

Early Acclaim for
Over the Top & Back Again: Hiking X the Alps

by Brandon Wilson, 2009 Lowell Thomas Award-Winning Adventure Travel Author



"This is my favorite kind of adventure tale: Against all odds, in the face of health, weather, interpersonal, navigational and culinary issues, Brandon Wilson and his somewhat reluctant wife hike it because it's there – or, it's supposed to be. 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*

"Wilson explores not just three, but pushes the alpine experience to extremes by traversing eight countries, and they have been fortunate for this laureate. He brings his considerable intellect and wry sense of humor to this epic adventure, and the result is brilliantly accessible and wonderfully subversive."

~ Richard Bangs, author of *Quest for the Sublime*, *PEAKS* and other books that celebrate travel and adventure

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

~ Richard R. Blake, *Midwest Book Review*

"This lighthearted hiking narrative reflects the positives of such an experience: overcoming hardship, laughing at their inability to find trail blazes, Europe's apparent fear of switchbacks on trails ascending 1000-plus meters per col, and the bond and struggle with your trail partner. Another celebration of simply putting one foot in front of the other with everything you need on your back and faith in the trail ahead. ...Recommended for armchair travelers and anyone interested in hiking the Alps."

~ *Library Journal*

"Marvelous account of a long hike...told with a fine eye for detail and a keen sense of humor."

~ Royal Robbins, legendary pioneer of American rock climbing

"He's the king of *tell it like it is* travel writing! Few writers admit their missteps and appreciate that readers really do want to know what happens on a long arduous trek, be it scary, life changing or just downright painful. You'll feel the chill from the sleet, steam from the shower and the aroma wafting from a well-earned meal as you trek along!"

~ Donna Coomer, *Between the Lines Reviews*

"Wilson is my favorite travel writer. His newest book: *Over the Top & Back Again: Hiking X the Alps* is his most exciting book yet! While reading the first few chapters, I found myself laughing at his humor every few pages. ...Difficult to put it down. Throughout there is a sense of suspense in this wild adventure. This is perfect for armchair travelers as well as those who aspire to hike the same trail."

~ Rebecca Review, *Amazon Top 10 Reviewer*

"It's great fun trekking through the Alps with the Wilsons...They do all the hard work – and we get all the pleasures – all rendered with warmth, insight and humor in Brandon's inimitable style."

~ Rick Chatenever, Entertainment & Features Editor, *The Maui News*

"Wilson walks the way Forrest Gump runs. He's driven to it...As for the connection between the outer journey and the inner journey, Wilson never pushes it. You get it in small bits, as he does, because that's the way it comes. It has a lot to do with savoring the simple pleasures of life that surround us every day. Wilson's books point the way toward this happy state of mind: just be bold and endure a few vicissitudes."
~ Stephen Hartshorne, GoNOMAD.com

"Loved Brandon's humor, gutsiness and *joie de vivre*."
~ Ron Strickland, founder of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail and author of *Leave A Trail*

"A gift to hikers. ...Brandon doesn't sugarcoat their experiences – after all, climbing 3,000 feet each and every day for months is no 'walk in the woods.'...Bravo to this adventurous pair for putting 'normal' life on hold so that they could trek the backbone of the Alps and bring this insightful tale to us."
~ Susan Alcorn, author of *Camino Chronicle: Walking to Santiago*

"Wilson has reached his pinnacle of achievement, both in his wonderfully written story and the adventure. A tale both grand and simple, both exciting and humorous, both real and spectacular."
~ Jim Damico, WanderingtheWorld.com

"To put it succinctly, the book is walking jazz – improvisation at its best, with stunning high notes (it's the Alps!) and a trill of rain and wet, slick rhythms. Played by ear, backed by deep experience, a persistent off beat, (and a lot of humor)...it rocks!"
~ Kathy Gower, American Pilgrims

"This is to be Wilson's ultimate test, full of discovery, fear, laughter and, of course, a few tears too... Fans of his other books will take much delight. It will please young and old alike..."
~ Jessica Roberts, Bookpleasures.com

"Fascinating and harrowing tale. ...A MUST READ for hikers, travelers, outdoors people and adventurers."
~ Bonnie Neely, RealTravelAdventures.com

"Through their gripping 4 month journey we discover idyllic, yet vanishing Alpine villages and people who have made the mountains their home for generations, while we're inspired and encouraged to summit our own personal Alps."
~ Simone diSanti, ARoadReTraveled.com

"In his very literate style, Brandon Wilson always transcends the mundane and the ordinary. At the same time, he makes his grassroots travel experiences fully accessible to the mind and imagination of the reader. ...A dramatic but also very humorous story which proves once again how physical landscapes shape the human psyche."
~ Bob Fisher, Travelosophy.com

"The most dangerous, exciting, and challenging of his travel adventures. ...Their spirit of teamwork, love of nature and people, and great courage facing and overcoming many difficult unknowns along the Alpine trails makes this Brandon's very best book and adventure to date."
~ Linda D. Delgado, Author and Publisher

"Another unique adventure for the world nomad or armchair traveler alike to read and enjoy without getting your feet wet and cold. Part travelogue, part travel guide and all humor and adventure."
~ Tammy Wetzel, Yileen Press

"The thrill of victory, the agony of de feet!...Wilson is superb at minute description of the topography as well as the chance encounters with other voyagers and the townsfolk along the way. The book is sprinkled with humor and cartoons to make the journey special. Hikers and non-hikers will enjoy this travelogue of conquering the mountains and valleys of mittel Europa."
~ Barbara Hudgins, author of *Crafting the Travel Guidebook*