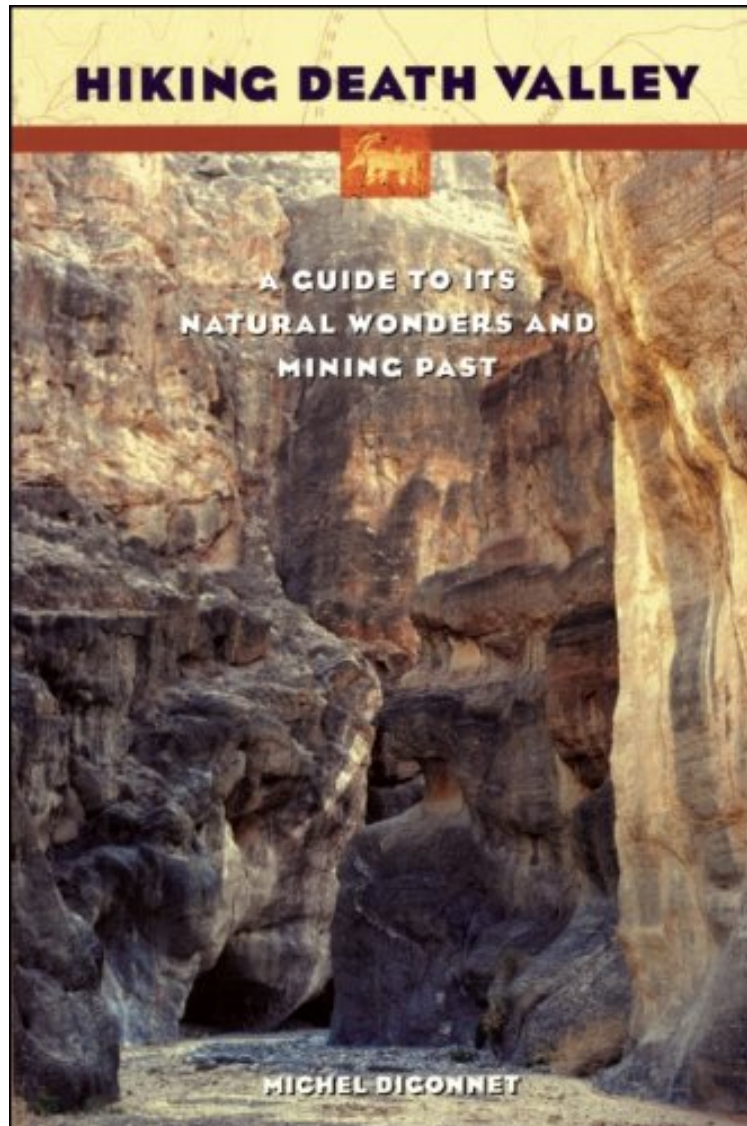


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Hiking Death Valley: A Guide to Its Natural Wonders and Mining Past

From Wilderness Press
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#474676 in Books 2004-01-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.75 x 6.00 x 1.001, 1.61 #File Name: 0965917800542 pages | File size: 68.Mb

From Wilderness Press : **Hiking Death Valley: A Guide to Its Natural Wonders and Mining Past** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hiking Death Valley: A Guide to Its Natural Wonders and Mining Past:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Very informative and detailed book about Death Valley By Brad Hutchinson I am planning a trip to Death Valley and bought this book to get some ideas on where to go other than the

well known destinations. This book is packed with off the beaten path hikes and every single hike has a tremendous amount of background information on the specific area. The author has obviously done a lot of research on Death Valley and there is probably more information in this book than you would ever even want to know. Hikes are detailed enough to know that the author has done them, knows the terrain, and has spent a considerable amount of time in Death Valley. If there is anything that would improve this book I wouldn't mind GPS waypoints for some of the hikes but as it is this book is excellent. Update 4/24/14 - I finally took my first trip to Death Valley this month and this book I will say again is excellent. There are many mines that you would never know are there without this book like those around the Racetrack and Ubehebe Peak. I am already planning my next trip because I loved it and realized after reading the book again afterwards that I missed things that were right under my nose and should have read certain pages better. As a bonus I noticed when reviewing my pictures that I took the exact same picture that is on the books cover in Fall Canyon without knowing it.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. More than a hiking book
By D. Au
This is a really interesting read and includes more than hikes - although that is it's focus. Overall, think this is a really useful book that provides good details of hikes throughout Death Valley. There were a number of hikes discussed that were not on the park service maps. I really liked this feature b/c we found ourselves in relative isolation and away from the crowds. Found the description of the hikes to be accurate and reliable to what you would see and the overall difficulty. We were there for the better part of a week and hiked at least one trail every day in a different areas. I suspect the author wanted to be equitable about the description of each hike, but I would have appreciated some indicator of particularly exciting/beautiful hikes. Still needed a lot more time to explore. If you want to include more usual tourist activities - you'll need more than this book. You might be well served by using the NPS materials for that information. The book will include history, mining, etc, but it will not readily identify those "must do" or "must see" attractions. Before purchasing, I read reviews stating that this had too much information. I can understand those complaints. I think in part it is because how the book is organized which is by mountain ranges. I found it helpful to have a map (National Geographic) to see a better map of the areas being described. It also helped plan for driving directions - which I thought was a particular weakness of the book. The descriptions make sense if you already have an idea of where you are going - but without that reference - I found the driving instructions to be a little non-specific (often without distances - descriptions could be 2 miles or 20 - sometimes hard to figure out). It would have been much more helpful to give routes with distances upfront.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.
Accurate and Dependable
By H McFadden
Have used this book for several years to plan hikes in Death Valley. Before I head that way, I spend a dozen evenings with the book deciding where to go next, what else to see. Digonnet writes clearly and accurately about the places selected for inclusion. When I follow the book, I have no problem with terrain that's too difficult to take on alone, or becoming lost, or getting stuck. Much as I love Death Valley, I respect it as a place where there is no giant fuzzy cartoon character who will jump out from behind a rock and offer soft drinks and food when the going gets tough. To stay safe, you have to plan with full knowledge of the terrain and the weather. Digonnet explains the terrain with the accuracy of one who has experienced it extensively. I can plan for safe solo or small group hikes with this book, and let my companions read the description of the proposed hike knowing that what they read will be right on. There is plenty of historical information and natural history to help you decide which place to explore next. Add dedicated geology and botany guidebooks, carry plenty of water, and Death Valley becomes a place of renewal and strength.

With elevations ranging from 282 feet below sea level to 11,049 feet, a world-famous climate, and some of the most spectacular scenery in the North American desert, Death Valley National Park is a year-round hiker's paradise. Hundreds of miles of trails and cross-country routes lead to countless canyons, springs, and abandoned mines, most of them infrequently visited. Whether you want to stroll on salt flats, hike a lonesome canyon, climb a rugged peak, visit a remote gold mine, or simply explore the backcountry by car, this comprehensive guidebook provides dozens of destinations suited to your interests. Illustrated with original topographic maps, this book will guide you to Death Valley's most popular sites and many spectacular, out-of-the-way places, illustrating the remarkable diversity of its terrain, geology, flora, and fauna. Many of the region's historic mines, camps, and ghost towns are also described, including accounts of their fascinating and colorful past.