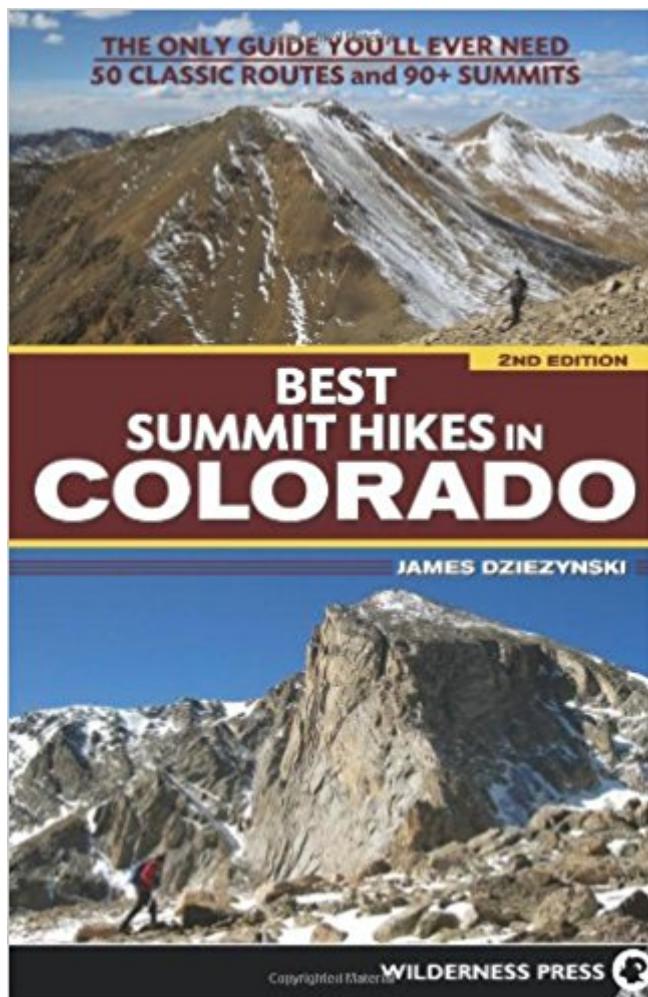


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Best Summit Hikes In Colorado: An Opinionated Guide To 50+ Ascents Of Classic And Little-Known Peaks From 8,144 To 14,433 Feet



Synopsis

Colorado has 53 14ers, more than 600 13ers, and hundreds of other peaks that can be reached without special equipment or expertise. Numerous guides dryly catalog these trails, but Best Summit Hikes in Colorado stands out from them all. Author James Dziezynski has meticulously selected 80+ of the state's absolute best peaks in more than 50 superlative hikes, and his opinionated narrative brings each route to life. Each summit is included because of a notable feature; whether it's the site of a ghost mine or airplane wreckage, has thundering waterfalls or colorful floral meadows, is the best summit for spotting wildlife or bringing out-of-town friends, or is very accessible. Some peaks offer unique opportunities, such as a trailhead accessible only via a steam-powered railroad. Several summits are described in no other publication. Covering all Colorado's major mountain ranges, including the well-known Sangre De Cristo, Gore, Sawatch, Indian Peaks, and Maroon Bell wilderness areas to the lesser-known Grenadiers, Medicine Bow, and Outer San Juan peaks, this distinctive guide makes it easy to select exactly the right hike for the right day, the right mood, and the right companions.

