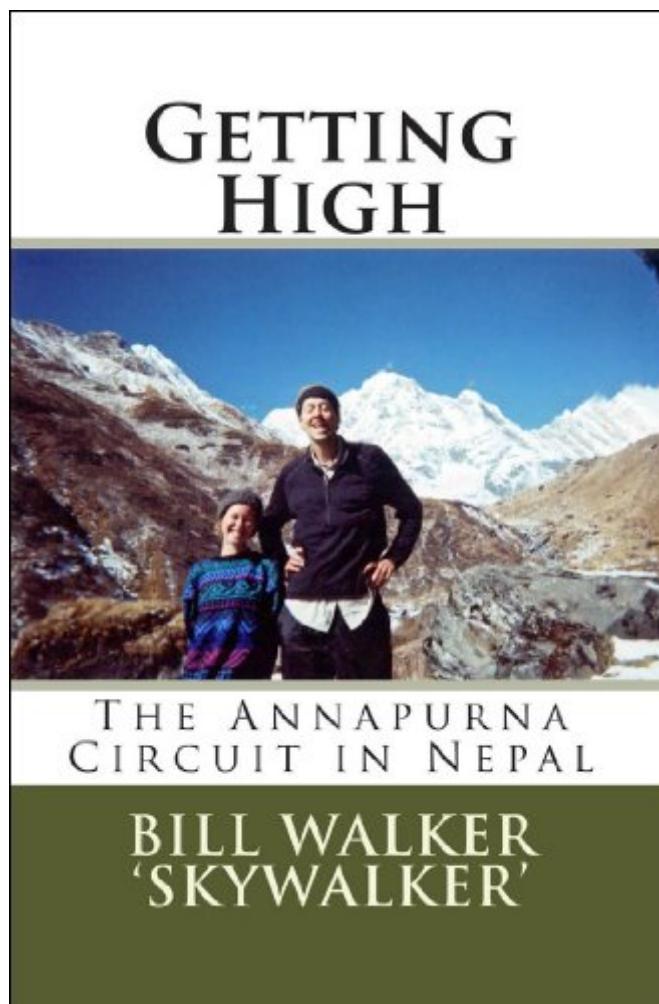


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Getting High: The Annapurna Circuit In Nepal



Synopsis

What is the best way for the average person to authentically experience the world's greatest mountain range--the Himalayas? Fortunately, there is now a good answer. The Annapurna Circuit in Nepal is the most popular footpath in Asia. Its genius lies in its design. Trekkers wind their way around and along some of the world's greatest peaks, ultimately getting near 18,000 feet, without ever having to do any 'technical climbing'. This Circuit is widely considered one of the world's great treks, and mortals from all around the world are coming to Nepal for the unique chance to 'get high'. Bill Walker ('Skywalker') struggled his way through the Annapurna Circuit in 2012. He has written this entertaining tale of his journey in this land of Sherpas, cold, altitude, and rushing water.

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Customer Reviews

The author was, despite claiming to be an experienced trekker, was completely unprepared for this trek. I believe he had not even read a travel guide, especially not a Lonely Planet book. He ignored the advice of other trekkers and moaned and groaned his way through the book. He had worried about his height being a problem...but didn't mention to his planners. He just assumed the everything would be ok...then he complained some more. He kept touting his hiking the Appalachian

and Pacific trails...when his complaining continued, I wanted to scream "you're not in Kansas anymore." His denigration of the Nepali people & the Sherpa's really made him look like an Ugly American. He set himself to be a target for anyone to try to con, then complained some more. He took no responsibility for his failure to educate himself, to plan, etc. Yes, I have been to Nepal...I found the people charming, intelligent and frequently spoke several languages. I also found a delightful hotel in Tamal at the same price he quoted. It had all the amenities needed, a very qualified staff, an excellent concierge/travel planner. If I had to travel with the author, I probably would have dumped him in 4 hours. Two words. Ugly American

