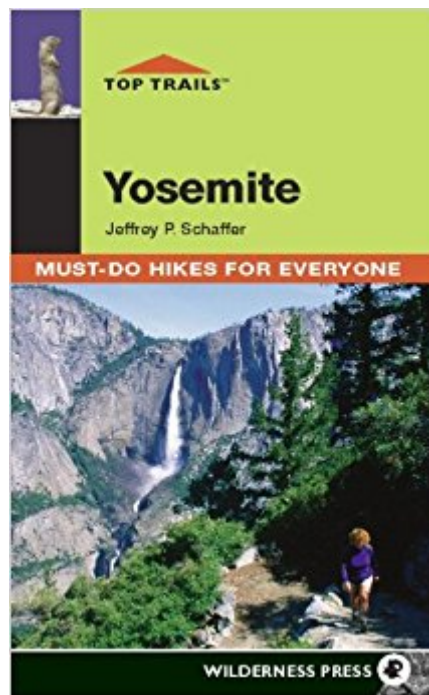




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Top Trails: Yosemite: Must-Do Hikes For Everyone (Top Trails: Must-Do Hikes)



Synopsis

Jeffrey Schaffer has selected 46 "must-do" Yosemite hikes. Whether you're looking for a scenic stroll, a full-day adventure, or even a spectacular backpacking trip, you'll find it here. And with at-a-glance information for each hike, visitors can determine which hikes are most suitable to their skills, schedules, and preferences. Books in the affordable and easy-to-use Top Trails series feature elevation profiles, detailed maps, driving directions, and "don't get lost" trail milestones. Innovative trail-feature charts give information on which trails are child-friendly; which allow horses; where to see giant sequoias, waterfalls, lakes, wildflowers, and autumn colors; which trips have the best photo opportunities; and which have camping, running, or biking opportunities.

Book Information

Series: Top Trails: Must-Do Hikes

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 44 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #109,451 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in Books > Travel > United States > California > Yosemite #18 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Exercise & Fitness > Walking #222 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Hiking & Camping > Excursion Guides

Customer Reviews

"...this hiker's companion is an important addition to any travel library." -- Coast Views Magazine, May 2007
"If you'd like to experience backcountry wonders that can't be seen from car windows, check [this book] out..." -- Fresno Bee, May 5, 2007
"[Schaffer's] love for Yosemite National Park and its backcountry charms comes through, backed by a good-natured authority." -- Sacramento Bee, February 7, 2008

Jeffrey P. Schaffer made his first backpacking trip in a 1962 traverse of the Grand Canyon, at age 19. The following year the climbing frenzy seized him, which lasted until about 1972, some 200 roped ascents later. In that year he began working on his first book for Wilderness Press, The

Pacific Crest Trail. Between then and the late 1980s, he was the sole or principal author of 12 guidebooks, and had mapped about 4000 miles of trail for his books and 15' topographic maps. Wilderness Press books authored or coauthored by Jeff include Hiker's Guide to the High Sierra: Yosemite, The Pacific Crest Trail: Southern California, The Pacific Crest Trail: Northern California, The Pacific Crest Trail, Vol. 2: Oregon and Washington, Yosemite National Park, Desolation Wilderness and the South Lake Tahoe Basin, The Tahoe Sierra, and The Geomorphic Evolution of the Yosemite Valley and Sierra Nevada Landscape.

Yosemite has so much to offer, and many guides (e.g. from AAA, Fodors, etc.) provide suggestions for driving through the park and taking short hikes. This book recommends the TOP hikes (up to 26 miles for back-packers) based on beauty, popularity and accessibility. Each of the 45 trails described contains clear directions to the trail-head, map and elevation profile, expert description of the trail and best times of the year to hike the particular trail. Trails are rated according to difficulty (1 is usually 2 miles or less, relatively level, "bring grandparents or grandkids"), level 2 can be completed in one to four hours, up to level 4 and 5 where one will want to back-pack and stay one or more nights along the trail.

This is by far THE best hiking guide if you plan on doing day hikes or extended hikes at Yosemite. I planned a trip from Chicago to Yosemite for 14 months and read every book out there in advance to my trip and this one is by far the best. 1) The trail descriptions are incredibly accurate 2) It includes an incredibly detailed map of every hike. There were a few times we got a bit crossed up out there and having this book and a compass was all I needed. 3) The way this book approaches/describing elevation gain for hikes is different than any other book. For example...Hikes at Yosemite may climb 800 feet then dip 800 feet then climb 800 feet, truly netting you only 800 feet in elevation gain in total...which is what all other books will state. That's deceiving because in the scenario I described, you're actually climbing 800 feet TWICE. This is significant when planning and understanding hike difficulty. The book also includes a visual of the elevation ups and downs as well!! Awesome!!! 4) Hike difficulty ratings: You'll have to hike a trail first and compare your personal impression with how the book rated it. (i.e. I thought it was STRENUOUS but the book rated it MODERATE. Keeping that in mind, the ratings are VERY CONSISTENT across all hikes in the book itself. Just don't compare a MODERATE hike from the "Top Trails Yellowstone Book" to a MODERATE hike from the "Top Trails Yosemite Book". They won't compare. Different park, different hikes, different author rated them. Both are consistent tho. Don't leave your campsite

without this book in your pack. It's was my bible for 10 days! I can't wait to go back!!

This is a very comprehensive resource on Yosemite. My only complain is that there's exactly one map and it's tiny.

Very thorough listing of all the trails and very useful for our trip planning.

This book was incredible, it was so helpful for choosing which hikes to go on and how to prepare for them. It was very detailed and I highly recommend it. It also arrived promptly.

A handy, easy to use guide book. I am traveling to Yosemite this week, so I am excited to put it to use!!! really appreciate the maps, informative trail descriptions and useful tips. I agree with other posters that this is a must-have for touring the park.

Excellent book, used for 5 days in the Yosemite park and it really saved us!

We thought this was a GREAT book and a great resoruce for our week of hiking in Yosemite. It took awhile to get used to the book's organization but once I did I was able to use it as a reference for all our hikes and it really helped us pick hikes out. The only thing I would have liked to see is GPS coordinates for more of the trailheads, milestones along the trail etc. In 2011 this is essential information since almost everyone has a GPS.

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