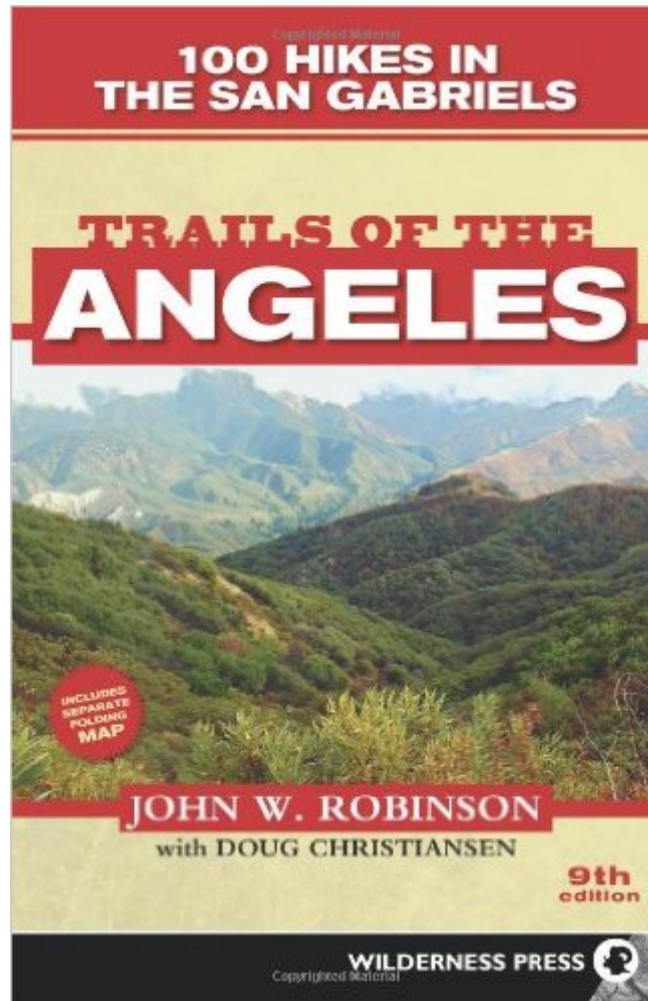


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Trails Of The Angeles: 100 Hikes In The San Gabriels



Synopsis

The rugged San Gabriel Mountains, rising starkly from the edge of the Los Angeles Basin, provide a sharp contrast to the hustle and bustle of the city and its surroundings. Angelinos across the county (a population of almost 10 million), as well as visitors from out of state, welcome the opportunity to escape from city chaos into the quiet wilderness. This 9th edition of the classic Wilderness Press guide has been revised and updated to reflect recent trail changes, and now includes trips in the Fish Canyon Narrows, along Alder Creek, and to Jones Peak, as well as perennial favorites such as Old Baldy, Mt. Wilson, and Devils Punchbowl. Each detailed trip description notes the distance, difficulty, and ideal season, and points out the highlights of the trail. The guide includes a companion 4-color waterproof topo map.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

My wife has discovered the benefits of exercise. First, there was (and still is) the Y, where she spends 2-3 hours a day with step classes, cross trainers, and weights. The sick thing is, she loves it. (I go perhaps 3-4 hours per week, but only because I know it's good for me. I'd much rather sit with a good book, cheeseburger, and fries.) In any case, she's now discovered walking/hiking. She speed walks 10 miles every Saturday morning with a like-minded group of fanatics. They're planning to hike to the bowels of the Grand Canyon, and back up, in 2008; I'll be the one on the rim drinking iced tea. TRAILS OF THE ANGELES describes 100 hikes into the San Gabriel Mountains north of Los Angeles. (It doesn't include the Verdugo Mountains immediately to the south of the San Gabriels or the San Bernardino Mountains further east, in case you're wondering.) I thought my wife

and her walking chums would find it useful for getting into trekking shape. The 2-3 pages dedicated to each of the hundred hikes includes "Features" and "Description", as well as a heading noting the hike's length, difficulty, and season. Perhaps two-thirds include a single black and white photo of something interesting to be seen nowadays or some structure of the past now represented only by ruins. Additionally, the volume contains separate brief chapters: "The San Gabriel Mountains" (geology, fauna, vegetation), "Humans in the San Gabriels" (a history of human influence on the area, recreational hiking being a major pastime between 1895-1938 before paved roads invaded the wilderness), "Hiking Hints" (including "hiker ethics"), and "Using This Book".

This is probably the most thorough and well written hiking guide for the San Gabriel Mountains that you'll find. I can't compare this 9th edition with the previous versions as I don't have any of the previous editions, however, I can tell you that this book is rock solid. Although the author John W. Robinson is retired, he has turned over the reins to Dough Christiansen to keep the content updated and accurate. And the transition is seamless. Unlike some hiking guides that give you overview information about the hikes, John W. Robinson (and Doug Christiansen) get into the nitty gritty useful hike details without going overboard. And based on the hikes I'm familiar with, the hike descriptions are very accurate. Sure they might forget a detail here and there. Like forgetting to mention the famous "Echo Phone" at the top of Echo Mountain that everyone takes their picture with and shouts through. A curious omission for sure, but certainly not anything that would affect the quality of your hike. But the authors DO provide the key information that you need to know. For example, I did a pre-hike to Big Horn Mine for an upcoming group hike and found all the hike details spot on. Even down to trail details like, "The old wagon road is an easy walk except for a washout near the halfway point that may trouble beginners and young hikers." Along with the very thorough coverage of the hikes, TRAILS OF THE ANGELES also provides a lot of background information and history. Granted, some hikers may find this unnecessary and even consider it fluff, but I find it very useful, informative and enjoyable. All in all, this is superb hiking book.

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