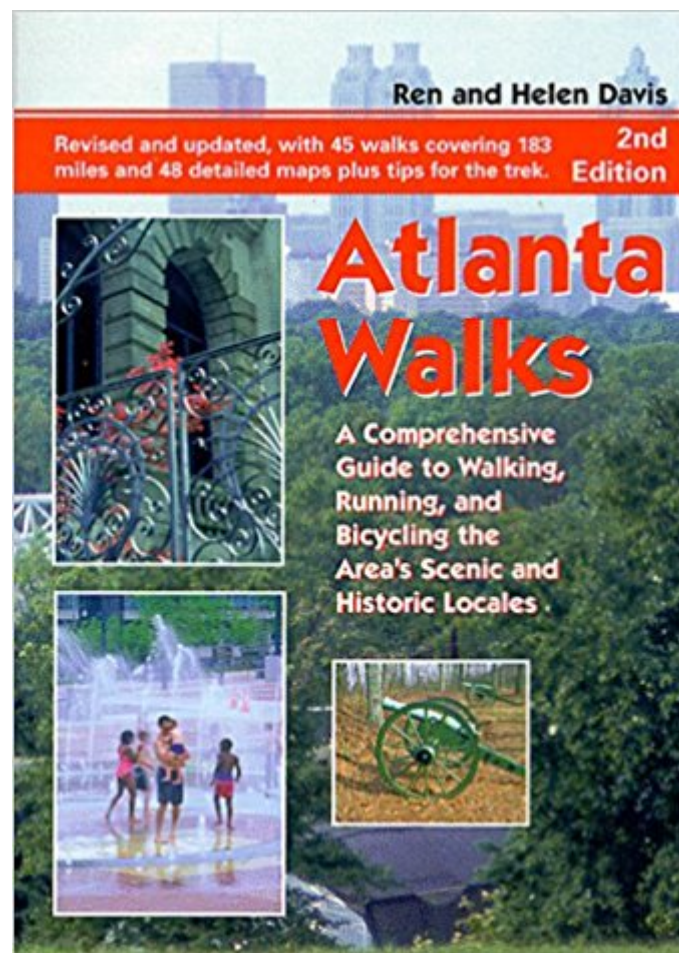




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# Atlanta Walks: A Comprehensive Guide To Walking, Running, And Bicycling The Area's Historic And Scenic Locales



## Synopsis

Put on your walking shoes and hit the road! In fact, hit the sidewalks, paths, and byways as you discover Atlanta on foot. Authors and walkers Ren and Helen Davis have divided the metropolitan area and surrounding counties into a variety of walks that reveal the history, architecture, and great beauty this city has to offer. These self-guided tours of Atlanta are suitable for all sorts of outdoor enthusiasts: walkers, runners, and bicyclists. Atlanta's moderate climate, gentle terrain, and fascinating history and architecture provide the perfect setting for delightful walks. An entertaining and healthy way to discover Atlanta for yourself. This handy reference guide includes information on both suburban and urban walks of varying length and difficulty, trail distance, terrain, and nearby parking and public transit access, and notable sites and buildings. It also includes 45 maps.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ren and Helen Davis serve as Contributing Editors for Georgia Journal Magazine. Ren is a contributing author to the 1998 FODOR'S GUIDE TO ATLANTA and has written for many regional magazines and newspapers. Helen has worked in the Atlanta Public Schools since 1980, serving as both a classroom teacher and an instructional technology specialist. Ren and Helen live in Atlanta with their son, Nelson.

My main wish is that it had color photos all throughout. There aren't enough pictures. It's especially good if you are a GPS person, which I am not, but I can see how that would really help people. I like the estimates of walking times, etc.

This is a great book to get know Atlanta. Most of the walks are 5 miles or less. The book has lots of maps and points of interest. I found it fun to walk and bike Atlanta when I first moved here. Great gift for someone moving or new to Atlanta

Very bad

First off, I really have enjoyed Atlanta Walks for the walks that are there. The walks are generally of average distance -- 5 miles or so -- and all are quite rich in history. My only two reservations concern coverage and information for dog owners. My concern about coverage is that, like many books about Atlanta, this book is strongly central-to-north oriented. East and south Atlanta are covered in only a token fashion. Unfortunately, that means that a number of historic districts and interesting areas don't appear. Clarkston, for example (my neighborhood) crosses the PATH, and has some beautiful old architecture and a vibrant international population. Only a few miles away lies Pine Lake, once a quirky summer retreat for Atlantans, and now its own city and a haven of individuality. (In fact, the south and east is largely left out of the book.) And what about the pathways around Mercer University? Every other major university is mentioned here, but not Mercer. As someone who lives in the eastern part of the greater Atlanta area, I was a bit disappointed in the lack of coverage of my area; I was hoping for more. One other area that I found lacking was that there was no information about whether dogs were welcome in any of the park areas. Some walks, such as the trip to the Stone Mountain summit, forbid dogs, and it would be a real shame to plan out a walk based on this book and not be able to go. This information would be of particular importance to people who are walking and exploring solo ... for many reasons, having another person with you is good, and, failing that, a dog or two always makes for good companionship as well as safety. This is a minor consideration -- many of the walks are in city neighborhoods where well behaved (well picked up after!) dogs are fine. Moreover, as a couple the Davises likely have never had to walk solo, and they may simply not have thought of including info for dog owners or may have decided that information changed too rapidly to include it. All the same, as someone who would never consider going on a hike without her dogs, I found the lack noticeable. Despite these two caveats, this remains an excellent book, and I look forward to many more hikes :)

For what it is, Atlanta Walks is a decent book with good maps and useful information on area sites. However, before you buy it know that most of these walks are around 5 miles long! To me, this is

mostly for avid, athletic walkers and cyclists, not casual sightseers. I checked this out at the bookstore before purchasing it and was glad I did. I hoped to find more urban walks (no Cabbagetown, no Grant Park) and hoped they would be in the 1- to 2-mile range, highlighting more shopping and sightseeing opportunities. This is less for someone who wants to explore Atlanta, and more for someone who wants to exercise in an urban environment.

When we lived in Atlanta this book provided some great ideas on places to go visting. But I never felt if provided the richness I might have hoped for, and we were occassionally dissapointed in the locations. If you are new to town, I would pick this up.

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