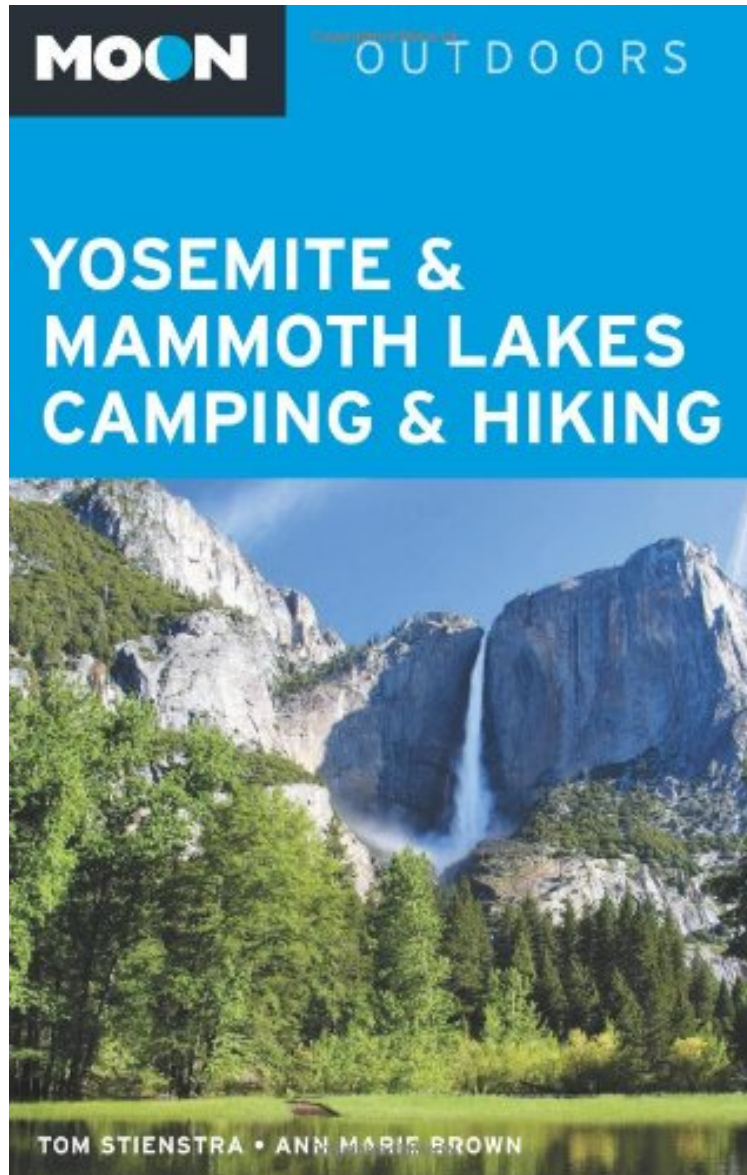


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## Moon Yosemite Mammoth Lakes Camping Hiking (Moon Outdoors)

