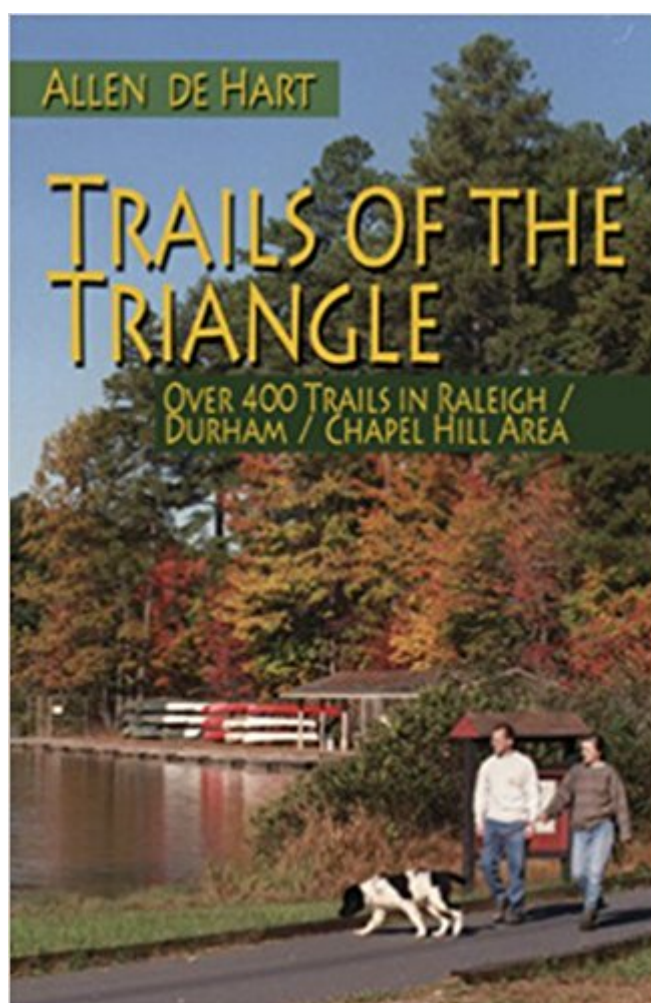


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# Trails Of The Triangle: Over 400 Trails In The Raleigh/Durham/chapel Hill Area



## Synopsis

The Triangle, which encompasses the area around Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill, North Carolina, is consistently rated one of the best places in the nation to live and work. The new edition of this hiking guide reflects the changes that have occurred in the fifth-fastest-growing metropolitan region in the country during the decade since the book was first published. The book offers close to 250 different trails within a 60-mile radius of the Triangle. The hikes can be found on federal, state, city/county, and even private property. Trails range in distance from a few yards, such as the 92-yards Honeysuckle Lane Trail in Fuquay-Varina to the 26-mile Falls Lake Trail. There are residential trails such as Shelly Lake Trail, which is so popular that it has a speed limit of 10 miles per hour and a centerline to separate traffic. There are trails in remote forests, such as the Summit Loop Trail, where you may not see another person. You can find trails for equestrians, in-line skaters, cyclists, and even the physically impaired.

## Book Information

Paperback: 299 pages

Publisher: John F Blair Pub; 2 edition (September 1, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0895873494

ISBN-13: 978-0895873491

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 5.2 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,446,947 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in [Books > Travel > United States > North Carolina > Raleigh](#) #1778 in [Books > Travel > United States > South > South Atlantic](#) #3665 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Hiking & Camping > Excursion Guides](#)

## Customer Reviews

Allen de Hart has hiked more than 8,500 different trails and over 30,000 miles in 46 states and 18 foreign countries. He is the author of numerous trail books, among them North Carolina Hiking Trails, which has sold over 100,000 copies. He lives in Louisburg, North Carolina.

The good: descriptions for all trails that we tried were pretty accurate and helpful, many have maps included. The bad: as already pointed out by another reviewer, the vast majority of trails described are around 2-3 miles in length only and therefore make it at best in the "easy leg stretcher"

category. To be honest, some can be combined to create an actual hike and the author does mention those options where they exist. What I do find highly irritating is how this book is organized: the trails are listed in sections according to which local, state, or federal agency maintains the trail. While I am sure that there might be some academic merit to this unusual scheme, for the average hiker in search of an interesting trail in his/her neighborhood it is highly annoying and provides no useful information at all. Instead, what is sorely missing is an overview map of the triangle area that marks all the trails described in the book which would make the task of finding a trail oh so much easier.

