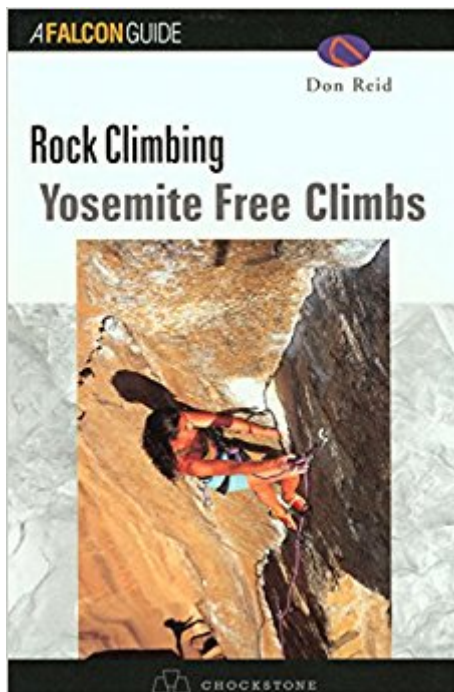


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Yosemite Climbs: Free Climbs



Synopsis

Coverage of over 2000 free climbs in the Yosemite Valley

Book Information

Paperback: 413 pages

Publisher: Chockstone Press; 1st edition (1994)

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Customer Reviews

The timeless, natural beauty of Yosemite Valley National Park has inspired generations of climbers the world over, and its granite cracks and domes rank among the planet's best. In this volume, and in its companion guide, Yosemite Big Walls, Don Reid gives the rock climber the best, most thorough treatment of the region to date. Yosemite Free Climbs caters to climbers who want to deal more with the chalkbag than the haulbag. Free and mostly free routes are featured; however, long and difficult lines where big wall logistics intercede--as on Southern Bell and Karma on Half Dome, and Escape from Freedom on Mt. Watkins--can be accessed within these pages as well. Detailed topos, cliff photos and accurate route descriptions establish Yosemite Free Climbs as the number one resource for free climbing in Yosemite. Park access, camping and concessions information, along with an illuminating analysis of climbing accidents by ranger John Dill, make this guide indispensable for all climbers venturing into the valley.

The Falcon Guide to Yosemite Free Climbs covers an enormous number of climbs. And there are an enormous number of climbs in Yosemite Valley. But it doesn't cover any of them in very much detail. I had difficulty using this book to find my climbs, and I noticed that the Supertopo book gave much more detailed information. However, the Supertopo book was limited to the more popular climbs only. But having already purchased the Falcon Guide on , I was stuck with it. I discovered that

by using the free driving and hiking maps provided by the park service, I was able to fill in most of the missing gaps. It turns out this book will tell you, for example, which way to walk from the Church Bowl parking lot to the climbing wall, but it won't tell you where the parking lot is. Or in other words, it assumes you already know your way around the Valley. That said, the climbing walls are so huge, and the park service maps good enough, that this book is adequate for a first timer, though not ideal. Once you have your bearings, the route-finding beta is pretty good. The photos of the walls are very useful. And although it seemed like the written directions were missing detail, they were accurate. If you are coming from out-of-state to spend a week or two in Yosemite and plan to stay on the trade routes only (like we were), then you would probably be better served with the Supertopo guide. On the other hand, if you live near Yosemite or visit often enough to venture beyond the most popular climbs, then the Falcon Guide would be the better of the 2 books.

The most important function of any climbing guide book (in my opinion) is getting you to your selected route. Great topos are vital, but if you can never find the route...what does it matter. Don Reid is a master at both getting you there and great topo beta. Even if it is your first time in the Valley, the book gives such great directions you would be hard pressed to get lost. And, as always, Don is a master topo "artist". Don't accept any cheap substitutes, this is the book to have.

Has more beta than the super topo guide. Best guide available currently.

A nice book that has gotten me to many good climbs. However, there is a new comprehensive guide book to Yosemite Valley in the works, so don't spend more than \$20 on this old version as it's value will soon be plummeting!

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