

Outdoors

Moriah Thoman

Mission Statement

Outdoors Magazine strives to cater to an outdoorsy audience who enjoys hiking, nature, and the trends and news surrounding the world of outside activities. The content of the magazine covers topics pertaining to hikers, national and state parks and other outdoor destinations, and general content that outdoors lovers would want to spend time reading about. It balances the extreme hiking and outdoor fitness aspects with a more common approach of the everyday outdoorsy person.

Reader Profile

The typical member of its readership would be someone who spends a lot of time outdoors, whether they're on a trip outdoors or enjoying more common everyday encounters with nature. While the audience may include professional outdoor athletes, the magazine's main audience is the average outdoors lover, whether it's families, couples, or individuals, who wants to be more involved in the happenings in the hiking and outdoors world.

OUTDOORS

April 2019

Family Time:
Hiking Edition

**Summer
Day Trips**

Camping
with your
spouse



VENTURE

Allegheny National Forest, PA / Shenandoah National Park, VA / Acadia National Park, ME



Day Hiking

Heading out for a day hike is a delightful way to explore nature with friends and family, or even by yourself.

VENTURE



Highlights

With 96.3 miles of completed trails marked with blue diamonds, the North Country Trail is the longest trail in the Allegheny National Forest. It is one of three designated National Scenic Trails in Pennsylvania and provides vistas of the Allegheny Reservoir as it passes through rock outcroppings, open hardwoods, old growth forests and stands of hemlock.

A trail head with a parking area is located along PA 346 west of the City of Bradford. From this northern point, situated along the New York-Pennsylvania state border, near the Willow Bay Recreation Area, the North Country Trail winds south to Tionesta Scenic Area. The trail then heads southeast to Nanson and southwest through Seldom Seen Corners to the ANF Boundary near Muzette.

Minister Creek Hiking Trail is a 7.3 mile trail that begins at the Minister Creek Campground and forms a loop. The trail head parking lot is located on Rt. 666 west of Minister Creek Campground, 14.7 miles southwest of Sheffield. Marked with grey diamonds, this trail is for hiking and skiing. Difficulty level is more difficult. Timberdoodle Flats Interpretive Trail is two trail loops totaling 1.4 miles. The Timberdoodle is the nickname of the American Woodcock, one of many birds that you might glimpse along the trail.

Allegheny National Forest, PA

It's time to leave the city behind and get back to nature. Located between the Allegheny National Forest of Pennsylvania and Allegany State Park in New York, McKean County, Pennsylvania is Trail Central!

Hiking – 13 trails; 201 miles

Cross Country Skiing – 8 trails; 53 miles

Interpretive – 10 trails; 18 miles



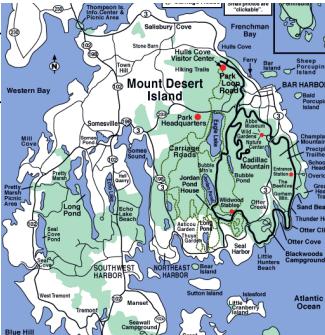
VENTURE



Acadia National Park, ME

by: Brian Kevin

Acadia National Park taught me to respect the day hike. As a young backpacking zealot, I once indulged in a kind of backcountry snobbery, considering any hike that didn't involve carrying at least a day's rations and sleeping outdoors to be a mere stroll, hardly worth the effort. The intensely scenic—and often surprisingly rugged—coastal mountains of Acadia put the lie to such hauteur. The best day hikes in Acadia show off knockout vistas of forested hills, glacial lakes, jagged cliffs, rocky shoreline, and the endless stretch of the Atlantic—sometimes all at once.



Highlights

Cadillac North Ridge Trail is, from the north, a short and somewhat steep hike to the top of the 1,530-foot peak that first sees the glow of sunrise over the Atlantic. Views of the long, rocky ridge of Dorr Mountain keep you company on the way up. Give yourself an hour-and-a-half to reach the summit.

Jordan Pond Path is an easy, slightly graded walk that starts on the south shore of supremely photogenic Jordan Pond, with the twin buttes known as the Bubbles looming across the water. The trail network around Jordan Pond offers a variety of lengths and destinations—circle the pond or take a wooded hike beneath the cliffs of Pemetic Mountain.

