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Travels in Cyberspace: The Monday Report

By *STUART EMMRICH*

Erik S. Lesser for The New York Times Hikers on on a section of the Appalachian Trail outside Blairsville on Blood Mountain, the trail's highest point in Georgia.

If you've hit the [Appalachian Trail](#) in recent months and you feel like it's been a bit more crowded than usual, you may not be imagining things. According to a [front-page article in The Wall Street Journal](#), a number of the newly unemployed have decided to take this forced time off and realize the dream of a lifetime: walking the entire 2,200-mile stretch of the Appalachian Trail from [Georgia](#) to [Maine](#). The Journal cites trail monitors who estimated that more than 1,400 hikers set out from northern Georgia this spring, a significant jump from the normal average of 1,000, with hundreds more "thru-hikers" joining the route as the summer progressed.

The Journal quotes, among others, Dan Kearns, a 32-year-old construction worker from New Jersey, who said he sold his car for \$1,000 to finance the first part of the trip, and then picked up odd jobs along the way so that he could keep going. "I wouldn't do this if I was employed," Mr. Kearns told the paper. "I couldn't find any work, so I just decided to take a walk."

It sounds like they are making the best of a bad situation, but some of these hikers may be sorry they talked to the Journal, especially those who might be financing part of their trips with the unemployment checks they received. As one commentator on the Journal's Web site noted: "If their State Labor Dept finds out, the hikers will be excluded from collecting benefits, as they are not available for work nor actively seeking work."

- [Hiking Travel Guide](#)

Diving the Great Wall

Speaking of long hikes, people who travel to the Great Wall of China often do so to walk as much of its 5,500 miles as they can manage. But now it's possible to see part of the ancient structure from a different perspective: through goggles. It seems that part of the Wall is actually underwater — submerged under a lake since the 1980s — and according to the travel site Gadling, a tour company called Urbane Nomads [is now arranging dive tours](#) to this previously hard to reach spot.

Oliver Weiken/European
Pressphoto Agency The Great
Wall of China.

According to Gadling, "Guides will carry your gear to the submerged portion of the Wall and direct you to the coolest underwater spots, where you'll see 'Ming-era stone carvings, some intricate tunnels and a tight-squeeze guard tower.'" The "Diving the Great Wall" package includes two dives at the site plus more exclusive activities, like a guided tour to the unrestored parts of the Forbidden City, usually off-limits to tourists, says the site.

Biking Sardinia

On [Intelligent Travel](#), the daily blog from National Geographic Traveler magazine, the writer Stanley Stewart discusses his article in September's issue about [taking a motorcycle trip around Sardinia](#) and why he decided to take that trip.

Chris Warde-Jones for The New York Times In eastern Sardinia, limestone cliffs erupt from the Mediterranean.

“Sardinia is a biker’s dream,” Mr. Stewart says. “The roads are excellent but curvy enough to make the whole thing good fun, and the Mediterranean on your shoulder is a great companion. Inland you can get some wonderful straight runs though it is difficult to keep your eyes on the road as the mountains begin to loom.”

He also gives readers info on how they can organize their own motorcycle tours of the island, something that seems to have been left out of the print article for some reason.

- [Sardinia Travel Guide](#)