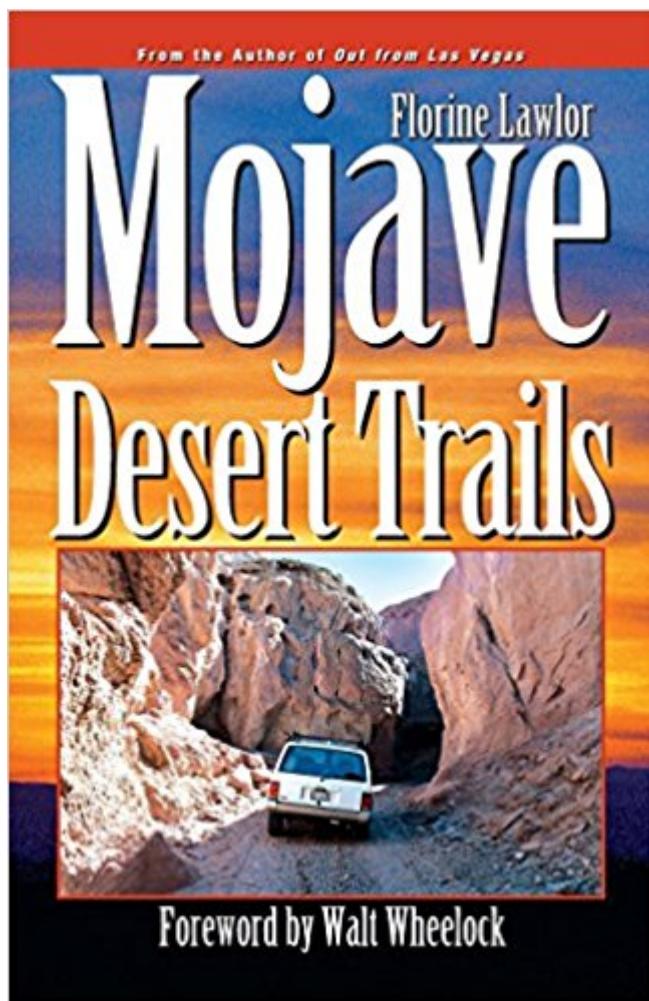


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Mojave Desert Trails



Synopsis

Florine Lawlor, author of the book, Out From Las Vegas, and columnist for the Las Vegas Sun for 40 years, introduces us to some of her favorite desert haunts and lesser-traveled jeep trails in her book, Mojave Desert Trails, a guide to some of the most interesting geologic and historic sites found in the Mojave's enchanting and remote landscape. Endless vistas, high-walled canyons carved by water and wind, Joshua tree forests, sand dunes, rugged mountains, abandoned settlements and a magnificent railroad depot await curious readers and weekend desert wanderers. Meander along the original trail west blazed by Father Francisco Garces, 1775-1776, the same road thousands of men and women followed almost one hundred years later, seeking their fortunes in California. Walk the along the Mojave River at the site of what once was Camp Cady, a fort settled to protect travelers along the Santa Fe and Mormon Trails en route to San Bernardino and Los Angeles. Camp amidst the eroded volcanic formations of Rainbow Basin Natural National Landmark then drive the long loop to the charcoal-colored mesas of the Black Mountains Wilderness Area. Afton Canyon's riparian habitat provides some of the finest bird watching opportunities in the state while also serving as a gateway to the old Mojave Road. Out in seemingly the middle of nowhere, in the heart of what is now Mojave National Preserve, is the spectacular Kelso Depot, it's great Spanish architecture, a ghostly monolith on the vast desert plain. Prospectors and miners left their marks on the land and mountains with mine shaft and yawning glory holes. Some left with pockets full of gold while others lost everything, even their lives. It's all here in Mojave Desert Trails.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Florine Lawlor is QUEEN of the Desert!-- Hi-Desert Book Review Thanks Spotted Dog! We can't wait to read Mojave Desert Trails! Tom & Kym Lynn, Las Vegas, Nevada Florine Lawlor's Mojave Desert Trails . . . should appeal to anyone who loves desert -- Daily Press, Victorville, CA Sure to jumpstart your wanderlust! --Daily Press, Victorville, CA

San Bernardino County is a treasure trove of secret places waiting to be explored--dark winding canyons, lofty mountain peaks, deep washes, and ghost towns--all remnants of the Old West's colorful past. And what a past it was, from the dawn of the planet's creation when volcanic upheavals formed Cima Dome, Amboy Crater and what is now the Cinder Cone National Natural Landmark, a valley of thirty-two volcanic cones south of Baker and Mitchell Caverns to more recent times when prehistoric artists, ancient ancestors of the Mohaves, Chemehuevis, Paiutes and Shoshone left their marks on the hard rock fascia of lava flows. Thousands of years passed before the Spanish came, followed by settlers of European descent--over the Spanish Trail and the Old Government Road, leaving settlements and camps, an Army outpost at Camp Cady and the redoubts of Marl Springs. Prospectors and miners left their marks on the land and mountains, with mine shafts and yawning glory holes. Some went out with pockets full of gold, while many others lost everything. Even their lives. Today the county of San Bernardino boasts territory in the Mojave Desert that remains comparatively untouched, in sharp contrast the sprawling cities of Southern California that border the region. The outlying area of San Bernardino County is a hermit kingdom, with salty dry lakes, tall swaying conifers and more stories than a single volume on this expanse of desert can hope to record. The trips in this book are but a few of my favorite places. The maps and directions are as accurate as we could make them, but roads do change with each rainfall and/or windstorm, so sometimes yesterday's trail is completely obliterated by tomorrow. But with patience and persistence, you will find many of them. All trips in this guide are made over paved roads, county graded roads, or routes which have stood the passage of time in their usage, such as old mining tracks, some dating as far back as the Old Government Road.

I have spent many months of my life exploring the great Mojave Desert, from the time that I was 10 years old and visited the Province Mt. area via a 1950 Chevy wagon. From that time on I have taken trips through a vast amount of the Desert. It is truly an amazing place.

Excellent purchase.

The maps in the book are good. The write-up are in good also. I will fine good use of this book. (will stay in the truck all the time)

There are a lot of good ideas here, each of which is given a page and a half, plus driving directions. Unfortunately the editing is sloppy throughout: You'll be reading along, happily fantasizing about some desert destination, and come across a clunker of a misplaced word or phrase that makes you wonder if anyone read the author's words before slapping them into a book. There are also a few very basic maps that more or less cover the spots mentioned, but again no one took a look at the whole package before putting the book into print. The maps are sprinkled around in a way that must have pleased someone, and some of them even have helpful numbers attached to each destination. Unfortunately these numbers don't match anything else in the book -- they're never referred to again. Sloppy editing and presentation aside, there's plenty here for the price, including a B&W photo for each destination and some color ones on the cover. And there's even an index, which is a great touch. When all's said and done, I'm going to buy Lawlor's "Out from Las Vegas" next; her love for the desert shines through it all.

Great photos and directions for exploring those fast-disappearing places! Go this fall before another housing tract covers something else and it's lost forever.

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