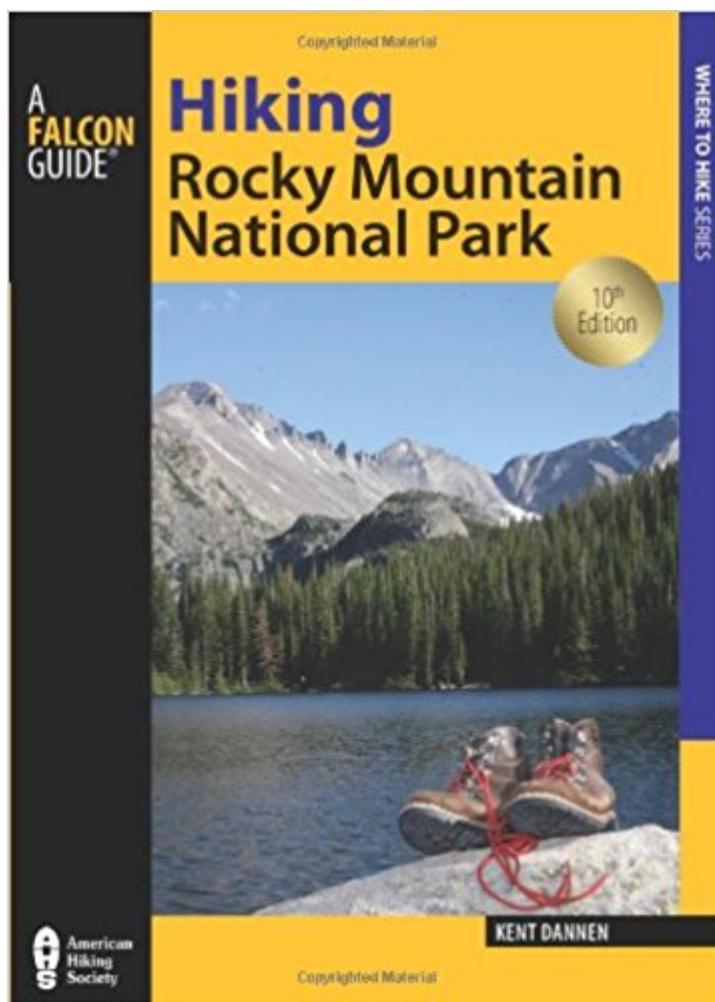


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Hiking Rocky Mountain National Park: Including Indian Peaks Wilderness (Regional Hiking Series)



Synopsis

Lace up your boots and sample more than 450 miles of trails in Rocky Mountain National Park and the Indian Peaks Wilderness. Veteran hiker Kent Dannen introduces you to memorable trails highlighting the natural splendor of the Rockies. Each hike description includes detailed information on trail access, best times for hiking, and points of interest along the way. This new edition is fully updated and revised, with special sections on what to wear, carry, and eat and invaluable advice on wilderness ethics and safety. Its smaller size and package, complete with illustrations, makes this guide an indispensable companion to hiking and backpacking in Rocky Mountain National Park and the Indian Peaks Wilderness.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Kent Dannen has guided hikers over the trails of Rocky Mountain National Park and Indian Peaks for more than thirty years. He began his professional guiding activities as a hike master and naturalist for the YMCA of the Rockies and has led hundreds of hikes covering thousands of miles. He is a former contributing editor of Backpacker Magazine and freelances as a writer-photographer. He is the recipient of the US Department of Agriculture Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding volunteer services in developing educational materials that help manage and protect the Indian Peaks Wilderness. He has written three other guide books, Short hikes in Rock Mountain National Park, Best Easy Day Hikes in Rocky Mountain National Park, and Rocky Mountain Wildflowers. He

lives in Allenspark, Colorado.

I found this book to be a good aid for a first-time-hiker in RMNP last summer. It had been years since I was in the park, and the maps and descriptions in the book were quite useful for the type of day hikes I was doing. It was a basic guide, probably not as helpful as some for serious multi-day hiker/campers, but it worked well for me. The RMNP literature available in Estes Park and from NPS staff at the gates was good, but only went so far. I would recommend this publication to anyone wanting to get a pretty basic overview of the major trails and sights along the way.

There are other guidebooks to hiking in the park, but this is the only one currently in print with hikes in the Indian Peaks wilderness as well. If you have not hiked from the Brainard Lake trailheads or the 4th of July trailhead, you are missing some of the best back country, and best wildflowers, on the front range. Good trail descriptions, adequate maps, good index with distances and elevations.

Compared to the other books in the series this is a disaster. No trail lengths other than an a difficult and awkward table in the back that lists distances between points of interest rather than the trails themselves. No elevation profiles either. The book seems like it was meant to be read in its entirety before planning a trip within the park. The text forces you to read through stories about each trail in order to find bits of information about where the trail begins and ends, how long it is, and other connecting trails. There are a lot of interesting points mentioned regarding the experience along each trail but If I can't use the book to know where I am going it is of no use for trip planning. I have used many other books in this series as guides to trip planning; however, after a couple of hours trying to figure out where or how far I would be going on a single backpacking route I gave up and just switched back to using the Nat Geo topo maps.

A great book for those relatively unfamiliar with Rocky Mountain National Park. While I wish there had been a few more maps through it, I was able to supplement the lack of maps with maps from the park once we arrived.

This book is organized more like a long-winded email from a traveling buddy than a hiking guide sold at real stores for real money. I'm all for the anecdotal side of the outdoors, but if I wanted that I would pick up a John Muir journal, not a Falcon guide. The complete lack of structure makes this guide effectively worthless for anyone planning a trip.

This is the least helpful trail guide I have ever purchased. There are no elevations, no distances, no hiking times, no anything that will help you plan a hike. Instead, the author pontificates on why the trail is or is not glorious and offers dubious photography pointers (meter off the sky to get the silhouette of a tree... etc, etc). Don't waste your money on this book if you are trying to figure out things like what time to hit the trail head to arrive at your destination by sunrise, what elevation change you might encounter, how long the hike might take, or just generally if you have better things to do than to try to decipher some guy rambling on about stuff guys ramble on about. I'm sure the author meant well, but this book is extremely frustrating to use while I try to explore the park.

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