



100 Hikes in the Southern Berkshires and Just Beyond

This book, to be published in 2020, covers the beautiful and culturally rich tristate area where Massachusetts, New York, and Connecticut meet. The book includes 100 day hikes as well as very brief descriptions of the long-distance trails found in the region: the Appalachian Trail, the shorter South Taconic Trail, the Harlem Valley Rail Trail, and the Yokun Ridge Trail. Each description includes the essentials, including a map, difficulty ratings, hike highlights, and a brief description of what you might expect along the way.

You may ask, “Do we really need another guidebook to the area? Can’t I just Google places to hike?” Good questions! Here’s why I’m writing this book:

(1) Because of the southern Berkshires’ tristate location, most hiking guidebooks to the area cover either Massachusetts (the Berkshires) *or* New York (the Hudson Valley) *or* Connecticut (the Litchfield Hills), which means the hiker is often at a loss when crossing state lines. This book covers all of southern Berkshire County as well as the first tier of towns in the surrounding states, including Canaan, Copake, Ancram, Millerton, Hillsdale, and Austerlitz (New York) and Salisbury, the Canaans, Colebrook, and Norfolk (Connecticut).

(2) Land trusts do amazing work to protect land from development, but unless you spend a lot of time studying the various organizations’ websites, it’s almost impossible to know just how many places to hike are located in the same areas. For example, the Old Inn on the Green in New Marlborough (a prime example of the region’s charms) has at least eleven hikes and counting within a five-mile radius, owned by seven different organizations.

(3) Land trusts’ websites typically lead to a Google map when you click to find a hike’s location, and Google maps usually don’t show nearby hikes. This area needs a good hiking guide exactly because of the internet being so full of information—much of it wrong, incomplete, and scattered. If you’re like me, you don’t want to depend on TripAdvisor for hiking directions. Even AllTrails.com currently lists only about a third of my hikes.

If you have a hiking tip or a question about hiking, or if you’d like to join me for a hike or test out one of my hiking descriptions from the book before it goes to print, please get in touch!

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About the publisher: California-based publisher **K. Daniels and Associates** has published *50 Classic Day Hikes of the Eastern Sierra* and *40 Classic Day Hikes in Joshua Tree National Park*, in addition to numerous rock climbing guides. *100 Hikes in the Southern Berkshires and Just Beyond* will be their first hiking guidebook foray into the Northeast.