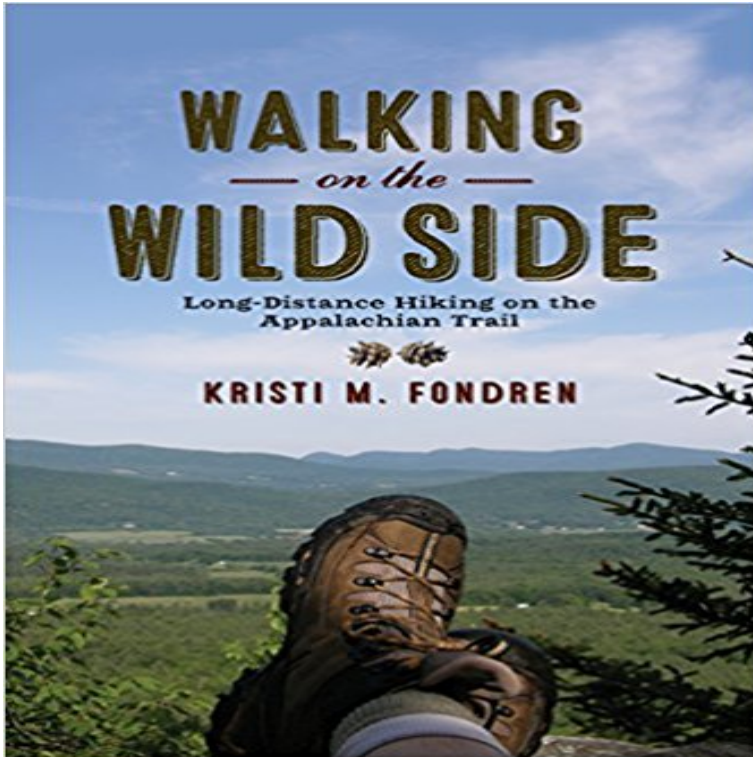


Walking on the Wild Side: Long-Distance Hiking on the Appalachian Trail



The most famous long-distance hiking trail in North America, the 2,181-mile Appalachian Trail, the longest hiking-only footpath in the world, runs along the Appalachian mountain range from Georgia to Maine. Every year about 2,000 individuals attempt to thru-hike the entire trail, a feat equivalent to hiking Mount Everest sixteen times. In *Walking on the Wild Side*, sociologist Kristi M. Fondren traces the stories of forty-six men and women who, for their own personal reasons, set out to conquer America's most well-known, and arguably most social, long-distance hiking trail. In this fascinating in-depth study, Fondren shows how, once out on the trail, this unique subculture of hikers lives mostly in isolation, with their own way of acting, talking, and thinking; their own vocabulary; their own activities and interests; and their own conception of what is significant in life. They tend to be self-disciplined, have an unwavering trust in complete strangers, embrace a life of poverty, and reject modern-day institutions. The volume illuminates the intense social intimacy and bonding that forms among long-distance hikers as they collectively construct a long-distance hiker identity. Fondren describes how long-distance hikers develop a trail persona, underscoring how important a sense of place can be to our identity, and to our sense of who we are. Indeed, the author adds a new dimension to our understanding of the nature of identity in general. Anyone who has hiked or has ever dreamed of hiking the Appalachian Trail will find this volume fascinating. *Walking on the Wild Side* captures a community for whom the trail is a sacred place, a place to which they have become attached, socially, emotionally, and spiritually.

Walking on the Wild Side: Long-Distance Hiking on the Appalachian Walking on the Wild Side Long-Distance Hiking on the Appalachian Trail: Kristi M Fondren: 9780813571881: Books - . **Walking on the Wild Side: Long-Distance Hiking on the Appalachian - Google Books Result** Kristi M. Fondren is the author of Walking on the Wild Side (3.80 avg rating, Walking on the Wild Side: Long-Distance Hiking on the Appalachian Trail 3.80 avg

Walking on the Wild Side: Long-Distance Hiking on the Appalachian The most famous long-distance hiking trail in North America, the 2,181-mile Appalachian Trail -- the longest hiking-only footpath in the world **Book Review: Walking on the Wild Side by Kristi - Hike Bike Travel** Author: Kristi McLeod Fondren Title: Walking on the wild side : long-distance hiking on the Appalachian Trail Publisher: Rutgers University Press Publication **Walking on the Wild Side: Long-Distance Hiking on the - Goodreads** Description. 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