Acadia Mountain Trail is the high point of Mount Desert Island's western half, 681-foot Acadia Mountain looks out over the blue inlet of Somes Sound, often misidentified as a fjord, but not without resemblance to Scandinavia's dramatic flooded valleys. Set aside four hours for the sometimes steep loop that also passes over nearby St. Sauveur Mountain.

Gorham Mountain Trail is, from a trailhead on the Park Loop Rd., a steadily ascending trail that passes beneath chiseled cliffs, with detours to a few cool, weathered sea caves from ancient days of higher sea levels. The 525-foot summit looks out over the ocean and the neighboring, exposed hump known to locals as the Beehive.

FAMILY TIME GONE WILD

Making your outdoor ventures a family affair can help your crew when you return to civilization. **By Wayne Parker**



Camping in Noatak National Park offers a view of the mountains from your tent.
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PHOTO

The best thing a family can do is plan a camping trip. For starters, enjoying the outdoors away from home is a great way to get in touch with nature and experience state parks and campgrounds. Whether it's to the mountains, lake, or campground, enjoying the scenery with your whole family can be very memorable.

CAMPING ACTIVITIES WITH THE FAMILY

The trick to a good camping trip experience is to plan ahead. This means selecting the right site, making appropriate reservations, ensuring food is well-stocked, and implementing simple activities.

With planned family activities, a camping trip can be especially fun. There's morning, afternoon, and nighttime camping activities, so something for everyone. Consider board games, group sports, and hiking to get started. Whether you want to simply make s'mores or gaze at the stars, making your adventure with your family special is the ultimate goal. Use these tips to create a list of fun things for family camping.

PLAY GAMES

Playing games together on a camp outing is a

popular choice for many families. Choose favorite board games, like Apples to Apples and Balderdash, that pack easily, don't require a lot of set up, and are great for gathering around the picnic table. Card games like UNO are another good choice because they are small and can fit into a backpack or camping bin.

GET ACTIVE

If you want your family to get out in the meadow and have a more active experience, playing some camping games will get everyone moving. Kids tend to enjoy flag football, ultimate frisbee, and capture the flag. For younger children, try a simple round of Duck Duck Goose around the campfire. Focus on activities that require little to no gear or equipment.

GO HIKING

A good hike is great for everyone. Whether you're working on a hiking merit badge for Boy Scouts or want to enjoy a great view, this activity is a versatile camping staple. Consider taking the family on a three day, two-night camping and hiking excursion for a longer hike. A hike in the mountains can be invigorating and it tends to tire out kids.

BE PREPARED

Noatak National Preserve is the fourth largest wilderness area in the United States, and there are no roads, trails, calculated mileages or specialized maps of the area. There are also no designated campsites, and visitors must choose their own place to camp. Contact the Northwest Arctic Heritage Center for tips on the best places to make your camp. Large tracks of unspoiled and undeveloped land is increasingly rare in the United States, and backcountry visitors are encouraged to practice Leave No Trace principles to help preserve this pristine wilderness.

Camping in the Arctic backcountry is an unforgettable trip, but the scenery is as spectacular as the terrain is challenging. Be prepared to do a lot of orienteering. We recommend all visitors being prepared with map, compass, and GPS as well as the knowledge to use all three. Even in the summer, it can be cold in the Arctic and the weather can change on a dime, so be prepared for all conditions.

U.S. NATIONAL PARKS

BY: JOE LAING

PHOTOGRAPHED BY: JONATHAN IRISH

Thanks to the more than 400 locations under the care of the National Park Service, a person could spend a lifetime discovering all they have to offer. Whether your vacation hot button is a magnificent national park with plenty of room for outdoor recreation, a historic site where you can dig deep into our nation's history, or a place where the rivers run free and the fish are jumping, you'll find plenty of choices within the National Park System. Let's look at four ways a national park vacation can fit the bill for you and your traveling companions.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

The Great Fountain Geyser is one of the most beautiful places in the park to photograph at sunset, and it is one of the few that you can drive right up to, making it an easy place to catch the late afternoon light after a busy day of viewing other landmarks in the park.

