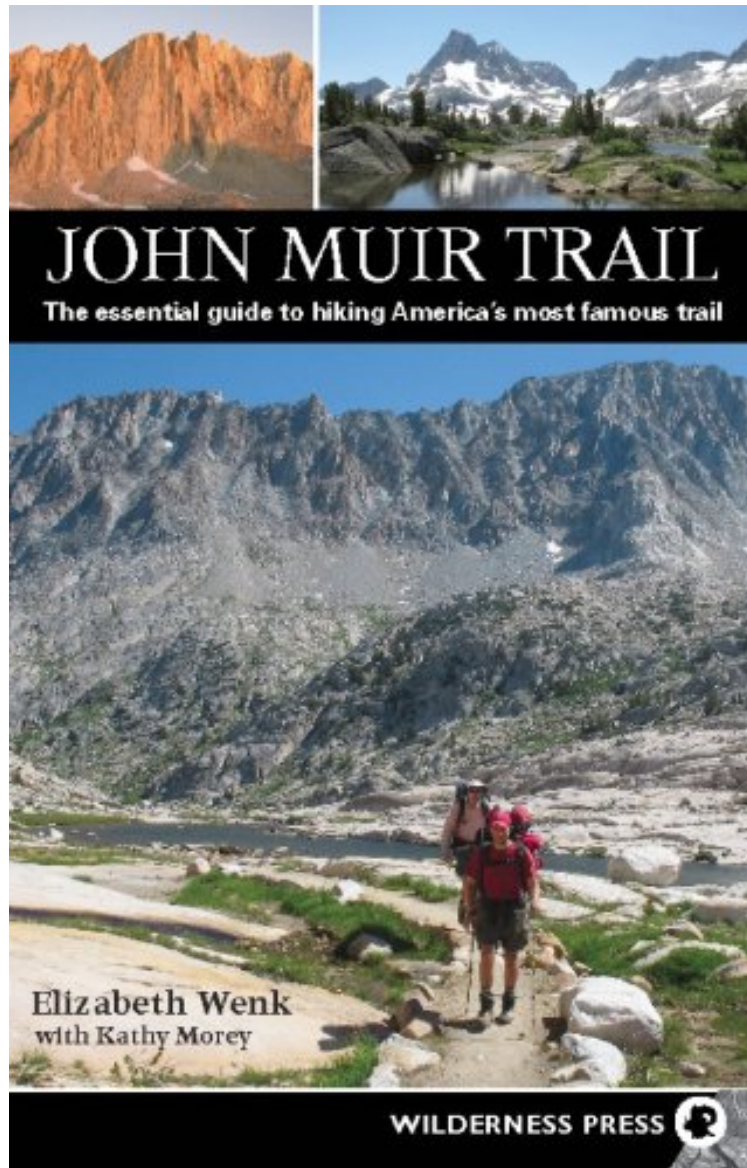


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John Muir Trail: The essential guide to hiking America's most famous trail

Elizabeth Wenk, Kathy Morey

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Elizabeth Wenk, Kathy Morey : John Muir Trail: The essential guide to hiking America's most famous trail
before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised John Muir Trail: The essential guide to hiking America's most famous trail:

