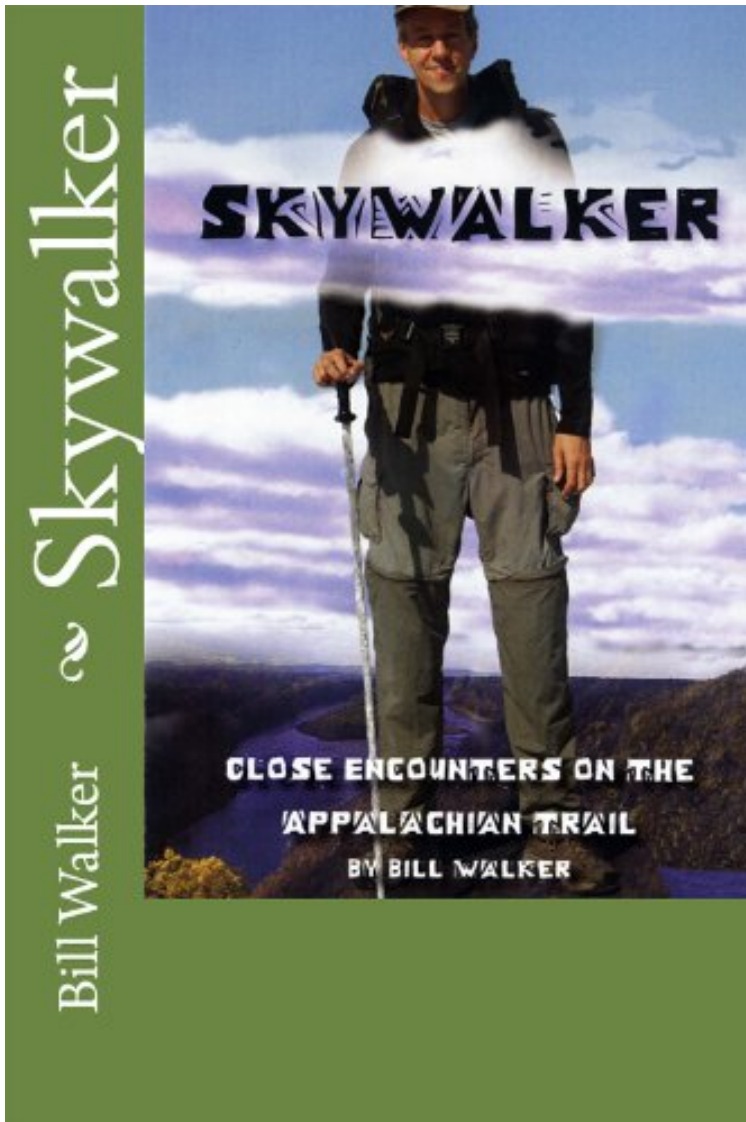


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# Skywalker--Close Encounters on the Appalachian trail (English Edition)



*Par Bill Walker*

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## Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurWhy would a middle-aged businessman who had never even spent the night outdoors, attempt to hike the entire Appalachian Trail? Bill Walker, a former commodities trader in Chicago and London, and an avid walker, had developed a virtual obsession to hike this historic 2,175 mile footpath in one hiking season. In the spring of 2005 he set off from his home state of Georgia, hoping to make it to Mount Katahdin in northern Maine before the arrival of winter. Immediately, he realized he had plunged into a whole new world. For starters, the Appalachian Trail has some ferociously difficult terrain, winding through dramatically diverse geography and covering the East's highest peaks.Walker's 6'11" height earned

him the trail name, "Skywalker", and drew envious attention from his fellow hikers. However, the height made him more susceptible to weight loss, cold weather, and crushing fatigue. An elemental fear of bears and snakes, as well as getting lost, also loomed large. Skywalker was especially struck by the rich culture this jewel of a trail has developed over the years. Included is a history of how the Appalachian Trail has become such a stunning American success story over the decades. It is a model public-private partnership. As many as 4,000,000 people hike some part of it each year. Mortals are compelled--or perhaps cursed--to relive their lifetime adventure. This is Bill Walker's unforgettable version, leavened with ruthlessly self-deprecating humor. Some have joked that the book is as much about what NOT to do, as what to do. Skywalker couldn't agree more!

**Presentation de l'auteur** Why would a middle-aged businessman who had never even spent the night outdoors, attempt to hike the entire Appalachian Trail? Bill Walker, a former commodities trader in Chicago and London, and an avid walker, had developed a virtual obsession to hike this historic 2,175 mile footpath in one hiking season. In the spring of 2005 he set off from his home state of Georgia, hoping to make it to Mount Katahdin in northern Maine before the arrival of winter. Immediately, he realized he had plunged into a whole new world. For starters, the Appalachian Trail has some ferociously difficult terrain, winding through dramatically diverse geography and covering the East's highest peaks. Walker's 6'11" height earned him the trail name, "Skywalker", and drew envious attention from his fellow hikers. However, the height made him more susceptible to weight loss, cold weather, and crushing fatigue. An elemental fear of bears and snakes, as well as getting lost, also loomed large. Skywalker was especially struck by the rich culture this jewel of a trail has developed over the years. Included is a history of how the Appalachian Trail has become such a stunning American success story over the decades. It is a model public-private partnership. As many as 4,000,000 people hike some part of it each year. Mortals are compelled--or perhaps cursed--to relive their lifetime adventure. This is Bill Walker's unforgettable version, leavened with ruthlessly self-deprecating humor. Some have joked that the book is as much about what NOT to do, as what to do. Skywalker couldn't agree more!

**Biographie de l'auteur** Bill Walker attended the University of Georgia in Athens. He earned a bachelor's and Master's degree in Accounting, which he now considers a big mistake. Walker spent ten years as a commodities broker at the Chicago Board of Trade, and four years in London with Nomura International. Walker then sharply reversed course and did a year as a Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA), before spending three years in four Latin American countries as a Teacher of English as a Second Language. Walker hiked the Appalachian Trail in 2005 and the Pacific Crest Trail in 2009. Pursuant to those journeys, he wrote the popular narrative Skywalker--Highs and Lows on the Pacific Crest Trail. In 2010, Skywalker hiked the most popular trail in Europe--El Camino de Santiago. This is an 1,100 year old medieval trail that is variously considered a spiritual pilgrimage, or "the European Divorce Trail." He recently completed a narrative on that journey, 'The Best Way--El Camino de Santiago'.