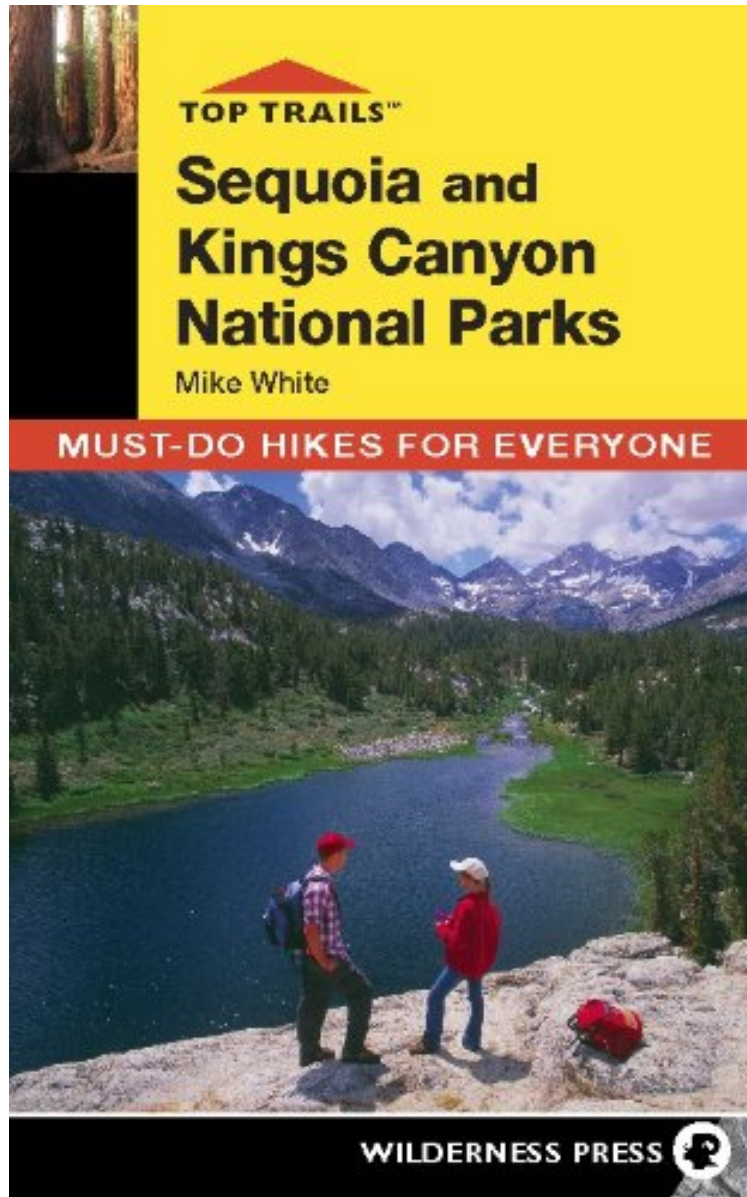


(Download pdf) Top Trails: Sequoia and Kings Canyon: Must-Do Hikes for Everyone

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Mike White

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Mike White : Top Trails: Sequoia and Kings Canyon: Must-Do Hikes for Everyone before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Top Trails: Sequoia and Kings Canyon: Must-Do Hikes for Everyone:

15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Sequoia, Kings Canyon, and the Eastern Sierra By Fritz R. Ward You might think that a book promising to list the "top trails" in the Sequoia and King's Canyon, arguably two of the finest parks in the Sierra, would focus exclusively on those two parks. Indeed, that is what I expected after picking up this new book from Wilderness Press. I was hoping to relive some of my fondest memories from my first two summers in California when I worked in these two parks and perhaps find a new route or two to explore. But Mike White's interpretation of his topic includes numerous eastern Sierra trail heads that either barely enter the boundaries of these parks or stay exclusively in adjacent wilderness areas. Indeed, almost half the hikes (23 of 50) start outside the park. Nonetheless, after carefully reading the book and giving full consideration to the author's goal of "beautiful scenery, access, trail quality, and diversity of experience" in selecting the hikes for this guide, I have to conclude this book is indeed a great listing of "top" trails in the southern High Sierra. Although the parks are managed as a single unit, this book considers Sequoia and King's Canyon separately. Four chapters discuss each park from eastern and western approaches and the book provides 50 hikes. The vast bulk of these are day hikes though several could be made into pleasant overnight backpack trips. I have hiked the vast bulk of the routes White describes in the western regions of the park and have no complaints about his selections. In the eastern Sierra, the book is rather heavily weighted towards King's Canyon, with the trail heads in Onion Valley and outside Bishop commanding more attention than those in the Golden Trout wilderness. I found very little to fault in this book. I might have included a few more short walks than White did. I was amazed the book did not include Moro Rock, one of the quintessential hikes in Sequoia. I might also have included the Huckleberry Loop as another example of a fine walk among Sequoia trees with little in the way of crowds. But what really surprised me was the lack of trails entering Sequoia from the south. If we can accept the premise that a "best of" hiking guide should include 23 trails that do not originate within the park, then surely Owens Valley trail heads are not the only ones we should consider. The Giant Sequoia National Monument and Mountain Home State Demonstration forest offer spectacular hiking that access the park from the south. Hopefully some book will eventually give this area its due. In the meantime though, one can hardly go wrong with the 50 hikes author Mike White has provided in this book. He is a solid writer and these parks deserved an extended visit.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great guide! By Frederick G. Rozendal Excellent introduction to the parks: wide-ranging background information setting the stage; great details about individual trails; easily used with symbols to indicate qualities of various trails; great idea of difficulty levels (elevation profiles; ratings; descriptions. It was my first trip in many years in the parks; I used the book regularly, both in planning where to go and while hiking. Highly recommended!

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Great book but... By Photogeek1234 This is a great book if you are looking for hardcore hiking, but is not a very good guide if you are looking for day hikes. Beware that a lot of hike require special permits and are outside of the park.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks and the surrounding region are home to superlative natural wonders: the world's largest trees, one of the deepest gorges in North America, and the highest peak in the lower 48. Veteran author Mike White has selected the best 50 trips in these parks, ranging in length from a half-mile stroll among the Potwisha Pictographs to a 21-mile trek to visit Charlotte Lake in the heart of the Kings Canyon backcountry. At-a-glance information shows which trips have the best camping, hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, fishing, swimming, and other activities. Part of the award-winning Top Trails series, which feature elevation profiles, detailed maps, driving directions, and innovative don't get lost trail milestones.

About the Author Mike White was born and raised in Portland, Oregon. He learned to hike in the Cascades and honed his outdoor skills while attending Seattle Pacific University. After college, Mike relocated to the high desert of Nevada, where he was drawn to the beautiful and sunny Sierra. In the early 1990s Mike began writing about the outdoors full time. He expanded Wilderness Press' Trinity Alps, and then wrote his first guide, Nevada Wilderness Areas and Great Basin National Park. Subsequent books included the Wilderness Press Snowshoe Trails series, Sequoia National Park, Kings Canyon National Park, Backpacking Nevada, and Top Trails Lake Tahoe, which won the Benjamin Franklin Award in 2005. His most recent works include 50 Classic Hikes in Nevada, and he collaborated on updated versions of Sierra North and Sierra South. Mike has also contributed to Backpacking California and has written for Sunset and Backpacker magazines and the Reno Gazette-Journal. He teaches hiking and snowshoeing classes at Truckee Meadows Community College and is a featured speaker for outdoor groups.