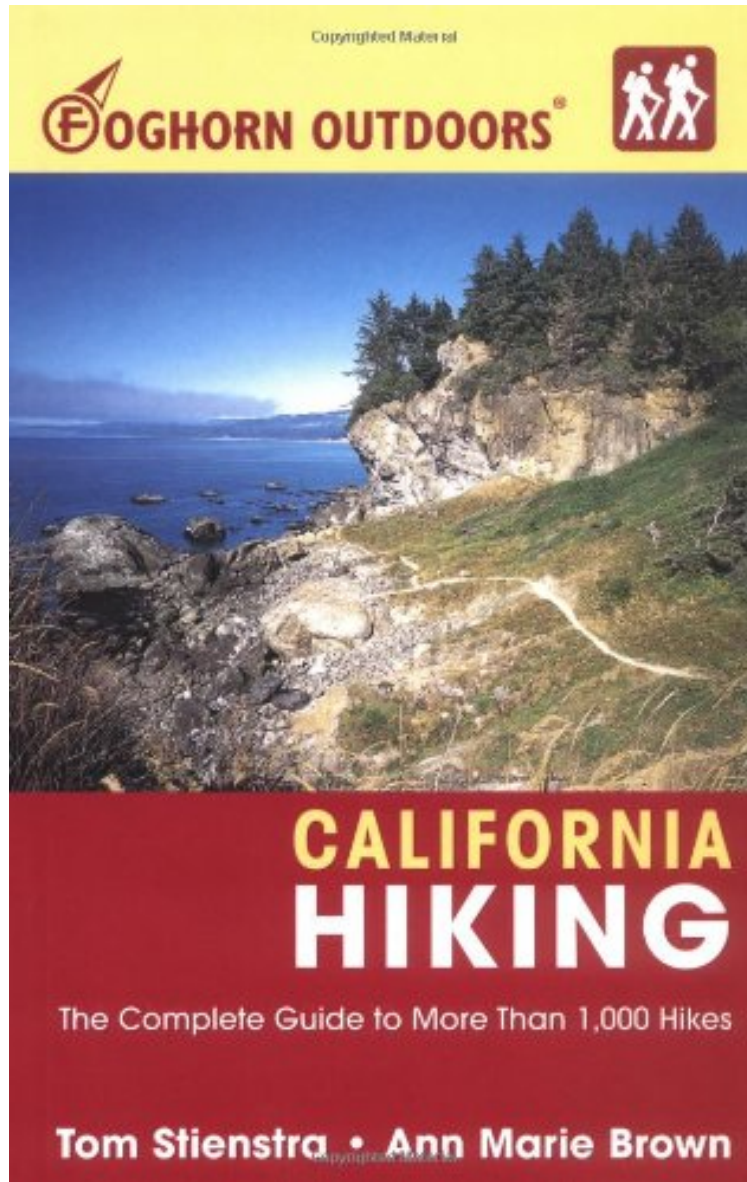


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# Foghorn Outdoors California Hiking: The Complete Guide to More Than 1,000 Hikes

*Tom Stienstra, Ann Marie Brown*  
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**Tom Stienstra, Ann Marie Brown : Foghorn Outdoors California Hiking: The Complete Guide to More Than 1,000 Hikes** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Foghorn Outdoors California Hiking: The Complete Guide to More Than 1,000 Hikes:

