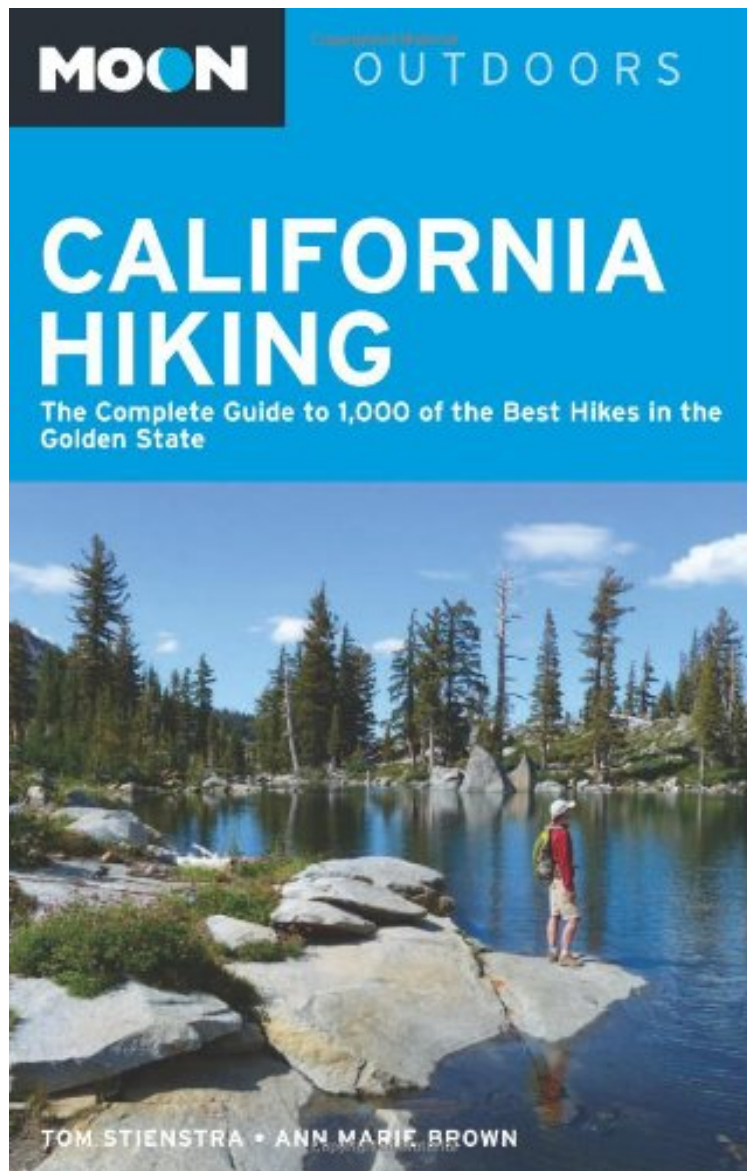


[Free pdf] Moon California Hiking: The Complete Guide to 1,000 of the Best Hikes in the Golden State (Moon Outdoors)

## **Moon California Hiking: The Complete Guide to 1,000 of the Best Hikes in the Golden State (Moon Outdoors)**

*Tom Stienstra, Ann Marie Brown*  
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**Tom Stienstra, Ann Marie Brown : Moon California Hiking: The Complete Guide to 1,000 of the Best Hikes in the Golden State (Moon Outdoors)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Moon California Hiking: The Complete Guide to 1,000 of the Best Hikes in the Golden State (Moon

Outdoors):

