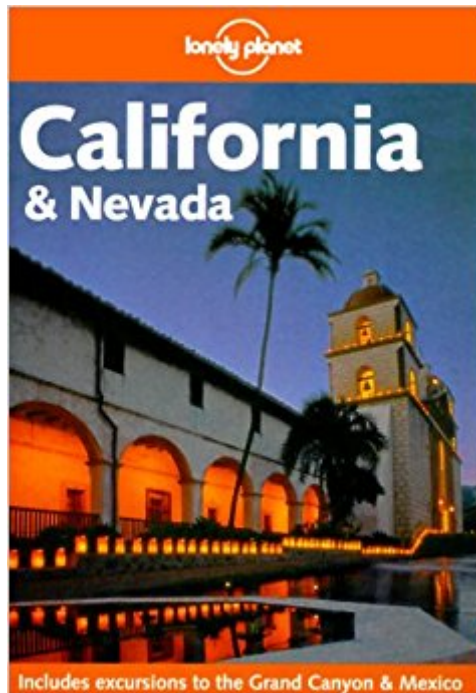




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Lonely Planet California & Nevada



Synopsis

Provides essentials on exploring the area's natural beauty, from surfing the Pacific Ocean to hiking in the redwood forests; in-depth coverage of small beach towns and expanded sections on Los Angeles and San Francisco; tips on getting the most out of California's state parks and theme parks; and recommendations on excursions.

Book Information

Series: Lonely Planet California

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Customer Reviews

As usual, the guidebook standard is set by Lonely Planet.-- Outside

I had used Lonely Planet's Travel Survival guide for India in 1996 and since then I am a fan of this publication. This was my first visit to the West Coast in ten years I have been in US and with the help of this book I could organize my trip much better than I expected (in fact I knew more about the place or a city than few of my friends who have been there for more than 10 years) Maps are small but great. If you are going to Las Vegas I would also recommend Lonely Planet's book Las Vegas which is also excellent.

First, addressing the remarks made by the person with the review titled "For the lonely and the broke," this guide is NOT supposed to be for rich yuppies staying in fancy hotels and going from one tourist destination to another, which is EXACTLY what makes these guides so unique. For those who love to travel and truly experience the place they are visiting (as opposed to just the tourist

crap) without blowing thousands of dollars on hotels and fancy restaurants, Lonely Planet is the best. They are designed for people who like to stay in relatively inexpensive hotels and cool hostels (and thus who would prefer to use their money for more useful things than valets, room service, etc.), who often like to experience the outdoors from more than a car window on an interstate, and who seek to truly experience the culture of the place they are visiting while meeting new people. I live in California, and always use my Lonely Planet guide when traveling around my home state, whether for finding places to hike and camp in the Sierra or Coast Range, learning about the geography and history of some old town, hanging out in San Francisco, or just finding cool hostels and nice restaurants (that aren't fancy and expensive and are unique, not some chain restaurant) in some town I've never been to. For those who love to travel with nothing but a pack on their back, you just can't beat Lonely Planet. If you want to drive your SUV from tourist destination to tourist destination, mindlessly snapping pictures of everything you see and staying in fancy hotels, then definitely buy something else.

There is a lot of detail in this book and it was a great help in planning my trip around Northern California. My only gripe was the intro at the front recommended two hostels that were in old lighthouses on the coast, but turning to the relevant section to get their contact details and they aren't listed! That was annoying but overall it's a fine guidebook.

I rated this book with 5 stars because it has the best value compared to the others. With a price tag below [price], great maps and to the point writings of all the places you need to see in California and Nevada. Who can beat that? PS for Dim Sum lovers: Go to the cheap dim sum restaurant in SF mentioned in this book. It's worth every single penny.

Lonely Planet shows the little California towns in detail. Towns like Arcata, Chico, Merced to name a few. Others like Fodors don't do this. Great and in depth.

A few wrong turns here and there but generally essential Lonely Planet quality throughout. A good overview. Well written.

I was suspicious about this book after reading the guide for Sacramento and the Gold County which I know well. The authors seem lazy and penniless. Accommodations are not described well and luxury sites are barely mentioned if at all. Descriptions of San Luis Obispo, Pismo and Monterey

were worthless. This was a very disappointing "Lonely Planet" book with no research, interest or creativity in the reviews of terrific California towns.

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