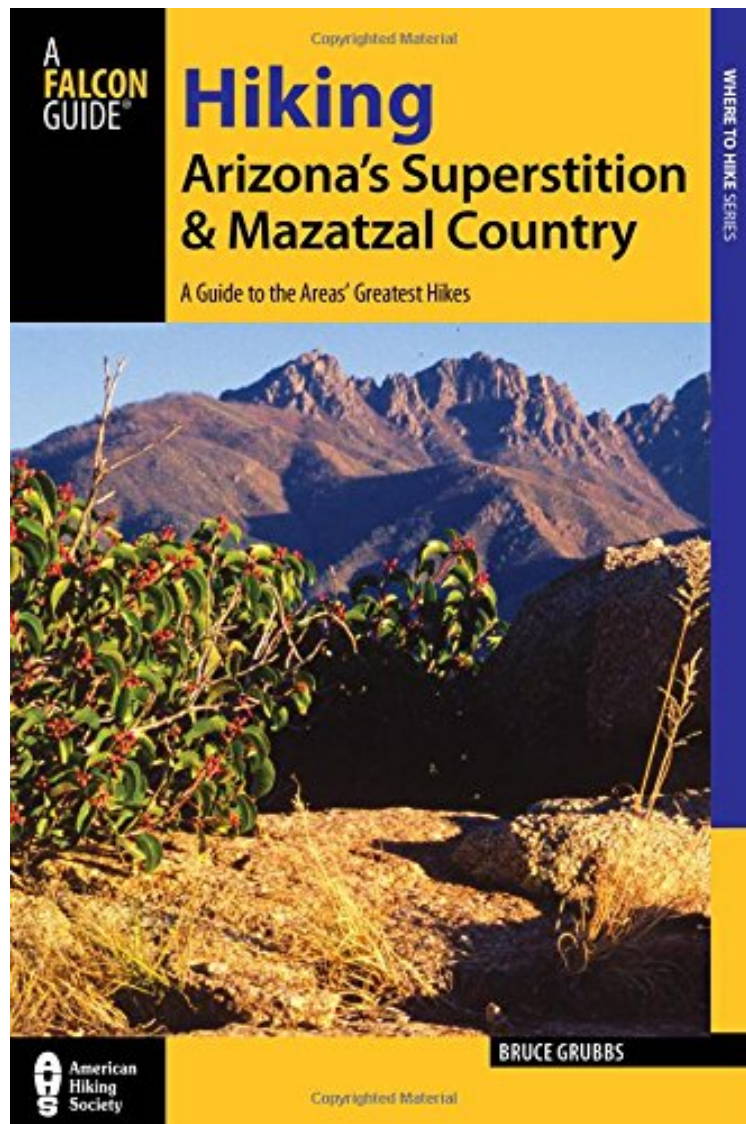


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Hiking Arizona's Superstition and Mazatzal Country: A Guide to the Areas' Greatest Hikes (Regional Hiking Series)

Bruce Grubbs

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Bruce Grubbs : Hiking Arizona's Superstition and Mazatzal Country: A Guide to the Areas' Greatest Hikes (Regional Hiking Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hiking Arizona's Superstition and Mazatzal Country: A Guide to the Areas' Greatest Hikes (Regional Hiking Series):

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Michael R. good book for Arizona hiking
2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Okay, but could be much better
By Hiker Bob This review is for the revised second edition, just published (Sept., 2014). This edition is 61 pages longer than the first edition, but I'm not sure why--there are the same number of hikes, with only minor changes. Perhaps the biggest change is that there is a map for every individual hike, where before several hikes were combined on a single map. Speaking of maps, the ones here are all simple line drawings, which are basically useless in the field. That problem could be overlooked twenty years ago, but today any decent GPS unit will map your route on a topo map, so there is no excuse for crappy maps anymore. Each hike begins with an info box summarizing the trip. The first edition included "elevation gain" in the box, which is useful information; this is dropped in this edition, and instead we have such categories as "canine compatibility" and "schedule"--the former says "leashed dogs permitted" and the latter "year-round, 24 hours per day" on all 54 hikes!?! What's the point? Why not just mention this in the introduction and avoid the silly repetition? The actual hike descriptions range from adequate to rather poor; novices could easily become confused or even lost trying to follow the often vaguely plotted routes. I've been hiking Arizona for over 40 years, and I often have to study the landscape in these remote wilderness areas when I'm exploring the backcountry. I would not find much help in this book when encountering obscure passages. The book is useful in planning some hikes, especially in the Four Peaks Wilderness, which doesn't get much coverage in other guidebooks, but I would need to supplement it considerably before I ventured into the wild.

Just east of the greater Phoenix area, the Superstition Mountains are a wild, rugged range of volcanic peaks, mesas, and canyons. A network of trails covers this wilderness, reaching into Sonoran desert canyons, pine forested valleys, mysterious volcanic rock formations, and jagged peaks. North of the Superstitions and still only a two hour drive from Phoenix, the Mazatzal Mountains are one of Arizona's largest and most remote wilderness areas. You can hike for days here without seeing another hiker. Completely revised and updated, *Hiking Arizona's Superstition and Mazatzal Country, 2nd*, is your ticket to exploring and enjoying this remarkable country, from the Verde River to the pine-forested peaks along the Mazatzal Crest, the jagged summits of Four Peaks, and the labyrinthine canyons of the Superstitions. This guidebook contains descriptions of enjoyable hikes from a few hours to a week in length, for everyone from family groups to ardent peak baggers. Many of the hikes are loops and have opportunities for side trips and exploration. Look inside to find: Hikes suited to every ability Mile-by-mile directional cues GPS coordinates for all trailheads as well as critical points along the hikes Easy-to-read, up-to-date maps and elevation profiles Safety, technique, and equipment tips

From the Back Cover
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