

The Best in Tent Camping: Colorado

Jonny Molloy

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“A guide for campers who hate RVs, concrete slabs, and loud portable stereos” is the slogan of this expanding guidebook series on tent camping opportunities. The aim of the series is to provide quick and easy reference to campgrounds which meet three criteria: they must be accessible by automobile (usually of the two-wheel drive variety), they must offer great scenery and they must at least approximate the coveted “wilderness experience.”

Standard to each volume is a five-star rating system of individual campgrounds, in which measurements are made on overall aesthetics, campsite privacy, campsite size, noise level, cleanliness, and security. Additionally, vital statistics for such campgrounds—location, cost, size, proprietorship, facilities, elevation, regulations and more—are neatly summarized in tables.

Descriptions of recreational opportunities vary in scope from volume to volume, but readers will nevertheless get a good grasp of the range of activities available at campgrounds of interest. Weekend warriors with a hankering for quiet and the more serious, expedition types should find this series useful. While one is unlikely to totally escape RVs, concrete slabs and loud stereos completely, such annoyances can be minimized and doing so often lands the camper in the more peaceful, enjoyable (and often breathtaking) areas—without the aid of a helicopter or an off road vehicle.

In this volume, seasoned outdoor writer Molloy (author of Tent Camping series companion volumes on the Smoky Mountains and Florida) brings serious campers fifty of the best of Colorado tenting opportunities. Molloy’s pleasant, relaxed style lends a great deal of readability to an otherwise utilitarian text, so that the reader is encouraged to explore all of what Colorado has to offer before embarking. His recommendations for great trails and good fishing holes are based on first hand experience, rather than just local hubbub. The author has done a great deal of research making the often bewildering process of planning getaways much easier, more informative and enjoyable than making a million requests for information over the phone (May).

DAVID SPEAS (May / June 1999)

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