I got 4 books for exploring with my dogs and possible relocation to this area....this book lists a LOT of trails, with overview maps of the trail and facilities.....however, it is lacking overview maps of the general area and does not include information about how populated the trail is, notes of interest, etc. So as a supplement to another book...or for locals who want to try a new trail, it would be good....not so much if it is your only guide. More a reference guide than vacation planner.

I picked up this trail guide recently to find new places to hike. Even though I've lived in the Triangle area for years, this book listed many places I had never even heard of! The author chose to organize the trails in an interesting way: Trails on US Government Properties (Chapter 1), Trails in NC State Parks, Forests, Historic Sites, and Natural Areas (Chapter 2), Trails in County Parks and Recreation Areas (Chapter 3), Trails in Municipal Parks and Recreation Areas (Chapter 4), Trails on Private and University or College Properties (Chapter 5), and Trails in the Triangle's Neighboring Counties (Chapter 6). This organization scheme makes finding a new trail quick and easy. The introduction to the book provides some good, general hiking tips. From security, to how to dress, to the traffic conditions you can expect in the Triangle area. Even though I live in the area, I still found several useful nuggets of information in this section. Each trail listing is accompanied by a description of the trail itself (sometimes providing a little history of the trail area), as well as instructions on how to reach the trailhead. Maps are provided for each trail, and trail distances and difficulties are also given. I'm looking forward to checking out more of the places listed in this book that I had never heard of.

What a gift this book has been to help me discover our section of North Carolina's piedmont. I would include GPS coordinates for trailheads in the next edition.

I did not buy this book from . Rather it caught my eye in the café at Barnes and Noble. But, I'd like to put my review here so that it might help other people...I hardly ever write reviews of purchases I made, but I had to tell the author thank you. I love to hike, but had no idea there were so many places in the Triangle that I had never heard of! I live in Chapel Hill and got to experience Little River Regional Park today because I had read about it in this book. At first, the way the author chose to organize the book was strange, but after reading quite a bit and getting familiar with the pages, it does make sense and doesn't bother me. Some of the trails are short, but I realize the author did not design the trails. He does a good job of suggesting trails to string together to make your hike longer if you'd like. I highly recommend this book if you are a beginner hiker or if you already love hiking like I do, but need some new ideas of places to go. There are so many hikes outlined in this book, I won't be bored for a long time!

I've owned trail guides for areas as diverse as Marin, the Bay Area, Cape Town and the Drakensberg and this is the worst trail guide I have ever owned. To start with the guide groups the hikes not according to geographic proximity but according to a absurd system of whether the hike is on Federal land, state land, county land and municipal land. The result is that you cannot tell from the guide whether a trail is close to where you live or an hour away. The result is that you can't read through the guide and pick hikes that make the most sense for you. You can't read through the guide and get a sense of how close these hikes are to each other and whether you can link them up. In addition the author's assessments are so bland that you can't tell whether it is worth driving for 30 minutes to do a particular hike. If you are new to the Triangle the guide is basically useless because you can't easily see where everything is, what is convenient and how it fits together. Rather go to the parks and recreational division of your city council, they usually have very good free maps showing biking and hiking trails.

I do a good deal of hiking around the Triangle area and am always on the lookout for new hiking ideas . This book definitely fits the bill : lots of fun and interesting hikes with clear descriptions, decent maps, distances (!), etc. The hikes are somewhat on the shorter side (~1 to 5 miles, with the average being maybe about 2 miles), and the difficulty levels are reasonably accurate if you're only a casual hiker or hiking with small children. Many of the individual hikes are actually contiguous, so it's not hard to make a longer hike out of 2-4 shorter hikes (and the book makes this clear as well). The maps and descriptions are often far better even than the "official" trail maps : the book describes some of the less obvious sections/connections of the Raleigh greenway system in far

more detail than the official maps. That alone is worth the price of the book. :)For the size and price, it's filled with great information and is a very useful resource. Highly recommended.

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