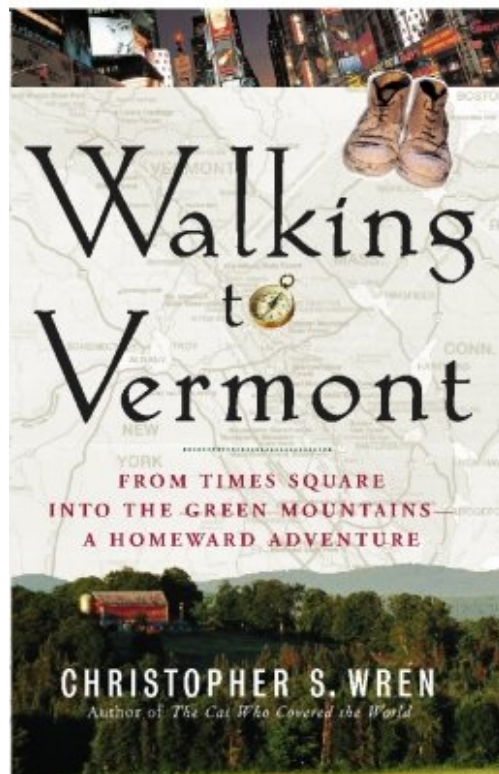


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## Walking to Vermont: From Times Square into the Green Mountains -- a Homeward Adventure

Christopher S. Wren

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**Christopher S. Wren : Walking to Vermont: From Times Square into the Green Mountains -- a Homeward Adventure** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Walking to Vermont: From Times Square into the Green Mountains -- a Homeward Adventure:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I enjoyed the book very much By sleepwalker This book started out somewhat slow for me. I even questioned the author's writing ability at first. But a couple of chapters in it gained momentum and my interest. I enjoyed the book very much. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. No denial here, it's a good read! By M. G. I have yet to hike the Appalachian trail, and I'm only 41, but I thoroughly enjoyed this book. The author has some wisdom well worth sharing, as well as a very candid view of his experience. I didn't feel he

was in denial at all. Rather, he was realizing that 65 isn't so old, after all. This book is about the physical AND emotional journey into retirement. If you are interested in human nature as well as mother nature, chances are you will enjoy it. I gave it 5 stars to make up for some of those 2 star submissions. I've given it to my Mom, who has read it and enjoyed it and plans to give it to my sister. I wouldn't be surprised if it makes it's way to my Dad after that ... Enjoy.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Looking forward to my own retirement walk...someday far far away.By Sarah L. HoskinLiked the read. 5 stars for the trail stories, just didn't love the tangents about his (albeit impressive) life as a journalist. A noble and unique perspective about the transition from NYC professional to Vermont retiree.

A distinguished former foreign correspondent embraces retirement by setting out alone on foot for nearly four hundred miles, and explores a side of America nearly as exotic as the locales from which he once filed. Traveling with an unwieldy pack and a keen curiosity, Christopher Wren bids farewell to the New York Times newsroom in midtown Manhattan and saunters up Broadway, through Harlem, the Bronx, and the affluent New York suburbs of Westchester and Putnam Counties. As his trek takes him into the Housatonic River Valley of Connecticut, the Berkshires of Massachusetts, the Green Mountains of Vermont, and along a bucolic riverbank in New Hampshire, the strenuous challenges become as much emotional as physical. Wren loses his way in a suburban thicket of million-dollar mansions, dodges speeding motorists, seeks serenity at a convent, shivers through a rainy night among Shaker ruins, camps in a stranger's backyard, panhandles cookies and water from a good samaritan, absorbs the lore of the Appalachian and Long Trails, sweats up and down mountains, and lands in a hospital emergency room. Struggling under the weight of a fifty-pound pack, he gripes, "We might grow less addicted to stuff if everything we bought had to be carried on our backs." He hangs out with fellow wanderers named Old Rabbit, Flash, Gatorman, Stray Dog, and Buzzard, and learns gratitude from the anonymous charity of trail angels. His rite of passage into retirement, with its heat and dust and blisters galore, evokes vivid reminiscences of earlier risks taken, sometimes at gunpoint, during his years spent reporting from Russia, China, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, South America, and Africa. He loses track of time, waking with the sun, stopping to eat when hunger gnaws, and camping under starry skies that transform the nights of solitude. For all the self-inflicted hardship, he reports, "In fact, I felt pretty good." Wren has woven an intensely personal story that is candid and often downright hilarious. As Vermont turns from a destination into a state of mind, he concludes, "I had stumbled upon the secret of how utterly irrelevant chronological age is." This book, from the author of the acclaimed bestseller *The Cat Who Covered the World*, will delight not just hikers, walkers, and other lovers of the outdoors, but also anyone who contemplates retirement, wonders about foreign correspondents, or relishes a lively, off-beat adventure, even when it unfolds close to home.