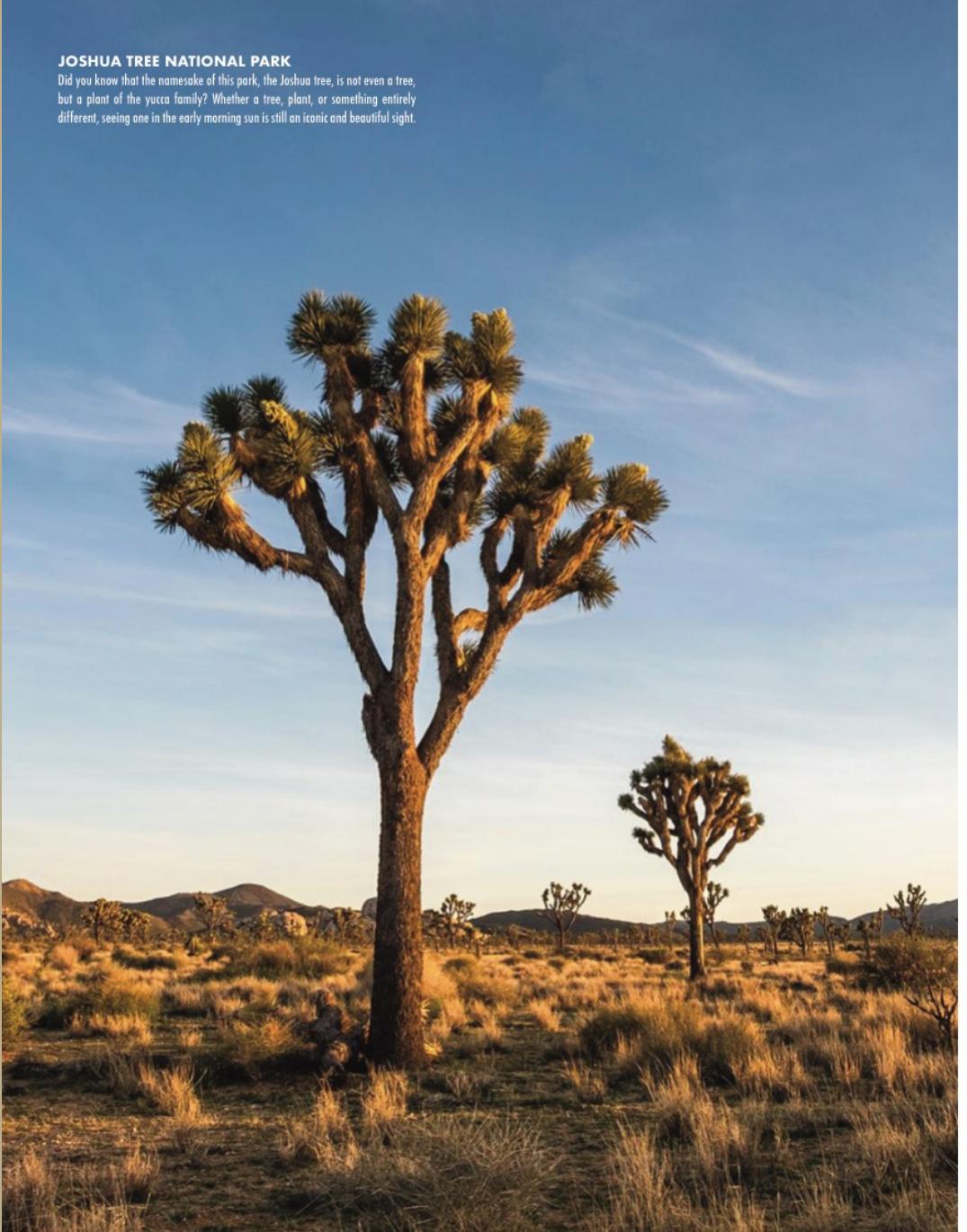


OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

Sea stacks, which are rock outcrops exposed above the water, dot the landscape along the coast.

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK

Did you know that the namesake of this park, the Joshua tree, is not even a tree, but a plant of the yucca family? Whether a tree, plant, or something entirely different, seeing one in the early morning sun is still an iconic and beautiful sight.



GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

The rim-to-rim hike in the Grand Canyon is one of my favorite hikes in the world. Most hikers will hike down the shorter, but steeper, South Kaibab Trail (pictured here) and then back up the longer, but less steep, Bright Angel Trail. This photo shows the point at which you start to realize there is a completely different world below the rim. The hustle and bustle of the busy rim village gives way to quiet solitude and grand views.

GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK

Our bush plane flight to the interior of Gates of the Arctic gave us a preview of how remote and beautiful the land would be.

ARCHES NATIONAL PARK

Sunrise and sunset alike are great times to view Delicate Arch—it is very difficult to photograph this iconic scene in a bad light. However, sunset is the best time to catch alpenglow on the distant La Sal Mountains as a backdrop to this famous arch.



There are nearly five dozen national parks (what we call the capital N.Ps like Yellowstone National Park or Voyageurs National Park) in the U.S., so finding one near you, or in a place you've always wanted to visit, is easy. Affordable campsites, well-planned visitor centers, convenient park shuttles and other amenities help make our national parks easy to access and enjoy. Narrow down your choices by deciding what you'd like to see or do most. Here are our suggestions: Searching for the country's most beautiful waterfalls? Consider a trip to Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina and Tennessee, Yosemite National Park in California, or Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado. Hoping to make an epic hike part of your vacation stories? Why not try the Hoh River Trail in Olympic National Park, where giant trees and ferns shroud hikers in peace and wonder? Like to get underground? Consider taking on the Wild Cave Tour at Mammoth Cave National Park – but be ready to get dirty as you squeeze, crawl, and free climb for six hours of non-stop wonder. Don't mind getting your feet wet? Try a hike through narrow canyons while wading the Virgin River in Utah's Zion National Park. Incredible outdoor adventures, six national parks and ancient ruins combine to make this a trip of a lifetime. Start in Salt Lake City where you may be surprised by the craft brewing scene and how easy it is to get around this city framed by the Great Salt Lake and Wasatch mountains. Head south to Moab, home to Canyonlands and Arches national parks. From there stop in the Four Corners area towns of Blanding, Bluff and Monticello where ancient ruins, pioneer history and rafting await. Then point your wheels toward Grand Canyon National Park where you can choose to visit the popular South Rim and/or the less-visited North Rim.

KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK

Hiking into Paradise Valley offers some of the best views in Kings Canyon National Park. We backpacked into the valley and spent the night along the river, and it was one of the most peaceful and beautiful camping spots of our entire trip.

SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

Visitors walk below giant sequoia trees along the appropriately named Giant Tree Trail. Adding people to images, especially with such large objects as these trees, provides a sense of scale.





9 / Outdoors

Jimmy Chin/National Geographic

AL EX

HONNOLD

THE MASTER OF
CLIMBING WITHOUT
ROPES SPENDS HIS
LIFE CHEATING
DEATH.

BY: DANIEL DUANE

April 2019 / 10

FIFTEEN MILES OUTSIDE YOSEMITE VALLEY, A BEEPING IPHONE ALARM AWAKENED ALEX HONNOLD AT 4 A.M. IN THE WHITE FORD ECONOLINE VAN THAT HE HAS CALLED HOME FOR THE LAST SEVEN YEARS. HONNOLD, WHO IS 29 AND ONE OF THE TWO OR THREE BEST ROCK CLIMBERS ON EARTH, SAT UP ON HIS CHEAP FOAM MATTRESS AND SWITCHED ON HIS HEADLAMP IN THE DARKNESS. THE NEARBY MERCED RIVER MADE A SOFT RUSHING SOUND, AND CRICKETS HUMMED IN THE GRASS IN THE DRY HEAT OF JUNE. HONNOLD ROLLED BACK HIS VAN'S SLIDING SIDE DOOR TO GREET HIS PONYTAILED FRIEND DAVID ALLFREY, WHO WAS ALSO 29, EMERGING JUST THEN FROM AN OLD VW CAMPER VAN

Honnold could afford to buy a decent home, if that interested him. But living in a van — a custom-outfitted van, in his case, with a kitchenette and cabinets full of energy bars and climbing equipment — represents freedom. It also represents a commitment to the nomadic climber's ideal of the "dirtbag," the purist so devoted to climbing that he avoids any entanglement that might interfere, stretching every penny from one climbing area to the next. Honnold, who graduated from high school with a 4.6 grade-point average and who has big ears and wide-set brown eyes — "cow eyes," his mother calls them — has been the king of the dirtbags for the last decade. When he's not climbing overseas in places like Patagonia, France or Morocco, he lives an endless road trip through the Southwestern desert, Yosemite Valley, British Columbia and points between. Along the way, he has turned himself into the greatest living free-soloist, meaning that he climbs without ropes, alone.