57 of 57 people found the following review helpful. Great for Prep Work, but a bit Bulky for the HikeBy Fritz R. WardWilderness Press continues to update some of their classic guides regularly and this new version of their John Muir Trail Guide is well written with a new author, Elizabeth Wenk. At its heart, the guide is similar to previous editions in giving a mile for mile description of the trail. I found it very accurate for all portions of the JMT that I have hiked. It also includes new features: numerous GPS coordinates for landmarks, updated regulations, appendices listing campsites, mileages, and resupply points, and new topographical maps from Tom Harrison. All these new features come at a small cost, however, in that the book is more than twice as large as the previous edition, by Kathy Morey and Thomas Winnett. And while you will need these new features in planning your hike, they are less important on the actual trail. Backpackers trying to save space and weight have a couple of options. One is to simply tear out the sections of the book you will be using. You hardly need the classic South to North directions if you are hiking the other way. Another is to use this edition for planning, but to get one of the older editions for the actual trip. These can be found here (1998) or here (1986). But this book is still worth purchasing. Having it will improve your odds of completing the trail and dramatically increase your enjoyment of it as well.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Get the National Geographic Map Booklet Instead.By RunForrestRun! I purchased this older edition of the book because my JMT trip was North Bound instead of the more usual South Bound and the newer edition of the book doesn't have the NoBo in it (it's a separate Kindle supplement). I'd also previously purchased the Tom Harrison JMT map packet and felt I needed more info for planning. Well, Wenk's guide was somewhat useful but also pretty aggravating if you're just trying to extract planning information. The book has an excessive (in my opinion) amount of plant field-guide type information in it that gets in the way of the other information. It's one thing to mention that you're passing from one plant community to another. It's quite another to go into this kind of detail: "The sandy, flatter section of trail on which you are now walking sports Sierra cutleaf daisies, frosted buckwheat, and wax currant. Also present are pussytoes: Their long, skinny, dark green, and slightly succulent leaves hug the ground and they have small balls of pink flowers on the short stalks." Then a bit further on: "The ground is marshy and vegetation includes mountaineer shooting stars, primrose monkeyflower, and other species you will see increasingly. One is little elephant's heads, which have elongate heads and small lavender flowers. If you look at an individual flower upside down, you can see its eponymous ears and trunk. Another is the Lemmon's paintbrush, with tubular, beaked flowers just like the wavy-leaved paintbrush but with "brushes" that are purple-magenta color." Now don't get me wrong... I LOVE plants, and especially wildflowers and have many keys, including technical botanical plant keys, at home. But all this wordiness inserted in the guide was so frustrating. I didn't plan on taking the book with me to look up plant types as I went along (a key would be much better for that anyway) and there's no way my brain was going to hold on to that kind of detail about the plants when my main concern was where to hike, camp, and find water. And those excerpts are just a taste... they go on and on and on and are embedded in and entwined with the pertinent information that helps with planning. I'd suggest the author take the detailed plant info and put it into an appendix then make only brief references to the plants, as in "here you'll see pussytoes." Period. No taxonomy, thank you. After all was said and done, the most useful planning and on-the-trail guide for me was the National Geographic JMT Guide.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. First impressions: Fails in comparison with "The AT Guide" or "Benton MacKaye Thru-Hikers Guide"By Jason RupertSeveral first impression complaints (spending an hour or so with the book trying to put different options together): (1) 2-D Map features aren't correlated with corresponding elevation maps. For example, in the AT Guide and BMT Thru Guide, the terminology and names on the 2-D trail maps are identical and easily matched up with the terminology and names used on the elevation plots. Unfortunately that isn't the case for the this confusing guide book. Examples: (a) 2-D John Muir Map 1 corresponds with Elevation plot 12. However the northern section portion of Map 1 shows two trail intersections (which aren't named), but the elevation map doesn't even call them out. Moreover, the 2-D map 1 shows a shelter off of one of the side trails (close enough to get to), but the elevation doesn't even mention this. There are lots of other examples like this for the correlation between which 2-D map corresponds with what elevation map, i.e. they aren't labelled 2-D map #3 corresponds with Section #x elevation map. They could have just added a label. (c) Often times multiple elevation maps correspond with 1.5 or other fractional 2-D map, but you won't immediately know this because they don't indicate this. (2) The 2-D Maps are disorganized, or organized in a confusing fashion. The 2-D maps are laid out south to north, i.e. Map 1 on page 47 is the southern most map, while Map 13 is the northern most map. This is a little confusing to explain so bear with me. For Map 1, the left inside of the page 47, connects to the right inside page 48, then the left outside page 48 connects to the bottom of page 49, then the top of page 49 connects to the bottom of page 50, then the left outside of page 50 connects to the top of page 51, then the left inside of 51...ugh...you end up having to turn this book all around just to connect up the trail. Not to mention the the maps don't overlap a little to help you out to make sure you get it right...good luck should you try to use this book on the trail all tired and disoriented...the cardinal orientation is continually changing... (3) Next up...major resupplies are missing from being labelled or called out...for example, the major side trail to Bishop has no special attention given to it...moreover the 2-D map doesn't even show Bishop...yikes!!! Took a good bit of time in this book figuring out where to get to Bishop, so I'll share that here. On 2-D Map 5, at Le Conte Canyon (which isn't even on the elevation map for Section 8) take the trail (not named on the 2-

D map) east then north to Bishop. No distances are provided on the 2-D map or in the text of Section 8, despite it stating in beautiful prose: "Soon thereafter, the JMT reaches the spur trail to the Le Conte Canyon Ranger Station and, just thereafter, a junction with Bishop Pass Trail, leading up into the Dusy Basin and over Bishop Pass, the easiest route to the town of Bishop." Again, Le Conte Canyon isn't even labeled on the elevation plot. Nor is the trail for Bishop easily found on the 2-D map.(4) I could go on...there are lots of other annoying or missing things, e.g. each elevation plot starts the mileage over from 0, so you have to get out your handy dandy spreadsheet or calculator to total up mileages should you plan to span multiple elevation plots, which is one of the only ways to get good mileage numbers since they are completely absent from the 2-D maps!!!Again this is my first impression after spending an hour+ with the guide. Overall this guide fails in comparison with "The AT Guide" or "Benton MacKaye Thru-Hikers Guide". Too bad this is one of the top rated guide books for the JMT. Maybe AWOL or Sgt. Rock will produce a guide book for the JMT...

Running from Mount Whitney to Yosemite Valley in the Sierra Nevada, the 212 mile John Muir Trail passes through some of the most dramatic mountain terrain in the United States. Each year, thousands of backpackers traverse some or all of the trail, relying on Wilderness Press's John Muir Trail. The completely updated edition of this Sierra classic includes significant information found nowhere else. The new John Muir Trail meticulously describes the entire trail and is written for today's hikers. The book includes GPS coordinates, not only for every junction, but also for every established campsite, bear box, and mountain pass that the trail crosses. The guide has separate descriptions for northbound and southbound hikers; for each direction, a junction chart shows all the trail's ups and downs.