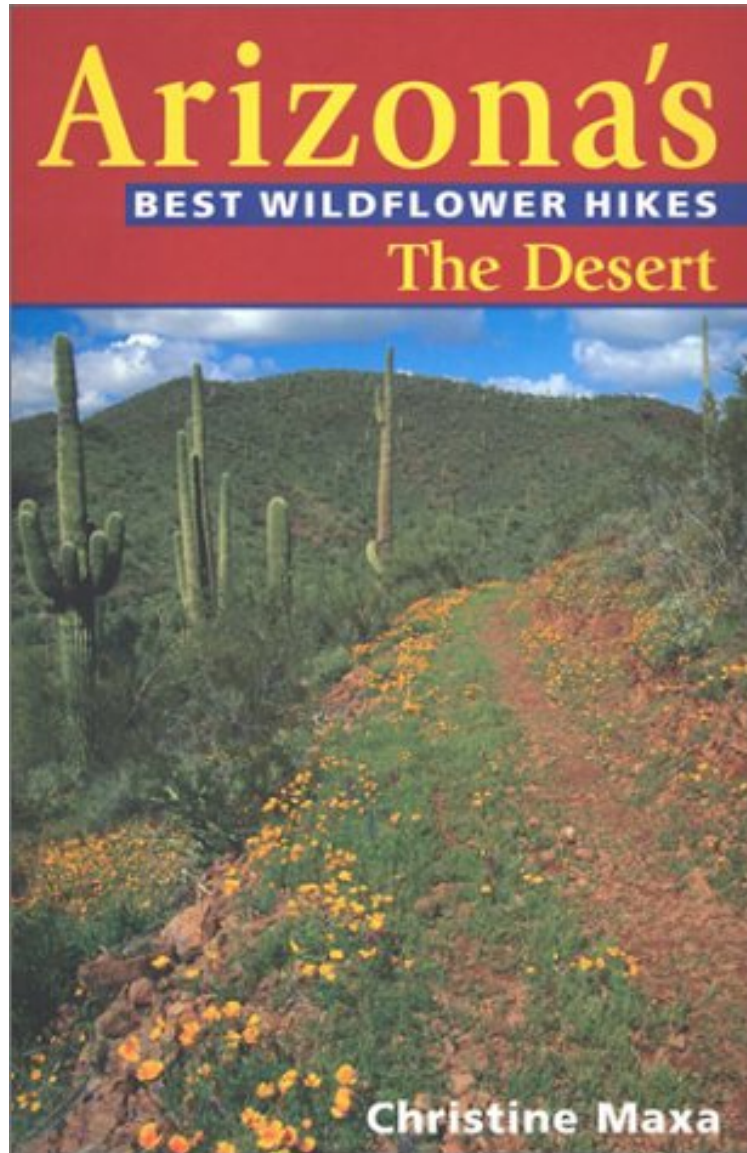


(Download) Arizona's Best Wildflower Hikes: The Desert

## Arizona's Best Wildflower Hikes: The Desert

*Christine Maxa*

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

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very DetailedBy 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

parcs, 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 with these 50 hikes. Exciting on their own, the trails come alive when the charismatic wildflowers appear on the scene. Each trail has an accompanying map, color photo, detailed information, and a lively narrative. Plus, the book has individual profiles for 50 different wildflowers a picture and description full of facts, folklore, and interesting information. Don't let another Banner Year go by without witnessing Arizona's spectacular wildflowers in bloom. Get your copy of Arizona's Best Wildflower Hikes: The Desert today.