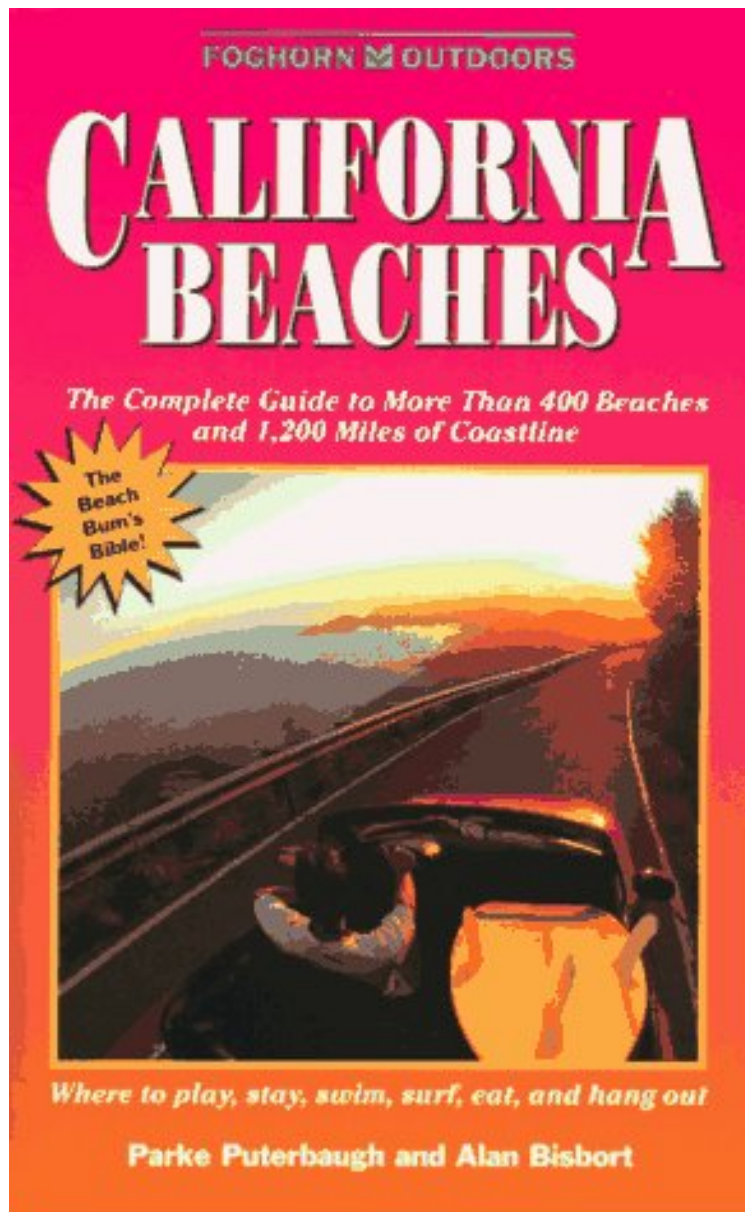


(Download pdf) California Beaches: The Complete Guide to More Than 400 Beaches and 1,200 Miles of Coastline

California Beaches: The Complete Guide to More Than 400 Beaches and 1,200 Miles of Coastline

Parke Puterbaugh, Alan Bisbort
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Parke Puterbaugh, Alan Bisbort : California Beaches: The Complete Guide to More Than 400 Beaches and 1,200 Miles of Coastline before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all

praised California Beaches: The Complete Guide to More Than 400 Beaches and 1,200 Miles of Coastline:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. KOWABUNGA! Buy CALIFORNIA BEACHES, now! By Robert Jacobson Boy, did this book ever surprise me! Last month, I purchased CALIFORNIA BEACHES from .Com, hoping to learn about my home state's more obscure beaches prior to prowling them. Having grown up on an L.A. beach (Playa del Rey, near LAX, to be exact), I wanted also to test my knowledge of the coast. CALIFORNIA BEACHES didn't disappoint. All the knowledge relevant to beach fans was there: quality of beaches, swimming and surf conditions, general description, size of crowds, access information, accommodations, night life, etc. What I didn't expect, and what has kept me reading this thick paperback night after night, is the richness of its cultural sociology. Parke and Allen have California pegged! CALIFORNIA BEACHES is primarily a guidebook, but it is also the most insightful analysis of life on California's Pacific Rim in the late 20th Century I've come across -- and I've read them all. Representative topics discussed in extensive sidebars, frequently running two or three pages, include the ocean as icon, the immigration question, land-preservation controversies, freeway congestion, pollution and clean-up of the seas, access rights for beachgoers vs. property rights of beach homeowners, the evolving music scene, North vs. South as a defining characteristic of California life, and so on. Parke and Allen do an excellent job of describing the local cities that front on the beaches, too, in terms of geography, culture, and even political issues. Moreover, Parke and Allen's descriptions of the state's beaches and beach towns are right-on, based on my personal experience...and they have been to all of them! (I'm envious of their lifestyle, frankly. They get to do this for a living.) CALIFORNIA BEACHES is witty, trenchant, and just plain GOOD. As I read the book it was as if grown-up members of my high-school bodysurfing club were reporting their adventures, still wondering at the California coast's wonders and mysteries. One more thing: CALIFORNIA BEACHES, the publisher notes, is printed with soy ink on recycled paper; and a contribution is made to the coastal-protection advocacy organization, the Surfrider Foundation, for each copy purchased. All you surf dudes and dudettes: buy this book! And then get ready to "hit the beach," well-informed. Bob Jacobson Founding Member, Manhattan Beach Bodysurfing Association, 1966-1970

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Your #2 travel must have, #1 is a map. By A Customer After spending 3 weeks driving the coast of California I can honestly say that this book is the most well written and easy to follow guide of all the books out there. Every detail is laid out in a precise, neat, and easy to follow manner. There were many humorous side notes that are worth reading even if your not planning on visiting those areas. These two authors (Puterbaugh and Bisbort) have thoroughly researched the area and are in my opinion very qualified to write this book. Their rating system of the beaches were right on, although their people indicator was only marginally correct. I highly recommend this book. It will be your second best reference right behind your map. John Yoder (JYoder123@aol.com)

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Irreverant, helpful and a laugh-a-minute By A Customer From the tip of the coast to the more rancid parts of Los Angeles, these authors capture the essence of California's life style. I chuckled when reading the description of Venice Beach; I wish I could write as wittily as this!

The authors exhaustively list and describe each California beach--from the classic sunny Southern California model to the ruggedly beautiful Mendocino Coast variety. And they convey the ambiance of each place by chronicling every activity, restaurant, lodging, nightclub, arcade and hangout within walking distance of the beach. 25 maps.

.com From the tip of Mexico to the Oregon border, the beaches of California have a persona that's larger even than the state's 1,200 miles of coast. But not all sandy strips are equal, and Parke Puterbaugh and Alan Bisbort ("America's beach bums," as Larry King calls them) review and rate more than 400 beaches for access, privacy, beauty, ruggedness, swimability, and recreational activities. They have the skinny on extras, too, like the best fish taco stands and campgrounds. Witty as well as practical, the authors poke fun at beach culture and sun worship while honoring the miles of glorious golden sand.