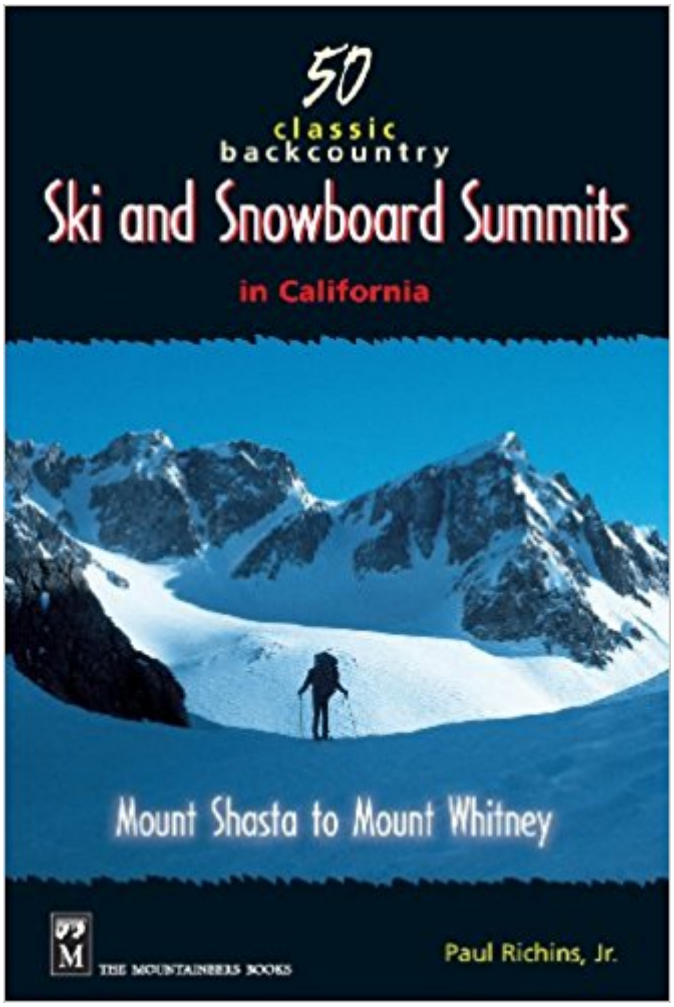
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50 Classic Backcountry Ski And Snowboard Summits In California: Mount Shasta To Mount Whitney



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Synopsis

* Covers backcountry routes from California's Cascade Range to the Sierra Nevada* The most complete backcountry ski and snowboard information available in California guidebook* Paul Richins, Jr., is an expert ski mountaineer with extensive experience 50 Classic Backcountry Ski and Snowboard Summits in California offers some of the finest ski and snowboard routes in California, ranging over a 550-mile span from the Cascade Range in the north, to Mount Whitney, to the Sierra Nevada in the south. Grouped into nine geographical regions, these summits represent the best of the best from well-known destinations to more remote areas to a sampling of the highest peaks. Historical anecdotes about each region round out the guidebook.Tours range from a half day to seven days, and while all can be completed on either snowboard or skis, the author makes specific recommendations for the best snowboard descents. Each trip description includes a complete narrative of the ascent and descent plus information on trip highlights, trip duration, level of difficulty, mileage, elevation gain, and access. The appendix includes a list of California's highest peaks.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Paul Richins did a terrific job of selecting and describing many of California's most recommendable routes in one of the greatest regions for ski mountaineering on earth. (Bela G. Vadasz, Alpine Skills Int'l)Paul Richins has written a splendid guide to places of white solitude and beauty, places few people ever see. The title of this book could well have been Unknown California. Richins takes us on a unique journey through the Golden State, and his enthusiasm enriches every page. (Steve

Roper, author)

PAUL RICHINS was raised in Weatherville, CA, and started hiking in the Trinity Alps at age 12. He has more than 35 years of wilderness experience backpacking, mountain climbing, ski mountaineering, and whitewater kayaking. A longtime member of the American Alpine Club and the Sierra Club, Richins maintains the Backcountry Resource Center, a website of valuable information for the backcountry skier, climber, or hiker wishing to explore the mountains of California, the United States, and Canada. For The Mountaineers Books, he has written 50 Classic Backcountry Ski and Snowboard Summits in California: Mount Shasta to Mount Whitney and Mount Whitney: The Complete Trailhead-to-Summit Hiking Guide.

