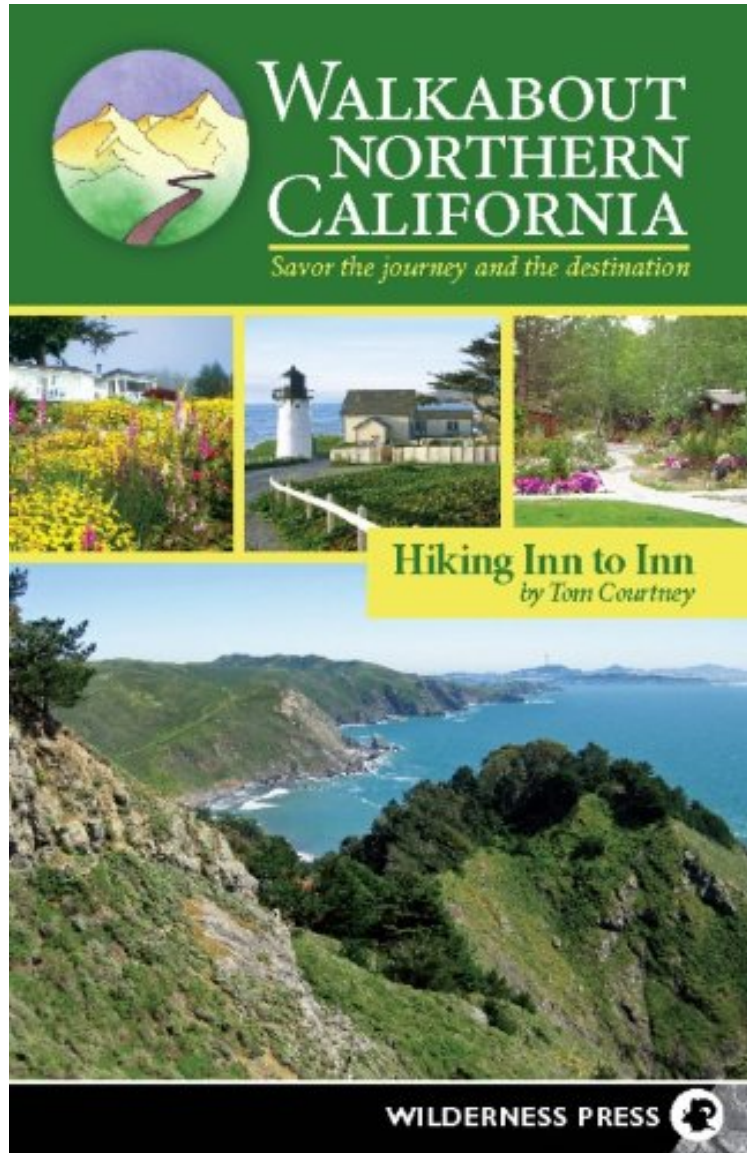


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Walkabout Northern California: Hiking Inn to Inn

Tom Courtney

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Tom Courtney : Walkabout Northern California: Hiking Inn to Inn before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Walkabout Northern California: Hiking Inn to Inn:

21 of 23 people found the following review helpful. A Lyrical Guidebook for the North American Trekker By Fritz R. Ward A trek differs from a hiking or backpacking trip in that walkers go from one inn to another instead of one campground to the next. Treks are very popular in Europe and Asia, and are the best way to see much of the world, such as the Himalayas in Nepal. But, for the most part, treks are not that common in America. This is not because the

United States is too urban. Parts of it certainly are. Paradoxically, it is because the United States is too wild. Conservationists in the US have effectively been usurped by "environmentalists" and the latter emphasize wilderness preservation over rural landscapes that include farms, ranches, villages and inns. While this approach has its benefits, it does make treks rather difficult. But not everywhere. Northern California offers many locations where one can walk from inn to inn and enjoy both a great outdoors experience and a fine evening of relaxation. Tom Courtney offers ten such routes in this new book from Wilderness Press and with a little effort, readers can put together several similar trips. Four of the ten outings that Courtney describes are in the Bay Area, a place that offers just the right amount of wilderness and urban landscape for walkabouts. Despite how crowded and crime ridden San Francisco proper is, just outside the city are numerous protected lands and small communities with delightful Bed and Breakfast facilities, expensive inns, and even some budget conscious hostels. With minimal effort, most of which will be spent trying to interpret the Byzantine BART and Muni schedules, visitors can fly into San Francisco and begin walking within a few hours. Similar trips along Monterey Bay and Mendocino can be done in a long weekend. More ambitious are the trips through the northern Sierras and southern Cascade mountains. Days requiring nearly 20 miles of hiking with substantial elevation gain are the norm here. But with a little creativity, one can make put together a rigorous trek in these spectacular regions. Courtney is a delightful, almost lyrical writer. His route descriptions are long on natural history and his personal reflections and reading the book reminded me, in some ways, of J. Smeaton Chase's classic California Coast Trails. On the other hand, the book is sometimes a little short in the more mundane descriptions (go 1 mile along route x, turn left at the fork in the trail, and proceed 200 yards...). I read the first chapter twice and came to the conclusion that, had I not already hiked most of the trails he describes myself, I might have a tough time to following the description. To his credit, Courtney does recommend and list a few good maps. My other concern with the book is that it does reach out towards a more upscale hiking crowd than I belong to. Courtney strongly recommends some locations that cost more than \$200 a night. I tend to favor hostels where a bed is (now sadly) between \$25 and \$30 a night. He does, however, include in some cases a "budget" alternative to his routes. On the whole, this is a solid book. Visitors to the northern California can experience, albeit briefly, a bit of the trekking vacation so popular in the rest of the world. Indeed, if more of our self-proclaimed preservationists would take some of these hikes, they might find that not all forms of human development are incompatible with an experience of nature. Wilderness is wonderful, but rural areas are equally valuable and should be preserved as well. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Awesome trips! By Bryan Weber We've done two trips so far. Be careful to check and plan all details to make sure you don't get stuck somewhere. Wonderful hikes, wonderful inns! Wish we could get away more often! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I have read through the book and I find that ... By Elfriede Pardee I have read through the book and I find that it meets the questions I have in actually doing the walk or parts of the walk. I am planning on walking parts of it and it will definitely be a big help.

Europe is renowned for romantic inn-to-inn vacation opportunities on paths worn by centuries of travelers. Modern-day trekkers can hike the Alps or Southern France, explore the British Isles at three miles an hour, or pilgrimage through Northern Spain to Santiago de Compostela, stopping each night at a hostel or inn. Now adventurers in California are creating a new tradition of multi-day treks from inn to inn in the U.S. Walkabout Northern California: Hiking Inn to Inn describes twelve walks (or "walkabouts") along the wild Pacific Coast, through the majestic Sierra Nevada Mountains, in the Cascades and through the parklands around the San Francisco Bay. Each walkabout, organized by individual chapters, contains all the information to create a memorable and invigorating vacation, with a sketch map, recommendations for optional maps, mile-by-mile details of the route, and logistical tips on places to stay and eat. Many trips contain variations for different lengths of time and budgets. With a light daypack and a few reservations, hikers can travel for days on California's breathtaking coastline or in mountain ranges. Each day on a walkabout ends with a comfortable bed, a glass of wine, a good meal and maybe even a hot tub. Some of the hikes can take a week, but many can be enjoyed in a weekend. Some are challenging, but the majority are perfect for the casual hiker. The accommodations for the walkabouts include a BB perched on the cliffs above the Pacific, a resort on the shore of a Sierra lake, a historic hotel in a coastal village, a hostel in a national park, and a retreat center that soothes the soul.