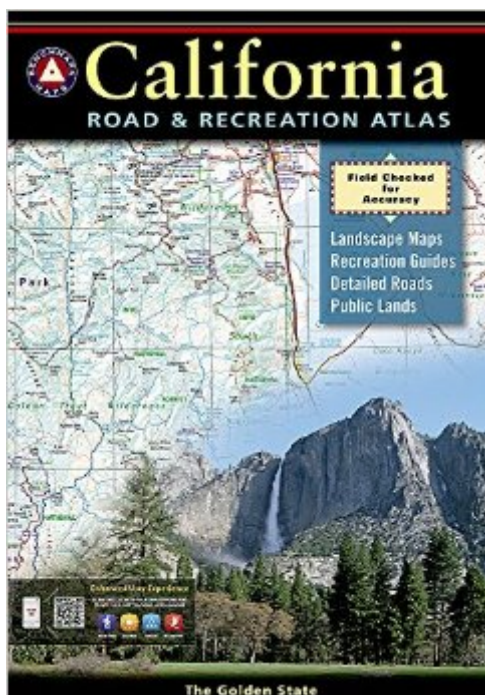


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# California Road And Recreation Atlas (Benchmark Atlas)



## Synopsis

California deserves an atlas that matches its varied culture and scenery and Benchmark's California Road & Recreation Atlas is it. Nearly 225,000 copies have been sold since its introduction in 1998...an impressive acceptance that has made this atlas one of the most successful California map products of the last decade. Now, the new 8th edition has improvements and refinements that will insure its continued success. Benchmark's Landscape Maps™ now show ground-cover detail at a very high-resolution. It's easy to see, at-a-glance, whether an area is forested, cultivated, marshland, desert, or scrubland. This feature is ideal for the person who wants to know the most about an area being visited beforehand. Along with the all-new Landscape Maps, Benchmark has extensively revised the 14-page Metro Map section. Of course, the atlas still has features people love; a complete Recreation Guide, page-to-page overlap and legendary accuracy, features that assure this atlas will continue winning accolades for many years to come.

## Book Information

Series: Benchmark

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Product Dimensions: 10.5 x 0.7 x 15.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (96 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #24,566 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in Â Books > Travel > United States > West > General #30 in Â Books > Reference > Atlases & Maps > United States #36 in Â Books > Reference > Atlases & Maps > Travel Maps

## Customer Reviews

I've enjoyed the Benchmark atlases for years because they are (were) so easy to read. I much preferred them to the Delorme atlases for this reason -- they included enough information but not so much that it was cluttered. My old California atlas was wearing out so I upgraded -- but don't care for the new one. It's so much harder to read that we kept the old and will use it most of the time, referring to the new one on occasion. Benchmark has now included so much detail -- every tiny stream, for example -- that it's hard to read. Surely they have professionals on staff who know when

enough is enough and when it's too much. Still, it's a good atlas, but I'd look at the alternatives before buying it and I won't automatically upgrade any of my other older atlases without checking out the new version and the competition.

A buddy and I took a surf trip up the coast of California. We went totally analog and left the cell phones, MP3 players and GPS at home. We had boards, camping equipment and this atlas. Whenever we wanted to get off the beaten track or find alternative routes, we consulted our atlas and it gave us every single road no matter how big, small or well maintained and every single camping site (not just the popular/easy/equipped ones). We had a great time discovering new landmarks all taken directly from this atlas. What a great buy!

Devoted to the Benchmark series, and this new edition didn't disappoint me. I love the new level of detail, and didn't find it cluttered the maps. Can't even count how many times we've used this map to explore wilderness and backcountry areas of the state, or simply to navigate around traffic jams on the interstates. Not so useful for urban areas, however; if you're visiting LA, SF, Orange County or San Diego, you'll need to supplement with city maps.

Since receiving a CA Benchmark Road & Recreation Atlas several years ago I have basically recycled all the other road atlases we owned. A road atlas is just that, a "road" atlas, but I like to see the terrain featured on maps too. The Benchmark Atlas is an excellent "big picture" map for planning trips or for tracking where you want to go on roads when out and about on a road trip. Off-road it really isn't that useful, but I have topographical GPS's for that need. I do use it though for off-road trip planning when an area on the map looks interesting. Although I have mapping software, GPS's, phones with maps, etc, I still keep one of the Benchmark maps in all my vehicles and I'm surprised how much we still use it even with all the hi-tech options we have these days.

Yesterday I found at my local Oceanside AAA a newly revised edition, copyrighted 2012 by Benchmark Books. It appears that there are some map changes, such as showing the recent Route 52 extension from the 125 east to the 67 in Santee, and the updating of population stats to reflect the 2010 Census. One disappointment was that College Blvd and Cannon Road in Carlsbad are still not shown in their correct alignment nearly a decade after their being connected together, as shown for example in Rand McNally's 2008 maps of San Diego county. Still, I hope to see this updated edition soon made available by to replace the one I currently have.

This map is quite thorough. Shows elevation, and quite up to the minute roads and highways. I wish it came in a spiral back, to make it easier to open the pages, and put less wear on the map itself.

Great for Recreation areas. If you are RVing around CA, you'll need it!! Benchmark maps are almost a necessity for RV boondockers! They contain such a variety of information about public lands, unmarked backroads, and hidden hot pools. California has such a variety of scenery and natural resources and this book details them minutely. Get a Benchmark for each state you RV in!!

I got this in preparation for a west coast road trip in my campervan. I found it to be just the right mix of detail and coverage, and it was a great resource when my planned campsites were full and I needed to find alternates nearby.

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