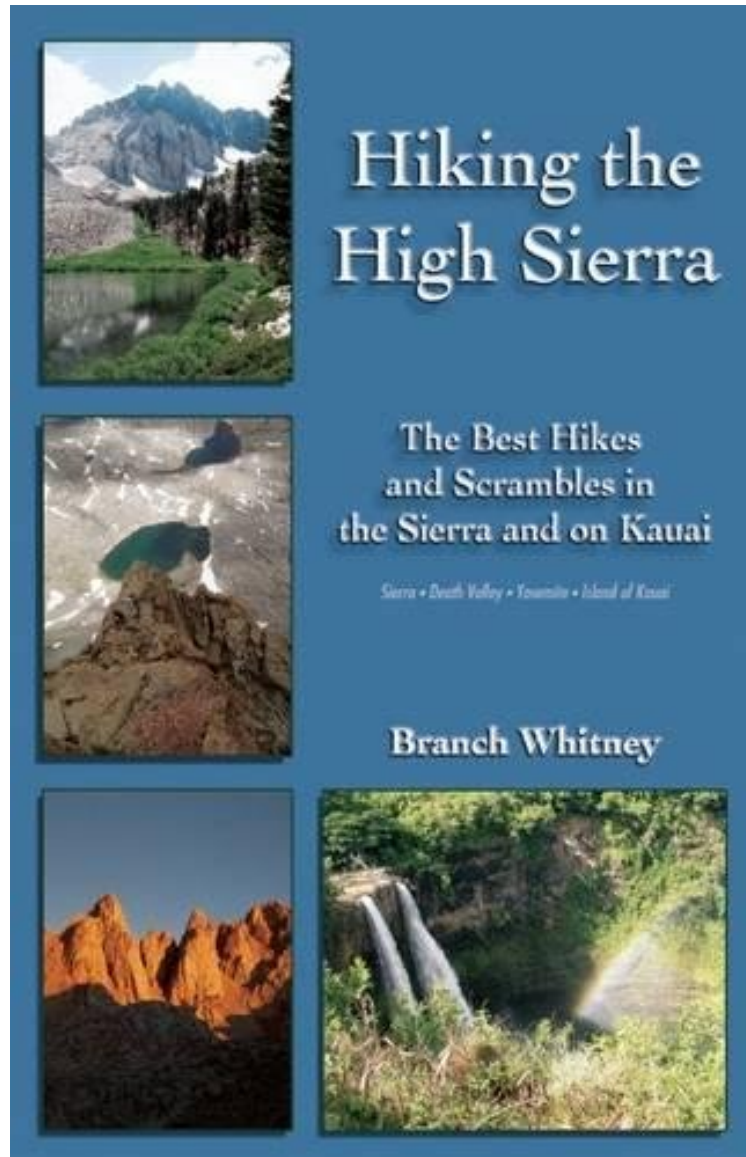


(Mobile book) Hiking the High Sierra: The Best Hikes and Scrambles in the Sierra and on Kauai

# Hiking the High Sierra: The Best Hikes and Scrambles in the Sierra and on Kauai

Branch Whitney

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**Branch Whitney : Hiking the High Sierra: The Best Hikes and Scrambles in the Sierra and on Kauai** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hiking the High Sierra: The Best Hikes and Scrambles in the Sierra and on Kauai:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. These "Hikes" are likely to be waaay more than you bargained

