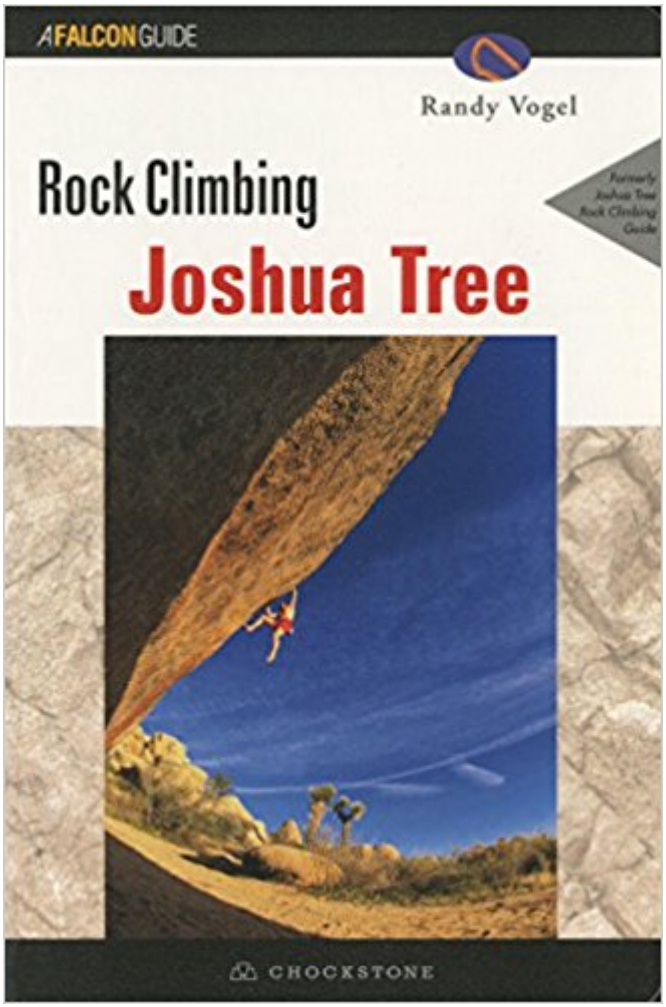
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Rock Climbing Joshua Tree, 2nd (Regional Rock Climbing Series)



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Synopsis

Thousands of sport and traditional routes on the myriad golden domes offer climbers of all abilities endless variety, from classic, well-protected cracks to delicate friction faces to edgy vertical testpieces. Excellent bouldering abounds, and unsurpassed camping in the beautiful high-desert environment encourages extended stays. Simply put, no climber’s career is complete without at least one trip to Joshua Tree, and many people find themselves returning year after year. The long awaited reprint of Chockstone’s "Joshua Tree Rock Climbing Guide" is the most complete guide available to the area. Maps, photos, and written descriptions give climbers all the information they need to explore and enjoy one of the climbing world’s most treasured resources.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Joshua Tree is the most popular rock climbing area in the world, and for good reason. When other climbing locales are buried in winter snow, Josh is basking in Southern California sunshine. Thousands of sport and traditional routes on the myriad golden domes offer climbers of all abilities endless variety, from classic, well-protected cracks to delicate friction faces to edgy vertical testpieces. Excellent bouldering abounds, and unsurpassed camping in the beautiful high-desert environment encourages extended stays. Simply put, no climber’s career is complete without at least one trip to Joshua Tree, and many people find themselves returning year after year. The long awaited reprint of Chockstone’s Joshua Tree Rock Climbing Guide is the most complete guide available to the area. Maps, photos, and written descriptions give climbers all the information they

need to explore and enjoy one of the climbing world’s most treasured resources.

Huge number of climbs with good directions to find them and identify the route. Not a lot of detail on each climb.

So, like other comments have noted, this book is from 1992. thats almost 20 years ago now, so while alot of stuff has changed, rocks dont get up and move(that we know of) so its still a useful guide. but i definately wish that there was a guide that was only a few years old with color pictures and well written descriptions. If it was like the TRAD guide to j-tree, that would be awesome. but that is a pretty small book. with thousands of routes in the park, i feel like someone could do a way better job.

