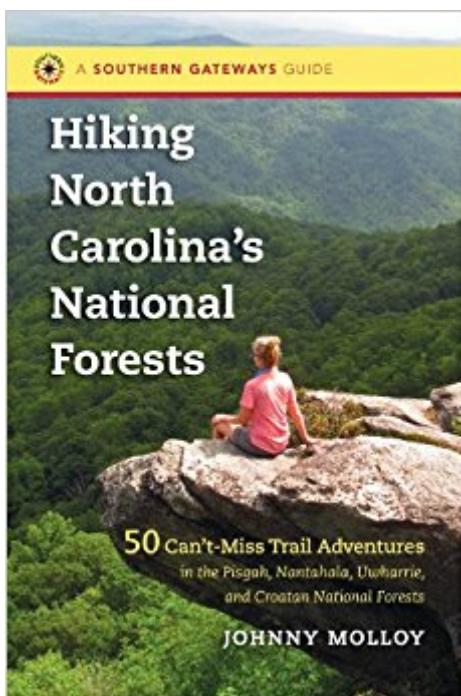


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# Hiking North Carolina's National Forests: 50 Can't-Miss Trail Adventures In The Pisgah, Nantahala, Uwharrie, And Croatan National Forests (Southern Gateways Guides)



## **Synopsis**

North Carolina's 1.2 million acres of national forestland are some of our state's most distinctive and botanically diverse areas. Veteran nature writer Johnny Molloy welcomes you to enjoy these beautiful and often surprising wild areas, guiding you safely there and back again. Molloy renders the sometimes primitive trails accessible to both beginner and more intrepid hikers, from families with small children to dedicated wilderness wanderers. Spotlighting the best hikes in all four of North Carolina's national forests--Nantahala, Pisgah, Uwharrie, and Croatan, ranging from the mountains to the coast--this book includes some of the state's most heralded destinations and invites you to explore many lesser-known gems. Features include\* A hike summary, including distance, time, and difficulty of each trip\* Detailed instructions to keep you on the trail\* GPS coordinates of every trailhead, a narrative of the hike, and can't-miss features\* A cultural and natural history of each area\* Best seasons to go\* Fees and permits, as well as contact information for each area\* Photos and maps to orient you

## **Book Information**

Series: Southern Gateways Guides

Paperback: 264 pages

Publisher: The University of North Carolina Press; 1 edition (March 24, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1469611678

ISBN-13: 978-1469611679

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #440,814 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #105 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Forests & Rainforests #184 in Books > Science & Math > Agricultural Sciences > Forestry #495 in Books > Travel > United States > South > South Atlantic

## **Customer Reviews**

Molloy renders the sometimes primitive trails accessible to both beginner and more intrepid hikers, from families with small children to dedicated wilderness wanderers.--Carolina Country

Molloy includes the essentials, such as directions to the trailhead and difficulty ratings, and

interesting tidbits about the natural and human history of North Carolina's national forests make this a well-rounded guidebook.--Leonard M. Adkins, author of Hiking and Traveling the Blue Ridge Parkway

Nice book! Well written with lots of good trails.I'd recommend to a friend, and purchased upon recommendation of a friend

good book

We used it for planning our week in NC mountains

If you love to hike and live in NC this is the book for you!!

Very useful

love it!

great book. very helpful. had a wonderful time hiking while using this book as a guide.

With over 1700 miles of hiking trails, North Carolina's national forests offer nearly limitless hiking opportunities. The national forests' poorly designed website can make finding a trail to suit your interest and ability difficult, but this guide will help you sift through the options to do just that. This guide describes 50 hikes in North Carolina's national forests. All four national forests are covered, but 40 of the 50 hikes are located in the two national forests in mountainous western North Carolina: Pisgah and Nantahala. Only 6 hikes come from Uwharrie National Forest, and only 4 come from Croatan. This allocation makes sense: Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests contain far more trails than their eastern brethren. Featured areas include Shining Rock Wilderness, Harper Creek, Panthertown, the Uwharrie Trail, and the Neusiok Trail. Each hike contains driving directions to the trailhead (though some of the gravel forest service roads can make for rough driving), a trail map that leaves somewhat to be desired (see below), and a detailed trail description written to Johnny Molloy's usual high standards. In spite of this guide's many good qualities, there is some key information missing. In particular, the trail maps give no indication of elevation change via contour lines or otherwise.

Further, the elevation gain is not even reported. This information is critical for any quality hiking guide, but it becomes even more important in areas of high relief such as the mountains of western North Carolina. Without this information, it is hard to assess how hard a hike really is, and you are forced to rely solely on the author's subjective easy-moderate-difficult difficulty ratings. I dropped this guide's rating a star due to the omission of this information. In summary, this guide has the potential to be truly great. As is, it is only kind of good, and I hope the publisher makes some needed improvements in a future edition. I still recommend this guide, but I do so with reservations.

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