for! By Chris DI found this book while researching route beta for getting up Mt. Russell. I'll be taking some folks up there who have no third class experience and want to be sure that I know the possible routes exactly so nothing is left to chance. After I read a bit about the book, I was astonished to find peaks that I have read about extensively listed in a book of "hikes and scrambles" when I know that they require technical rock climbing skills (and extensive mountain travel experience) to get up, and more importantly, down. While the author points out that there's no fifth class climbing in his book, all of the fourth class climbing described merits a rope (and the knowledge to employ it in the alpine environment) for all but the most experienced, and fifth-class routes are described. For example, in the description of the scramble up Starlight Peak: "...The Milk Bottle is rated 5.6 and it's intimidating. There was a sling around the top, but it only hung down a few feet. Someone in the group will have to solo it..." No joke. That's what it says. I lead competently at 5.8, and on-sight soloing anything at 5.6 up OR down is nothing I would do at 14,000 feet. Will everyone who buys this book understand the incredible danger in that? I hope so. Two very important things the author fails to point out: 1. If you have no experience in third or fourth class route finding and climbing, there's a good chance you're going to kill yourself on many of these scrambles if you head in without an experienced group leader. 2. While many people may be able to get UP these peaks, not so many will have as much luck getting DOWN. Down-climbing is much harder than going up... a tough thing to learn after you've made a fourth class ascent of a 14,000' peak! I don't normally harp on the dangers of wilderness travel. You should have the common sense to know your limits and take the proper course of action. Don't bite off more than you can chew. If Whitney had included some sort of discussion of the real danger of many of these routes (and maybe not called the book "Hiking the High Sierra") I wouldn't even bother. The fact of the matter is, this book is for the experienced mountaineer, technical climbers who can assess the difficulty of the terrain, and the people that they lead into the backcountry. It is NOT for the weekend trail hiker, nor is it for people who don't know third from fourth from fifth class, as many of the routes that Whitney describes are the "only" third class route on mountains where there's plenty of opportunity to get off-route in fifth-class terrain. All that said, I think it's a really exciting book. The directions are concise and to the point, the locales stunning, and the potential for real adventure on many of these routes has me carving out weekends in the near future to go get myself in all sorts of trouble in the mountains! After I try a couple of these routes out myself, I'll stop back and comment on the ease with which they can be followed. I suspect that Whitney put a lot of work into this book (which is a quality sewn-binding paperback... the publisher mostly publishes books about Las Vegas and Gambling! Ha!) and that it will provide me reliable directions to access route on peaks I'd otherwise have nothing more than very brief, dodgy descriptions of at best. One minor beef... The GPS coordinates are a mish-mash of NAD 27 and WGS 84 Datums. Which means you'll probably screw up entering them into (and then using) your GPS. Converting NAD 27 to WGS 84 is not that hard. I googled it, and not only found the conversion solution, but found forums where the author of this book fished for one. I guess he didn't find it in time for this book. A minor inconvenience. With all the info and photos in this book, you should be able to leave the GPS at home anyway. The comment below is the first report I have of actually using this guide for route-finding. I'll post more as I try the routes per Whitney's descriptions

Hiking the High Sierra provides recommendations for, descriptions of, and directions to some of the best scrambles in the High Sierra. Included are the best of the classic "California 14ers" and scrambles to awesome and little-known summits. From the highest point in the continental United States and the ultra-hardcore Badwater to Telescope Peak (11,000+ feet of elevation gain) to three bonus hikes on the island of Kauai, Hiking the High Sierra puts them all within reach. This guide also contains six of the finest hikes around Yosemite, including the legendary Half Dome and the little-known ascent of El Capitan's Southeast Gully. Author Branch Whitney has hiked and climbed more than 3,000 miles, led 2,000 hikers to summits all over the Southwest, and discovered some of the wildest scrambling routes in the country. In Hiking the High Sierra, Whitney provides detailed hike descriptions and extensive color photos of key landmarks; valuable information on the distance, difficulty, elevation gain, class rating and best season for each hike; and practical data on permits, lodging and camping, and GPS waypoints.

About the Author Branch Whitney, also the author of Hiking Southern Nevada, Hiking Las Vegas, and Hiking the Southwest, has led more than 2,000 hikers to more than 100 different summits in southern Nevada and beyond. He has named over 25 peaks in southern Nevada and has found over 60 routes. His website ([hikinglasvegas.com](http://hikinglasvegas.com)) is the primary source for hiking and mountaineering information for southern Nevada.