If you are serious about skiing in California's backcountry, you may already have John Moynier's book, or even Dan Mingori & Nate Greenberg's book on the same topic. Both of those are also excellent, and while there is some overlap in terms of coverage, the overlap is surprisingly small.Ritchins' book is terrific for people who want to plan a long tour and really enjoy the process of stomping around the backcountry, while perhaps taking in a few long, steep descents (I think that Mount Darwin may be the stiffest descent in the book, and given that I've descended Darwin and enjoyed it, it can't be that hard). Moynier is more about The Rad and how not to get dead while going after it. Mingori & Greenberg is even more oriented to The Rad, particularly single-day trips (I don't remember if they cover anything longer than a day -- maybe Feather Peak is in there).For most people, if you're honest with yourself, Ritchins' book is probably going to offer the most options, on both sides of the Sierra and up north to Lassen and Shasta. The latter two mountains are not covered in the other books and it's quite a shame, because there are few things as exhilarating as skiing the West Face of Mount Shasta on the 4th of July, harvesting a mile of vertical in nothing but a t-shirt. Lassen's NE Face offers similar thrills without the herds of Silicon Valley types plodding up Avalanche Gulch. I'm not sure if it comes through in my review so I'll just say it: Shasta is probably my favorite mountain in California to explore, partly because it is so massive, and partly because that chunk of the state feels like a totally different part of the country. That said, some other fine peaks further south (like the Thumb, west of Big Pine) are also exclusive to Richins' book, and well worth skinning in to explore.To make a long story short, if you are looking for a backcountry ski touring guidebook that includes some great descents and excellent camping suggestions, you should buy this book. If you're looking to supplement other Sierra-centric backcountry guidebooks, you should also buy this book. And finally, if you're looking for a

guidebook to skiing Lassen and Shasta, you should consider this book, because the topos on the web aren’t quite as informative as having one of Richins’ maps in your hand.Have fun and be safe out there.

This book is awesome. It explains so many routes in California for ski mountaineering and is very informative.The only question I have is doubting if the author really skied all the routes because some of the description seen not came from the real trip but just imagination.

what can I say, this is a classic book for the area. There are more detailed ones now that show the lines of different runs and give GPS coordinates. But this is mostly a touring skiers book I think.

The most comprehensive guide available for anyone interested in skiing the best of the California peaks. This book will seduce the timid into a world of adventure and outdoor recreation previously thought to be for the "Big Boys" only. The experienced skier and snowboarder will appreciate the breadth of information available in one source. You’ll scrunch this one into your backpack along with your topo map. Mr. Richins’ writing style flows easily. His excitement for the subject will capture your outdoor spirit. His vast experience will give you the confidence and trust you need in a guide (and this guide will fit in your backpack).

If you are planning a winter/spring backcountry trip and want accurate, detailed information on routes, terrain, and level of difficulty for some of the best skiing/snowboarding terrain in California than this is the perfect book. The book is well organized, clearly written and beautifully illustrated. Everytime I pick up the book I find myself mentally planning new trips and plotting descent routes on the photographs. An added plus to the book is the wealth of information that it contains on preparing for a backcountry experience. The author covers everything from avalanche danger to equipment to bring on an extended trip. He even includes an excellent website for those who want more information. There always is a question in my mind when I read any backcountry guide about the accuracy of the information. Who wants to set out on a trip only to find out that the route maps or the descriptions don’t match the terrain? The author is someone with extensive backcountry experience who has done each of the 50 trips described in the book at least once. We all sould be so lucky! Having taken two trips with the author that are detailed in the book, I can say that he did an excellent job of describing the routes and the terrain. If you are someone who is looking for backcountry ski/snowbaording adventure, this book will make your trip planning a whole lot easier.

Enjoy

Having recently purchased Paul Richins book, Ãƒâ Ã Â 50 Classic Backcountry Ski and Snowboard Summits in California,Ãƒâ Ã Â I was very impressed. Like all books published by Ãƒâ Ã Â The Mountaineers,Ãƒâ Ã Â it is nothing but First Class in every way. Mr. Richins has gone out of his way to provide the rest of us with a gem which will lead one to enjoy the fantastic world of the winter Sierra.Even if one is nothing more than an arm chair cross country skier they would find this book highly enjoyable and enlightening reading. For the more adventuresome person, Mr. Richins book would be their ultimate guide to a world of adventure. The pictures, the writing, the maps are all five star. The little extras that Mr. Richins has added throughout the book, such as writings of John Muir, and others, adds the spice to this delightful book.Mr. Richins, since he has obviously researched, personally , all 50 of the peaks listed in his guide, has been able to make a very reliable summary of each peak, from Intermediate, Advance, to Expert. This would easily allow me to select a challenge within my ability and, along with the excellent guide of the book, make winter trips I would have never thought possible.

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