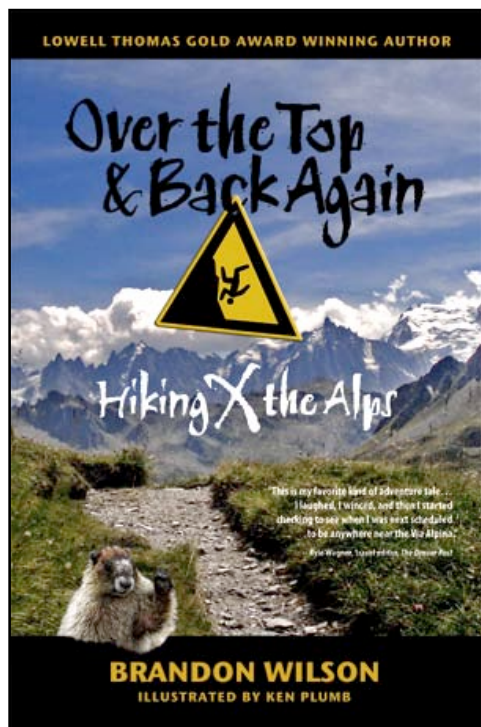


# Over the Top & Back Again: Hiking X the Alps

2010 Book of the Year Bronze Award (travel essay genre), ForeWord Reviews



AUTHOR/PHOTOS: Brandon Wilson

ILLUSTRATOR: Ken Plumb

Adventure Travel/Non-Fiction

238 pages; 53 photos/maps/illustrations

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Brandon Wilson is the 2009 Lowell Thomas Gold Award-winning adventure travel writer (Society of American Travel Writers) and is author of four non-fiction travel adventure books. His photos have won awards from *National Geographic Traveler* and *Islands* magazines. He's a member of the prestigious Explorers Club.

After decades of hiking some of the world's greatest trails, Brandon Wilson was excited to hear about the Via Alpina, new paths running through eight countries along the backbone of the Alps.

Besides promising immersion into Alpine life, it'd be the ultimate adventure. It meant climbing 3,000 feet from valley to mountain hut each day—1200 miles—for months.

Faster than you can say "schnitzel," he coaxed his desk-jockey wife into leaving their cozy home to join him. Unlike their trek across Tibet, they wouldn't dodge bullets. Who knew that ice fields, relentless rain, Föhn winds, ticks and cow patties could be more dangerous. Then again, the weird encounters and bizarre characters would help put peril into perspective.

It's all here, the triumphs and agony of de feet, captured in Wilson's witty, gritty, award-winning style.

**Over the Top & Back Again** sweeps you along for an inspiring, slightly crazed look at the peerless Alps—and at an everyday mid-life couple who risk it all to follow their most daring dream.

"My favorite kind of adventure tale... I laughed, I winced, and then I started checking to see when I was next scheduled to be anywhere near the Via Alpina." ~ Kyle Wagner, travel editor, *The Denver Post*

"Informative, entertaining, and original. Award-winning author Brandon Wilson is a pioneer in a groundbreaking genre of travel writing." ~ *Midwest Book Review*

"Recommended for armchair travelers and anyone interested in hiking the Alps." ~ *Library Journal*

"Wilson brings his considerable intellect and dry sense of humor to this epic adventure and the result is brilliantly accessible and wonderfully subversive." ~ Richard Bangs, author of *Quest for the Sublime*, legendary adventurer

"Marvelous account of the long hike across the roof of Europe...told with a fine eye for detail and a keen sense of humor." ~ Royal Robbins, rock climbing pioneer