29 of 29 people found the following review helpful. Like a Fine Wine...By Fritz R. Ward  
This book just keeps getting better with age. Now in its ninth edition, California Hiking by Ann Marie Brown and Tom Stienstra is simply the most popular, most comprehensive, and in this edition, the most accurate volume of its kind. Hiking guidebooks almost never see nine editions, but this one has a loyal following and deserves a wide readership. Why? Because no matter where you are in the Golden State, this book will lead you to some spectacular hikes close by. In all editions since 2002, California Hiking is organized by regions. Chapters run from the northern part of the state (Redwood Empire) to the southern deserts. Each chapter features a set of maps to help you locate trailheads, and each also highlights the authors' favorite hikes found in that chapter. As might be expected, some of these chapters are more extensive than others. The chapter on the greater San Francisco Bay area, with its profusion of national, state, and local parks, includes 209 different routes, nearly one fifth of the total hikes in the book. Lake Tahoe, the southern Sierra, including Sequoia and Kings Canyon, and Yosemite also receive a lot of attention. But even the shorter chapters include some real gems. The coastal hikes in Monterey, Big Sur, and Santa Barbara are some of the best trails in the state. I have used this book for years to plan my vacations and will continue to do so in the future. In this new (2012) edition, California Hiking features 1,014 hikes of varying difficulty. Some are short leg stretchers of a quarter of a mile. Others are long one way treks of up to 112 miles. The average hike is about 7 miles. Many of these hikes were found in earlier editions of the book, but this edition includes numerous updates to trail mileages and directions as some of the trails have been rerouted. And of course some trails are no longer listed. Gone is Point Bonita Lighthouse, which is no longer open to the public due to an unsafe walkway. The National Park Service will hopefully build a new one, but in the meantime, it has been replaced by other trails. The Pioneer History Trail at Benbow Lake State Recreation Area is also no longer listed. At this point, only those actually camping in the park can enjoy it, and the park is only open part of the year. On the other hand, this edition features many new hikes. Among these are the spectacular James Irvine trail in Prarie Creek Redwoods State Park and several new waterfall hikes, including two in San Diego County. In my opinion, the new hikes are on the whole better than the ones they replace. Perhaps the biggest change in the 2012 edition of California Hiking is the elimination of the chapter on Death Valley. In previous editions, it was one of the shortest chapters in the book. Death Valley hikes are still included, however, in an expanded southern deserts chapter that also features several hikes in Anza Borrego State Park, including a new route in a slot canyon. The chapter on San Diego county has also been extensively reworked, and the results are spectacular. Several hikes which had been closed due to fires in years past are now reopened, and new hikes are also listed. I personally was pleased to see that Hot Springs Mountain is again open. The highest point in San Diego County was closed to public use for many years. Considering all the changes, the chapter on San Diego is now one of the best in the book. Brown and Stienstra's California Hiking is the bible of California hikers. I probably have spent more time reading this book (in all of its editions) than any other title in any genre. Like many hikers, I want to complete all the trails described in the book. It is a lifetime project, but then this book is the result of a lifetime of effort by both authors. It is well worth the price and comes highly recommended. 10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Thankfully we did some research on line as well or else we would have missed out on our absolute favorite hike, the Edwolsen tra  
By Ayelet Gezow  
The book is clearly out of date. Thankfully we did some research on line as well or else we would have missed out on our absolute favorite hike, the Edwolsen trail in the Julia Pfeifer Burns State Park. It was rated very low in the book. There were some hikes that were quite disappointing. Also, some of the highest rated hikes ended up being Disney versions, and while beautiful, we would not consider them to be hikes. We would have completely skipped those had we known (Point Lobos and Montana de Oro for example). A lot of the spots that were "off the beaten path" which was the experience we were seeking, were clearly not. Additionally, it would have been very helpful to have a description of the hike types, such as "out and back" or "look" and a small, at least diagrammatic map included. On the upside, we appreciated the descriptions of the trails and the side trips shown for some of the trail which ended up making the hikes better. 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Covers large number of trails. Information somewhat terse. By Arthur Black  
I recently used this book for hiking a number of trails on the northern California coast. The book covers a very large number of trails. I found the authors "best of" listings to be a helpful way to sort through the trails for a region. On the trails I hiked, I found the author's descriptions to be accurate, but somewhat terse. Perhaps a natural result of the large number of trails covered. I would suggest if author does an update to the guide book that he includes the GPS coordinates of the trail head. This would be much more useful for locating the trail than providing directions from assumed starting points. The trail head location for a few of the trails I hiked were poorly marked. GPS coordinates would have been a big help.

Seasoned outdoors authors Tom Stienstra and Ann Marie Brown know the best hiking trails in the Golden State, from breathtaking coastal walks north of Los Angeles to challenging backcountry treks in the Sierra Nevadas. Including 21 new hikes and unique "best-of" lists including Best Hikes to Waterfalls and Best Hikes to See Wildlife  
Moon California Hiking leads beginner and expert hikers alike to the best trails the state has to offer. Complete with detailed regional

maps, hiking tips, difficulty and quality ratings for each hike, Moon California Hiking provides hikers with all the necessary tools to head outdoors.

About the Author For 30 years, Tom Stienstra's full-time job has been to capture and communicate the outdoor experience. This has led him across California - fishing, hiking, camping, boating, biking, and flying - searching for the best of the outdoors and then writing about it. Tom is the nation's top-selling author of outdoors guidebooks. He has been inducted into the California Outdoor Hall of Fame and has twice been awarded National Outdoor Writer of the Year, newspaper division, by the Outdoor Writers Association of America. He has also been named California Outdoor Writer of the Year five times, most recently in 2007. Tom is the outdoors columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle; his articles appear on sfgate.com and in newspapers around the country. He broadcasts a weekly radio show on KCBS-San Francisco and formerly hosted an outdoor television show on CBS/CW San Francisco. The author of 13 outdoor guidebooks, Ann Marie Brown is a dedicated California outdoorswoman. She hikes, bikes, and camps more than 150 days each year in an effort to avoid routine, complacency, and getting a real job. Ann Marie's work has appeared in Sunset, VIA, Backpacker, and California magazines. As a way of giving back a little of what she gets from her experiences in nature, she writes and edits for several environmental groups, including the Sierra Club and National Resources Defense Council.