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Customer Reviews

In a world of quick access to fairly accurate information online, including route descriptions, photo's, weather conditions and directions, one could make the claim that hiking guides are a thing of the past. Best Summit Hikes in Colorado proves that this is not entirely true, and that there is indeed a bright future for these books. Best Summit Hikes in Colorado is a groundbreaking work in the sense that it inspires you to go beyond those places that you may be familiar with. I have spent numerous

days in the mountains hiking to places I would never have found myself, places I only discovered thanks to this book. It provides all the accuracy and facts you would expect from a guide (directions, route descriptions, GPS coordinates, maps, etc. are perfect). But, more importantly, this book does much, much more. I have found myself reading this book in my tent by headlamp, as if it were a novel. The trail descriptions in this guide are so well written that they convince you that you have to go see what is being described firsthand. The chapters have a poetic (but not sappy) character to them that simply adds value to your hikes. At one point, I was hiking to Pacific Peak, and I started to lose the trail. I looked at my book, and noticed it said "from here, the trail fades to a whisper" - I continued my way through the tundra, smiling. This book serves as your own personal sherpa or Gandalf in your backpack, and it adds confidence, facts, humor and trivia to your hikes. If you are looking for a hiking guide for Colorado, but doubt that it is worth the money because you can find all the information online, read one of the chapters in this book, and you will be convinced. This book will take your adventures in the Colorado mountains to the next level, and you will be blown away by the places this book will inspire you to explore. Happy trails!

Great book. Lists all of the summit hikes and any caveats you may run into try to get to the climb or through the climb. Also has a great rating system so you don't get in over your head. Unless you have very specialized gear, I would not recommend hiking any of these hikes outside of their "Season months". This book mostly focuses on scrambling and/or climbing but some good hiking trails can be found it it as well.

Well written, ample photos depicting each hike, good maps and directions for the recommended routes, and a wide variety of summits for the hiker & climber. Also, this book doesn't cover anything really higher in difficulty than maybe Class 3+ (which is a boon to a larger group of hikers/climbers who don't want to go technical). I would put this volume right up there close to Roach's classic compilation - although the latter is only about Colorado's 14ers. Mr. Dzienzynski deserves a medal. Thank him.

You'd think a book about a collection of summits would have some less known locations. Seems like most of these are just the most popular summits in the state, with probably 15% as exceptions. I mean, Mount Elbert..? The tallest one in the state? Duh. Longs Peak, Mount Sherman, Huron Peak, Mount Yale, Mount Sopris... listing peaks like these is filler material. All in all, its a well laid out book with some good descriptions and maps, but most of it could already be found on 14ers.com and I

was hoping for some more obscure locations. Especially considering there are over 500 13ers in the state. The routes he's listed are very well organized with ample information and class ratings, and multiple pictures for each. That's why I gave three stars instead of 2. If you are new to the state or haven't driven around it that much, its probably a good book for you.

I'm not going to say this book saved my life, but it definitely made the hike WAY better. You can find some information online, but this book has all the information we needed, including how difficult the hike was, equipment recommendation, estimated time of the hike, and where you can camp. I wanted to take my younger brother hiking in Colorado, we were able to pick an easier mountain and make a day summit of Mount James. It was honestly one of the best experiences of my life. This book was a huge help in making it happen.

Excellent hiking guide to mountains in Colorado. He has 13 of the 14ers in the book and 4 of the Century Peaks (not 14ers but top 100 highest in CO), but the best hikes are the ones that are lesser known under 13,900'. I like his descriptions on the hikes with the "Mile/Waypoint", but the best part of the book is the first page of each hike. James gives a nice "Intro" on the hike and tells you "Why Climb It?". I love his energy and passion describing each hike and how he can really "sell a hike"! The black and white photos are so-so and the color photos are in sections, but also of limited use. A nice map is on each one and he tells you "How To Get There" and "Fees/Camping". I hope he comes out with a second book for part two soon, but with far fewer 14ers in it. In my opinion, there are plenty of books on 14ers and they are too crowded already.

There are so many wonderful hikes in here! James takes you away from the big crowds and into the heart of beautiful Colorado. The descriptions and maps provide a true representation of the hikes. James personally hiked all these routes and knows his stuff! I was fortunate to be in a hiking group with him during a full moon hike and can personally attest to his skill, knowledge and ethics on the mountains. I look forward to reaching all the summits in the book over the next few years.

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