Unroped climbing is, of course, the oldest kind, but ropes and hardware can provide such a reliable safety net that nearly all climbers now use them. This is typically done in pairs, with one climber tied to each end of the rope, moving one at a time. Upward progress is made in one of two ways. The first, developed in the Saxony region of Germany in the 19th century, is known as free-climbing. This involves using only natural handholds and footholds on the rock itself, while securing the rope to the cliff with various kinds of hardware to protect against any fall. The second style, known as aid-climbing, emerged in the early 20th century as a means of ascending cliffs too sheer for

free-climbing. A lead aid-climber ascends by attaching hardware to the rock every few feet, connecting stirrups to that hardware and standing in those stirrups.

But using gear slows progress. A roped pair, taking turns climbing and fussing with all that equipment, might spend six hours on a climb that a free-soloist floats up in 30 minutes — focusing purely on the pleasure of movement, the tactile sensation of hands on rock. Free-soloing also carries the mystique of self-reliance in the face of extreme risk: On cliffs where even elite climbers employ complicated rope systems, the free-soloist wears only shorts, a T-shirt, a pair of climbing shoes and a bag of gymnast's chalk to keep the hands dry. Honnold has free-soloed the longest, most challenging climbs ever, including the 2,500-foot northwestern face of Half Dome in Yosemite Valley, where some of the handholds are so small that no average climber could cling for an instant, roped or otherwise. Most peculiar of all, even to elite rock climbers, Honnold does this without apparent fear, as if falling were not possible.

PREPARATION

Now, before dawn, Honnold stuffed rope, carabiners and other equipment into a backpack while taking bites of yogurt and granola, preparing for his fifth El Capitan route in five days. To no one in particular he said, "I'm really not that into my breakfast." He and Allfrey had two more routes planned for the two days ahead, hoping to climb seven El Capitan routes in seven days — and set a record that would elicit, from nearly every other climber on earth, a mixture of exhilaration, bewilderment and envy.

The pair got into Honnold's van and drove up the unlit highway through the dark evergreen forest. A ring-tailed cat ran across the road, then a fox. El Capitan came into view as a huge jet-black void in the blue-black sky. Little pin-pricks of light — stars in a granite night — emanated from the headlamps of people waking up on high ledges, midway through private epics. Honnold and Allfrey parked among a half-dozen vans and pickups with camper shells.

starting on the floor of Yosemite Valley and following various cracks and crevices to the top. El Capitan is so sheer and steep that even the easiest of these routes qualify, for advanced recreational climbers, as petrifying and magnificent once-in-a-lifetime adventures. More than two decades ago, when I climbed regularly, I trained for three years — as do men and women all over the world — to prepare for El Capitan. Twice, I climbed with a partner about a third of the way up, only to retreat in terror, as is common among those ascending for the first time. In the summer of 1992, with two partners, I finally overcame my fear. We hauled supplies by rope and pulley, slept on tiny ledges and made it to the top in five days.

On each of the four mornings before I met up with Honnold and Allfrey, they climbed El Capitan from bottom to top before lunch, taking a different route each time. They set speed records on three of those routes, passing dozens of startled slow-moving climbers. They did this roped together, with Allfrey in the lead on aid-climbing sections, moving like a frantic construction worker hammering his way up a skyscraper, and with Honnold sprinting up any terrain he could free-climb. Honnold so rarely attached his rope to the cliff that he risked long falls.

TEAM EFFORT

When Honnold does climb with others, he often teams up with specialists in other disciplines, combining their unique skill sets to shatter speed records on the world's greatest cliffs. Allfrey, for example, is one of the fastest aid-climbers. They were headed, that morning last summer, for El Capitan, a flat-topped cliff about 3,000 feet tall and a mile wide that is considered the Mount Everest of rock climbing, with roughly 2,000 people ascending each year. More than 100 separate climbing routes have been established on El Capitan, each



Alex Honnold climbs at Donner Pass in California, Oct. 29
Max Whitaker/Wall Street Journal

"ELITE CLIMBERS, LIKE ATHLETES IN ANY SPORT, ESTABLISH REPUTATIONS
BY OUTDOING THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE."

