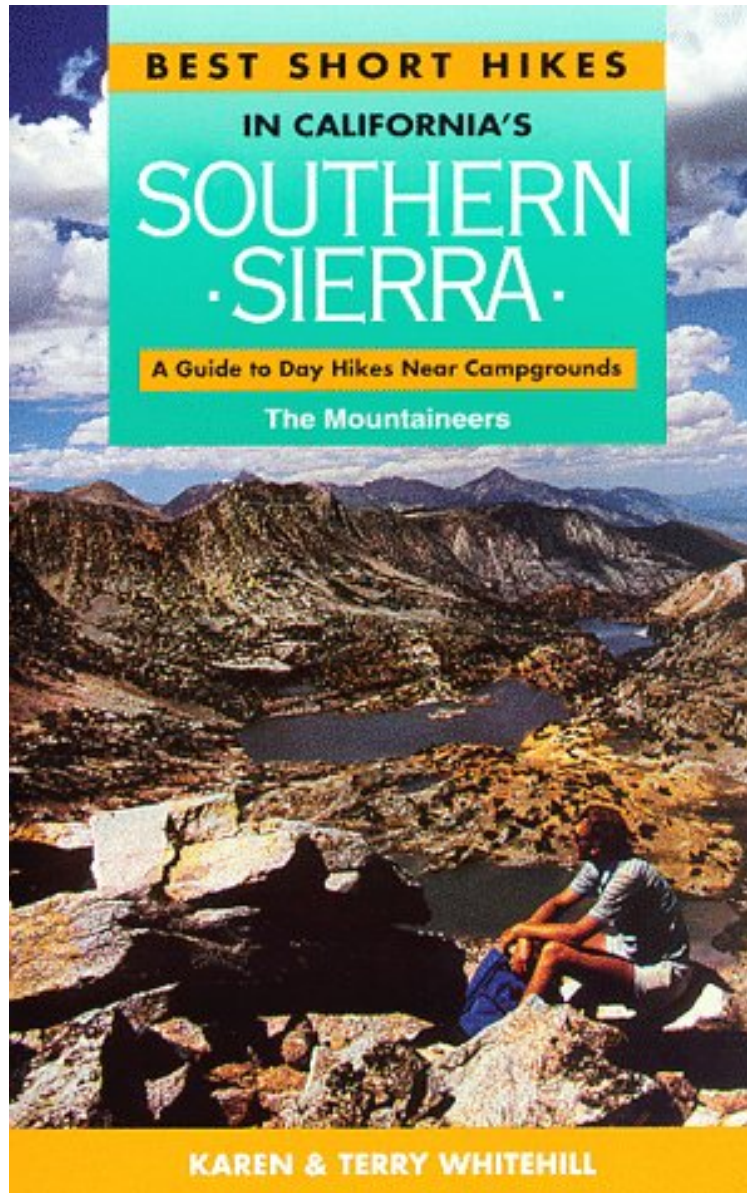


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.com If you're a backpacker or skilled mountain climber in search of a grueling expedition, this isn't the book for you. But if you prefer day hikes to long hauls, if you'd rather get your timeless beauty and unspoiled serenity in the South Sierras at a saner, more relaxing pace (with or without the kids), then read on. A short introduction orients the would-be stroller to the history, vegetation, and wildlife of the region, offering general safety and planning tips as well. The rest is detailed information on 64 possible hikes, from short loops to all-day treks of 15 miles or more. For each hike, the distance, difficulty, and elevation gain are provided. And what a diverse array of hikes to choose from: whether you enjoy angling in a high lake or stream, summitting peaks such as Mt. Whitney (yes, a stretch for a day hike, but a definite option for the superbly fit), "wildflower watching," or just kicking back with a leisurely picnic (or a little of each and then some), this guide shows the way. With plenty of maps, easy-to-follow directions, and a healthy dose of what to look for (columbine and phlox, brook and golden trout, that perfect picnic spot...), you'll be quickly on your way to experiencing some of the best short hiking in the South Sierras. Use this guide to plan for a single excursion, or plan an extended trip using the detailed campground information provided at the beginning of each chapter.