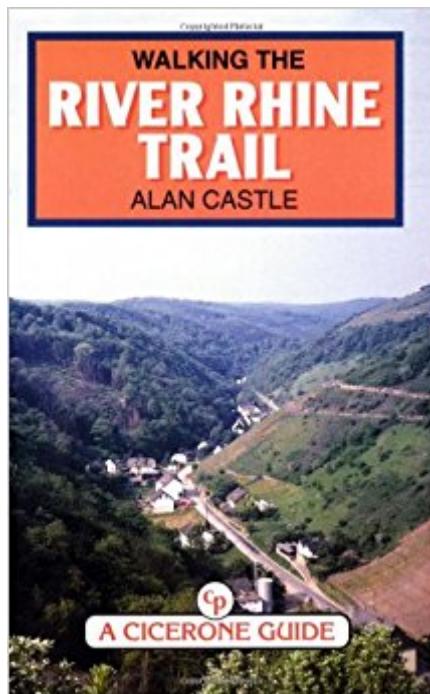


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Walking The River Rhine Trail



Synopsis

A guide to walking the High Level River Rhine Walking Trail or Rheinhohenweg. This spectacular long-distance walking trail follows the course of the River Rhine in Germany from Bonn, the old West German capital, upstream to Alsheim, a village deep in the heart of the famous Rhine vineyards, south of the city of Mainz. The total distance is 273km (170 miles). The route described in this guide can be walked in 14 fairly relaxing stages and provides an opportunity not only to enjoy the outstanding scenery of the area but also to visit some of the many places of historical, architectural and cultural interest in the Rhineland, deservedly the most famous of all the German regions. Sketch maps, summary tables and detailed information on places of interest accompany the route description. The author, Alan Castle, is an experienced long-distance walker and writes regularly for the outdoor press.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Alan has trekked in over twenty-five countries within Europe, Asia, North and South America, Africa and Australasia, and for seventeen years led organised walking holidays in several European countries. A member of the British Outdoor Writers' Guild, he has written more than a dozen walking guidebooks, several on long distance mountain routes in France. His longest solo walks include a Grand Traverse of the European Alps between Nice and Vienna (1510 miles), the Pilgrim's Trail from Le Puy to Santiago de Compostela (960 miles) and a Coast-to-Coast across the French Pyrenees (540 miles). A Munroist and erstwhile National Secretary and Long Distance Path Information Officer of the Long Distance Walkers Association, Alan now lives at the foot of the

Moffat Hills in Scotland, in the heart of the Southern Uplands.

Let me first say that I have never actually walked the River Rhine Trail (Rhein-Hessenweg), so I'm not reviewing this book with the knowledge of someone who has "done it." I have, however, been along the Rhine several times and have also once bicycled the entire length of the river, so I'm familiar with many of the towns and rural areas described in the book. Although the book includes descriptive information on the 273 km (170 miles) trail, it is not generally a travel book to just sit and read for pleasure (though I did). Rather it is a guidebook for those actually planning or making the walk itself. The book is divided into 14 "Stages" or days suggested by the author for making the walk (the course being from Bonn to Alsheim some 28 miles south of Mainz). Each of the 14 short chapters is divided into five useful sections titled "Facilities," "Maps," "Places of Interest," "Summary," and "The Route." For those reading the book in advance of making the walk, it's probably best to skip the sections titled "The Route," as these consist of detailed instructions on watching for signposts, bends in the trail, etc. As with all "how-to" travel books, the information here (©1999) is at times dated, and this must be kept in mind. However, this is a specialized topic with little published information in English, and as such this book is quite useful. The book also includes several hand-drawn maps and a number of color and b&w photographs. It is small enough to easily fit into a backpack or large pocket. Note that the author and publisher are British, so some of the information is geared more toward the U.K. reader, though any experienced traveler/hiker can easily deal with this. With the above-mentioned provisos, highly recommended.

This book was published in 1999 and needs to be updated. But it still contains a lot of useful information. I thought it was worthwhile even though I only walked from Koblenz to Bingen.

This book is so out of date that they discuss how to protect your film while hiking. Geographically it might be accurate but I wouldn't trust any of the directions of how to get to the trail heads because the towns/cities/trail heads may have evolved since this publication in 1999. Naturally, there is no hotel or related services information other than to say that a city has hotels and related services.

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