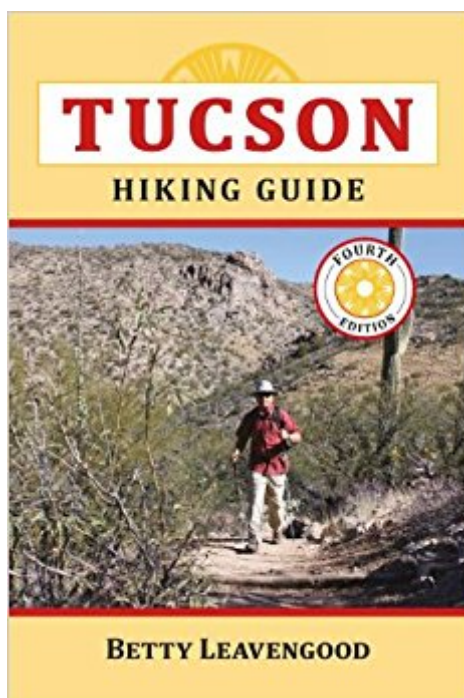


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Tucson Hiking Guide (The Pruett Series)



Synopsis

This rich, enthusiastic guide to the Tucson, Rincon, Santa Catalina, and Santa Rita Mountains has been completely revised. Betty Leavengood's fourth edition of her bestselling Tucson Hiking Guide offers new routes and updated access information, detailed maps, and clear descriptions to area trailheads. This latest edition includes thirty-six hikes rated easy to difficult by mountain range; revised information on precautions for desert hiking; historical notes, photographs, and anecdotes; and detailed maps and descriptions with elevation/distance.

Book Information

Series: The Pruett Series

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Best Sellers Rank: #1,266,956 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in Books > Travel > United States > Arizona > Tucson #1789 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Exercise & Fitness > Running & Jogging #1816 in Books > Travel > United States > West > Mountain

Customer Reviews

Using the Tucson Hiking Guide is a pleasure. Directions are clear and extremely specific yet this precise information is engagingly presented in a pleasantly readable and humorous style . .

.â •â "Tucson Sierra Club

Betty Leavengood is a freelance writer and the author of "Tucson Hiking Guide, ""Grand Canyon Women: Lives Shaped by Landscape, Faraway Ranch: Chiricahua National Monument, "and "Hiker's Guide to the Santa Rita Mountains. "She cherishes the ever-changing scenery of the desert southwest.

I think in general this guide is as the author states for the "Sunday hiker" (as in Sunday driver) but it could be considerably better. It does indeed give serviceable descriptions of a number of wonderful

hikes in the mountains ringing the Tucson basin so it does accomplish its basic purpose and likely is best targeted to the first time or infrequent visitor to the region who wants to explore. I think even for that purpose I would provide these criticisms:1. The descriptions of the hikes are inconsistent.

Where most of the descriptions are useful, there are at least two hikes (Bug Spring Trail and Mt Lemmon to Catalina State Park) whose descriptions are written in an entirely different first person style that more accurately describes the adventures/misadventures of a given group of hikers than does it provide a general description of the hiking trails and the routes these trails take as would be useful to the general reader.2. The facsimiles of the topographic maps are crudely copied with the trails "inked in" perhaps with a magic marker. Although the original topographic maps doubtless are of high quality, these reproduced portions are not. Nowhere does the author acknowledge the source of these maps as far as I can tell.3. The photographs that illustrate the hike descriptions may be blurry or their subjects obscured or off center.4. The author provides a bibliography of "selected reading" that lacks in reference to guides that may have informed her guide and hiking choices and that might indeed be of use to persons wanting more detail of hikes. In particular, "Trail Guide to the Santa Catalina Mountains" by Eber Glendening and Pete Cowgill might be a useful reference for additional hikes in the Santa Catalina Mountains. In sum, I think this guide is serviceable to the Tucson newcomer, but the next edition could benefit from a few upgrades!

Most of the hikes in this book are fairly long - over 3 miles - and the information on difficulty is not set up in an easy-to-interpret way for a parent on the move. We bought several hiking guides for our recent Tucson vacation, but we only ended up using this one once - and even then, it wasn't for the full hike as described in the book. If you are a local, or are going on an extended vacation and like to walk long trails, then this could be a great book for you. It does list a couple of trails that were not in any of our other guides, and has a fair amount of detail about each one. I don't doubt that if you wanted to do these treks it would be an excellent resource. However, if you are wanting shorter hikes that can be easily done with young kids, I recommend choosing a different book.

The maps aren't very good in this book.

Very helpful!

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