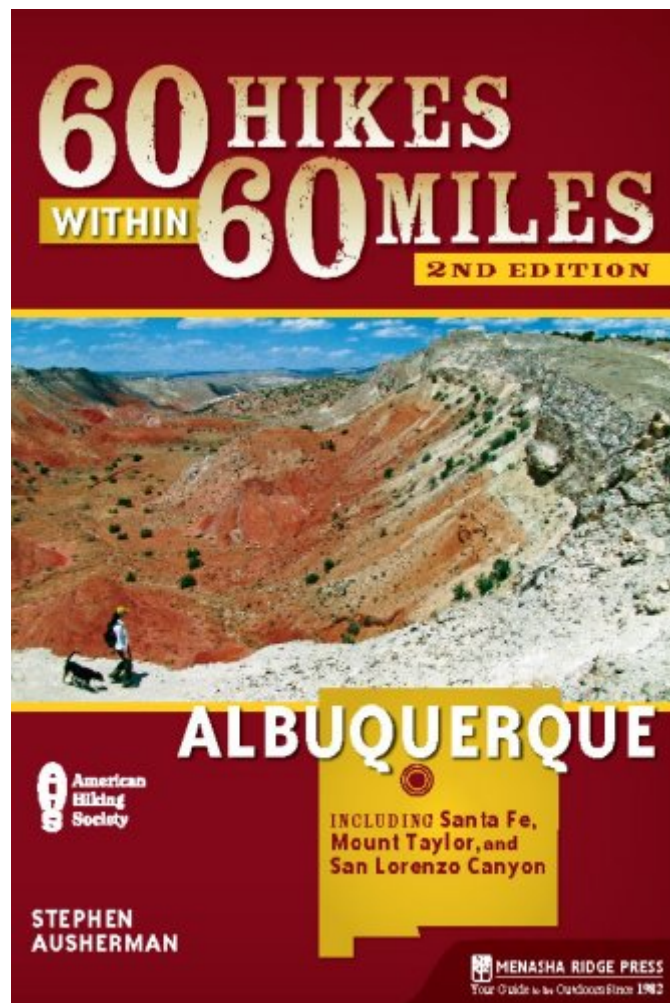


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60 Hikes Within 60 Miles: Albuquerque: Including Santa Fe, Mount Taylor, And San Lorenzo Canyon



Synopsis

This newly updated and revised edition of *60 Hikes within 60 Miles: Albuquerque* hits classic trails and uncovers paths where no guidebook has gone before. This is the essential guide to north-central New Mexico, from the black lava badlands in El Malpais National Monument to the cool aspens in Santa Fe National Forest. Explore newly opened lands in the Ojito Wilderness and the Valles Caldera, or revisit the past with nostalgic walks along the Rio Grande and Route 66. Hikes lead to ancient pueblos, ghost towns, slot canyons, strange hoodoos and other treasures in the heart of New Mexico, all just a daytrip or less from the Duke City. Each chapter serves as both a navigational aide and an interpretive guide to familiarize hikers with wondrous destinations in the Land of Enchantment. From the black lava badlands in El Malpais National Monument to the aspen trees in Santa Fe National Forest, the Albuquerque area is filled with beautiful wilderness perfect for exploration. This comprehensive guidebook outlines the level of difficulty for each hike, and includes extensive maps and trail profiles to assist hiking enthusiasts and day-trippers alike. Experience the Rio Grande, old Route 66, ancient pueblos, ghost towns, and other charms of the area with this essential guide.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Stephen Ausherman's new guidebook, "60 Hikes Within 60 Miles: Albuquerque, including Santa Fe, Mt. Taylor, and San Lorenzo Canyon," is, without a doubt, my pick for 2008's Best Book About New Mexico. I realize that, as I write this, the year has more than eight months left to go, and I'm aware that I myself am planning to publish a New Mexico title before the end of the year, but Ausherman's new book is honestly so good, so quirky, so informative, and so unique, that I feel I can go ahead and declare it as the year's best, without hesitation. The book, as its title suggests, contains sixty hikes, all within about sixty minutes of Albuquerque--within sixty miles of the Big I, where Interstate 40 crosses Interstate 25. What the title doesn't immediately reveal, however, is just how amazing these sixty hikes are, just how compellingly readable their descriptions are, or just how transformational this book has the potential to be to anyone willing to go out and experience them. The book's preface lays out the book's contents, and I challenge any resident of central New Mexico--anyone with even a spark of lust for life or a smidgen of curiosity--to read that preface and not feel overwhelmed with a feeling that maybe this place you've been living has more to it than you thought; in my case, it filled me with an almost caffeinated urge to rush out and see what it described for myself. The book's sections include: *The Duke City--featuring urban hikes within Albuquerque's city limits. *The Salt Mission Trail--venturing down into the Manzano Mountains. *The Turquoise Trail--heading up into the Sandias and beyond. *El Camino Real--exploring natural wonders along I-25 toward Santa Fe.

Clearly that is the best place to see the surroundings. The Menasha Ridge Press has developed an interesting concept for a book series - hikes that are within an hour of a given American city. So far, they have published 29 guides, and this guide places Albuquerque "on the map." Stephen Ausherman has done an excellent job selecting hikes in the Albuquerque area. He is a "citizen of the world," and writes in that style. No doubt he conformed to the publisher's style and format, which certainly works for me, yet his own insights are evident - indicating that a greater danger than bears and mountain lions are other people's dogs. Suitably, Ausherman starts his preface with an epigraph from Edward Abbey. In the preface he outlines the groupings for his hikes. The introduction covers the basic aspects of hiking, and how the book relates to them - he strikes a good balance in including information for the beginner, yet reminding the most experienced hikers of all the essentials. As to the 60 hikes, each is described in a consistent, quite readable format. There are

even some urban ones, but most are in the area with much elbow room. There is the "Key Information at a Glance," an "In Brief" description of the essence of the hike, directions to the trailhead, which includes GPS coordinates, as well as the longitude and latitude. Each is accompanied by two maps, which Ausherman emphasizes were created based on his GPS coordinates, determined by his own Garmin eTrex unit, one showing the elevation, the other the "plan view." There is a detailed description of the hike, and in most cases, a description of nearby activities. Also, in most cases, there are meaningful black and white photos taken along the hike.

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