

Highpoints of the United States

Don W. Holmes

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Don W. Holmes : Highpoints of the United States before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Highpoints of the United States:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. It's okay, but Summitpost is a better resource for highpointersBy Brian ChambersI bought a few high-point books to see what they had to say. I am currently in the midst of the highpoint journey myself (23 done in 12 months) . The information in the book is pretty decent, but its not anything that goes beyond what you see on summitpost.com for free (no vested interest). It also feels like it was published in the mid-90s. The quality isn't quite what I hoped for.When I take my trips, I don't take the book with me, and that probably says enough.16 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Excellent guide to the highest points of the fifty statesBy PaulMDon Holmes has provided us with an excellent guide to the highest points in each of the fifty states. He gives route directions, trail descriptions, alternate routes, and a set of references for each state.Some of the references are to web sites. For instance, there are two good web sites devoted to the highpoints: highpointers.org, and americasroof.com (neither uses the www prefix). Holmes' book can be used to even greater advantage when combined with the information available on the web. I am happy to report that the people who control the access to Jerimoth Hill in Rhode Island (the Wide-place-in-the-road State) have been convinced by the Highpointers Club to put up their shotguns on four days of the year to allow access to the highpoint. I suppose that we should be grateful - grateful that so many of the natural landmarks in the United States are held open for the public by government ownership.The book's subject has presented me with some unanswered questions. Why do many states celebrate their highpoints with monuments while some others ignore them? It cannot be a regional issue. Pennsylvania has surrounded theirs with a

park while nearby Maryland leaves it to a small but dedicated group of individuals from West Virginia to mark a trail and maintain the highpoint. Why are so many of the highpoints near the boundaries of their states? I suppose that in the midwest where the land is flat and the slope is uphill toward the continental divide, the highpoints can be expected to cluster on the western edges of their states. However, many of the eastern points lie on state boundaries. Perhaps the mountain ridges helped to define those boundaries. Finally, what attracts people to highpoints? Why is the summit of Mt. Elbert so crowded while nearby Mt. Massive is relatively ignored. I did find local residents on Mt. Katahdin and also Wheeler Peak who make annual trips to the summit of their highest peak. Certainly, the pursuit of highpoints does provide an excuse for traveling to new places. I would never have gone to Kenton if it were not for Black Mesa. It was worth the trip. I suppose that you cannot visit all fifty of the highpoints without also visiting all fifty states. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. That's more like it By Nat'l Park Explorer Fairly decent job of what could admittedly be difficult to produce in under 500 pages, given the range of demands and requirements to scale all the high points of all 50 states. This is far better than a companion book with a similar title and topic. This actually gives good advice on how to accomplish the task, albeit one peak at a time (e.g. even if you had fifty days you could string together, you can't complete this task in that window of time) including the boring 'drive up' routes. There are just one or two annoying writing or editorial points. Most of the descripts are written as if they were to stand alone. So there's a tendency to repeat in each description...verbatim...what was already listed elsewhere. Ex. The description of the AT "from Georgia to Maine" recurs whenever a high peak falls along or has access to it via the trail. Since this is true for most of the entire East Coast peaks it gets annoying real fast. There could be more advice and suggestions i.e. where to stay, grab a bite, etc. but of course this is not Fodors. Pictures and Map quality is really poor or completely absent given what's available online these days or from Trails Illustrated or USGS, so incorporation of that would have raised the book value. This type of concise reference text however does serve its purpose for the person who wants to either complete all high peaks just regionally, or nationally. If you know of any better resource, get it and use it. This needs a big time update for someone looking for a money making project for a summer!

The highpoints of the fifty states range from Alaskas 20,320 foot high Mount McKinley to 345 feet at Lakewood Park in Florida. Some highpoints, such as Mount Mitchell in North Carolina and New Hampshire's Mount Washington can be reached by automobile on a sightseeing drive. Others such as Colorado's Mount Elbert or Mount Marcy in New York are accessible as wilderness day hikes. Still others, such as Mount Rainier in Washington or Gannett Peak in Wyoming, are strenuous and risky mountaineering challenges that should be attempted only by experienced climbers. Whatever your level of skill and interest, Highpoints of the United States offers a diverse range of experiences. Arranged alphabetically by state, each listing has a map, photographs, and information on trailhead, main and alternative routes, elevation gain, and conditions. Historical and natural history notes are also included, as are suggestions for specific guidebooks to a region or climb. Appendices include a list of highpoints by region, by elevation, and a personal log for the unashamed "peak-bagger." Whether you're an armchair hiker or a seasoned climber, interested only in your state's highest point or all fifty, this book will be an invaluable companion and reference.

"An essential guidebook for climbing the U.S. highpoints." Backpacker Magazine