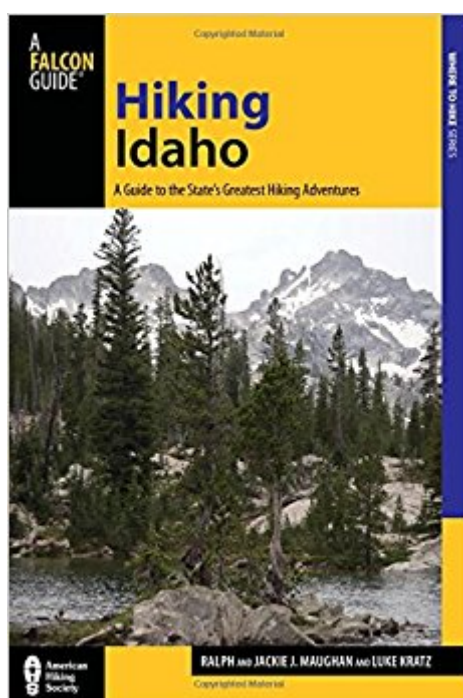


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# Hiking Idaho: A Guide To The State's Greatest Hiking Adventures (State Hiking Guides Series)



## Synopsis

Lace up your boots and sample more than 100 trails in Idaho's vast undeveloped backcountry and wilderness areas. Discover pink granite peaks of the Sawtooth Range, "big tree" country in the Selkirk Mountain rain forest, and Hells Canyon - the deepest gorge in North America. Idaho offers hikers some of the most magnificent and rugged mountain scenery in the Lower 48 as well as peaceful alpine meadows, sparkling lakes, excellent fishing, and the chance to see high-country wildlife. Use this guide for: up-to-date trail information; accurate directions to popular as well as less-traveled trails; difficulty ratings for each hike; detailed trail maps; zero-impact camping trips. Whether you are a day-tripper or long-distance hiker, old hand or novice, you'll find trails suited to every ability and interest throughout Idaho.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Luke Kratz grew up in Pocatello and has been hiking in Idaho since he was very young. He has degrees from Missouri State University and Idaho State University and has always been involved in environmental protection organizations. In addition to hiking and traveling, he enjoys writing, recording, and performing music on piano and guitar. He currently lives near the Idaho border in Star Valley Ranch, Wyoming, where he has been teaching music for Lincoln County School District for the last eight years.

Format and info seems well presented but there is NO advice on hiking near Sandpoint, such a

beautiful area. The panhandle is not well represented. Wish it was, because this is a good layout.

Great book. It's got about 4 hikes in different areas all over ID. I'll probably have to supplement with one that has closer hikes but if I want a hike in a certain area I grab this one and it'll have something for me for sure!

I don't ordinarily write reviews but after a week of using this book I had to. I tried three different hikes from this book while on vacation and in every case I found either the map to be inaccurate or incomplete, the write up to be inaccurate or incomplete, or in one case BOTH to be wrong. The maps lacked detail and omitted significant landmarks and/or other trails, the write up neglected to mention key navigation points or simply got them wrong, and the descriptions were rife with error. Do yourself a favor and get any book OTHER than this one.

We have been using this book to read about possible hikes to take when we get to Idaho this fall. Will be able to tell you more when we get back. It is well written and once we learned the layout easy to follow our areas of interest.

This book is a nice encyclopedia to read at home to help planning. The occasional waypoint coordinates are not useful without an accompanying datum. The maps lack a graticule and elevation contours, so they are not useful for field navigation. Maps can be both legible and useful. Those in this guide are merely legible.

Excellent directions; details & maps were all up to date. My only quibble is his descriptions--his "sublime views" weren't--there are far more striking views elsewhere in Idaho--and his "popular" lake had so many visitors it was like visiting a state park on a weekend. But we were glad we did the "Toxaway Loop" anyway.

This book is a model of what a hiking book should be. The authors cover a wide range of hikes representative of various terrains and geographical locations in the state. Furthermore, these guys are intelligent and actually know how to write. Unlike many hiking guides, they nail the essentials of a hike: detailed driving and hiking directions, scenic qualities, seasonality, elevation and distance maps, stream crossings, presence of wildlife, and potential hazards (e.g. avalanches, orienteering challenges, scree). They also list other practicalities such as water availability, presence of

co-existent equestrians, cattle, and motorized trail vehicles on trails, fishing opportunities, road conditions, parking, nearby camping, photography opportunities etc. etc. that are important to the hiker on the ground. There are photos of most of the hikes. As a bonus, they also delve into the legal and political status of the land on which the hikes exist. Finally, unlike many hiking books, this one actually has a detailed index which obviously greatly enhances the usefulness of a hiking book.

By many measures, this is an excellent hiking guide: detailed trip descriptions (including trailhead-finding instructions), maps, and other pertinent information are included for all the hikes. The hikes themselves are high-quality. Many trips include a color photo or two as well. If you're looking for a good introduction to hiking opportunities in southern and central Idaho, this is a great place to start. As others have noted, if you're looking for many hikes in the Panhandle, this is not your book. There are some issues however, most notably accuracy. I have found several inaccuracies in the trail descriptions. For example, consider the photo I've uploaded showing an excerpt from Hike #40, the Toxaway-Pettit Loop. It is a loop, i.e. it starts and ends at the same place. However, the elevation profile map for the hike on pg 215 shows the trip starting at 7,000' elevation and ending at 6,500' elevation. Additionally, the same elevation profile shows Farley Lake at 4.0 miles from the trailhead, whereas the text in the hike description would lead you to believe it is about 5.65 miles (2.7 miles from the trailhead to Yellow Belly Junction + 1.0 mile to Yellow Belly Creek + 0.2 miles to the start of the climb + 1.75 miles to Farley Lake from the start of the climb). From other topo maps, the reality appears to be somewhere between those two numbers. For another example of accuracy issues, consider hike #37, Bench Lakes. The trip description says, "At 0.6 mile there is a junction with the Bench Lakes Trail. Turn left here." However in the "Miles and Directions" trip summary on the next page, at 0.6 miles it says to turn right at the Bench Lakes trail junction, not left. Granted you should never be relying on just a book description instead of a good map. That said, things like elevations, distances, and which direction to turn are absolute fundamentals to hiking guidebooks that authors need to make every effort to get correct. So by all means, buy this book and use it as the great resource it is for finding inspiration for your next Idaho hike. But be aware that the accuracy of some trip descriptions leaves something to be desired.

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