

2014 Canyoneer Recommended Field Guides for the Hiking Season

Plants and Wildflowers

Baja California Plant Guide by Jon Rebman, Ph.D.

Compiled by the SDNHM curator of Botany, this guide is filled with excellent photographs and descriptions of plants found both on the Baja peninsula and in San Diego County.

San Diego Native Plants by James Lightner

Many of the Canyoneers described this book as their go-to guide for wildflowers of the region. It describes more than 1,000 species, including many in the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. A key next to each plant highlights zones in which the species might be found.

Native Plants of Torrey Pines State Reserve and Nearby San Diego County Locations by Margaret Fillius

Compiled by a docent at Torrey Pines, this guide contains multiple photographs and scans of many species. It is indexed by both common and scientific names.

Birds

Peterson Field Guide to Birds of Western North America by Roger Tory Peterson

A top pick of the Canyoneers, Peterson guides are always popular. It is portable and beautifully illustrated. It fits easily in a backpack or pocket.

Raptors of California by Hans Peeters and Pam Peeters

Featuring descriptions of every diurnal California raptor, this illustrated guide combines identification of these birds with a discussion of their natural history.

The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America by David Allen Sibley

Compact and comprehensive, this guide features 703 bird species found west of the Rocky Mountains. It includes more than 4,600 illustrations with descriptive caption text pointing out the most important field marks. Each entry contains text on frequency, nesting, behavior, food and feeding, voice description, and key identification features.

Birds of California Field Guide by Stan Tekiela

According to one Canyoneer, this is color coded for plumage and small in size making it convenient for carrying in a daypack. It was recommended by a park ranger in Sequoia National Park.

National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of Western North America by Jon L. Dunn and Jonathan Alderfer

This guide includes a full-color visual index, printed on the inside covers. Annotated artwork highlights birds' key physical features, making identification easier. Thumb-tabs help readers find information fast.

Geology

The Rise and Fall of San Diego: 150 Million Years of History Recorded in Sedimentary Rocks by Patrick L. Abbot

Author Patrick L. Abbott, Professor of the Department of the Geological Studies, San Diego State University, tells the prehistory of the San Diego area as recorded in the layers of sedimentary rocks. Numerous field-trips direct the reader to key localities to observe and understand the history.

Roadside Geology Along Sunrise Highway by Michael J. Walawender, Ph.D.

Dr. Michael Walawender, Professor Emeritus from San Diego State University, takes you on a self-guided tour along one of the highest mountain highways in San Diego County with photos, maps, and illustrations.

Geology of Anza-Borrego: Edge of Creation by Paul Remeike and Lowell Lindsay

This non-technical guide introduces the Southern California desert enthusiast to one of the most active geologic regions in North America. Eight field trips journey through deep time in the desert.

Geology Underfoot in Southern California by Robert Sharp and Allen

This text offers an inside view of the southern California's interesting landscape. Twenty vignettes weave a geologic story of a particular scene, relationship, or geologic feature. Some spotlight well-known landmarks, while others describe relationships among the earth's awesome forces.

Reptiles

Field Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles of California by Robert C. Stebbins, Samuel M. McGinnis and Ron Hussey

Recommended by Brad Hollingsworth, this user-friendly guide identifies and describes the amphibians and reptiles—salamanders, frogs and toads, lizards, snakes, and tortoises and turtles—that live in California. Range maps, lifelike color paintings by Robert C. Stebbins, clear drawings of various life stages including eggs, notes on natural history, and conservation status are included.

Insects

From Jim Berrian, Field Entomologist:

Butterflies through Binoculars: The West by Jeffrey Glassberg

This field guide offers a comprehensive display of all the magnificent butterflies of the western region, stretching from the plains of middle America to the Pacific coast, and from southwestern Canada all the way to the Hawaiian islands.

Dragonflies and Damselflies of the West (Princeton Field Guides) by Dennis Paulson

This fully illustrated field guide includes 348 species of dragonflies and damselflies in western North America. It's a compact, user-friendly intended for use in the field. Every species is illustrated with full-color photographs and a distribution map, and structural features are illustrated.

Kaufman Field Guide to Insects of North America by Eric R. Eaton and Kenn Kaufman

This is a general reference guide accessible to the non-scientist illustrated with well laid out photographs

Field Guide to the Spiders of California and the Pacific Coast States by R.J. Adams

Jim Berrian says this is the only spider field guide useful for common spiders of the area.

Hiking/Tracking and Other

Afoot and Afield: San Diego County: A Comprehensive Hiking Guide by Jerry Schad

Considered the “bible” by many hikers in San Diego, this book contains descriptions and directions to 250 hikes in the San Diego area. Many a Canyoneer has used this guide to find the hidden places of San Diego and possible hikes for the Canyoneer season.

