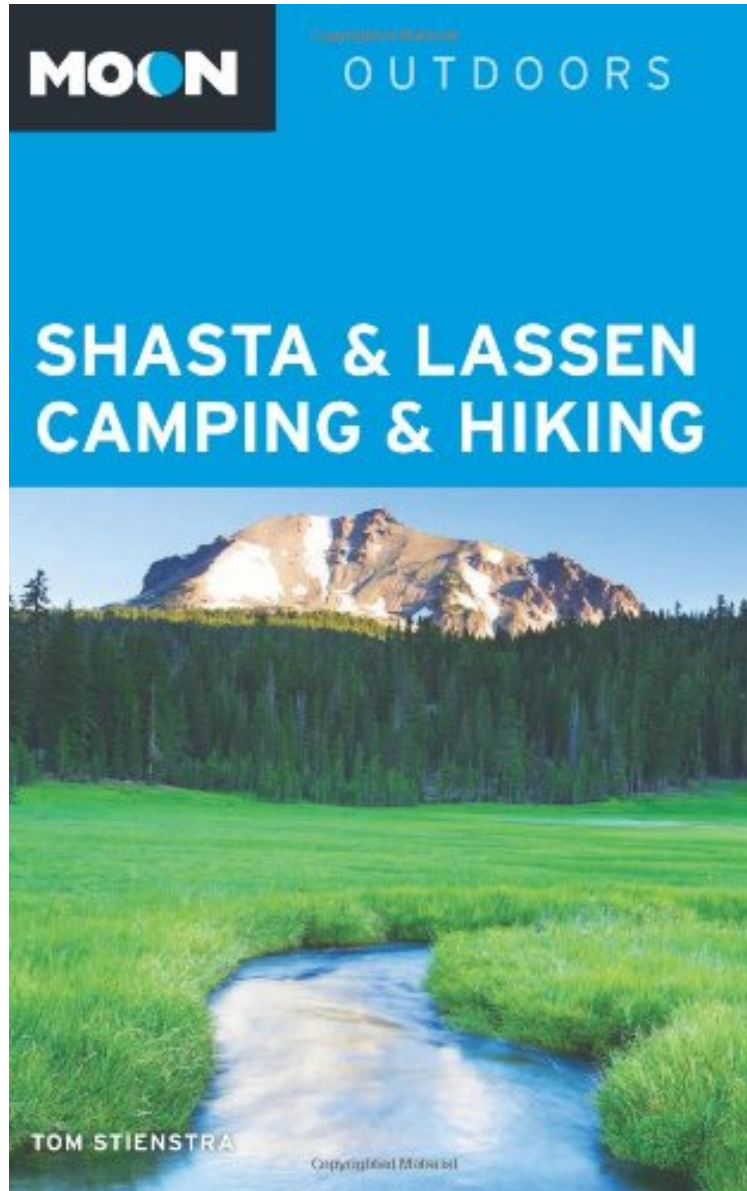


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Tom Stienstra

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Tom Stienstra : Moon Shasta Lassen Camping Hiking (Moon Outdoors) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Moon Shasta Lassen Camping Hiking (Moon Outdoors):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fun, Comprehensive, and Occasionally Dangerous (but that's OK).By Fritz R. Ward Moon Handbooks owns the rights to what are arguably the two most popular outdoor guidebooks to California: California Hiking and California Camping. Both books are comprehensive but also

somewhat bulky. So Moon as publishers have decided to capitalize on the popularity of these books by placing them in smaller formats and covering localized areas in the state like Yosemite, Tahoe, and the California Desert Parks. One of the most recent additions to this smaller format is Shasta Lassen Camping and Hiking. Using the relevant chapters from California Hiking and Camping, this slim book introduces all the campgrounds and many of the best hikes in the area. Although California Hiking has two authors, Tom Stienstra is the sole author of this book because he wrote the relevant hiking chapters and he also is the sole author of the camping guide. In some ways this is a real plus because Stienstra has a great sense of humor and it shows more in these chapters than most. On the downside, he sometimes revels in torturing his readers with some of the hiking routes. For example, Stienstra includes a trip to Little South Fork Lake, the route of which can conceivably injure you, and you will certainly not be found anytime before the author himself decides to return there. (On the other hand, the fishing is great, and did I mention Stienstra is also the author of California Fishing?) And this is hardly the only instance. Today I took his hike to the top of Deer Peak, one of several volcanoes north of Mt. Shasta. Stienstra notes that few people take this route, and indeed, I found no evidence anyone had hiked there in the last decade or so. He also notes (in the description to the trail head) that there is no actual trail. Nonetheless, he feels this hike is only a "2" in difficulty on a scale of 1-5. Why, its only 4 miles, and gains only 800 feet. He neglects to mention that at least half of any route you might choose up the mountain is choked with manzanita and almost impossible to navigate. Also, most of the 800 feet gain comes in the last 1/2 mile. But hey, at least you will find a lot of solitude on many of the trails he recommends in this book. And you won't miss out on any classics, including the almost mandatory climbs of Mt. Shasta and Mt. Lassen, the headline Cascade peaks in this title. The camp guide is incredibly comprehensive, listing not only locations, but prices, and most importantly, all the free campgrounds you can use if you are on a budget. Stienstra also gives each campground a scenic rating, and he suggests activities you might want to pursue, in season, at each location. I love this element of the book, and these suggestions are almost worth the price of the whole guide. But should you buy it. Obviously if you are planning an extended vacation in Shasta Trinity Lassen parts of northern California, then this book is well worth the price. But what if, like me, you want to explore all of California. Then this book may not be the best choice. For the price of any three of these guides, you can get the comprehensive California Camping and Hiking books, probably the single best guidebooks to the golden state. Also, as sometimes happens when you edit books from one format to another, you occasionally get comments in the text that don't make sense. For example, in the description of the "Feather River to Humboldt Summit PCT" hike, readers are told that to continue the PCT southbound you need to go look at the "Sacramento and Gold Country" chapter. But of course, there is not such chapter in this book. An editor at Moon told me a few years ago they were going to fix these little discrepancies, but some little mistakes slip through in this volume. That said, Stienstra is a great writer, and I recommend all his books, including this one, both for the fun of reading and to get one outside, sometimes way outside.

Avid outdoors explorer Tom Stienstra invites fellow adventurers to visit the backcountry lakes, volcanic rock, and quiet wilderness, of Shasta and Lassen. Moon Shasta Lassen Camping Hiking's easy-to-use format and exhaustive coverage includes "best-of" campground and trail suggestions, such as Best for White-Water Rafting, Best Butt-Kickers, and Best for Wildlifemaking it easy for beginner and expert outdoors enthusiasts alike to create the camping and hiking experience they're looking for. Complete with clear directions to each location, detailed destination descriptions, difficulty and quality ratings for each hike, and helpful maps, Moon Shasta Lassen Camping Hiking provides campers and 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 hosts an outdoor television show on CBS/CW San Francisco. Tom lives with his wife and sons in Northern California. You can contact him directly via the website TomStienstra.com.