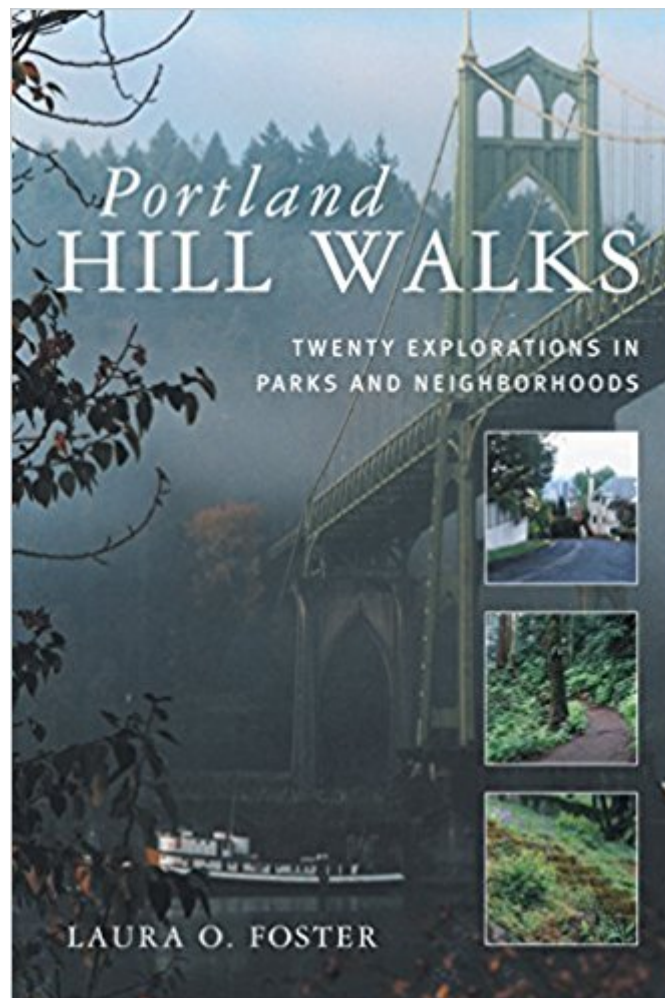




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Portland Hill Walks: Twenty Explorations In Parks And Neighborhoods



Synopsis

Portland Hill Walks is no ordinary guidebook. No restaurant ratings, no rehashed explanations of how the city got its name. Instead, in twenty meandering, view-studded strolls from forested canyons to cityscape peaks, this lively travelogue answers questions you may never have thought to ask, such as: What street used to be a row of floating homes? What eastside peak, with its "healthful air," was home to tuberculosis sanatoriums? What happened to the lake in Guilds Lake? What Portlander modeled swimwear in the U.S. Senate? Explore the city's streets, stairs, trails, and hidden passageways to discover the stories and spirit of a town rated among the country's most livable places.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A city of great vitality and natural beauty, Portland, Oregon, offers wonderful views and fascinating places that await discovery. From the city's countless parks to the fascinating character of individualized neighborhoods, the exciting terrain of Portland presents Foster with rich possibilities as she leads walkers around and through landscapes sure to keep even the most adventurous spirit happily engaged in exploration. Foster's format for each entry gives the starting point and distance for each of the book's 20 sojourns. More important, she describes the elevation along the way, making clear in advance how vigorous one might need to be. Driving directions and public-transportation information are included, with amenities such as restrooms, drinking fountains, food, and drink listed to help in planning a day's outing. Maps show the course of each walk, while Foster makes each entry come alive with historical background and keenly drawn observations.

"With Portland Hill Walks, you'll take 20 meandering, view-studded strolls from the city's forested canyons to its cityscape peaks ... This book is a great place to start if you are looking for a new walking location or are adding walking to your fitness regime." "Anyone who loves Portland should own this book."

For two novice walkers (with very little stamina) looking for a bit of a challenge, this book is perfect. The directions are clear and separated into numbered sections which correspond to numbers on the maps. It's also full of interesting information about the neighborhoods and their history - a perfect excuse to stop a moment and catch our breath after particularly steep hill. The author also wrote Portland City Walks for those days when we're feeling a little more leisurely, and Portland Stair Walks, which I'm too intimidated to buy. We'll have to build up our stamina on the hill walks first!

I've done about 18 of the 20 walks and I am frequently amazed by them. These walks take you into the nooks and crannies of the city that would likely surprise most long-time Portland natives. The walks closer to center city (e.g. 2,4,5,8) expose you to steep urban stairs that you never knew were there. The walks farther out from the city (e.g. 6,10,15,17,19,20) force you into neighborhood niches that are mostly the dominion of local residents. Many of the walks weave in and out of urban and forest landscapes (1,2,4,6,13) creating a varied tapestry of calf-building experience. Remarkable in its depth, the narrative frequently comments on historical trees and houses that you otherwise would have walked right by. This leads to the main negative of the book which is that the verbosity makes it difficult to read while walking. Directions are often buried within a long, descriptive paragraph. Bullet-pointed directions would have been far preferable. Bigger maps with more street names would also have helped navigation. Another thing that would make the book more accessible is color pictures and lots of them. These walks point out so many amazing sights that it's a shame there are only a few scattered black and white photos. Overall, this book is still a great way to explore Portland.

This is a wonderful book. I have now done all 20 walks in it and will do all of them again. It's so much fun to see different parts of Portland, which you don't usually get to see. We are now doing the walks in her Stairs book and in her City Walks book. We do do 2 walks in a row, since they are too short for our weekly walk (apx. 4 miles each). I will highly recommend the book. It doesn't

matter if you are new in town or have lived here for years, as I have, you will learn a lot about your city.

I don't write reviews very often, but this is the best guide book for Portland I've bought so far. I recently moved to Oregon and I was looking for a guide book that will let me explore different parts of the city and tell me something more about places than the regular "dry" guides. Laura Foster guides you through lesser-known paths, learning some history and geography along the way. The directions are always clear and right on the spot. I learned about why Oregon beaches are public, ginkgo plants, the history of the Willamette and the West Hills, and so much more. I can't thank her enough for the wonderful walks I did!

My husband and I have recently begun walking at least 1/2 hour per day but have gotten the bug and often want to walk more. This book is an excellent resource. I've never seen one so thorough, combining history along with a route that is so clear a person would have to really try in order to get lost. The history notes are so fascinating (and I'm not in to history at all) and it divides the walk directions into numbered sections so you always feel like you're making headway. If you like to walk and you are in the Portland area, you really need this resource book!

experience: GreatBook experience: Very factual, so not super engaging, but good. Will be heading to Portland next month to take a few of these walks.

Great excuse to get out-- these walks take you places you probably wouldn't otherwise go. There's something gratifying about finding a new adventure in your own city.

Hoping to use this book this winter, as we are expecting some rainy days as we visit Portland for the first time this rainy season. Can't wait to check out the great, informed walks listed in the book!

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