For Allfrey, who has a long-term girlfriend and planned to begin nursing school in the fall, completing the seven routes would probably be the crowning achievement of his brilliant climbing career. For Honnold, it would simply be another in a long list of climbing accomplishments and could also serve as a scouting trip toward what is perhaps the greatest unclaimed brass ring in all of rock climbing: the first-ever free-solo of El Capitan. As the two walked into the forest, they passed directly under the most plausible route for a ropeless ascent: Freerider, a sideways ocean of polished rock so immense that should a free-soloist slip somewhere up high, he might fall for as long as 14 seconds before impact.

Honnold estimates that he has climbed Freerider, with a rope, 10 times — memorizing every move toward a someday free-solo. That morning, however, Honnold and Allfrey were

headed to a route called Lurking Fear. Allfrey dropped his backpack and strapped on his harness. "Dude, do you think you're going to find out you have some kind of superpower?" he asked Honnold. "Like, remember on those old X-Men comic cards, they'd have bar graphs on the back showing what all their powers are? Like strength and agility and all these X-Men qualities? You're going to realize you can actually move things with your brain."

ELITE CLIMBERS

Elite climbers, like athletes in any sport, establish reputations by outdoing those who have gone before. For centuries, that meant becoming the first person to reach a particular summit by any route at all, using any equipment necessary. The first ascent of El Capitan occurred in 1958 along the so-called Nose route, which runs up the middle of the wall. Rotating

team members, led by a road-crew supervisor and avid rock climber named Warren Harding, spent 45 days — over 18 months — commuting up and down thousands of feet of rope, and they made nearly all upward progress through aid-climbing, hammering hundreds of steel spikes and bolts into the rock. In the years that followed, ambitious climbers explored every square foot of the cliff, establishing the hundred-plus routes that are now recognized — typically in far less time, but always relying on aid-climbing.

FEAR OF HEIGHTS

Climbers know that fear itself can cause a climber to panic on the side of a cliff. To get a sense of the experience, try a thought experiment: Picture hanging from a pull-up bar in a playground, with your toes inches off the ground, and feel the calm security of your grip.



10 Best Hiking Shoes of 2019

By: David Annenberg

13 / Outdoors

Lightweight Trail Runners



Features:

Reinforced to protect feet from debris, the trail-specific uppers provide a perfect lockdown fit over uneven terrain

Pwrofoam midsoles and Everun topsoles cradle your feet in supportive comfort

Deep, flexible lugs made of PWRTRAC rubber conform to dig in and confidently grip any surface in all directions

Delivering uphill responsiveness and downhill forgiveness, the cushioned Saucony Peregrine ISO men's trail-running shoes boast traction-packed versatility for nearly any trail.

We've been hiking with Saucony Peregrines for years now and they've remained at the top of our list for good reason. In 2019, Saucony released the new Peregrine ISO

1 Saucony Peregrine 8

WEIGHT: 1 lb. 4 oz (pair)

We've been backpacking with Saucony Peregrines (men's and women's) for years and they've remained at the top of our list for trail runners. We love their excellent traction, comfortable padding, roomy toe box, and soft sole. They dry quickly and are comfortable right out of the box. The Peregrines are a well-rounded lightweight trail runner that will keep your feet happy on the trail all day long.

CRITICAL FOOTWEAR CONSIDERATIONS

COMFORT AND FIT - This is the most important consideration when choosing hiking footwear. Different people need different things in shoes (wide vs. narrow, arch support, heel-to-toe drop, etc), so finding what makes your feet happy is critical.

WEIGHT - Weight is a surprisingly important consideration for footwear, and one of the reasons we prefer lightweight trail runners over heavy backpacking boots. Weight carried on your feet zaps 4-6 times more energy than weight carried on your back. So swapping a 3-pound pair of boots for a 1-pound pair of running shoes is the energy saving equivalent of removing 8-12 pounds from your backpack.

PRICE - We tend to be willing to spend a bit more for quality footwear because it's tied so directly to the enjoyment of our hiking trips. Comfort and fit usually trump cost in our books, but we recommend a variety of quality options in our top picks below.