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**Tom Stienstra, Ann Marie Brown : Moon Yosemite Mammoth Lakes Camping Hiking (Moon Outdoors)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Moon Yosemite Mammoth Lakes Camping Hiking (Moon Outdoors):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Good Hiking and Cheap Camping: What More Can You Ask For? By Fritz R. Ward It is 2012 and we now have new editions of California Camping by Tom Stienstra, and California Hiking by Ann Marie Brown, and co-authored by Stienstra. These are the two definitive guides to outdoor hiking and recreation in the state of California. They are also large, comprehensive, and, when purchased together, fairly expensive. An alternative to buying the set is to purchase bound chapters from both volumes in the Moon Outdoors "Camping and Hiking" series. These bound selections specialize in the most popular sections of the state and are relatively less expensive. And perhaps the most popular guide in this series is the book on Yosemite and Mammoth Lakes. For stunning scenery, Yosemite and the surrounding high country is hard to beat. And with this book you could easily spend a month or two of your summer exploring it. There is a lot to like about this format. The book describes 101 campgrounds ranging in price from free (my favorite) to nearly \$50 a night. The most common price seems to be about \$20 a night, still a bargain compared to lodging and given the location, many of these campgrounds will often be full. But using this book, you will quickly be able to locate campgrounds where you can park relatively near (if not always within) Yosemite, Mammoth Lakes, or June Lake. This book does not mention it, but you can often save up to half the price on a campground if you are one of the lucky seniors to have a Golden Age pass, or fortunate enough to camp with someone who does. My only complaint with this section of the book, and it is a relatively minor one, concerns how Stienstra rates campgrounds. He assigns a number to each location on a scale of 1 (God Awful) to 10 (pristine), though as a practical matter, none of the locations in this book are less than 5. These ratings are generally accurate, but I often think some locations deserve a higher score than Stienstra gives. From this book, for example, I strongly recommend Junction Meadow if you are fortunate enough to be able to camp just below Tioga pass. This campground is close to anywhere you want to go in the greater Tioga pass region, has nice fishing in the stream that flows right through camp, and excellent hiking in every direction. The trees are beautiful and the site is easy to access. Stienstra rates it a 7. Nearby Saddlebag Lake, at over 10,000 feet and accessible by a long dirt road, with very exposed campsites somehow gets a 10. I would reverse these ratings. But to each his own. The good thing is the detailed descriptions and helpful icons will make it easy to decide which campground(s) are the best for you. The chapter on hiking is almost as comprehensive as the camping section. Ms. Brown describes 102 routes in the region and everyone, even the disabled, will be able to find a trail or two to explore. Hikes range from 1/2 mile saunters to the Inyo Craters or Bridalveil Falls to multi-day backpack trips along the Pacific Crest and John Muir Trails. From peak bagging (White Mountain at 14,254 is the highest summit in the area) to hikes with swimming holes, this is one of the most comprehensive guides to hiking the park and surrounding area currently in print. It certainly features the most diverse hikes. Each route includes a scenic and difficulty rating, detailed trail notes, accurate driving directions to the trail head, and often includes options for extending or shortening the hike. I've personally hiked over half the routes in this book and can vouch for their accuracy. This chapter alone is pretty much worth the whole cost of the book. Both chapters include detailed area maps which allow you to locate your campground and nearby hikes with ease. A short introduction explains how to use the book. On the whole, I strongly recommend the book if you plan to travel to Yosemite. But this is not a guide you want to use for your 1-2 drive through the park. This book is intended for those who really want to explore the area, either over repeated summers or on an extended vacation. Readers should also be aware that this is not a guide to consumer services in and around the park. If you want to find lodging and eat at the best restaurants while visiting the Yosemite area, this is probably not the best book for you. (You might, however, consider co-author Ann Marie Brown's Moon Handbooks Yosemite if amenities are your top concern.) This book is for those seriously interested in outdoor recreation and looking to experience it in one of California's scenic gems.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good for Yosemite, not so much for Mammoth Lakes By angelal got this book mostly for Mammoth Lakes hiking. I little disappointed. I would say 3/4 of this book is about Yosemite and areas surrounding. The Mammoth lakes website has way more information on hiking trails than this book. I had wanted a nice trail description book I can take with me since internet is spotty up there. Oh well, I guess I can keep it to give to someone who wants info on Yosemite.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Perfect for our purposes of three days of day hikes in the Mammoth Lakes area By Janna The book described the hikes around the area quite accurately. We definitely needed a good map to go with the book, but that's normal. There are definitely more descriptions of hikes around Yosemite, but it's a larger hiking area. I have put the book away until my next trip to Mammoth.

California residents Tom Stienstra and Ann Marie Brown extend travelers their firsthand advice on how to find the best places to camp and hike in this vast region, from the pristine meadows and towering granite formations of Yosemite Valley to the alpine waters of the Mammoth Lakes area. Along with their in-depth coverage, Stienstra and Brown offer "best-of" lists including Best for Fishing, Best for Families, and Best Hikes with a View 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 Yosemite Mammoth Lakes 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](http://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](http://TomStienstra.com). 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. For information on Ann Marie's work, visit [AnnMarieBrown.com](http://AnnMarieBrown.com).