This book didn’t arrive as advertised. The edition received is the second edition, 1992, ISBN 0-934641-30-7

This IS NOT a year 2000 edition, despite what the title says. I was very surprised when I cracked open the nice, clean copy of this book I bought used on and it kept referring to "The National Monument." I know that J-Tree was declared a national park way back in 1994. A quick check to the copyright page reveals that this version is copyright 1992.So don’t expect the most up-to-date info, by several decades. Now, admittedly, we’re talking about rocks, and they haven’t moved much, but all the info about roads, camping, etc is totally out of date. And there are a lot of new routes and areas to climb since 1992.

There are others out there, but Vogel’s Rock Climbing Joshua Tree is the definitive overall guide that both new and experienced climbers rely upon. However, for more detailed information on routes in specific areas of Joshua Tree (Lost Horse, Indian Cove, Hidden Valley, etc.), don’t leave home without Alan Bartlett’s excellent guides.That said, Rock Climbing JT is and will always be a work in progress, as is any climbing guide, and should be viewed as such. Bolts on old routes can become unreliable, new routes are always being established and the ratings themselves are highly subjective. Some 5.8 routes have felt like 5.10, while another 5.8 can seem like a walk-up. Paradoxically, it is the trusted guide that can’t always be trusted.Each route has a star rating, a qualitative scoring process which is again highly subjective. Some routes have descriptions, some don’t. Not all routes have accompanying photographs and in this second edition, there is still an

annoyingly large number of misspellings and incorrect cross references. But as I said before, this book is a work in progress. It takes years and years of climbing prowess and research to gather information for a guide of this magnitude and despite the highly opinionated nature of this and all climbing guides, it is still an essential piece of climbing gear no Josh climber should do without.

If you don't know where in JTree you would like to climb or if you plan on doing a little bit of all kinds of climbing, this is the book to have. It provides an overview for the whole area with great maps and photographs to easily locate all rocks (and there is a lot of them so the book is thick). Some of the maps and info are out of date and need to be replaced (the Hidden Valley campground/Intersection Rock map and information about showers). I also found myself constantly writing on the map page references for the different rocks. It may also be nice to include a guide on all major toprope, bouldering, and sport climbing sections, although these exist on the web. Overall, I had an amazing trip and knew where to go every day, I just wish I had more than 5 days to climb there. Ooooh, also the book doesn't tell you that you will have no finger tips left or that the ratings are really hard and you shouldn't use them :-) A 5.10c in JTree is apparently not a 5.10c anywhere else, but this is a one of a kind place!

If you're looking for the comprehensive catalog to Joshua Tree climbs, look no further. Author Randy Vogel has undertaken a huge task in compiling over 4,000 routes for the Park. The downside is that the route descriptions are very, often too, concise. For example, "Walk on the Wild Side", one of the best moderate climbs in Joshua Tree has the following "description":"WALK ON THE WILD SIDE 5.7+ ****".For a first-timer, this description lacks the necessary detail to be complete. Is this a bolted or trad route? How many pitches? Do I repell off or walk off? Are there bolted anchors? What gear should I bring?I've found that using this book in conjunction with climbingjtree.com (which includes color pictures and user-submitted commentary along with detailed route descriptions and gear suggestions) to be the best of both worlds!

The material in the 2nd edition is from 1992, NOT 2000 as the page says. We recently moved to Southern California, bought the book on , then went to boulder at Hidden Valley Campground. I had trouble getting my bearings... Intersection Rock was in the wrong place... the roads have all moved in that area since the book was written. I met a local in the parking lot and asked him what was up. When he saw the book in my hand he asked if I bought it at the ranger station, then complained that it was still on their shelves given how out of date it is.I don't know if the publication date is a typo

(maybe 2000 was the last reprint date?) but I'm not impressed with the book. Combine the lacking route descriptions (see other reviews) with 15 years since publication and you've got a pretty weak guide book. Spend your $33 on a better, more current book.

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