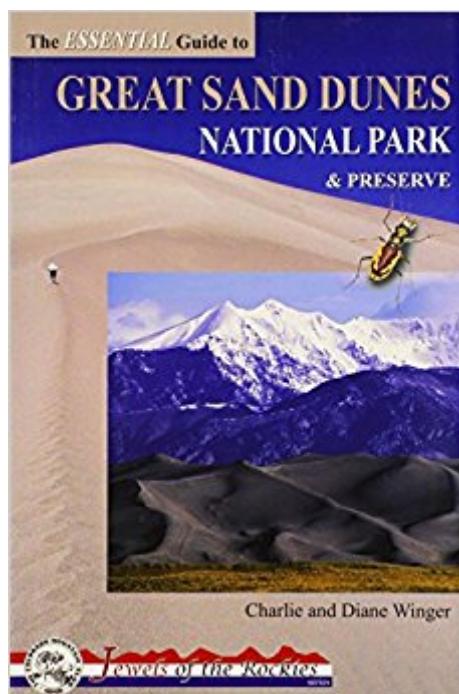


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# The Essential Guide To Great Sand Dunes National Park And Preserve (Jewels Of The Rockies)



## Synopsis

\* Guidebook to hiking, biking, or climbing in the stunning Sangre de Cristo Mountains.\* Details unlimited recreational opportunities for the park's 225,000 annual visitors\* 210 color photographs and 40 color maps\* Color-coded tabs and activity symbols for quick reference Nowhere else in North America do alpine tundra, tall forests of evergreen and aspen, and massive desert dunes meet so dramatically as in our nation's newest crown jewel. This book is the essential guide to one of the nation's newest national parks. Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve earned this status in 2003, and became an instant treasure both for Coloradans and vacationers everywhere.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The book is much more than a just-the-facts publication. The Wingers share tips derived from their own firsthand experiences exploring the dunes region-and they're not afraid to inject a little levity and life into the information-laden text. (Pueblo Chieftain & Star-Journal)A delightful book whether you are looking for information or just interesting readingâ |Answers everything you need to know about this area in Southern Colorado. A necessity for planning a trip to the area. The Wingers cover pertinent information and interesting tidbits that help the visitor understand the region, history, geology, ecology, and present population in and around Great Sand Dunesâ [This guide] should be the first place you look and could possibly be the only place you need to look to plan your trip. (Friends of the Dunes Newsletter (Great Sand Dunes National P)

CHARLIE WINGER has 25-plus years of hiking and mountaineering experience. Both Charlie and Dian Winger, co-author and spouse, are active in the national Highpointers Club. They live in Beulah, Colorado. DIANE WINGER has been a rock climber since the 1980s but admits her favorite activity now is trekking around the globe.

I'm planning my first trip to Great Sand Dunes NP and this book got such great reviews by others that I had to purchase it despite its publication date of nearly 10 years ago. Simply stated, this is one of the best planning guides I've ever laid my eyes upon. It's well organized, gives great geological and human history of the area, and the trail section is outstanding - that section is organized in a variety of ways (by difficulty level, by length, alphabetically). I can't wait to get there to use it! For the actual park information itself it's probably still pretty current - maybe a change or two here or there, but not likely anything major. Some of the local attractions listed may no longer be there or most assuredly cost more than what's listed in the book, but it still gives a person a great idea of other things that might be around. If nothing else it helps you hop on the internet to look up some of those local places to get more updated information. I vacation and camp at the National Parks all over the country like it's my full time job and as such have purchased a variety of guide books for my trips. This book by far is the best one I've ever purchased - the only reason it doesn't get 5/5 is because I think it really could use an updating due to age. That being said, I think this guide would be more reliable and useful at nearly 10 years old than most other things a person could purchase about this park.

This is a really great guide to the area of the San Luis valley and the Sangre De Cristo mountain range in the vicinity of the Great sand Dunes. This guide in no way is limited to the National Park itself. There is a lot of information in here regarding hiking trails, mountain climbing, caving, mountain biking and just about any other activities and attractions in the area. There are detailed maps and driving instructions in addition to necessary technical information and tidbits of history. Even if you never visited the Sand Dunes themselves this is a very valuable guide to anyone who plans on visiting the area. That said however, if you do plan on visiting the area and have never been to the Sand Dunes they are a must see. The dune field is huge and the towering snow capped mountain peaks surrounding them makes for as unique and surreal a natural landscape as can be found just about anywhere.

Bought this because several reviewers or description made me think it had significant info on Sangre de Cristos hikes/climbs. IT DOES NOT! LOOK ELSEWHERE. It may be a great book about Sand Dunes, but only has one paragraph to page each on Kit Carson and the Crestones FROM THE PARK. Leaving tomorrow AM, wish I had a different book. Returning it ASAP

This was a very old edition in terms of guidance on a natural resource and there hasn't been a 2nd edition published. Books like this should be updated every 5 years because erosion happens, the NPS creates new trails or shuts them down. etc. NPS can create or update policy on any facet of the operation within the park during such a time frame. Surrounding businesses can go into and out of business. It was overall helpful but not as precise as a recent edition would presumably be.

This book was informative and helpful for my backpacking trip to the Great Sand Dunes, but I came across at least one subject that was out of date. The book states that there are campsites surrounding Lake Medano. Before you hike all the way up Mount Herard expecting to camp by the lake, those campsites have been closed down and no camping is allowed by the lake. There is one designated spot off the trail before it splits off towards the lake, and one or two other areas suitable for setting up a small camp. This was the only inaccuracy I came across, but it might be worth the time to call the rangers if there are any questions about current conditions. In all, though, the book was definitely a good resource to have.

Many reviewers have stated that this book is in color. The one shipping from .com must be a cheap reprint still selling for \$19.95. The book is NOT in color, so the maps and photographs are difficult to interpret. Fortunately, I was able to find the original, color version for the same price in Colorado before I got to the park. I tried twice with .com to get the right version (in color, with rounded book corners) to no avail. I finally just requested a refund.

Although the Great Sand Dunes National Park is the draw, the San Luis Valley has much more to offer than a slide down the dunes or wade in Medano Creek, and the Wingers tell you where to go and how to get there. They also give you the cultural and historical context, flora, fauna and place name translations. Well written and beautifully photographed, this guide is essential for those who come to experience the place as well as the sand. They even suggest renting the classic Japanese film, Woman in the Dunes. Thanks, Charlie and Diane!

It was mentioned in reviews before I bought it, but this book reall needs to be color. Other than that great book.

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