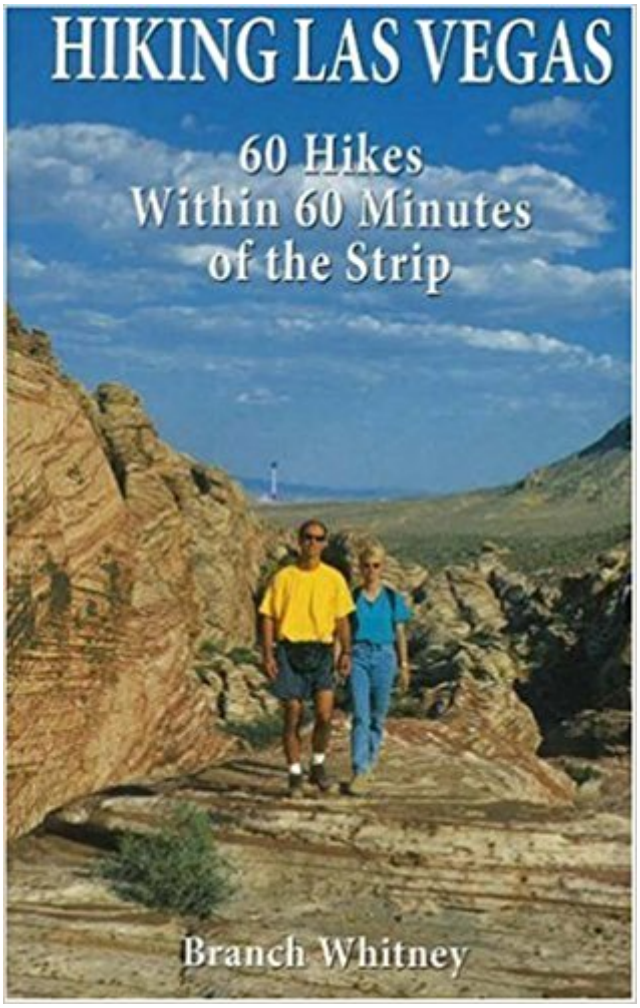
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Hiking Las Vegas: 60 Hikes Within 60 Minutes Of The Strip



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Synopsis

This one-of-a kind guide is devoted to southern Nevada's recreational wonderland. It details 20 hikes on the slopes of Mt. Charleston, the highest mountain in southern Nevada and only a 60-minute drive from the Las Vegas Strip. It also describes 40 trails, paths, and routes in BLM's showcase Red Rock Canyon Recreation Area, less than half an hour from Glitter Gulch.

Book Information

Paperback: 271 pages

Publisher: Huntington Press; 1st edition (May 1, 1999)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 8.6 x 5.3 x 0.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars 17 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,597,635 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 inÃ Â Books > Travel > United States > Nevada > Las Vegas #3553 inÃ Â Books > Travel > United States > West > Pacific #4005 inÃ Â Books > Sports & Outdoors > Hiking & Camping > Excursion Guides

Customer Reviews

Branch Whitney first visited the mountains (Rockies) at the tender age of seven and knew immediately that he wanted to climb them. Within two weeks of moving to Las Vegas in 1983, he bagged Mt. Charleston. Since then, he's logged more than 1,000 miles hiking the trails, paths, and mutes surrounding Las Vegas. These days, he stays busy as a hike leader for the Sierra Club and the Las Vegas Mountaineer's Club.

This madea great gift.

First hiking book so I found it hard to follow.

Good resource.

The descriptions for trail and route hiking in Branch Whitney's Hiking Las Vegas is the next best thing to having a personal guide with me. His book provides great route detail, navigation and

photos to insure making the peak. It does take time to explore the routes initially and sometimes I get hung up on some of the measurements he provides, but the author does rank how difficult following the route is. So you know that it won't be easy in many cases. The land marks are always there and the photos he provides are helpful with some of the harder and longer routes. Branch WhitneyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s book also provides a great deal of information that is so important to know before attempting to hike each peak, elevation at the peak, elevation gain, danger level, difficulty, class and how long the hike should take. I like how he defines the danger level from the class. I always confuse the two. He defines everything in his book, hike vs route, when to hike and where (what time of year) - Red Rock vs Mt. Charleston vs. Lake Mead. I take comfort with the recommendations that Whitney provides in his book. He is very thorough. I highly recommend this book.

HORRIBLE would be the best way to describe this book. If you want a book that will help you navigate the trails of Las Vegas, then this IS NOT the book for you. Two weeks ago we tried several of the Hikes and were lost within minutes. The direction are off and mis-leading! When one of the hikes says turn southwards at the fork in the road...we did. What it failed to say was that there was another fork in the road a few meters up the road. TOTALLY MIS-LEADING!

"Hiking Las Vegas" is a good attempt to cover an area which is surprisingly devoid of guidebooks. This book covers hikes both on established trails and over unmarked routes. I was initially impressed by the number and variety of hikes that it contains -- far more than any of the older guide books for the area. After using this book for several of the trail hikes and unmarked routes, however, I was disappointed by its many shortcomings. My biggest complaint lies with the book's "maps," or, rather, its lack of maps. Line drawings are provided for most of the trail hikes; however, none of these "maps" are drawn to scale and are, consequently, of little use. Also, distances given to landmarks, trailheads, trail junctions, etc. do not seem to be too accurate. Stop at an area's visitor center for better directions and trail maps before heading out. The author states that "maps" are not provided for the routes because they would be of limited use. Instead the author uses black and white photographs, compass bearings, and landmarks as guides along the routes. Unfortunately, some of the photographs are not distinct (short ridges with scattered trees abound), compass bearings can be of little use if one is not standing in the same place as the author when he took the reading, and some ephemeral landmarks used by the author are indistinct and can change quickly (eg. downed logs). Although helpful, these techniques are no substitute for a well-drawn map (to

scale!!!!!) which a hiker can then transfer over to a topographical map (anyone hiking off trail should carry one). Another problem is that the author's rating system for the hikes seems to be skewed for hard core endurance athletes. Taking children on some of the hikes designated for such by the author would result in some very tired, grouchy kids. Take these ratings with a grain of salt. Having used many guidebooks and done many hikes in the American southwest, the pacific northwest, and two other countries, I have to say that the shortcomings of "Hiking Las Vegas" put it near the bottom of my list of quality guidebooks.

First, on the positive side, this is a handy book if you're simply looking for trail descriptions, but if you're looking to explore some of the "off the beaten path" areas, be sure to have a topo map and a compass (and you won't need this book, if you do), because if you rely on this book it will only get you one place- lost. There are descriptions such as look for "a fallen tree, about four feet off the ground". After an hour's hike and seeing numerous fallen trees, you begin to wonder which he is talking about. Also, can you be sure the tree he is referencing will still be there? The "maps" as he calls them are simply drawings and the photographs are often unclear. He sometimes gives compass points, but you must be standing where he was for them to be accurate. At best this book can be used simply as a description of the area and what sights there are to be seen. At worst, this can be a dangerous book, not to be used by the novice hiker.

My daughter and I spent a week hiking in the Las Vegas area and bought this guide book and also "Hiking Southern Nevada" for help in choosing hikes that would work for the two of us, she being a young, vigorous and skilled scrambler, me a little older and slower. We found the Visitor's Center at Red Rock Canyon, their printed material, and the Ranger station at Mount Clarkston much more helpful than the guidebooks. The descriptions of the route were not helpful in keeping us oriented and the black and white photographs were confusing and at no point made the route clearer.

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