Maybe a three-and-a-half star rating would be better, but it's not available. Overall, this isn't a bad book and I'm glad I read it. Hiking the Annapurna Circuit is something I hope to do in the future. However, my criticism of the book is that Mr. Walker spends far too much time complaining about his porter and his non-stop headache due to the altitude. Mr. Walker makes the reader aware of these facts early on and does not need to constantly remind us. These two facts seem to have affected every aspect of his hike. Honestly, I cannot help but wonder if the author really even enjoyed his Annapurna Circuit hike. If you like Mr. Walker's other books, or if you have an interest in the Annapurna Circuit, I think you will like this book as well.

I've read all of Skywalker's books. This may be my favorite but it's hard to split 'em. Bill has a gift with words which makes him pleasing to read. His prose are just delightful and I gulped this book down in 3 bites. Delicious. But he not only is gifted with his pen. He has something to say, without reaching pretentiously beyond his bounds. Mr. Walker, in this book, and his others, exudes his thirst for immersing himself in foreign cultures. I feel like a voyeur of the Tibetan people as well as the myriad of hikers from all over the world. I envy you, like I envy someone who's never read Mark Twain. Because you have a wonderful feast awaiting you and I do not.

Getting High: The Annapurna Circuit in Nepal by Bill Walker is, in my opinion, his best book to date. Mr. Walker's style makes it easy to read; I felt as if I were sitting in conversation with him about his Annapurna adventure. This is not a travel guide; it is a wonderfully expressed narration about Bill Walker's experiences, how he felt while trekking in Nepal, why he made the decision he did, and the resulting consequences. It is a wonderfully story and I recommend this book. The only things that would have made this book better are color photos for the Kindle reader and a copy editor.

This book is a great personal perspective on trekking in Nepal. I love Bill Walker's accessible, authentic approach to telling his trail tales. This book gives you an inside look at one man's experience with cultures, altitude, spectacular natural scenery and physical stress. Walker doesn't hold himself out as an expert in anyway. So rather than hiking the Himalayas with a world class mountaineer, the reader is allowed to experience trekking from an amateur's point of view. It's fun, it's messy and it's refreshingly real. Bill has a knack for sharing both the highs and the lows- from the exhilaration of climbing 5000 feet in a single day, to freezing, restless nights in trekking tea houses. You'll enjoy this glimpse into a world that was brand new to the author. Whether you agree or disagree with his take on things, Walker succeeds in his main reason for writing this book: Sharing his enthusiasm for living life fully in the outdoors.

Another highly enjoyable book by Bill Walker (Skywalker). As with all his books, he's always entertaining but also informative. In some parts - such as the section where he's attempting to make it to Thorung La Pass - it reads like an enjoyable suspense novel. I couldn't wait to see if he made it through the pass! Part of his appeal is he doesn't try to be anything but an average person attempting a larger than average feat. The difference in this book and his previous ones was the fact that not as much is written about the Annapurna Circuit (I had never really heard much about it before) and it gave me insight into another great trail for hikers who are always looking for the next great experience. Again, I would definitely recommend for anyone interested in attempting the Annapurna Circuit and also just looking for an entertaining read. The only negative is I wish it had been longer, but hopefully we can look forward to more adventures and books from "Skywalker"!

This is the fourth of Bill Walker's books I've read and he is developing as a writer with each book. What makes Bill's contributions to this genre so valuable, is that they are realistic accounts of very challenging hikes, as experienced by a regular guy, and so they feel relevant. While Bill always under sells his abilities as a hiker, his dogged mental toughness is apparent given some of the conditions he encounters. I find myself walking with him in my imagination, and wondering how I would have coped with some of the coldest nights, or the lack of breath and brutal headaches on the most extreme altitude gain days. This book has actually put me off considering walking the Annapurna Circuit, which was clearly not Bill's intention or I'm sure his wish, but I feel that I've received a very honest insight into this undertaking, and that's one of the real strengths of this book.

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