Anza-Borrego Desert Region by Lowell and Diana Lindsay

A complete guide to over 1 million acres of desert lands in three counties, including Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area, parts of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument and adjacent BLM lands. Map included.

Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills by Mountaineers Ron Eng and Ronald C. Eng

According to one of the Canyoneer, this is the holy grail of outdoor educators because it covers every aspect of outdoor recreation from hiking and backpacking, to wilderness medicine and survival situations.

Peterson Field Guide to Animal Tracks: Third Edition by Olaus J. Murie), Mark Elbroch and Roger Tory Peterson

This updated edition includes 100 color photographs of tracks and sign, over 1,000 line drawings, and updated nomenclature for the mammals of North America. The text includes descriptions of habits, habitats, tracks, signs, and ranges.

Folding Pocket Guides

Note: Unless otherwise noted these folding pocket guides are laminated and found on Amazon.com.

Wildflowers of Southern California A Guide to Common and Rare Native Species by Steve Hartman

This guide can be used to identify many of the wildflowers of the region. The flowers are grouped by color and the text indicates size, color, bloom period and other characteristics.

The Chaparral Shrublands of Southern California: A Folding Pocket Guide to Familiar Plants & Animals by James Kavanagh

This illustrated guide highlights over 120 familiar species of trees and wildflowers, cacti, insects, reptiles and amphibians, birds, mammals (and their tracks).

Flowering Plants, Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve, Torrey Pines Docent Society

The guide is available through Torrey Pines www.torrey-pines.org and is not laminated.

Local Birds of San Diego

A full-color "Quick-Guide" instantly identifies and describes commonly seen local backyard-trail and shore-water birds.

Birds of Southern California: A Guide to Common and Notable Species by Greg Homel

Each species is illustrated with a color photo enabling identification in the field.

Birds of Prey: A Folding Pocket Guide to Familiar North American Species by James Kavanagh

This folding pocket guide covers the most familiar raptors in North America.

San Diego Birds: A Folding Pocket Guide to Familiar Species by James Kavanaugh

This guide will help to identify over 140 familiar species with detailed illustrations. It includes a map featuring prominent city-wide birding hotspots.

Birds of San Dieguito Lagoon

Some photos in these guides are by Phil Unitt, SDNHM curator of Birds and Mammals. The guide should be available at San Dieguito Lagoon visitor center. It is not laminated.

Birds of Southern California's Coastal Bays and Estuaries by the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy.

This guide should be available at San Elijo Lagoon visitor center and is not laminated.

Snakes of Southern California Snakes of Southern California: A Guide to Common and Notable Species by Brad Hollingsworth, Ph.D.

Created by SDNHM curator of Herpetology, this handy folding pocket guide describes 26 species of snakes commonly found along the coast, mountains, and deserts of Southern California. The guide features color photos that are useful for identification in the field.

Butterflies of Southern California: A Guide to Common and Notable Species by Jim Brock

This guide illustrates 84 species of butterflies and the corresponding caterpillar form. Included along with most of the more common species are several of the most unique species of the region. Common and scientific names, adult size, season when they can be found, and their caterpillar host plants are listed.

Bugs & Slugs: A Folding Pocket Guide to Familiar North American Invertebrates by James Kavanaugh

This guide includes over 140 familiar species of insects, spiders and invertebrates.

Local Tracks of North America "Quick-Guide" to Commonly Seen Animal Tracks & Scats

Folding pocket guide to commonly seen animal tracks.

Useful Apps

Google Maps (It's always good to know where you are)

WeatherBug (and what the weather will be)

Tides Near Me (and what the tides will be if you are near the coast)

iNaturalist.org where you can record what you see in nature, meet other nature lovers, and learn about the natural world. One of projects on the website is the NAT's herpetology department's **RASCals**

CNPS Field Guide (Not actually an app, but accesses the web page if you have internet access)

Sibley's Birds

National Geographic Birds

Audubon Birds, Merlin from Cornell Lab for Birds,

Marine Debris Tracker (If you want to see where all the trash in the watershed ends up)

Audubon has a series of apps that are very broad but cover your most common species, including: **Wildflowers of California, Mammals, Butterflies, Reptiles, Trees, Insects and Spiders**. Also **Audubon Nature California** and **Audubon Nature Deserts Southwest**.

Cabrillo Wildflowers on iTunes

Useful Websites

<http://calflora.net/>

<http://calflora.org/>

<http://birds.cornell.edu/Page.aspx?pid=1478>

<http://sdplantatlas.org>

<http://bear-tracker.com/>

<http://www.usgs.gov/>

<http://www.californiachaparral.org/>

<http://bugguide.net/node/view/15740>

<http://www.californiaherps.com/>