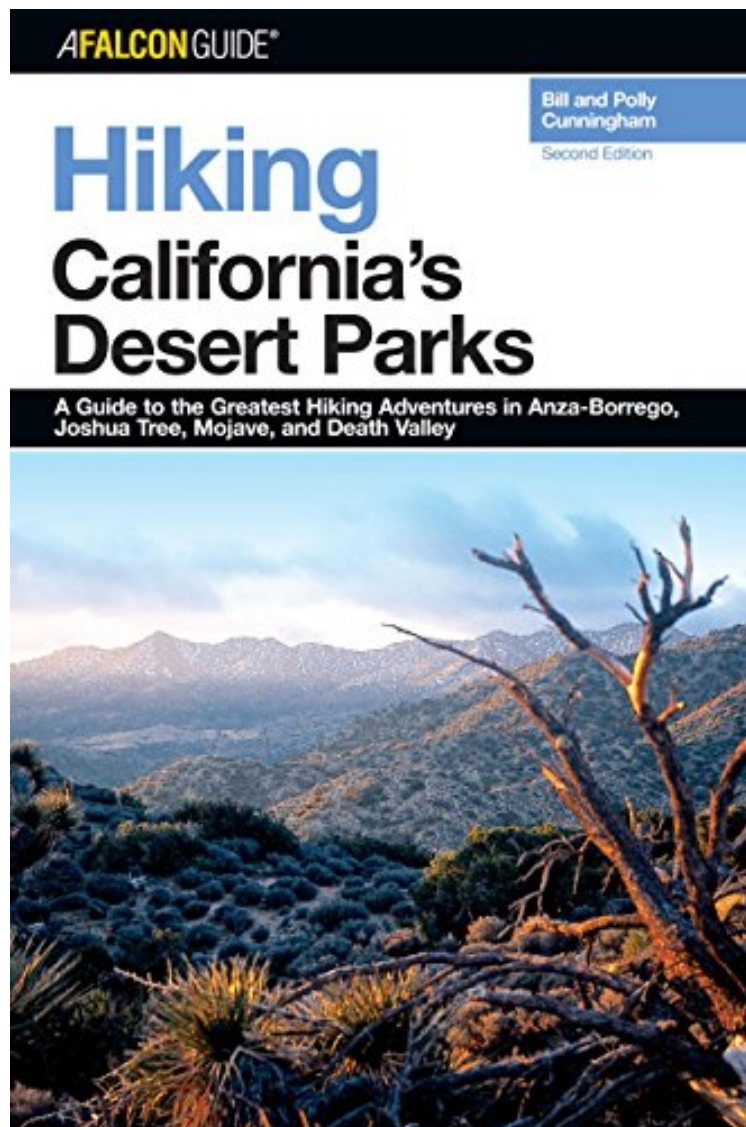


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Hiking California's Desert Parks, 2nd: A Guide to the Greatest Hiking Adventures in Anza-Borrego, Joshua Tree, Mojave, and Death Valley (Regional Hiking Series)

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Bill Cunningham, Polly Cunningham : Hiking California's Desert Parks, 2nd: A Guide to the Greatest Hiking Adventures in Anza-Borrego, Joshua Tree, Mojave, and Death Valley (Regional Hiking Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hiking California's Desert

Parks, 2nd: A Guide to the Greatest Hiking Adventures in Anza-Borrego, Joshua Tree, Mojave, and Death Valley (Regional Hiking Series):

29 of 30 people found the following review helpful. Hiking Opportunities in Southern California's Desert Wilderness By Fritz R. Ward I have a real fondness for books by Bill and Polly Cunningham. Their 'Best Easy Dayhikes: Anza Borrego' introduced me to desert hiking and has left me with an abiding love of California's desert regions. The off season recreational opportunities in these areas: Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks, the Mojave National Preserve, and Anza Borrego State Parks are seemingly endless and this book provides a good introduction to these places. The 114 hikes described in this book range in length from short leg stretchers of 1/4 mile (or less) to all day rambles over difficult terrain from 10 to 16 miles. Each hike description includes a list of key points, mileage between these points, a hypsometric map (GPS compatible) and decent black and white photographs of the area. Although I like the book, I have a few concerns. I'm not sure the authors rechecked every trail from the first edition. Had they done so, they might have noticed that Squaw Peak and Pond (in Agua Caliente County Parks) have had name changes to accommodate the politically correct crowd. Also, I have twice hiked Mountain Palm Springs Canyon in the last year and failed to note the cutoff trail sign for Indian Gorge. But aside from those minor errors, my major concern is that this book really doesn't provide a comprehensive view of all the desert has to offer. The author's narrow view of "parks" precludes them from discussing the many recreational opportunities in county and state parks in the Imperial Valley and around Palm Springs. Hikers seeking coverage of these areas as well should look at John McKinney's books or to regional hiking guides. Nonetheless, if you are planning a visit to Joshua Tree, Death Valley, the Mojave or Anza Borrego this is an excellent book to get. The authors made a desert rat out of me and they can do the same for you if you give them half a chance.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A 4.5. By J. C. I have gone on a few hikes in this book and so far find this book to be an excellent source of information. Out of the parks, I like Death Valley the most and have used the book on 4 of the hikes there. Of those those hikes, the author provides good info on where to find the trailheads, description/length of the hikes, and what to look out for (a dry waterfall here, a turn there...etc). Many of the hikes are considered "off-the-beaten-path" hikes and I wouldn't necessarily have known about them if it was not for this book. The reason for the 4.5 star is that I thought the descriptions could be better. For example, I made several U turns when I was trying to find a few trailheads looking for a "road" when in reality they are more like semi-hidden small gravel paths. Another example was some trails descriptions were somewhat vague - I had to use supplemental sources to help clarify some of the trail descriptions in this book. However, there are a lot of good information in this book and is an excellent source for that next hiking trip.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Helpful Guide By Bryant Very helpful guide to hiking in the parks. Good trail directions and maps. Somewhat limited in descriptions of what you will see on the hikes but they did a good job and I found the guide very helpful.

Features 114 hikes of all levels in four California Desert Parks; Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Joshua Tree and Death Valley national parks, and Mojave National Preserve.

From the Back Cover For more than twenty-five years, Falcon Guide has set the standard for outdoor recreation guidebooks. Written by top outdoors experts and enthusiasts, each guide invites you to experience the endless adventure and rugged beauty of the great outdoors. Hiking California's Desert Parks features 114 of the finest trails from short day hikes to backcountry treks in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Mojave National Preserve, and Joshua Tree and Death Valley National Parks. Veteran hikers Bill and Polly Cunningham provide all the information you need to get the most out of hiking these natural treasures.