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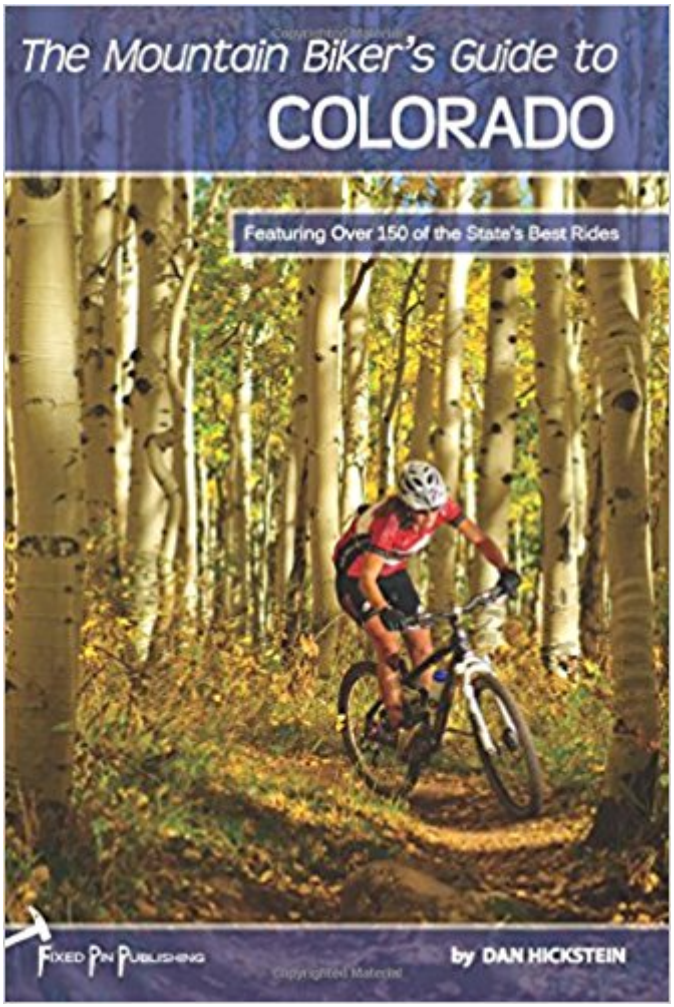
The Mountain Biker's Guide To Colorado



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Synopsis

Thousands of miles of world-class trails and jaw-dropping scenery make Colorado a mountain biking paradise. With coverage of all the best rides in the state - from crazy descents of jagged peaks to quick afternoon rides for the whole family - The Mountain Biker’s Guide to Colorado makes it easy to plan your next trip. Full-color photos, detailed maps, elevation profiles, and turn-by-turn directions mean less time lost in the woods and more time riding. Consistent technical and physical difficulty ratings let you choose the perfect ride, from a gentle Sunday cruise to an all-day epic. For before and after the ride, the book also includes tips on local camping, hotels, and restaurants.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Nice to have a book sometimes, and this is a good one. Great maps and every highlighted suggestion is always a great ride. An awesome supplement to Mountain bike project.

Well-organized, easy to use, and accurate descriptions of rides. The author has definite opinions about the rides, which is very useful in deciding which rides to do if you have a limited amount of time. We bought two books and a detailed map to plan our week-long mountain biking trip to Durango, and this is the only thing we really needed. "Favorite Rides" list is a winner.

Very thorough.

Very comprehensive guide in an easy the read formet. The trail descriptions are excellent and the

accompanying maps and elevation profiles are really helpful in selecting the trails that you may want to ride.

Overall, this is an outstanding guidebook for the state of Colorado. I am new to Colorado and was constantly looking for resources to guide me through rides in the state. Well, no more am I looking, this book contains rides for every corner of the state. The rides are organized by region/chapter with very useful info about each ride such as:Tech difficulty, physical difficulty, distance, time, type(loop, out n back, lollipop..), surface(singletrack, doubletrack..), climbing, Season(in which its best to go), Crowd density, Dog compatibility.The driving directions are clear and the map with way-point directions are helpful.Bonus, there are many beautiful color photos to get you motivated to head out and see it for yourself. I recommend this book highly to anyone looking for something new in the state or someone entirely new to the state.

