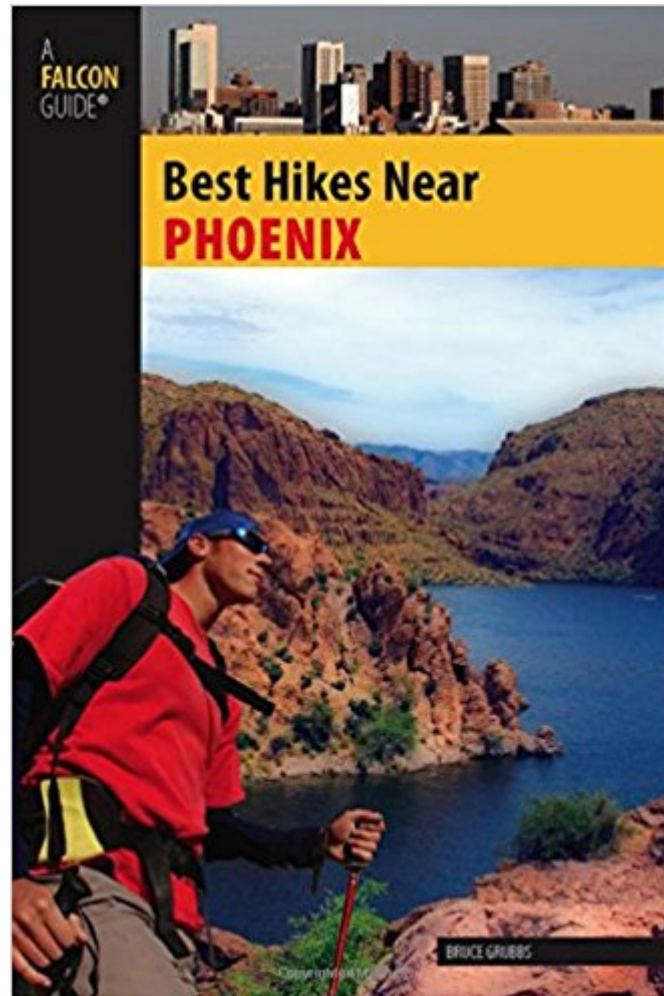




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Best Hikes Near Phoenix (Best Hikes Near Series)



Synopsis

This guidebook features 40 hikes located in the greater Phoenix area and within approximately an hour's drive from the edges of the city.

Book Information

Series: Best Hikes Near Series

Paperback: 200 pages

Publisher: Falcon Guides (September 16, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0762746203

ISBN-13: 978-0762746200

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Take a Hike! Who says you have to travel far from home to go on a great hike? Best Hikes Near Phoenix details 40 of the best hikes within an hour's drive of the greater Phoenix area, including outings near Tempe, Mesa, Scottsdale, Chandler, and Apache Junction. Ranging from easy nature walks to strenuous multiday backpack trips, the routes in this guide offer something for every hiker—within easy reach of the city. Each featured hike includes a brief route description, at-a-glance data including the length and difficulty level, thorough directions to the trailhead, directional cues, and a detailed trail map with accurate trail information. Inside you'll find: Full-color photos and maps GPS waypoints for every hike Water availability, land status, fees and permits required, and more Sidebars on local lore, plants, and animals

The author has a serious problem- he doesn't know what he wants to do when he grows up. Meanwhile, he's done such things as wildland fire fighting, running a mountain shop, flying airplanes, shooting photos, and writing books. He's a backcountry skier, climber, figure skater, mountain biker, amateur radio operator, river runner, and sea kayaker- but the thing that

really floats his boat is hiking and backpacking. No matter what else he tries, the author always come back to hiking- especially long, rough, cross-country trips in places like the Grand Canyon. Some people never learn. But what little he has learned, he's willing share with you- via his books, of course, but also via his websites, blogs, and whatever works.

Good reference to hikes in the Phoenix area. Descriptions are helpful and most importantly, accurate. I use it primarily and as confirmation of hikes I read about elsewhere.

The "Best Hikes" series from Falcon guides offers a beautiful format that I wish was more common in hiking guides. Full color pictures, clear maps, and detailed route descriptions combine to make books in this series among the best guidebooks available. This guide to Phoenix is no different. It features 40 trips averaging about 11 miles each. Most can be accomplished in a long day, a few in an afternoon, and some require one or more overnights. Like other books in this series, Best Hikes Near Phoenix also features "green tips" so you can feel good about yourself. Not all of these are very practical. Grubbs suggests taking public transport to the trail head, but few of the hikes listed are serviced by public transport. Still, one can find some helpful, if common sense, advice in these sidebars. Probably the best feature of this book is the diversity found in the various routes described herein. From short (but incredibly steep) hikes in the Phoenix Mountains, to long desert explorations and even some hikes in the pine forests of the Mazatzal Mountains, this book features a lot of varied scenery. Phoenix has some nice hiking. I found only two minor problems with the book, which caused me to drop it from five stars to four. First, Grubbs ignores the White Mountains, which I think feature some of the nicest day hiking near Phoenix. More importantly, I suspect he understates both mileage and elevation gain. He lists the circumference trail of Lookout Mountain as 1.8 miles. Other sources say it is 2.6. Not a huge difference, but if Grubbs is off by that percent on a consistent basis, then some of the hikes will be really challenging. Similarly, he provides an elevation gain of 1,000 ft in one mile for Camelback Peak. Actual gain is 1,300 ft and the hike, which Grubbs lists as easy is in fact a class 2 climb. Still, no one ever said desert hiking was easy. Avoid the Phoenix area from May through October. As for the rest of the year, take along this book.

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