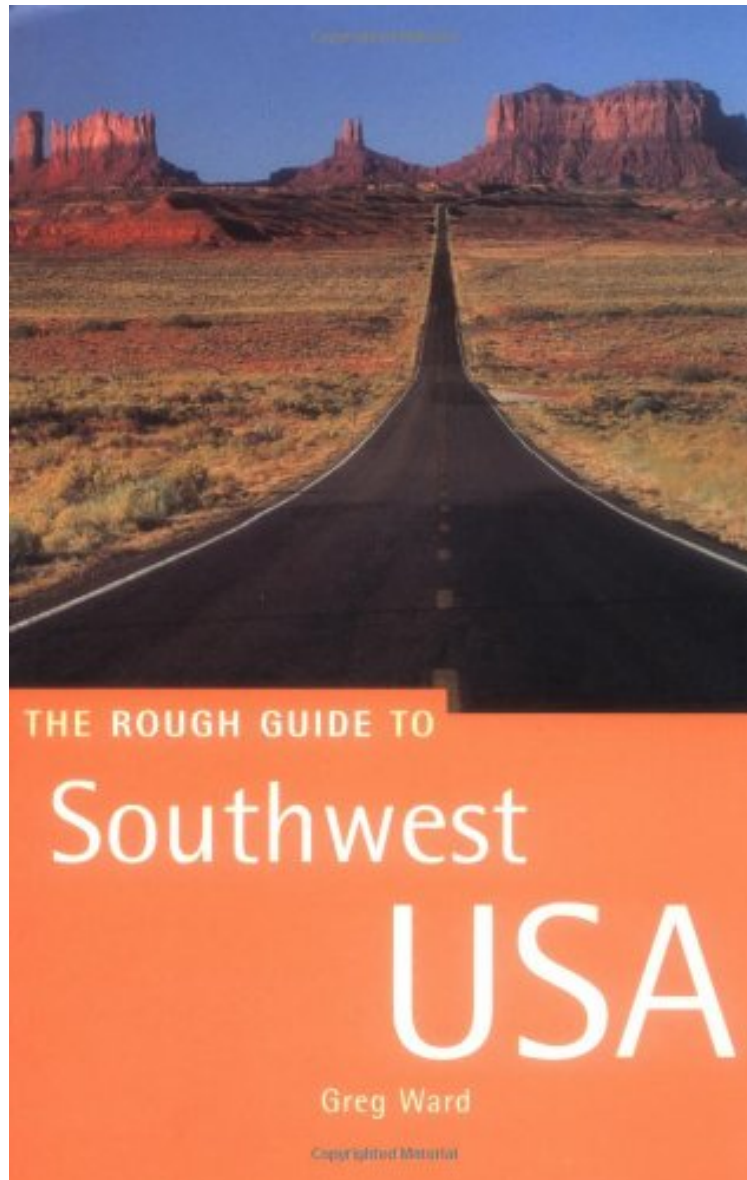


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## The Rough Guide to Southwest USA, 2nd Edition (Rough Guide Travel Guides)

Greg Ward

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**Greg Ward : The Rough Guide to Southwest USA, 2nd Edition (Rough Guide Travel Guides)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rough Guide to Southwest USA, 2nd Edition (Rough Guide Travel Guides):

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Essential information for exploring this VAST regionBy Jon L