24 of 24 people found the following review helpful. Not quite 1000, but a nice survey nonetheless  
By Fritz R. Ward  
Writing a hiking guide for the whole state of California is quite an ambitious task. By and large Ann Marie Brown and Tom Stienstra have succeeded. Over the course of 16 chapters, each covering a broad geographical region of the state, they have provided lists of the best hikes in almost any area that one could visit in California. They also provide nice maps of each region they survey showing the approximate location of each trailhead. For those who like exploring in the golden state, this is an excellent book. I have personally hiked over 200 trails in this book and enjoyed almost every one. I look forward to using this book in the future as well. Having said that, a few caveats are in order. First, the book does not list "over 1000" hikes. Earlier editions did, but many trails have been dropped from this edition. Gone is the Amos Alonzo Stagg tree, a nice walk to the 7th largest sequoia. Trips to Peppermint Creek and Nobe Young Falls are also absent. Some of these hikes have been replaced by others, but on the whole there are fewer trails listed than in previous editions. Second, the book has a strong bias towards Northern California. Not surprisingly, both authors happen to live there now. Of the 964 hikes in this guide, only 317 are south of the Monterey area. I could add numerous trails from the San Bernardino Mountains alone to this book. Finally, you should not expect trail maps in a book of this scope. The authors do, however, tell you where to obtain maps for each trail listed. These caveats aside, you should purchase this book. It is a great introduction to hiking in California. Once you begin exploring trails in any region you will undoubtedly find others to entice you. Happy trails.

5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Nice revision of a popular guide  
By Fritz R. Ward  
California Hiking by Tom Steinstra and Ann Marie Brown has become something of a Bible to hikers over the years. This edition has some dramatic changes in format from previous versions of the book. Most obviously, the chapters cover much larger sections of the state. Whereas earlier editions used a narrow (and quite artificial grid) to place hikes, the 2003 guide divides the state into 16 chapters, each covering a broad geographical area of the state: from the Northern Redwoods to the Southern Deserts, and everything in between. Other changes include a longer introduction, with hiker safety tips, and the absence of Steinstra's amusing commentary on the Pacific Crest Trail. The latter was too general to be used by through hikers in any event. Finally a few trails were added or deleted. On the whole, the new edition is an improvement over the last version. Placing hikes in a broad geographical area allows for easier planning of vacations. Still, with any guide this comprehensive, there are bound to be some problems: obviously the authors could not walk every trail listed every couple of years. Generally speaking, Tom Steinstra tends to underestimate miles. Local guides I've read and trails I've hiked tend to suggest more than his descriptions denote. Also, Steinstra requires more effort to give a hike a high difficulty rating than Brown does. Ultimately, this book should not be relied upon for detailed information. Things like trail maps and detailed trail descriptions simply have no room in guide this comprehensive. The book is already a bit too bulky. Nonetheless, this book does give one a nice overview of various sections of the state. It is particularly helpful for travel. It can give someone a brief listing of hikes in an area and suggest a productive use of vacation times. People who do a lot of hiking in one particular area, however, would do well to purchase detailed guides that concentrate on a much smaller region. Living in the San Bernardino Mountains, I found little of use in this book. But it was invaluable on my recent trip to Humboldt Redwoods and vicinity. If you travel the state and like to hike, this book is well worth the price.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I LOVE THIS BOOK  
By mnlooney22  
I LOVE THIS BOOK! I haven't actually had a chance to complete hikes using this book however I have done some listed in the book and they are as described. I love the organization, ratings, and short descriptions. Most of all I love that it tells user groups for each hike. I often find myself wanting to do a hike listed in many of these books only to find they are not dog friendly. I like how I know from the beginning which hikes I can take my dog on and which I need to leave him home. Great resource.

Covering every worthwhile destination in California, this is the hiker's guide to finding the best hikes in the Golden State. Families, day-trippers, and seasoned hikers looking for a change of pace will all find the perfect trail among the options selected by renowned outdoor enthusiasts Tom Stienstra and Ann Marie Brown. Destinations include hikes close to Los Angeles and San Francisco, or treks through the Sierra Nevadas or up the coast. This guidebook provides updated, easy-to-use region and trail maps, descriptive keynotes for every geographical region, and steepness and skill ratings for each hike. Detailed descriptions let hikers know when a trail visits a waterfall, scenic overlook, or wildflower field. Foghorn Outdoors California Hiking has the details on the best California hiking available.