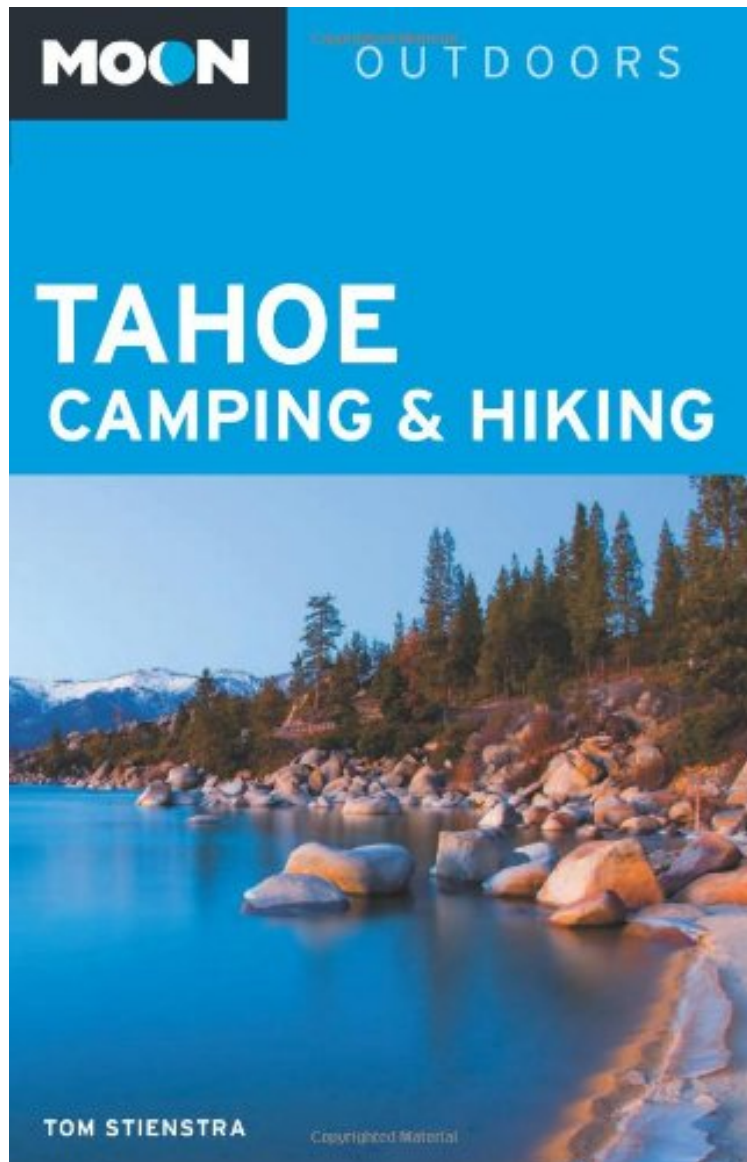


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Moon Tahoe Camping Hiking (Moon Outdoors)

Tom Stienstra

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

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Lake Tahoe and the Northern Sierra By Fritz R. Ward You get both more and less than you would expect from this little book. You get more in that this book, which is actually a compilation of two chapter excerpts from Moon's popular California Hiking and California Camping, covers all of California's northern Sierra Nevada mountains. The region includes not only Lake Tahoe, but everything from Hwy 70

in the north to Hwy 108 over Sonora Pass to the south. That is a lot of country and in it Tom Stienstra has found a lot of good camping (over 220 campgrounds) and a lot of decent hiking (108 trails are described here). But you also get less from the book than you might expect because it does not cover the Nevada side of Lake Tahoe. That means you will miss the many nice campgrounds on Tahoe's eastern shore as well as hikes in the Carson range and up Mount Rose, the highest peak in the Tahoe basin. As such, it is difficult to decide how to evaluate the book. What is included is flawless. Stienstra is a superb writer with a good sense of humor. His camping descriptions in particular can be quite blunt; he tells you what to expect without the fluff so many outdoor writers include in their works. Campgrounds described in the book are rated for their scenery on a scale of 1 (What am I doing in this God forsaken dump?) to 10 (Do I really have to leave after 14 days?). Naturally, these ratings are subjective. Less subjective is the price you will pay to stay. Most National Forest Service campgrounds in the book will cost you around \$20 to \$22 a night and the state parks are now an outrageous \$35 a night. But you can still find some free and low cost campgrounds, and Stienstra lists every one of them. Expect fewer amenities (like flowing water) in these locations but both scenery and solitude are easily found. Similarly, the trails listed in this book also feature a fair amount of variety. Handicap Accessible trails like the one mile hike to Frazier Falls compete with extended backpack trips along the Pacific Crest Trail for the readers attention. The average hike in this book is about 8 miles, perfect for spending a good portion of the day on the trail and still having time for dinner and drive to and from camp. The higher elevations of most of the trails in this book means you will want to explore in late spring, summer, and early autumn. One thing this book is not is a guide to services and vacation opportunities in the Tahoe region. Those looking for hotels, fine dining, and winter sports will not find this a very useful book. If you fall into that category, you would probably be better served by Ann Marie Brown's latest edition of Moon Spotlight, Tahoe. So how should one rank this book? I give it 5 stars for what it does include, and 1 star for what it should: namely recreation opportunities on the Nevada side of Lake Tahoe. But however you rank it, this book is for people who are serious about exploring the outdoor opportunities available in the northern part of the Sierra. Buy it if you plan to spend a week or more in the region.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This book, despite the title, only covers the ...By ACB
This book, despite the title, only covers the California side of the lake. In addition, the information is simply a reprint of information in Stienstra's California Hiking and California Camping books. If you own those books, there's no point in buying this one.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars
By P Andersen
Well written and easy to quickly compare your options.

Seasoned camping and hiking expert Tom Stienstra extends travelers his firsthand advice on how to find the best spots in Tahoe to pitch a tent or hit the trail, from cobalt-blue Lake Tahoe's shores to adventure-filled Desolation Wilderness. Moon Tahoe Camping Hiking's in-depth coverage also offers "best-of" lists including Best Boat-in Campgrounds, Best Self-Guided Nature Walks, and Best for Waterfalls ensuring that both outdoors beginners and experts will find the campgrounds and trails to match their skill levels and interests. Complete with clear directions to each location, detailed destination descriptions, difficulty and quality ratings for each hike, and helpful maps, Moon Tahoe 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.