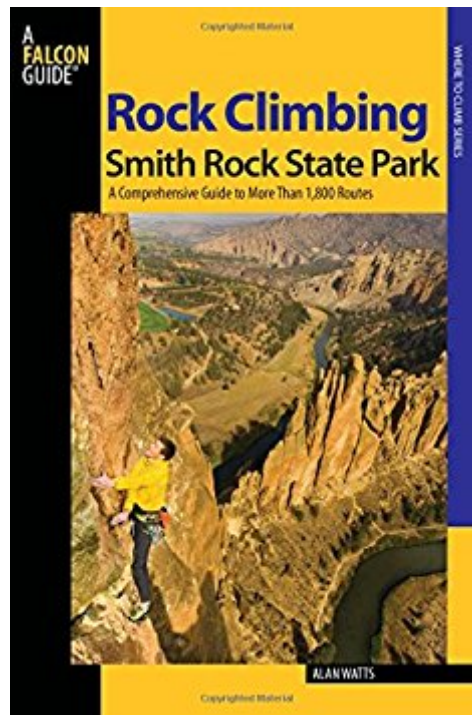


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# Falcon Guides Rock Climbing Smith Rock State Park



## Customer Reviews

This long awaited edition has gotten a little thicker with the addition of over 700 new routes. The drawn topos appear to be all re-drawn and the extensive use of photo-topos are a great addition. New visitors to the park should have no problem finding the route of their choice. The bouldering section of the book has been expanded quite a bit (45 pages total) and now includes photo-topos and V-scale ratings for problems. This edition is broken down into the same logical area specific chapters. Disappointingly, many of the route and area descriptions have been toned down. For instance, gone is the classic Shiprock description "Only blockheads with enough experience to know better should try." Am I nit-picking at this point? Yes. There isn't much to criticize about the 2nd edition. Get this book and feel free to leave the 1st edition, Smith Rock Select, and all the supplements at home.

While comprehensive, this guidebook is more confusing than necessary because it does not have an index of climbs arranged by grade. The earlier (1992) edition does have a "Routes by Rating" index, immediately before the alphabetic index. The omission in the second edition makes for a lot of thumbing through the book, especially for someone who is not a regular at Smith Rock. I think I'll cut the "Routes by Rating" index out of my first edition and tape it into the second edition.

Got this book so I could find routes around Smith Rock that my girlfriend and I could climb. We both just started climbing over the winter in a gym and were eager to get outside, but with all the possible places to climb around Smith, finding the right spot seemed a little daunting. This book was easy to understand if you are at all familiar with guide books and explains the routes fairly well. The beginning of the book is about the history of climbing at Smith Rock and is an interesting read as well.

This book is everything a guidebook should be. Well organized, practical, helpful and even funny at times. Alan Watts has set the standard for climbing guidebooks. He's pretty much the pope of Smith Rock, so this is the guide to get if you're going to spend any time in this place. I wore out one copy of his guidebook over the years, mashing into the bottom of my pack, and now it smells like Smith juniper pine and volcanic tuff. Lovely! Why are you waiting? Just get it and move on with having fun at Smitty.

This new guide is pretty sweet. The color photos are a nice touch and make route finding a snap.

Plus it's nice to have the routes from the various new supplement route books consolidated into one book so you really only need this one (for now). The only beef I had with the book is that there is no Routes by Rating Index like in most guidebooks. Other than that I think the Falcon guide is a great purchase.

A huge thank you to Alan Watts for making what I find to be the finest guide to any climbing area anywhere. I've used many climbing guides, and this is the best - by far. It's intuitive to use and complete with ratings, beta, simple trad/ sport/ bouldering distinctions, and full of useful (and sometimes funny) descriptions. The one draw-back - it's big. But, it has to be for somewhere with as many routes as Smith. To the author, thank you for your countless hours of climbing, writing, & organizing that must have gone into creating this guide. It sounds like you risked our life on a few "X" routes, too.

I have read this book before as my friends have it. If you are climbing Smith rock there is no question you need this book.

Honestly a great book. There is so much information to cover for Smith Rock and this book did a great job. I was really happy to have it out on my last trip. :)

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