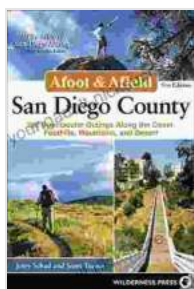


282 Spectacular Outings Along the Coast, Foothills, Mountains, and Desert: Your Guide to Southern California's Hidden Gems

Southern California is a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts, with an abundance of stunning landscapes to explore. From the rugged coastline to the rolling foothills, towering mountains, and vast desert, there's something for everyone to enjoy.



Afoot & Afield: San Diego County: 282 Spectacular Outings Along the Coast, Foothills, Mountains, and Desert by Scott Turner

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

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In this comprehensive guide, we've compiled 282 spectacular outings that will take you to some of the most beautiful and unspoiled places in Southern California. From easy hikes suitable for families to challenging treks for experienced hikers, from scenic drives that wind through breathtaking canyons to off-road adventures in the desert, this guide has something for every level of outdoor enthusiast.

The Coast

Southern California's coastline is one of the most iconic in the world, with its white-sand beaches, crashing waves, and dramatic cliffs. There are countless ways to enjoy the coast, from swimming and surfing to hiking and biking. Here are a few of our favorite coastal outings:

- **Hike the Point Reyes National Seashore:** This beautiful park offers a variety of hiking trails, ranging from easy walks along the beach to challenging climbs to the top of Mount Wittenberg. Along the way, you'll see stunning views of the Pacific Ocean, the San Francisco Bay, and the Point Reyes Lighthouse.
- **Drive the Highway 1 Discovery Route:** This iconic road winds along the Big Sur coast, offering breathtaking views of the ocean, cliffs, and redwood forests. Along the way, you'll pass by charming towns, state parks, and hiking trails.
- **Visit the Catalina Island:** This beautiful island is located just off the coast of Los Angeles. It's a great place to go hiking, biking, kayaking, and snorkeling. You can also visit the charming town of Avalon, which is home to a variety of shops, restaurants, and bars.

The Foothills

The foothills of Southern California are a great place to escape the hustle and bustle of the city and enjoy some peace and quiet. There are hundreds of miles of hiking trails to explore, as well as many opportunities for mountain biking, horseback riding, and off-roading. Here are a few of our favorite foothill outings:

- **Hike the Gabrielino Trail:** This challenging trail winds through the San Gabriel Mountains, offering stunning views of the Los Angeles Basin and the San Bernardino Mountains. Along the way, you'll pass by waterfalls, wildflowers, and old-growth forests.
- **Drive the Angeles Crest Highway:** This scenic road winds through the Angeles National Forest, offering breathtaking views of the San Gabriel Mountains. Along the way, you'll pass by campgrounds, hiking trails, and picnic areas.
- **Visit the Lake Arrowhead:** This beautiful lake is located in the San Bernardino Mountains. It's a great place to go boating, swimming, fishing, and hiking. You can also visit the charming town of Lake Arrowhead, which is home to a variety of shops, restaurants, and bars.

The Mountains

Southern California is home to some of the most iconic mountains in the United States, including the San Gabriel Mountains, the San Bernardino Mountains, and the Santa Monica Mountains. These mountains offer a variety of hiking trails, ranging from easy walks to challenging climbs. There are also many opportunities for mountain biking, horseback riding, and off-roading. Here are a few of our favorite mountain outings:

- **Hike the Mount San Jacinto Peak Trail:** This challenging trail winds to the top of Mount San Jacinto, the highest peak in the San Jacinto Mountains. Along the way, you'll pass by waterfalls, wildflowers, and old-growth forests. The views from the summit are incredible.
- **Drive the Rim of the World Scenic Byway:** This scenic road winds along the rim of the San Bernardino Mountains, offering breathtaking

views of the San Bernardino Valley and the Mojave Desert. Along the way, you'll pass by campgrounds, hiking trails, and picnic areas.

- **Visit the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area:** This beautiful park is located just north of Los Angeles. It's a great place to go hiking, biking, horseback riding, and off-roading. You can also visit the charming towns of Malibu and Santa Monica, which are home to a variety of shops, restaurants, and bars.

The Desert

The desert regions of Southern California offer a unique and beautiful landscape to explore. There are many hiking trails to choose from, ranging from easy walks to challenging treks. There are also many opportunities for off-roading, camping, and stargazing. Here are a few of our favorite desert outings:

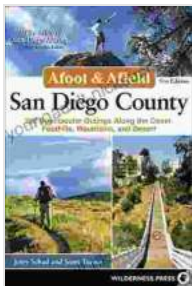
- **Hike the Joshua Tree National Park:** This beautiful park is home to unique rock formations, desert plants, and wildlife. There are many hiking trails to choose from, ranging from easy walks to challenging climbs. You can also camp in the park, which is a great way to experience the desert at night.
- **Drive the Anvil Mine Road:** This off-road road winds through the Mojave Desert, offering breathtaking views of the desert landscape. Along the way, you'll pass by old mines, abandoned buildings, and Joshua trees. You'll need a four-wheel drive vehicle to drive this road.
- **Visit the Death Valley National Park:** This vast park is home to some of the most extreme desert landscapes in the United States. There are many hiking trails to choose from, ranging from easy walks to challenging climbs. You can also camp in the park, which is a great

way to experience the desert at night. Be sure to bring plenty of water, as temperatures in Death Valley can reach over 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

Planning Your Outing

Before you head out on your next Southern California adventure, be sure to do some planning. Here are a few tips:

- **Choose the right outing for your fitness level and interests.** There are many different types of outings to choose from, so it's important to find one that's right for you. If you're not sure what you're looking for, check out our list of 282 outings and read the descriptions. You can also search for outings by activity, location, or difficulty level.
- **Check the weather forecast before you go.** The weather in Southern California can change quickly, so it's important to be prepared. Check the forecast before you go and dress accordingly. Be sure to bring plenty of water, especially if you're hiking or biking.
- **Bring the right gear.** Depending on the type of outing you're planning, you'll need to bring the right gear. For hiking, you'll need sturdy shoes, comfortable clothing, and



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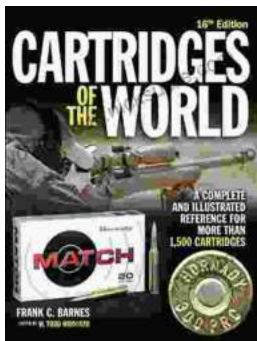
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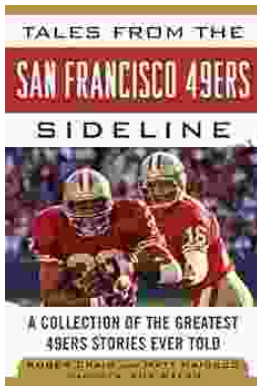
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