April 2019 / 14

Lightweight Hiking Shoes



2 Salomon X Ultra Low

WEIGHT: 1 lb. 10 oz. (pair)

The Salomon X Ultra 3 Low (men's and women's) is a burly trail ready shoe with a comfortable fit, awesome traction, and more durability than their trail runner counterparts. The Ultra 3's come with their signature one-pull quick lacing system, which can take some getting used to - people either love it or hate it. We've found that these shoes need a bit more time to break in compared to others. Also, the toe box is more narrow, so those requiring a wider fit may want to look elsewhere. Salomon does offer this shoe in a waterproof gore-tex model. Though heavier than what we usually wear on the trail, what you get in the Salomon X Ultra 3's is a burly, durable, and well-built hiking shoe. If you want more ankle support, they also offer this shoe in a mid height model.

3 Merrell Moab 2 Ventilator Low

WEIGHT: 1 lb. 15 oz. (pair)

If you're not quite sold on hiking in trail runners and want the durability of a hiking shoe, we recommend checking out the Merrell Moab 2 Vent Low (men's and women's). Merrell has really nailed comfort with this shoe. It fit our feet well straight out of the box and its cushy soles and tongue feel nice. The combination of suede leather and mesh allows your foot to breathe fairly well but adds durability and protection. The Moab 2's have Vibram soles which offer decent traction, though we felt some of our trail runners outperformed the Moab 2 in this area. For a couple more ounces, Merrell also offers this shoe in a waterproof version.

4 The North Face Ultra 110 GTX

WEIGHT: 1 lb. 15 oz. (pair)

The North Face Ultra 110 GTX (men's and women's) hiking shoe offers trail-ready comfort right out of the box. They are lined with waterproof and breathable Gore-Tex, which make them a good choice for wet and muddy day hikes. The combination of leather and tight mesh make this shoe a more durable option than the trail runners listed above. The Ultra 110 shoe has a solid and varied lug pattern, offering great traction on varying terrain. The soles of these shoes are stiffer than some others. They offer great protection, but can take a bit longer to break in. Another popular hiking shoe from North Face with similar weight and functionality is the Hedgehog Fastpack GTX hiking shoe.

Lightweight Hiking Boots



5 Merrell Moab 2 Mid Ventilator

WEIGHT: 2 lb. 2 oz. (pair)

The Moab 2 Mid Ventilator (men's and women's) is one of the most popular hiking boots, and for good reason. They're relatively lightweight for a hiking boot, affordable, and durable. Like many Merrell products, these are comfortable right out of the box. Made with a combination of suede leather and breathable mesh, this boot will last for years of trail pounding. They also offer the Moab 2 Mid in a waterproof version, however we still prefer the increased breathability offered in the Ventilators. If you generally require a roomier toe box, Merrell offers the Moab 2 boot in a wide model.

6 Salomon Quest 4D 3 GTX

WEIGHT: 2 lb. 13 oz. (pair)

The time-tested Salomon Quest 4D 3 GTX (men's and women's) hiking boot has the burliness of a go-anywhere hiking boot with the chassis of a running shoe, making it a stable yet comfortable fit. We'd hardly call footwear nearing 3 lbs lightweight - nor would we take this out on a 3-season backpacking trip - but for a hiking boot that you can take on a winter backpacking trip or off trail across technical terrain, the Quest 4D 3 GTX boots are a great option. In the new iteration of this popular boot, they've made the lug pattern even more aggressive for outstanding traction. The gore-tex lining will help keep your feet dry in wet or muddy conditions, however like all waterproofing, it will break down over time and this shoe takes a long time to dry when wet. If you're looking to shed some ounces and don't need the high ankle support, Salomon also offers the Salomon Quest 4D 3 Mid GTX.

7 Lowa Renegade GTX Mid

WEIGHT: 2 lb. 7 oz. (pair)

The Lowa Renegade GTX Mid (men's and women's) is a widely popular boot that offers great stability and protection for a mid height boot. For this level of support, the upper collar still feels comfortable and cushy. The gore-tex liner kept our feet dry on day hikes, through water soaked into the leather making them feel heavier than we'd like. Like most hiking boots, we'd take these out on rainy day hikes with moderate loads, but would be hard pressed to take the Renegades out on a multi-day backpacking trips (we prefer trail runners in those circumstances). Lowa offers the Renegade GTX Mid in regular, narrow, and wide options, making them highly customizable.