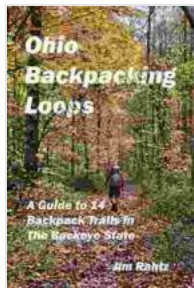


The Ultimate Guide to 14 Backpack Trails in the Buckeye State



Ohio Backpacking Loops: A Guide to 14 Backpack Trails in The Buckeye State by Jim Rahtz

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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Ohio may not be the first state that comes to mind when you think of backpacking, but it offers a surprisingly diverse range of trails for hikers of all levels. From beginner-friendly loops to challenging treks through forests, hills, and along scenic rivers, there's something for everyone in the Buckeye State.

In this guide, we'll introduce you to 14 of the best backpacking trails in Ohio, providing detailed information on each trail's length, difficulty, elevation gain, and highlights. We'll also include tips on where to camp, what to pack, and how to prepare for your trip.

Beginner Backpacking Trails

1. **Mohican State Park Loop Trail** (5 miles, easy): This short loop trail is perfect for beginners, with a gentle elevation gain and well-maintained trail surface. It takes you through a variety of habitats, including forests, wetlands, and prairies.



Photo: Ohio Department of Natural Resources

2. **Hocking Hills Rim Trail** (10 miles, moderate): This loop trail offers stunning views of Hocking Hills State Park's cliffs, waterfalls, and gorges. It's a bit more challenging than the Mohican State Park Loop Trail, but still manageable for beginners.



Photo: Hocking Hills State Park

Intermediate Backpacking Trails

1. **Buckeye Trail Long Loop Trail** (50 miles, moderate): This long loop trail takes you through a variety of Ohio's landscapes, including

forests, hills, and valleys. It's a challenging but rewarding hike, with plenty of opportunities to camp and enjoy the scenery.



Photo: Buckeye Trail Association

2. **Tecumseh Trail** (112 miles, moderate to difficult): This long-distance trail follows the path of the legendary Shawnee chief Tecumseh through Ohio's Shawnee State Forest. It's a challenging hike, with

rugged terrain and steep climbs, but it's also one of the most rewarding trails in the state.