AlbeeThe Southwest is to the United States what the Outback is to Australia. It's huge. It's hot. It's thinly settled, but more than anything, it's blessed with an incredible inventory of natural attractions and indigenous cultural sites. Because of the vast distances and sheer number of exploratory options, planning is essential. Whether you choose this book, or the equivalent guide published by Lonely Planet, you'll need a reference of some kind. This guide limits its geographic reach in order to offer depth of coverage. Other than Las Vegas, Nevada is excluded. Only southern Utah is included, and west Texas is excluded entirely. This approach is only partially successful. I would say that the coverage in Las Vegas is excellent, and quite comprehensive, but the coverage of the fascinating mountain towns of southwestern Colorado is absolutely inadequate. So it can be a hit and miss affair. Generally, I would say its coverage of natural and indigenous sites is better than its coverage of the cities and towns. Listings are far from comprehensive, but those included are selected for quality and authenticity. Historical and cultural contexts deserve special attention. While the standard chapters dedicated to regional history and culture are included, the sidebars and topical text boxes add real substance to the book. Maps are simple, but are colorful and attractive. Good maps of natural features are included. Photography is simple and complements the text. The photography is not meant to be a feature in and of itself. Two standout topics: Indigenous civilization and the Grand Canyon. Both of these topics are prominently featured and well presented. If your plans include these sites, this is a good book to have. Pragmatic material includes all the information appropriate for visitors from abroad. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Refreshingly Honest By Me I like the curmudgeon tone the descriptions sometimes take, for example, in describing the food choices on the small town of Tropic east of Bryce NP (on p.400), it says "No one would make a special trip to eat in Tropic's limited array of restaurants, but once you're here it's not worth driving anywhere else either." It's a refreshing change from the usual happy bunny tone of most guidebooks. It also hits on details other guidebooks missed, for example, of the five area guide books I have it is the only one that describes the back door path to Bryce canyon through the small road cutting through Tropic. This would be my second choice for a Southern Utah park trip. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Review, Rough Guides to the Southwest By Traveling Bob This is a great travel guide when you want to concentrate on the activities that can be done in an area. Hits all the best (Most frequented) spots and lets you know where not to waste your precious travel time. I am glad I purchased the Kindle fire edition. Links are given in the book and you are able to access when you have Wifi. I found the layout of the book easy to follow and it is easy reading. This guide has made our trip to the southwest more enjoyable as we would have missed some gems covered in the guide. Great Value.

"The Rough Guide to Southwest U.S.A." is the definitive guide to the canyons, deserts and towns of America's Wild West. Features include:

About the Author Greg Ward has written for Rough Guides since 1985. He is author of Rough Guides to Hawaii, The Grand Canyon, Brittany Normandy, Las Vegas Directions and Maui Directions. Greg Ward has written for Rough Guides since 1985. He is author of Rough Guides to Hawaii, The Grand Canyon, Brittany Normandy, Las Vegas Directions and Maui Directions. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. **PLANNING YOUR ITINERARY** The only way to explore the Southwest in any detail is to drive yourself around; the very limited public transport options are outlined on p.20. However long your vacation may be, aim to spend most of your time on the Colorado Plateau, seeing as much as possible of the Four Corners region and southern Utah. Your exact itinerary will depend largely on which city serves as your starting point. In one week, you could fly into Las Vegas, and loop around the Colorado River to Grand Canyon, Zion and possibly Bryce Canyon national parks; into Phoenix, to reach Canyon de Chelly, Monument Valley and the Grand Canyon; into Albuquerque, and see Santa Fe, Taos andcoma Pueblo; or to Salt Lake City, and make a lightning tour of all southern Utahs national parks. With two weeks, you can extend any of the above itineraries to cover most of the Colorado Plateau, making sure you get to Canyon de Chelly, Monument Valley and Mesa Verde. Only if you have three weeks or more are you likely to manage any large-scale hiking for example into the stunning Havasupai Indian Reservation, or down to Phantom Ranch in the Grand Canyon or to detour south into southern New Mexico or southern Arizona. **WHEN TO GO** Summer is the peak tourist season for most of the Southwest, though temperatures in excess of 100F render cities such as Phoenix and Tucson all but unbearable, and make it an ordeal even to get out of your car in many of the national parks. Hikers, bikers and rafters do better to come either between mid-September and mid-October, when the crowds are gone and dazzling fall colors brighten the canyons, or in April and May, when wildflowers bloom in the desert. If your timings arent flexible, however, dont worry. Its always possible to escape the heat the thermometer drops by 3F for every thousand feet above sea level, so Santa Fe, for example, is always relatively cool and the summer is also peak period for the regions festivals, as detailed on p.187. Winters can be seriously cold, and snowfalls close down certain areas altogether dont reckon on seeing Mesa Verde, or the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, between October and April. Those parks that remain open are often at their most beautiful when frosted with snow, however, while ski resorts like Telluride and Taos are in full swing, and Tucson and Phoenix fill up with sun-seeking "snowbirds" from colder states.