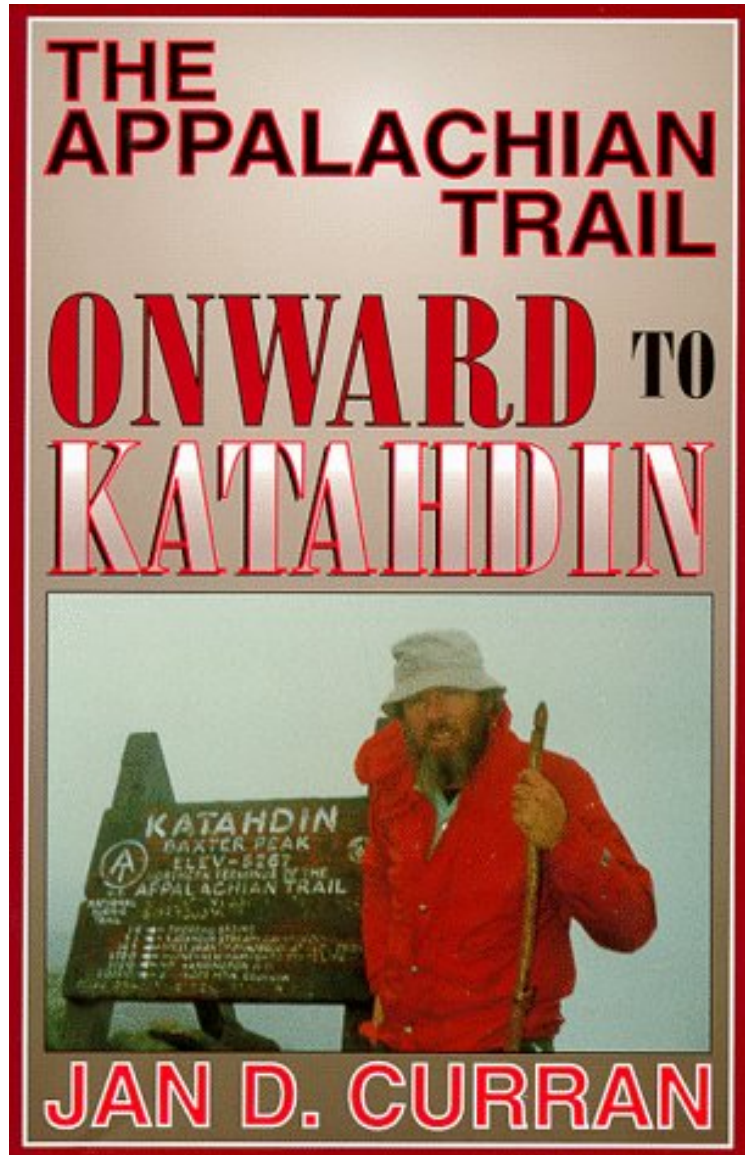


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The Appalachian Trail--Onward to Katahdin

Jan D. Curran

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Jan D. Curran : The Appalachian Trail--Onward to Katahdin before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Appalachian Trail--Onward to Katahdin:

6 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Different than his first book By Robert Merivel Jan Curran's first book on the trail: "The Appalachian Trail - A Journey of Discovery" covered Jan's reasons for hiking the trail and does an excellent job of describing the daily life and trial of hiking the Appalachian Trail. This book however gets very

involved in the spiritual aspects of his journey and continues to prosylitize when you just want him to get back to the trail. I ended up skimming parts of the book after becoming annoyed with it. If you are having a spiritual crisis and want to hike the trail, this is the book for you.7 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Oh, woe is me!By A CustomerThe author showed a tendency for too much self-pity in his first book (based on the first half of his AT hike), but in this one he lies down in the middle of the trail and wallows in it. Curran approaches things in a way that is rational, carefully thought out, even scientific. The essence of this book is his efforts to apply this method to figuring out his relationship with God. It's a bit like trying to paint a cloud.For those interested in the actual hiking itself, Curran comes off as a bit too harsh in his judgments of people and businesses he encounters along the way. His comments hint that he often doesn't feel properly respected or treated. I wonder if it has something to do with his being a retired Army colonel, and if he realizes that the world doesn't know or even care about that.Not enough real substance here for my taste.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A successful conclusion.By Charles R. WilsonA fitting conclusion to the trek started in Curran's earlier book *The Appalachian Trail: A Journey of Discovery*. He not only clearly explains the trials of life on the trail but also probes deeper thoughts with which many long distance hikers flirt during long hours of solitude. I could feel the almost daily highs and lows that reward and plague thru-hikers. There is no "sugar coating" and no boasting, he just tells it like it is, both physically and emotionally. Informatative and easy reading, it is a more realistic view of hiking the Appalachian Trail than a bestseller.

When Jan D. Curran retired from the Army, he hiked the entire 2,100+ miles of The Appalachian Trail, from Georgia to Maine, to aid his transition to civilian life. As a young retiree, he found the journey tedious -- sometimes even dangerous -- but laden with nature's riches and unexpected spiritual rewards. In *The Appalachian Trail: Onward to Katahdin*, Curran describes in vivid detail the Northern half of his AT adventure, as he finally completes the journey of a lifetime. The Southern half of his hike is chronicled in *The Appalachian Trail: A Journey of Discovery*. *Onward to Katahdin* is, like his other books, informative and reader friendly. A good book to take with you on an AT hike, to enjoy as a vicarious adventure or to read in preparation for a thru-hike.