From Publishers WeeklyWhereas retirement from a successful career is often synonymous with a blowout party and the purchase of a sports car, former New York Times reporter Wren, who served as bureau chief in Moscow, Cairo, Beijing, Ottawa and Johannesburg, chose to defy the status quo and celebrate his own retirement by hiking nearly 400 miles in five weeks from Manhattan to Fairlee, Vt. Though this is a solo rite-of-passage, Wren, who became known on the trails as "Super Tortoise" for his slow but steadfast pace, encounters and befriends fellow hikers from around the world. Along the way, they swap camping stories and compare equipment, and as Wren's course meanders through fields and mountains, torrential downpours and tranquil sunsets, he learns to find comfort in the muddy, wet and open terrain. Wren departs from New York armed with the basics, including a copy of Thoreau's *Walden*, and slowly leaves the city's frazzled pace behind. Accompanied sporadically by old friends out for a day hike, Wren sheds his would-be retiree facade to become a hardened and resolute mountain man. With each state, he encounters refreshing vistas, new faces and mishaps, whether a twisted ankle or a risky tick-bite. Though navigating the snaking paths along the Appalachian Trail doesn't quite compare with interviewing an opium drug lord in Southeast Asia or going on an unplanned cocaine bust in Colombia, Wren fills this report with humor and historical references, tying escapades of his past with adventures from his current voyage. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistAfter a career in journalism that took him to more than 15 countries, the author planned to mark his retirement by seeing more of a single place he'd kept meaning to visit more often: his own country. The plan was to walk from New York City to Vermont, and this entertaining memoir chronicles his adventure. We get lots of the history lessons we associate with this type of book ("here was fought the Battle of Merritt Hill") and an assortment of offbeat and interesting characters--also something we expect from the Blue Highway genre. Still, if the book doesn't break any new ground for travel memoirists, it has much to offer. Wren's prose is lively ("It was not yet noon and hotter than a July bride in a feather bed"), and his eye for detail, developed over 40 years of journalism, provides us with a wealth of pleasure. Readers who enjoy a good travel memoir will enjoy this one very much. David PittCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved David Breashears co-director and leader of the Everest IMAX Filming Expedition Wren looks at everything with the eyes and ears of an intrepid reporter and a man of great integrity and disarming humor. He describes the beauty of the home countryside he traverses and introduces us to a variety of colorful characters. Most poignant are the moments on the trail when he is reminded of a

powerful, dangerous, or comical moment in one of the many far-flung places he went as a foreign correspondent. Evan Thomas author of *John Paul Jones: Sailor, Hero, Father of the American Navy* A foreign correspondent walks out of his office at the New York Times and heads uptown -- for four hundred miles by foot. A fascinating journey with lots of adventures by a keen-eyed and honest man. You'll want to go with him. David Roberts author of *Four Against the Arctic* and *Escape from Lucania* A charming account of a long walk into retirement, this memoir gains depth and complexity as trailside incidents trigger flashbacks from Chris Wren's years as a foreign correspondent in some of the most dangerous places on Earth. Roger Rosenblatt *Where Christopher Wren Walks* is always an exotic country, even when the terrain is the Bronx, Westchester, and Vermont. He brings a first-class foreign correspondent's eye and meditative memory to the familiar, which becomes wonderfully strange. Best of all, he brings his love of adventure to the adventure of his life. What great luck that he asked us along.