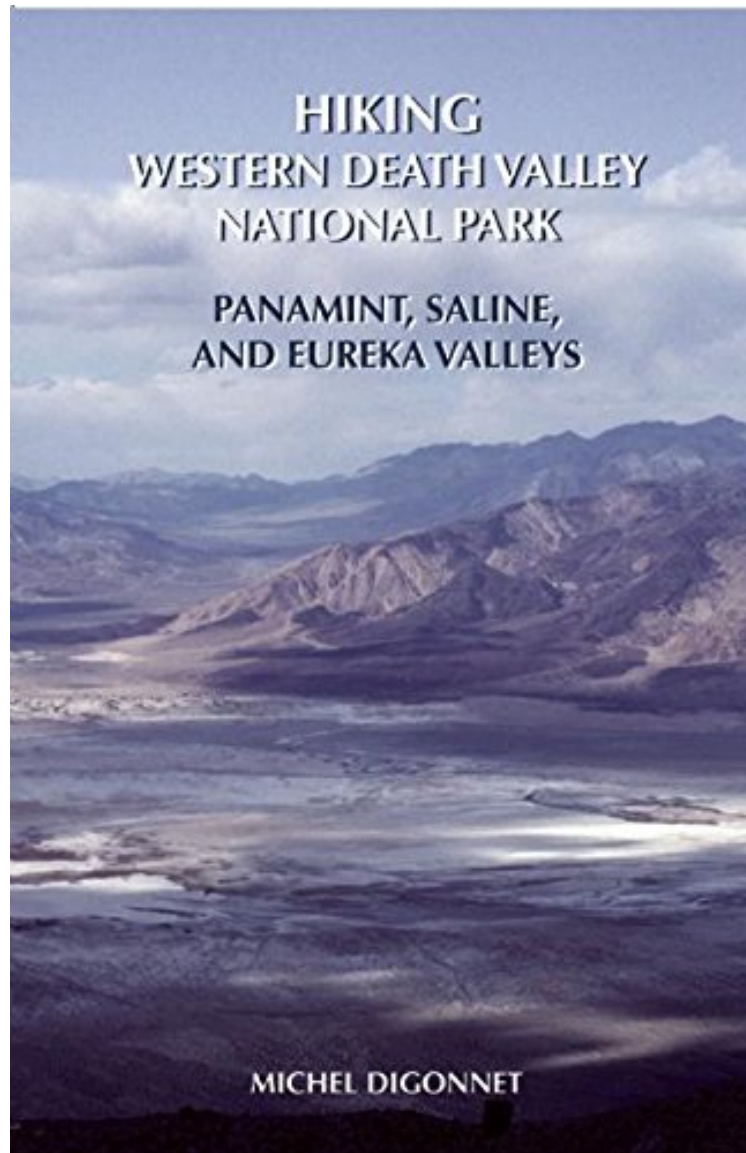


(Library ebook) Hiking Western Death Valley National Park: Panamint, Saline, and Eureka Valleys

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Michel Digonnet

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Michel Digonnet : Hiking Western Death Valley National Park: Panamint, Saline, and Eureka Valleys before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hiking Western Death Valley National Park: Panamint, Saline, and Eureka Valleys:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The best back-country guide book I have ever readBy Dr Brinsley

Burbidge The best guide book to any back-country area I have ever read. The background material on geology, human history, wildlife, plants etc. is detailed and invaluable as are the suggestions of places to stay or camp in this very sparsely populated and poorly serviced area. The descriptions of the numerous hikes and drives (many new in this book and not to be found elsewhere) are precise, detailed, easy to follow and immensely helpful. The maps are invaluable. Very important, the descriptions help hikers of more modest ability (such as me) to say "I think I should avoid this one" while being very grateful that the author, a true nerves-of-steel adventurer, has done it and survived. I love deserts and this book woke my interest in part of the Death Valley area I have driven through in the past while being dimly aware that there is something I'm missing. In addition to outstanding factual and directional information the author, French by birth and a research physicist by profession has a compelling and evocative writing style which made me read the book more in the way I would read a novel than a back-country guide. Even if you never follow one of his hikes or drives you will find this book a great read. I look forward to following up on many of his suggestions. A truly great book. 14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Second title from the best Death Valley author... By Ken It has been over a decade since Digonnet's prior book focusing on the central and southern parts of Death Valley came out and set a standard for hiking/exploring/history guides that has never been matched. Well, he's matched himself with this work. Focusing on the very remote northwestern parts of the park (and actually quite a bit outside the borders of the park) this book is a treasure trove of hikes and explorations that would take the dedicated explorer a decade to exhaust. Like his prior work the attention to detail and the quality of the maps is second to none. Also like his prior work his great passion for the area literally drips off the pages. You simply can't read any part of this book without becoming desperate to explore the region yourself. I have had the opportunity to get a bit of ground truth on some of the hikes, and not surprisingly his guide is spot on as always. One thing to be aware of though is that the areas that this book covers tend to be exceptionally remote and thus roads are rarely maintained. As the author points out repeatedly road conditions can change after just one storm out there, and I have found some spur roads washed out before reaching the trailhead indicated in the book. Also be advised that like his prior book the author is quite willing to take low slung vehicles on scary roads - he notes this in the text but new readers should definitely start out slow and get a feel for his take on vehicles and the roads they can handle. As an example I've been on roads which while they don't need 4WD strictly speaking are so steep they'd be pretty terrifying without a low geared transfer case. Again, the author clearly indicates that each reader should calibrate their expectations and what they are comfortable with and that many will likely want more vehicle on a given road than he uses. I simply can not recommend this book enough, although if you've really never been to Death Valley at all I might recommend his prior book as a better place to start. The hikes in that book are far more accessible and are closer to the more familiar "must see" sights around the national park. That said, if you have even a little bit of desert rat in your blood you simply can not continue living another hour without getting this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Amazing detail you won't find anywhere else By ab3ehm Michel Digonnet writes the most comprehensive hiking books I've encountered. Full of history and physical descriptions, plus it's clear he's hiked up every gulch, canyon and alluvial fan in the Death Valley area. Even if you don't hike, it's a great read - will stoke the adventure in your soul. Also check out his books on Death Valley proper and the Mojave Preserve.

Lost between the rugged High Sierras and sun-baked Death Valley, bypassed by most visitors on their way somewhere else, this sumptuous alignment of low desert valleys trapped between mountains reaching over 11,000 feet is a largely unexplored paradise waiting to be discovered. This is Death Valley one hundred years ago, a hiker's mecca filled with salt flats and sand dunes, old mines and ghost towns, awesome canyons, breathtaking summits, delightful springs and unexpected streams, and more miles of unspoiled desert than one can explore in a lifetime.

About the Author Michel Digonnet is a professor of Applied Physics at Stanford University. Other than his lifelong interest in photonics and fiber sensors, he has been exploring many of the deserts of North America and other continents, and written several books on desert national parks of the United States.