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## Hiking Yosemite National Park: A Guide to 61 of the Park's Greatest Hiking Adventures [book review]

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Updated and revised with color maps and images, this Falcon Guide to Hiking Yosemite National Park is a must have for both day hikers and backpackers on extended trips. The author, Suzanne Swedo, is an experienced hiker, director of an adventure travel company, and has taught natural history seminars in Yosemite for thirty years. Hikes are grouped under geographical locations within the Park, e.g. the Valley floor, South Rim of Yosemite Valley, High Sierra Camps, etc. The entry for each hike begins with a highlighted summary, including start location, total distance, difficulty, time to complete, elevation change, seasonal access, nearest facilities, permits required, relevant USGS map, and special considerations. Also, included in the summary is a two to three sentence description of where to find the trailhead. All of this information is particularly handy when determining where to hike and whether a trail fits your abilities. Following the summary is a one-page description of the hike itself. Swedo provides incredible details about where to turn and what you will see at those points, along with trail conditions and scenic highlights. Each hike concludes with a colored trail map and a table of mile markers and navigation points. Added features include a brief overview of Yosemite, including life in the park, geology, history, and human impact considerations. A trail finder chart allows you to identify hikes by specific features: back country lakes, waterfalls, alpine areas, no hills, day hikes, solitude, early season accessibility, and areas known for wildflowers or wildlife. This chart makes it easy to identify hikes that meets your particular needs at the time. An appendix provides a further reading list on the flora, fauna, geology, and backcountry camping considerations for Yosemite. Another appendix provides a hiker's checklist of gear and supplies. Overall, it is hard to find anything negative about this book. It offers all the details necessary for identifying and navigating hikes, along with providing scenic descriptions and colored images. Highly recommended for all public libraries.