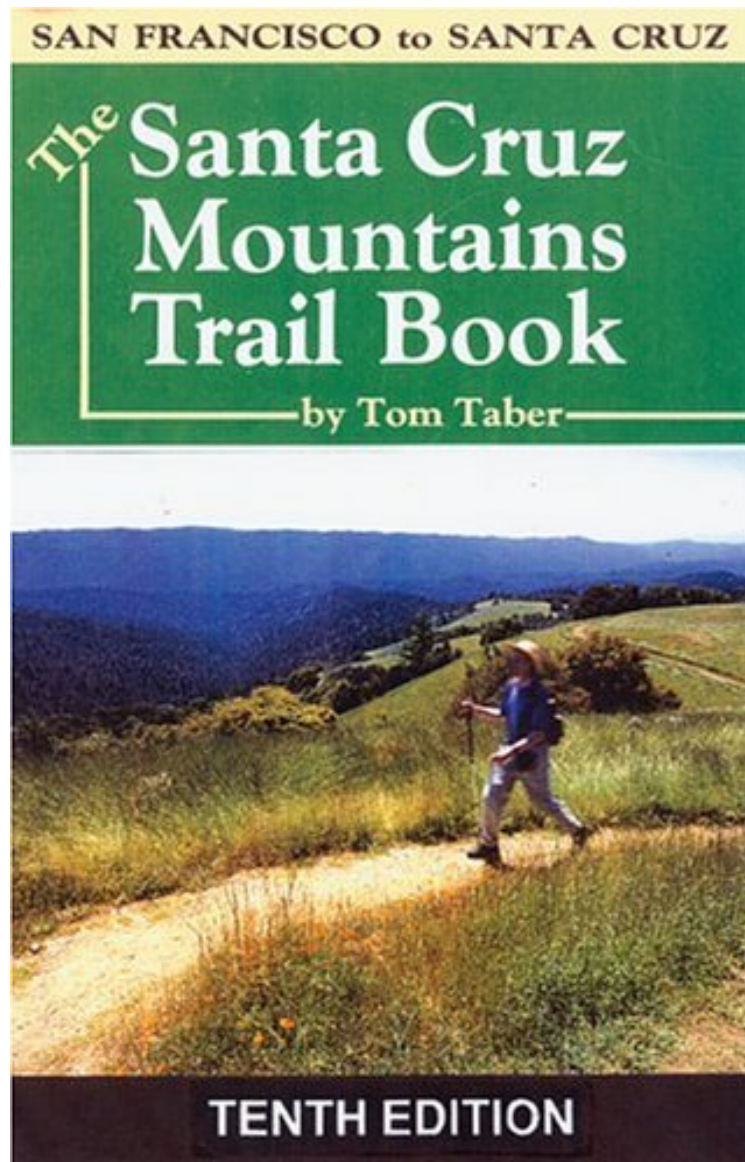


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## The Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Book

*Tom Taber*

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#300432 in Books Oak Valley Press 2006-03-08Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 .59 x 5.60 x 8.50l, .76 #File Name: 0960917098248 pages | File size: 41.Mb

**Tom Taber : The Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Book** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Book:

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Review of the 10th editionBy Fritz R. WardIt says a lot about a book that it is continuously in print and updated for 30 years. This edition, the 10th and printed in 2006, preserves the nice features of previous editions and also offers the author's reflections upon what remains to be done for

conservation and recreation in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The general format of the book has not changed. Every county park, state park, open space preserve, or land otherwise available to public access in the Santa Cruz mountains is described (in alphabetical order) with special attention to the hiking opportunities in each. Trail descriptions are a bit sparse, but Taber includes a decent map of each area to allow you to find your own way. The book is also chock full of "Special Sections" which detail local and natural history and also discuss such practical matters as where you can actually walk a dog in this part of the distinctively 'canine unfriendly' Bay Area. Taber's suggestions for the future of the Santa Cruz Mountains are worth noting. He urges the construction of more campgrounds and backcountry trail sites, an absolute necessity. It is almost impossible to get camping reservations on weekends. He also suggests practical ways to extend trail systems and increase the salmon and steelhead runs in mountain streams. I'm less sympathetic to his demand that the gun club near Castle Rock be shut down. I'm not a gun owner, but I never felt I was near a "war zone" when visiting this state park. In my opinion, antagonizing outdoor sportsmen will not promote conservation, but I could be wrong on this. On the whole though, this book is an excellent guide to the region and hopefully it will inspire more efforts at conservation and preservation in the area.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Excellent guide  
By Cameron  
A guide doesn't tell you everything. It tells you enough that you can figure the rest out for yourself. Taber could have written a whole book about The Forest of Nicene Marks State Park. There's that much to say about it. But then you wouldn't have the adventure of figuring out that maze of a park for yourself, and this book would be too big and heavy for your day pack. The trail maps are an overview, not a turn by turn specification. That's a feature, not a bug. I've been using this book since 1983, when I went day hiking in the Santa Cruz mountains almost every weekend. Considering the many adventures it's led me through, and the dozens of folks I've used it to introduce our redwood parks to, it's provided more entertainment and satisfaction than any other book I ever bought. I like the format better than the detailed backpackers' guides. Each new edition is worth it.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Beauty in our backyard (SF Bay)  
By Bruce H. Jensen  
The best book, by far, for hiking the Santa Cruz Mountains. Tom Taber is a great hikemaster. Misses no secrets or important details.

Rising just south of San Francisco, through San Mateo, Santa Cruz, and western Santa Clara counties, the Santa Cruz Mountains offer amazing scenery and outdoor recreation opportunities for Bay Area residents and visitors. This compact, detailed reference guides hikers, bikers, bird watchers, naturalists, and other outdoor enthusiasts through redwood canyons, conifer and oak woodlands, along the rugged Pacific coast, and to breathtaking summit views of the Bay Area and beyond. Each chapter includes an overview of the park or preserve with directions on how to reach it; detailed trail maps; and descriptions of trail conditions, ecology, topography, geology, history, and points of interest. At the beginning of the book, a map illustrates all the public lands in the mountains, and a separate chapter lists each unit of public land alphabetically. Special sections highlight noteworthy features, including poison oak, acorn woodpeckers, logging history, interesting characters, banana slugs, the best places for dog walking, and more.