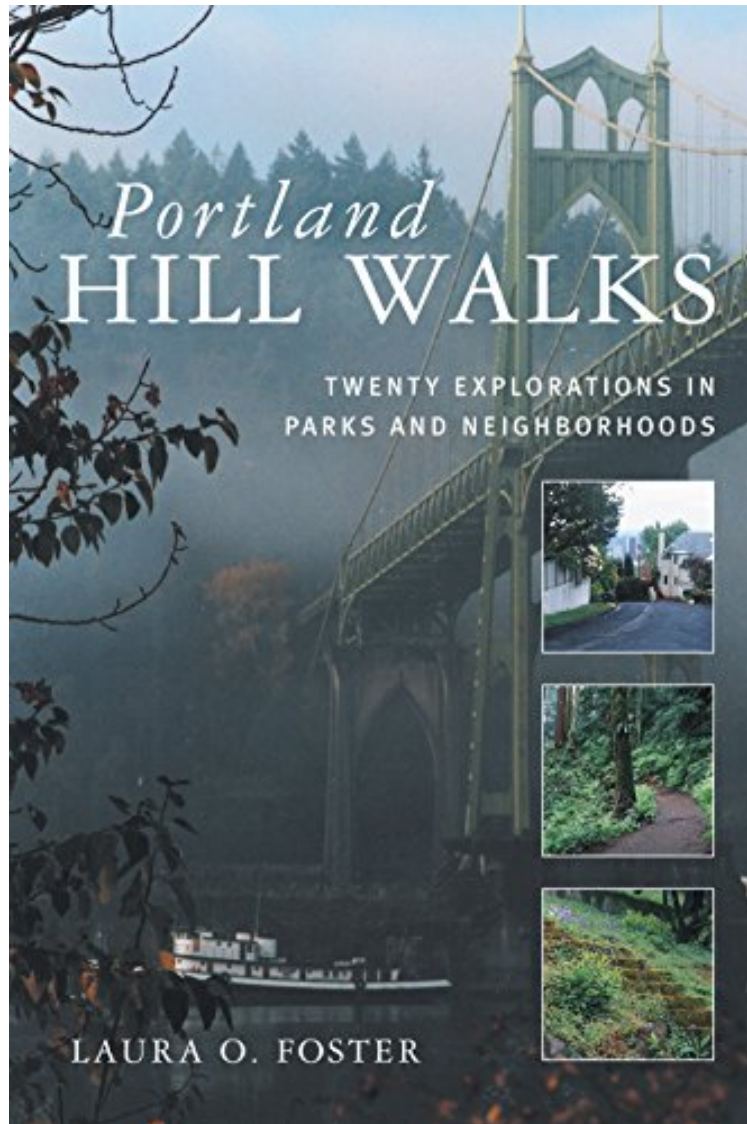


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Portland Hill Walks: Twenty Explorations in Parks and Neighborhoods

Laura O. Foster

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Laura O. Foster : Portland Hill Walks: Twenty Explorations in Parks and Neighborhoods before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Portland Hill Walks: Twenty Explorations in Parks and Neighborhoods:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great walks, clear directions, interesting information By Julie S For two novice walkers (with very little stamina) looking for a bit of a challenge, this book is perfect. The directions are

clear and separated into numbered sections which correspond to numbers on the maps. It's also full of interesting information about the neighborhoods and their history - a perfect excuse to stop a moment and catch our breath after particularly steep hill. The author also wrote *Portland City Walks* for those days when we're feeling a little more leisurely, and *Portland Stair Walks*, which I'm too intimidated to buy. We'll have to build up our stamina on the hill walks first!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A gem of a book By GcatI've done about 18 of the 20 walks and I am frequently amazed by them. These walks take you into the nooks and crannies of the city that would likely surprise most long-time Portland natives. The walks closer to center city (e.g. 2,4,5,8) expose you to steep urban stairs that you never knew were there. The walks farther out from the city (e.g. 6,10,15,17,19,20) force you into neighborhood niches that are mostly the dominion of local residents. Many of the walks weave in and out of urban and forest landscapes (1,2,4,6,13) creating a varied tapestry of calf-building experience. Remarkable in its depth, the narrative frequently comments on historical trees and houses that you otherwise would have walked right by. This leads to the main negative of the book which is that the verbosity makes it difficult to read while walking. Directions are often buried within a long, descriptive paragraph. Bullet-pointed directions would have been far preferable. Bigger maps with more street names would also have helped navigation. Another thing that would make the book more accessible is color pictures and lots of them. These walks point out so many amazing sights that it's a shame there are only a few scattered black and white photos. Overall, this book is still a great way to explore Portland.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. *Portland Hill Walks* by Laura Foster By GiGiThis is a wonderful book. I have now done all 20 walks in it and will do all of them again. It's so much fun to see different parts of Portland, which you don't usually get to see. We are now doing the walks in her *Stairs* book and in her *City Walks* book. We do do 2 walks in a row, since they are two short for our weekly walk (apx. 4 miles each). I will highly recommend the book. It doesn't matter if you are new in town or have lived here for years, as I have, you will learn a lot about your city.

Portland Hill Walks is no ordinary guidebook. No restaurant ratings, no rehashed explanations of how the city got its name. Instead, in twenty meandering, view-studded strolls from forested canyons to cityscape peaks, this lively travelogue answers questions you may never have thought to ask, such as: What street used to be a row of floating homes? What eastside peak, with its "healthful air," was home to tuberculosis sanatoriums? What happened to the lake in Guilds Lake? What Portlander modeled swimwear in the U.S. Senate? Explore the city's streets, stairs, trails, and hidden passageways to discover the stories and spirit of a town rated among the country's most livable places.

From BooklistA city of great vitality and natural beauty, Portland, Oregon, offers wonderful views and fascinating places that await discovery. From the city's countless parks to the fascinating character of individualized neighborhoods, the exciting terrain of Portland presents Foster with rich possibilities as she leads walkers around and through landscapes sure to keep even the most adventurous spirit happily engaged in exploration. Foster's format for each entry gives the starting point and distance for each of the book's 20 sojourns. More important, she describes the elevation along the way, making clear in advance how vigorous one might need to be. Driving directions and public-transportation information are included, with amenities such as restrooms, drinking fountains, food, and drink listed to help in planning a day's outing. Maps show the course of each walk, while Foster makes each entry come alive with historical background and keenly drawn observations. Alice Joyce Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "With *Portland Hill Walks*, you'll take 20 meandering, view-studded strolls from the city's forested canyons to its cityscape peaks ... This book is a great place to start if you are looking for a new walking location or are adding walking to your fitness regime."