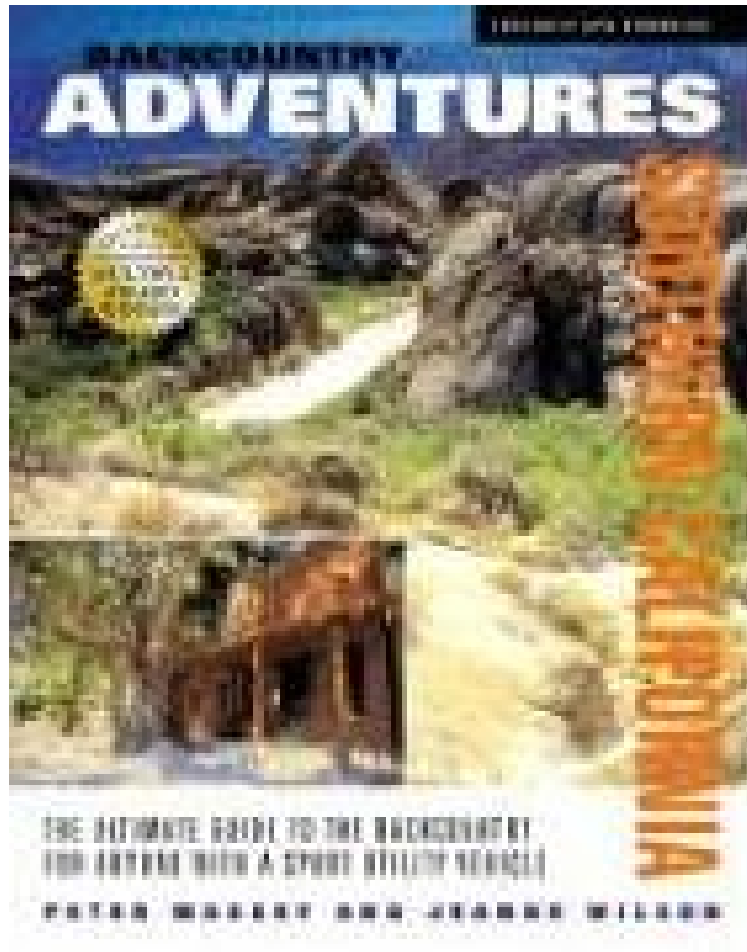


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## Backcountry Adventures Southern California: The Ultimate Guide to the Backcountry for anyone with a Sport Utility Vehicle

*Peter Massey*

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**Peter Massey : Backcountry Adventures Southern California: The Ultimate Guide to the Backcountry for anyone with a Sport Utility Vehicle** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Backcountry Adventures Southern California: The Ultimate Guide to the Backcountry for anyone with a Sport Utility Vehicle:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great resource - well written and well organizedBy WinterThe only reason I do not rate it at 5 stars is its size. It is the size of a Yellow Pages phone directory which precludes taking it on my travels.It is an excellent trip planning resource that is very well written and it is organized in a manner that makes it easy to research a particular sub-region. What is great is that it provides history with text and photos and other background information that gives more of a flavor to an area.The maps were done with the idea of providing trip

planning information and have a bare minimum of detail. I find this more useful for planning and use more detailed maps and GPS while actually out on the roads. Along with the maps the book contains GPS coordinates and notations like "Gate, then cattle guard, then gate" to confirm that you are on the correct route. For destinations it provides real world travel times based on the road and conditions and provides advice as to when it is best to make the trip as well as a difficulty rating and a scenic rating which together provide a valuable guide as to whether getting to a particular place is worth the effort and possible damage to the vehicle or its occupants. My only real criticism is the size. I would have happily had a book two-thirds the size and weight and worked with the smaller text and smaller pictures. At 11" x 8.5" x 1.25" and more than 5 lbs. in weight it is far from being "travel size". If you travel the length of the state and carry the Northern and Southern editions you have a very hefty set of tomes. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A guide to getting to know Southern California By Andrew After being transplanted to Southern California from the Northwest, I felt hemmed in, separated from all things natural. Backcountry Adventures has helped to change that. It's a wonderful guide to exploring the region. The hefty book begins with a historical, botanical and geographic guide to the region, highlighting Southern California's explorers, settlers, missionaries, bandits, flora, fauna and more. It then moves into the individual descriptions of off road routes. The book is geared towards exploring Southern California's outdoors with a 4WD and might disappoint the Glamour crowd who is focused doing awesome things in their trucks. But, for those of us looking to justify the excess of our SUV's with some exploration, it's perfect. Each route guide begins with a simple rating guide which rates the trail on a number of qualities like driving difficulty and remoteness, then moves into a description of its history and the history of the region it explores. Next comes a description of the route itself, and then a detailed turn by turn guide with GPS coordinates. The only real complaint I have with this book is that sometimes routes can be difficult to find without reading through the entire guide. It does contain a few "20 most scenic routes" and whatnot lists, but includes no way to find, say, the most remote routes in the book. The other thing I'd suggest to improve the book is an accompanying website with downloadable GPS coordinates and user comments. Typing in the coordinates for a route is needlessly time consuming, and being able to download them from the internet would be wonderful. Hearing feedback from other drivers would also be great. All in all, this book has helped to liberate me from the urban sprawl of Southern California, and for that I'm very grateful. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Book! By Paul K. Shiroma This is quite the book. I was pleased that it came with a lot of "naturalist" information for those who are into birdwatching and such as well as the off-road directions. The book is well laid out; maps appear to be easy to follow (haven't had a chance to get out yet). The paper used is a heavy high gloss type which looks like it'll stand some abuse. Looking forward to getting out and about with it.

Backcountry Adventures Southern California provides 2,983 miles of routes that travel through the beautiful mountainous regions of Big Sur, across the arid Mojave Desert, and straight into the heart of the aptly named Death Valley. Trail history comes alive through accounts of Spanish missionaries, eager prospectors looking to cash in during California's gold rush, and legends of lost mines. Like the other guides in the Backcountry Adventures series, Backcountry Adventures Southern California provides a helpful, concise chart with each trail description, listing starting and finishing point, mileage, driving time, and elevation. Backcountry Adventures Southern California is the most comprehensive book of its kind and is indispensable for planning any kind of outdoor adventure in the Golden State. It will appeal to everyone who loves the backcountry: campers, anglers, four-wheelers, hikers, mountain bikers, snowmobilers, amateur prospectors, sightseers, and more...