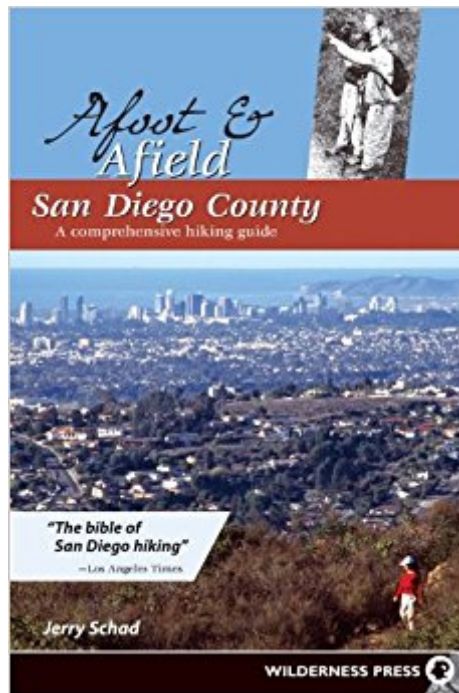




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Afoot And Afield: San Diego County: A Comprehensive Hiking Guide



Synopsis

The Los Angeles Times has hailed Southern California's hiking guru Jerry Schad's *Afoot & Afield San Diego County* as "the bible of San Diego hiking." Encompassing the county from Sunset Cliff Park and the Bayside Trail at Point Loma to Fonts Point in the Borrego Badlands, this hiking guide is the "must-have" to explore San Diego's diverse outdoors. The book covers all the worthwhile hiking destinations throughout the county - including the coast, foothills, mountains, and desert - in trips ranging from the short family excursions to multi-day backpacks. This long-awaited fourth edition of San Diego County's most recognized and comprehensive hiking guide has been fully updated and expanded to cover 250 hikes. All new maps.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Author of several Wilderness Press titles, Jerry Schad's several parallel careers have encompassed interests ranging from astronomy and teaching to photography and writing. He teaches astronomy and physical science at San Diego Mesa College, and currently chairs the Physical Sciences Department there. Schad has run or hiked many thousands of miles of distinct trails throughout California, in the Southwest, and in Mexico. He is a sub-24-hour finisher of Northern California's 100-mile Western States Endurance Run, and has served in a leadership capacity for outdoor excursions as close as San Diego County and as far away as Madagascar.

As a resident of San Diego and a hiker/outdoors enthusiast, this is about as good as it gets for hiking

guides for this area. Okay, it is the best - why get anything else? I wouldn't. I have the first, cheaply produced edition. This edition, just few years old at the time of this review, is updated with new information, pictures and new trails. A great balance is between trails that are near urban areas, backcountry areas, easy to darn difficult trails. There is more than enough to interest most every reader. The book weaves a good balance between natural features, history and interesting aspects of most hikes to get the reader motivated. Most of the time Schad nails the essence of the hikes. This man knows his stuff. My only criticism are a few minor quibbles. First, color photos would be a great addition, although superfluous. Second, and more importantly, some of the descriptions/directions for hikes are inadequate at best. I suggest adding GPS coordinates and some better maps specific to chapters to ensure the reader doesn't get lost on the way to the trail. (it has happened to me and others on some of the more remote trails in the book) All in all, this is an essential book if you hike in San Diego County.

I have the Kindle version. The digital product is ok but not as helpful as the paper book would be. I do not recommend buying this digital version. The problem is searching for and finding specific trails or locations is difficult. I spend a too much time trying to find a page that would be easy to flip to in a regular book. I did find what I needed and I'm probably happy I don't have to keep the book on my already over filled bookshelf, but honestly I wish it was indexed better for digital look-up.

This is simply an amazing book. My family and I love to go on hikes quite often. It has a few categories and skill levels, so you will find an enjoyable hike. It truly is all over San Diego, not focusing on one part over the other. It is our go to book for hiking. Pros: -Hefty binding, can throw in your pack and take a beating - Very easy to find the type of hike you want - Great hike descriptions, warnings, and pictures. Cons: -Some ratings are a bit off, or may have just changed. -Unfortunately, this book is no longer being updated due to Jerry Schad passing away. -Hiking trails get over grown, washed out, and hard to navigate over time. Not just these hikes, every hiking trail that isn't maintained. A few tips to new hikers: -WATER! I cannot stress this enough. Bring enough water for your entire group. No, that one plastic water bottle will not last you all day. Look up the recommended amount for your hike and area. -Trail courtesy. Respect the trails. Stay on them, and take what you left behind. -Switch it up! Try a different area and trail every time. Ask around for other hikes.

This book is very well organized. Book is easy to navigate. The first trail we decided to take our children on was Roberts Ranch... supposedly a former cattle ranch... former being the operative word! A kid friendly easy hike... it was absolutely beautiful - as indicated in the hiking guide description. However, the semi-fresh cow patties should have given us a clue that when we would envision "where cattle once grazed... quintessentially Old West..." we just may encounter BULLS! Whoa - that is quintessentially Old West alright! My 3 year old excitedly shouted, "Oh mommy look! Cows! Look how cute!" They were headed our way... walking... just a few... then a few more... then a few cow - babies frolicking around... then walking faster with BULLS in the lead! UM, we quickly turned around and walk/ran outta there! Daddy had the Kelty back pack with our 1 year old smiling away... my 3 year old little girl finally realized that this was not "fun" anymore... she said, "Mommy I'm scared." Then she started praying "God please protect us." (How cute is that?!?!) I grabbed her Yoda walking stick and her hand and we ran... eventually we laughed... and still laugh about that first hike! So my recommendation for the book: add a section on what to do if you encounter Bulls!

If you are new to hiking in San Diego county, this book is a must buy. I was sad to see that the author passed away, and this edition is about 7 years old. We're making so much progress in San Diego county adding new trails that my "wish for" is an online companion to this book that contains new trail info, or other changing trail info. I hope someone continues Jerry's legacy!

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