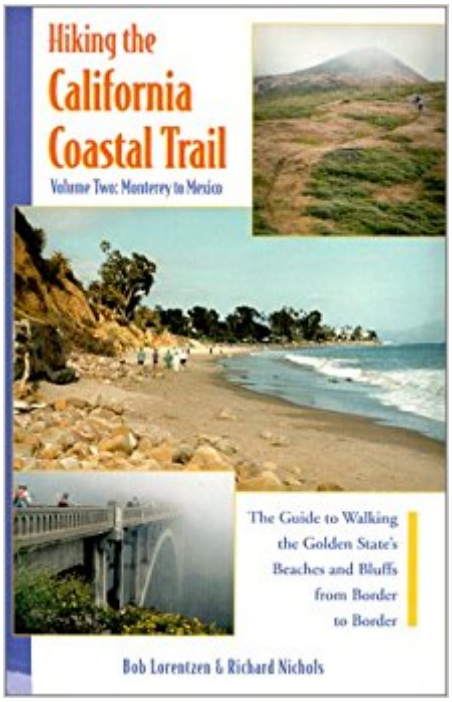
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Hiking The California Coastal Trail, Volume Two: Monterey To Mexico



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Synopsis

This second volume of the two book series completes the first guide to the California Coastal Trail (CCT), America’s newest, most diverse long distance trail. Volume Two describes more than 600 miles of the CCT from Monterey to the Mexican border in 83 accessible sections. Most sections offer easy day hikes, while six sections offer great backpacking, including the dramatic and rugged Big Sur High Route. Concise but thorough descriptions support 65 detailed original maps by artist Marsha Mello. Each section details how to get there, hike distance, elevation gain/loss, cautions, and facilities available including campgrounds, hostels and lodgings. The guide also covers alternate routes, worthwhile side trails, and river, bay, and harbor crossing information. Thirty-three feature articles discuss history, geology, land use and attractions. Volume Two describes such Coastal Trail highlights as the Monterey Peninsula shore, Del Monte Forest/Pebble Beach, Point Lobos, vast Big Sur, the Hearst Ranch, Montana de Oro State Park, Pecho coast, Nipomo Dunes, Mussel Rock Dunes and Point Sal, Vandenberg coast, Point Conception, Santa Barbara beaches, Point Mugu State Park, Santa Monica Mountains NRA, Malibu coast, Venice Beach, Palos Vereds Peninsula, and the Orange and San Diego County coasts.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A fine addition to the library of anyone who loves the coast." -- Santa Rosa Press Democrat "Indispensable to the beach-loving hiker. The hand-drawn maps are remarkable--detailed yet clean." -- San Jose Mercury News "User-friendly maps, precise directions from writers who’ve

walked their talk." -- San Francisco Chronicle, May 2000

Bob Lorentzen began writing and publishing in 1986 because the regional guidebooks people wanted were not being published. His four Hiker's hip pocket Guides have set a new standard of excellence for trail guides. He's been an active Coastwalk volunteer since 1987. Bob and his family love to explore new country and find new trails. He hiked nearly 300 miles on the CCT Whole Hike of 1996 and about 400 CCT miles researching Volume Two. Bob graduated from the University of California at Santa Cruz with a degree in cCommunity Studies. This is Lorentzen's eighth book Richard Nichols has been Executive Director of Coastwalk since 1991, a Coastwalk volunteer since 1983. He led the CCT WHole Hike of 1996, walking almost 1200 miles from Oregon to Mexico in 112 days. He has worked on environmental issues in his home town of Sebastopol in rural western Sonoma County for 17 years, including instrumental work in wetlands preservation of the Laguna de Santa Rosa and other land issues.

This book is wonderful! IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve been doing the CA Coastal Trail as day hikes with two friends. We definitely rely on this book. It is split up into easily doable day hikes with a map for each section showing access points and points of interest along the way. The descriptions of each walk are very detailed and IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢m amazed at how little has changed since 2000. He also includes the history of all the different regions of the coast. This is definitely a great resource for walking the California coast.

The California Coast offers some spectacular scenery and parts of it, mostly north of the San Francisco Bay, offer some spectacular hiking. But the southern end of the California Coastal Trail, the state's "millenium trail" as the authors of this book constantly remind us, is more imagination than reality. Private property, the Diablo nuclear power plant, environmental restrictions upon camping, and the lack of any actual trail tread for miles upon miles of the coast means that much of the hike is along roads with no real legal place to camp. The first thru hikers, or "Whole Hikers" in 1996 did their trek with continuous automobile support driving them to and from the "trailhead" and motels and campgrounds. This is cost prohibitive for the vast majority of hikers who might imagine that they can plan a through hike on this trail the way they might on the Pacific Crest Trail or shorter cousins like the Tahoe Rim Trail.The bottom line then is that this "guide" to the trail in the southern part of California is most useful for day hikers who want a pleasant walk along the coast or in one of the nearby coastal ranges and who would like the further satisfaction of saying they have walked

upon the largely unsigned California Coastal Trail. Even the segments it is broken into are not convenient for long term planning though they will mostly make for pleasant day hikes. (Some of the segments, however, are too long for this type of use.)The book does have some nice features including interesting sidebars on local history and accounts of various conservation battles along the coast. (Oil spills, we are told, are not good for the environment.) And every chapter, indeed virtually every segment within every chapter, includes the authors' suggestions for where the trail should be re-routed. That in and of itself is enough reason for me to recommend that you skip volume 2 (this volume) of this guide. If you need to do a through hike of the California Coast, Volume 1, now in its second edition, and covering the northern part of the state is much better. Until a trail is actually completed in the Southern part of the state, readers and hikers would be better served by John McKinney's 'California Coastal Parks.' The dayhikes he recommends along the coastline south of Monterey offer a much better recreational payoff for this highly developed region.

This book's content could be summed up in the phrase, hit the road. A California road atlas will provide most of the information offered in this book. The coastal trails, when present, parallel the Pacific Coast Highway, however, most of the "hiking" is walking on roads. Perhaps, the State of California will further develop a "Coastal Range" sojourn that would be detailed in a book such as this. Walking highways is not hiking.

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