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**From Rough Guides : The Rough Guide to California: Includes Las Vegas and the Grand Canyon (Rough Guide Travel Guides) by Jeff Dickey (2005-08-25)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rough Guide to California: Includes Las Vegas and the Grand Canyon (Rough Guide Travel Guides) by Jeff Dickey (2005-08-25):

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Huge Disappointment!By WhateverI suppose it's not easy to create a good guidebook for a state as big as California. It's inevitable that such a book will have to leave all kinds of worthy places out. But the problem with the Rough Guide to California is much deeper. Put simply, the book is full of dismissive stereotypes about the people of California, lame recommendations, numerous inaccuracies, and a surprising number of typos. It took 4 people to write it, and who knows how many to edit this utter waste of money. I can perhaps understand why this book turned into something so mediocre and boring; but I can't understand why it is so sloppy. The irony is that I have found the Rough Guides very useful for the Southwest, the Rocky Mountains, various European countries, Mexico, and Japan.What to get instead? The free guidebooks published for AAA members are much better overall. Time Out makes excellent urban guidebooks (LA, SF). There are numerous niche guidebooks on the market for every aspect of the Golden State. And of course, the Internet is indispensable for planning any trips.9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. from Feminist Review.orgBy Jennifer M. WilsonIn the mid-nineties I spent about a month living out of my car in California. I drove, camped, and couch surfed from Eureka to San Diego,

and many points in between. Before returning home, I went to Lake Tahoe and then continued north to Washington State via Mt. Shasta. I didn't take a guidebook with me; it didn't occur to me since I knew I wouldn't be needing hotel and restaurant reviews. At the time I lived on an island, in a cabin, without a computer or internet. When I rolled into a town, I just picked up the local "city paper" or equivalent and found the friendliest looking coffee shop to go to and learn what I could about where I was. I read bulletin boards and just walked or drove around to see what was there. The Rough Guide to California would have been a fabulous addition to this trip. The writers let you in on everything they know, and they are consummate travelers. You can get major hotel information, of course, but you also get hostel and camping information, the secret sweet spots in a city, and some history and bits of information that make travel that much more enjoyable. For instance, I was not aware that more lesbians are moving over to Oakland from San Francisco these days, but I feel like I am 'in the know' now that I do. A lot of guides also forget about the details of visiting the deserts, mountains and park trails, and the best ways to go about seeing them, but here you can get that. Since my rubber tramp days, I have traveled to a lot of places around the world. And as my means increased, I utilized travel websites to get insider information on where to go and what to look for. I also incorporated the more standard guides into my research; Frommer's and Fodor's became companions of mine, along with Lonely Planet. From now on, Rough Guides will be included in my library. I love to travel. I love the smells, the sights, the people, the food, the feel of a different place, and I want to understand why and how it all came to be that way. I am obsessed with finding the inside spots, staying in odd and eclectic places and avoiding tourist traps whenever possible. If you are like me in this predilection, the Rough Guides are a great find. Travel guides tend to tell you about what they find most interesting or worthwhile in a place, and in the 9th edition of The Rough Guide to California, you get to explore California with authors who are not only interesting and funny, but also witty and talented writers. I enjoyed reading it, even in the sameness of my own living room. [...]

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Covers a large state pretty well

By internationalmanofmystery I have been living and using this guide book in California for nearly two years now and am very satisfied with it. Numerous weekend trips and a couple longer ones all over the state, both cities and countryside, were planned with the help of this guide. While there are certainly niche guides that cover cities and specific regions or interests better, this does a great job of covering the whole state with just enough info and good maps. I agree with some of the other reviewers that some of the writing is quite opinionated, which is unnecessary, but just don't take it personally people!