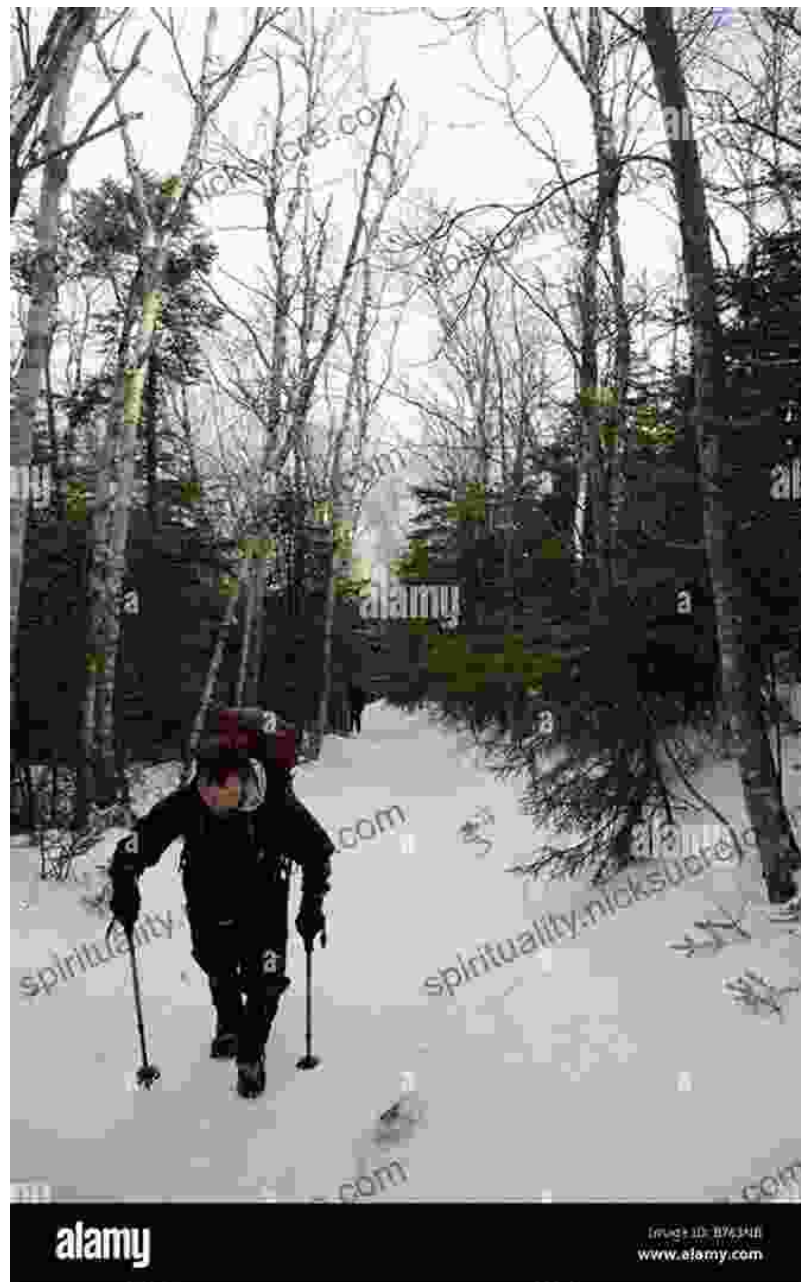


Photo: Shawnee State Forest

Advanced Backpacking Trails

1. **North Country National Scenic Trail** (460 miles, difficult): This long-distance trail follows the Michigan-Wisconsin border through Ohio's Upper Peninsula. It's a challenging hike, with long stretches of wilderness and rugged terrain. However, it's also one of the most scenic trails in the country.



Photo: National Park Service

2. **Buckeye Trail North Loop** (225 miles, difficult): This loop trail takes you through the northern part of Ohio's Buckeye Trail. It's a challenging hike, with steep climbs and rugged terrain. However, it's also one of the most beautiful trails in the state, with stunning views of forests, lakes, and rivers.



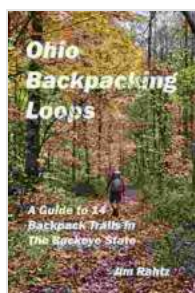
Photo: Buckeye Trail Association

Tips for Backpacking in Ohio

- **Plan your trip ahead of time.** Make sure to research the trails you're interested in and choose one that's appropriate for your fitness level and experience. Be sure to check the weather forecast and pack accordingly.
- **Pack light.** You'll be carrying your pack for miles, so it's important to pack only the essentials. Bring a tent, sleeping bag, pad, food, water, and a first-aid kit.

- **Be prepared for all types of weather.** Ohio's weather can be unpredictable, so be sure to pack layers of clothing, a rain jacket, and a hat. Also, bring plenty of water, especially if you're hiking in the summer.
- **Stay on the trail.** It's important to stay on the designated trails to avoid getting lost or damaging the environment.
- **Respect wildlife.** Ohio is home to a variety of wildlife, so be sure to keep your distance and never approach animals. Also, be sure to store your food properly to avoid attracting wildlife to your campsite.
- **Leave no trace.** Pack out everything you pack in, and be sure to dispose of waste properly. Also, be respectful of other hikers and share the trail.

Backpacking in Ohio is a great way to experience the state's natural beauty and challenge yourself. With a variety of trails to choose from, there's something for everyone, from beginners to experienced hikers. Just be sure to plan your trip ahead of time, pack light, and be prepared for all types of weather. With a little planning and preparation, you're sure to have a great time backpacking in the Buckeye State.



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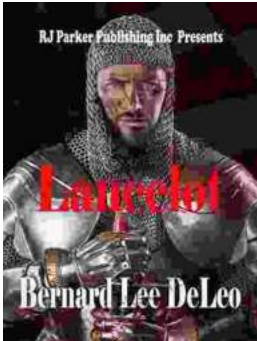
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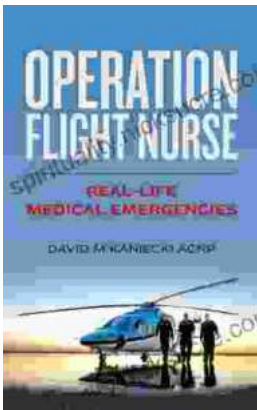
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