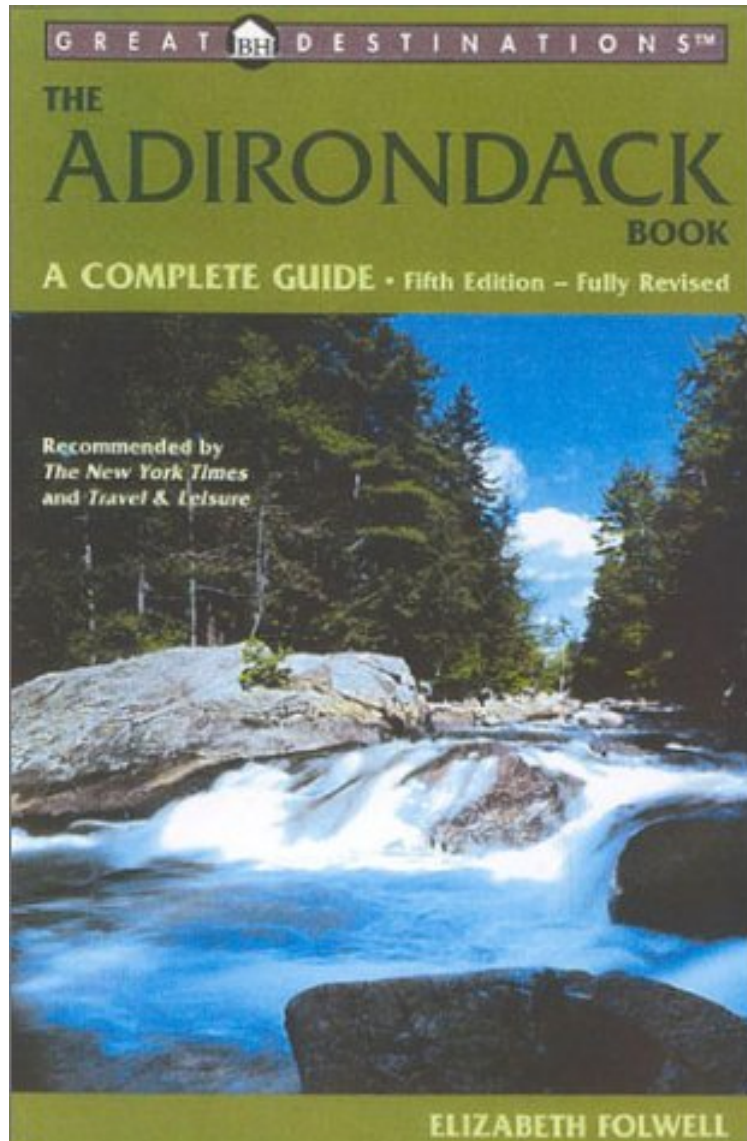


The Adirondack Book: A Complete Guide, Fifth Edition (A Great Destinations Guide)

Elizabeth Folwell

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Elizabeth Folwell : The Adirondack Book: A Complete Guide, Fifth Edition (A Great Destinations Guide) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Adirondack Book: A Complete Guide, Fifth Edition (A Great Destinations Guide):

33 of 35 people found the following review helpful. A Skewed and Limited GuideBy LarryHaving spent much time in

the Adirondacks, and with a child at school in Saratoga Springs, I was extremely disappointed with the scope of information in this "complete guide". While the historical, geographical and quasi-scientific narrative that Ms. Folwell has compiled is interesting, the information that a traveler/vacationer/tourist (especially one who's new to the area) would need is sorely lacking. The meager information that is available is unusually skewed toward what seems to be the author's limited personal taste in facilities, activities and likes. Apparently, Ms. Folwell does not like hotels or resorts, since most of them (and there are several in the Adirondacks) were glaringly missing from this book. Also oddly missing were some of the best restaurants in Lake Placid, Saranac Lake and Saratoga Springs. (I concede that "best" is subjective, but there were just too many missing from her book.) The Adirondacks are a haven for camping, yet this book glossed over that topic with a minimum of information. What about the amazing campsites on the islands of Indian Lake? Or the available lean-to locations in the High Peaks region? Finally, the organization of this book is antithetical to a good travel guide. Rather than approach the Adirondacks by region, the author divides the book by topic. Since the Adirondacks are relatively large, it's most likely that a visitor will be spending the bulk of her time in a single area. This guide offers no comprehensive list of data about any given area or town, and requires you to jump around and compile your own data sheet if you're staying in one area. Rather than "A Complete Guide", it would be more appropriate for this book to be called "An Introduction to the Area," since that is in fact exactly what it is, and no more.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Timely updates
By Paulette Baker
The Adirondack Book is an excellent guide to what to do, where to eat, etc., in the Adirondacks. The format is easy to follow, and the comments/recommendations are pretty much dead on. Not all of my personal favorites have found their way into these pages, but I've definitely been introduced to some new faves. Even if you own previous editions, I recommend buying the newest available--things change, and yesterday's hot spot may well have fizzled.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Important basics, across the board
By Alyssa A. Lappen
Whether you are first time or repeat visitor to the Adirondacks, this guide comes in handy on any visit to New York State's great preserve, forever wild. The guide includes eight chapters. First is the park history, an important background for everyone. Second, comes a short guide on transportation to, from and through the wilderness area, including mileage and estimated traveling times. Third, you'll find an extensive 90-plus pages of accommodations, from the rawest of campsites to the most lavish inns and hotels. Personally, we're partial to the non-profit camp organizations, but there are plenty of choices to suit every taste. A fourth 50-page chapter covers the theater, arts and museums in the Adirondacks, from Champlain Valley to Lake George. There are music festivals and the Six Indian Nations museum, for example, and the Adirondack Museum in Blue Mountain Lake is not to be missed. One can also find storytelling sessions in high season. And don't forget the writer's programs, for wordsmiths among the travelers. Chapter Five offers 80 pages of eateries, in every category, from the classic Adirondack diner, the Noon Mark in Keene Valley, famous for its home baking (including excellent fruit pies) to the fabulous gourmet restaurants like Friends Lake Inn in Chestertown, a onetime boarding house for tannery workers with a fabulous menu. And of course there are a wide variety of food stores listed, for those who like to eat on the run, or need to stock their ice chests before heading to camp. The 100-page sixth chapter, on recreational opportunities and listings, is one of the book's most useful, for it not only includes the obvious--like bike, ski, boat rental outlets and tours of every stripe--but also several suggestions on how to find private camping guides. Chapter Seven keeps the shopaholics happy, I suppose, though I've never found much use for this set of listings. Unfortunately, some of the classic Adirondack stores, like the Bashful Bear bookstore in Keene Valley. Finally, in chapter Eight, is a "nuts and bolts" listing of emergency and medical centers, banks and cash machines, guided tours and an important and useful bibliography for further reading. We've taken this guide along on every trip to the High Peaks, and it always comes in handy.--Alyssa A. Lappen

This completely updated guidebook details the Adirondack's history, comforts, and amenities, giving both visitors and residents the most comprehensive guide to this vast region.