This is a review of the guidebook, The Mountain Biker’s Guide to Colorado by Dan Hickstein. Dan offered to let me have a copy of the book to review. For the record, I had not met Dan prior to receiving the book. I’m a bit of a guidebook junkie, have lived in some amazing mountain bike states (UT, WA, CO) - and have many biking, hiking and ski books from these areas and more. I consider the Falcon books the standard (for good or bad). One of my favorite CO books is the Arkansas Valley Mountain Biking book by Mark Wolff.You can see some sample pages of the book [URL=[...]. This is a bit long winded - feel free to skip to the end for a summary.Organization:The book is organized by region, with an intro on how to use the book. Of particulate note are the best months to ride each area and a couple of pages by Open Snow blogger, Joel Gratz, on weather in Colorado.The appendix is one of the highlights of the book, allowing you to quickly look up trail info by trail/region. Take a look at page 5 of the sample pages. If in Crested Butte, you could easily decide what trails to ride based on technical and physical difficulty, mileage and rating. I don’t recall seeing this feature in any other guidebooks - and find it highly useful. Often times, camping in a new area with friends we’ll try to figure out what to ride the next day - this will be a very useful feature.Overview:The book contains over 150 rides from many regions in Colorado. It doesn’t contain every ride per region (nor should it), but does have a good amount. If traveling to a specific region, you may benefit from a region specific book to get all the trails. Overall, the author made good choices on which trails to showcase for each region.The quality of the book is top notch. Its not your standard black and white printed guidebook. Instead, it is full of high quality glossy photos and maps. Reading it makes me want to "go to there"!Rides:I found the ride descriptions to be

accurate, some having a great deal of humor and some direct and to the point. For each ride, the author provided hard stats (directions, mileage, elevation gain/loss, etc.) and subjective ratings (technical and physical difficulty). While I may not agree with every rating (4 star versus 5 star?), they are the author's discretion and reasonable for the most part.One criticism is that trail user conflict seems to be taken seriously is some sections of the book but not in others. For Chimney Gulch it states, "The ride back down is seriously fun, but remember to ride in control. On the trails around Golden you will frequently encounter grandmothers, babies, and cute puppies, all of which strongly dislike being run over by mountain bikes." I might be a little sensitive to this since I live in Golden, and it may get monotonous having to repeat the mantra to ride in control. But, I am a firm believer that guidebooks (and bike shops and manufacturers) need to take the high road and overly emphasize it.Page 2 of the sample is a good example of an individual ride - White Ranch in this case. It lists various stats: Rating, Tech Difficulty, Physical Difficulty, Distance, Time, Type, Surface, Climbing gain, Season, Crowds, Dogs Allowed. It also shows a map with waypoints and step by step directions, as well as elevation profile.I found the directions to the trailhead and riding instructions to be spot on. I would have liked to have had more alternate options described. Also, the Surface stat should indicate mileage for each surface instead of just surface types (i.e. Single track: 20 miles, pavement: 1.5 miles). I do like that it contains a crowd index.I know riding with dogs on the front range is unpopular - but for those of us who like to do so, I found this to be a great data point. In addition to the rating (green, yellow, black) throughout the book Dan provides details when needed (i.e. Dogs are allowed on the trail, but the road to connect the loop is busy and not safe for dogs). This stat is also listed in the appendix, which is very helpful.Suggestions for 2nd Edition:Surface Type needs to indicate mileage for each surface. I use this feature to decide what to ride, when in a new area. It would be nice to be able to download the GPX and PDFs for each ride (after buying the book, of course). I would like to see more options/alternate routes described. Many times I ride the "extra loop", if there is one.SummaryOverall, this is an excellent guidebook for the state of Colorado. It is very well organized. The true highlight is the appendix, which shows detailed stats about each ride/region. I highly recommend it to anyone new to the state of Colorado or looking for a book that encompasses the entire state. I have ridden a lot of Colorado in 5 years, and the book has a good number of trails I haven't ridden yet. I will use it (assuming Dan doesn't want it back) to plan future trips and get out and ride!

I have ridden many mountain bike trails in CO and UT and own quite a few guides, but none compare to this book in terms of readability. The many full color photos and professional-looking

maps make reading the book a real pleasure--when I first saw it, I flipped through the entire book at the first sitting. The trail descriptions are of sufficient detail, with mileage points correlated to markers on the map. Handy tables provide overviews at a glance for each trail, with the normal information about mileage, difficulty, and fun factor along with handy references regarding suitability for dogs. I look forward to exploring many new trails with this book to help.

Dan Hickstein’s "The Mountain Bikers Guide to Colorado" is not just an amazing and informative guidebook--it is without question the first mountain biking guidebook of its kind, and will undoubtedly become the model for years to come. Drawing on recent and radical changes in content, photography, overview maps, detail and GPS coordinates as has become the norm in rock climbing guidebooks, Hickstein’s text provides a plethora of information that might in fact come across as bizarre to mountain biking aficionados.Have patience. You are seeing the future.If you love mountain biking and you do so in Colorado (or plan to do so), make the investment in this bible of all that is gnar and beautiful about the states singletrack. But beware, after having this guide at your side all other guides that don’t seek to follow it its footsteps will pale in comparison. This is the kind of book you sit by the campfire with all night long excitedly planning and stoking yourself up for tomorrows exploits.Many thanks to Monseigneur Hickstein for this trailblazer of a book.

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