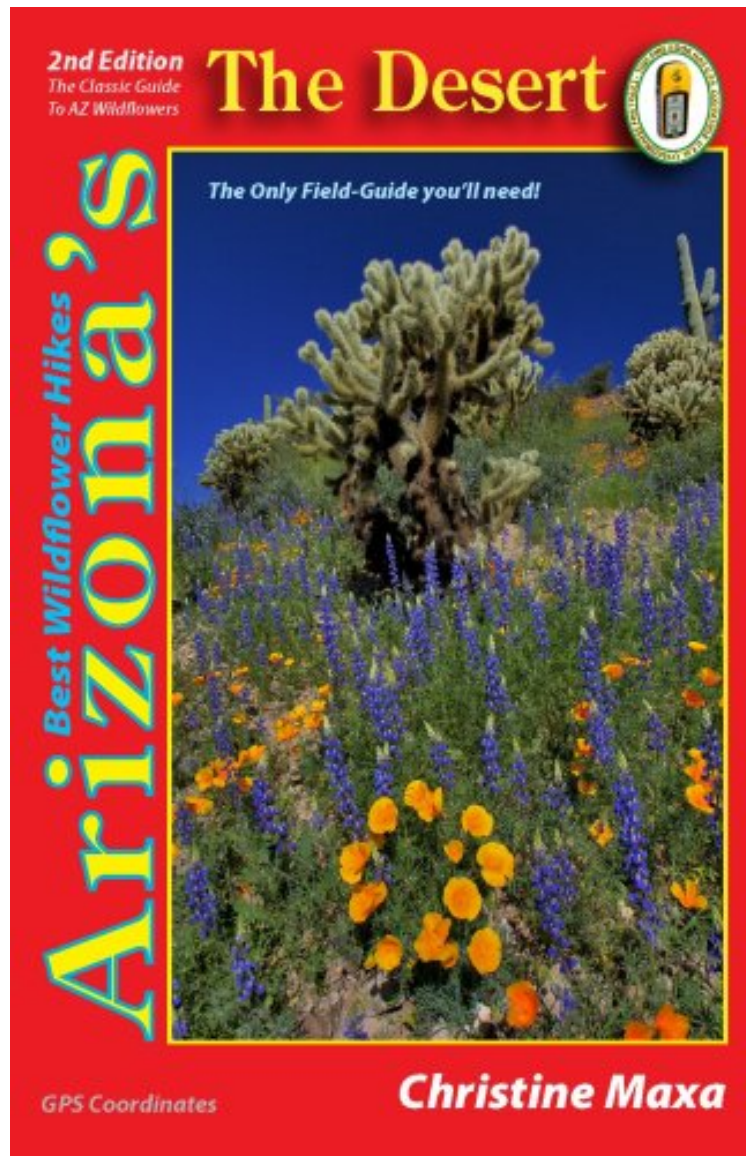


Arizona's Best Wildflower Hikes - The Desert, 2nd Edition

Christine Maxa

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Christine Maxa : Arizona's Best Wildflower Hikes - The Desert, 2nd Edition before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Arizona's Best Wildflower Hikes - The Desert, 2nd Edition:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very Detailed By Megan V. This book (and its companion, Arizona's Best Wildflower Hikes--the Highlands) is thorough in its coverage. The back features a layout of hikes ranging from easy to difficult, and this eliminates the need to hunt and peck through the whole book if you're looking for a specific level of exertion. The author includes detailed info regarding costs associated with each hike (some are located in state parks, for example) and routes for getting to each one. Peak blooming times are also noted for each hike. The author

provides detailed coverage of what types of wildflowers to expect on each hike, and the color photos are nice! At the front of the book is an Arizona map with a number for each hike on it, so you can see where the hikes are throughout the state and zero in on the ones in the specific region of your choice. This is definitely a "Must Buy" for someone who wants to explore Arizona's scenic wildflower routes on foot! 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Not so helpful
By Dorothea Casaubon
For starters, this book is based on the concept that if the author describes exactly where she found certain wildflowers, you will find them too. The vicissitudes of desert rainfall, dates of bloom, and plant reproduction make this a dicey bet. The hike descriptions are merely names of wildflowers linked by phrases like "the trail drops. To the north look for _____-flowers" or "_____ flowers follow the path." You must wade through the flower names to find clues to important questions such as: is this a scenic spot? Does the gain or loss in elevation occur once or several times? Does the uphill work come at the beginning or end of the trail? Does the trail have other attractions than flowers? What is the trail surface, sand, soil, gravel or boulders? Is it well constructed or a scratch? The maps have no topographic information, so you often can't get a feel for the hike's terrain or why it is difficult or easy. The disclaimer "after a wet winter" is buried in almost every hike's first or second paragraph -- be sure to call for local rainfall info before visiting from out of state, as you would for any desert wildflower hike. The book seems to be intended for hikers with limited interest in plants. Hazy in botany, the author calls certain plants "cousins," declares Sleepy Catchfly to be in the "silene" family, (called the Pink or Caryophyllaceae family in most books), and states "the Ocotillo does not belong in the cactus genre". Is she familiar with the word genus? The problem with avoiding all scientific terminology and conventions is that one can easily mislead. There is no "dudleya" family as she states, but there is a Crassulaceae or Stonecrop family. Paragraphs accurately describing the trail and terrain, followed by the flower names would be easier to use. Botanical names should have been included in the index, and the list of common and botanical names should have included page numbers of the sidebars describing plants. A list of favorite or most spectacular hikes would have been welcome. Look to "California Hiking" by Sinestra and Brown and the Wilderness Press hike books for superior solutions to the problems this author encountered. Finally, we were disappointed to find the hikes mostly limited to areas close to the cities of Phoenix and Tucson, where solitude is rare. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. good hikes
By G. Keith
great book
very helpful

Explore the beauty of the Sonoran Desert wildflowers with 60 hikes, 175 photographs of wildflowers, 60 wildflower profiles, more flower facts and fancy, updated trail and contact information and improved maps. Don't let another Banner Year go by without witnessing Arizona's spectacular desert wildflower season. Bring this book along on your next wildflower hike . . . It may be the only one you need!

About the Author
CHRISTINE MAXA, Arizona Author/Photographer/Publisher --- Christine, a Lowell Thomas Gold and International Regional Magazine Association award-winning writer, has written for Arizona Highways, Chicago Tribune, Christian Science Monitor, and National Geographic Traveler among other national and regional publications and has been featured on National Public Radio and local television. She wrote the "Hike of the Week" column for the Arizona Republic for more than two years, and is on the Advisory Committee for the Arizona State Committee on Trails. Christine has written four Arizona hiking guides: Autumn Color in Arizona-50 Great Hikes, Best Wildflower Hikes in Arizona-The Desert, Best Wildflower Hikes in Arizona-The High Country, and Hiking Arizona; the state's only road biking guide, Cycling Arizona - The Complete Road Biking Guide (Westcliffe Publishers 2006); a travel guide for Arizona, Explorer's Guide to Arizona (W.W. Norton 2007), and Wickenburg Adventures (Jamax Publishers Press 2007).