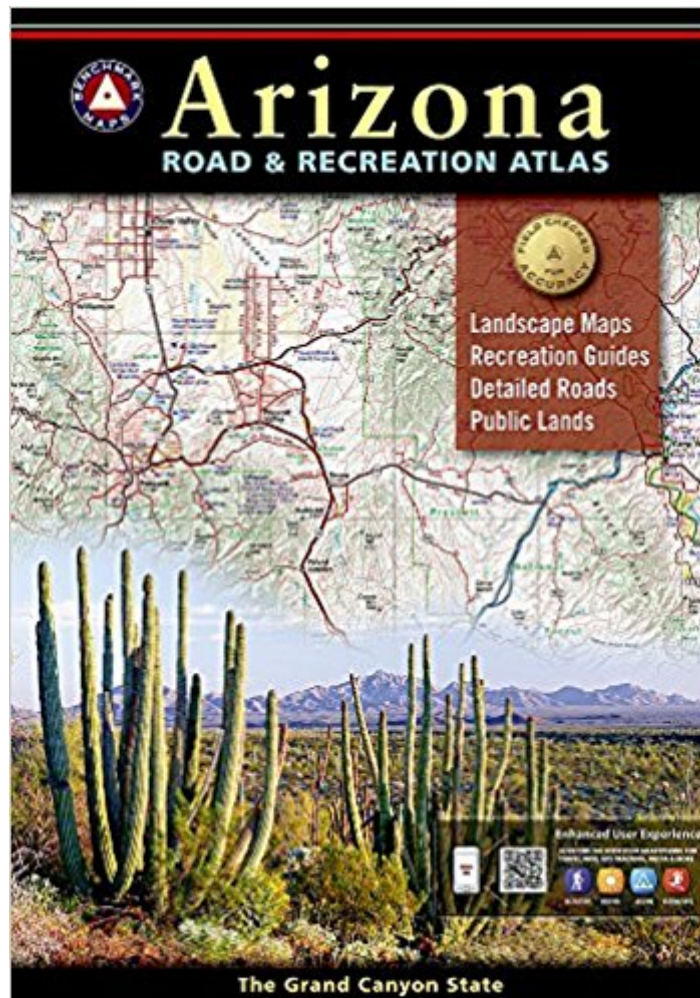




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Arizona Benchmark Road & Recreation Atlas



Synopsis

Arizona's natural beauty and outdoor possibilities are known worldwide. Benchmark's Arizona Road and Recreation Atlas makes it easy to discover the best the state offers. Detailed maps have thousands of miles of backcountry roads and include trailheads, campgrounds, and hundreds of points of interest. Public Lands maps show hunting units and the Recreation Guide has the latest information on campgrounds, RV parks, golf, and boating. Map Scale = 1:285,000 & 1:1,000,000 Sheet Size = 11" x 16"

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Customer Reviews

This is still the best road atlas available for Arizona, but in some respects it is inferior to the previous editions. Before, there were two complete series of map sheets covering the state, one "Landscape Maps", and one "Public Lands Maps". The latter is very helpful in showing whether you are Federal, Indian, State, or Private land, even in checkerboarded sections. The new edition has only a single series of maps, more like the old Landscape than the Public Lands maps. Ownership for big areas is shown (Nat. Forest, Park, etc.) but not small areas of state or private land. The is really retrograde. However, the new maps are of a larger scale (1:285K vs 1:400K), so they preserve all the place-name detail from the previous editions. All that said, it is the best Arizona atlas available. The DeLorme is less legible and does not have the generous overlap from page to page. This in itself is a deal killer for the DeLorme, I think.

This used to be a really good atlas. We purchased one several years ago and left it with our daughter who lives in Arizona. We used it on several trips around the state and loved all the features. Fast forward to this year when we bought one for ourselves since we wouldn't be using our daughter's home as a base from which to travel. First thing I noticed that is different from the older atlas is the scale of the recreation maps is smaller than the landscape maps which made it a little annoying to go back and forth between the two. On the plus side the mileage between points is shown. The second thing that soured us on this atlas, and the reason for the one star, is that there are no mileage numbers on the highways in the larger scale landscape map section. This is maddening. One of the main reasons to own this is to have access to large maps of small areas in order to home in on the details. Now you have to flip back and forth to figure out how far it is from point "A" to point "B". Find an older version of this atlas and you will have a much more user friendly, and useful, product.

Bought it to have just in case I get lost in a dirt road out here in AZ, BUT I'll need a magnifying glass lol. The Buckhorn Wash Rd. is not even in here either, just North of Lake Pleasant ... I wonder what other dirt roads are missing. I recommend buying some trail guides, this is just a backup.

Nice map book, but I guess I'm too used to the BLM maps. Was hoping for a little more detail to find camping spots off the beaten track. If you're sticking to regular roads and sight-seeing, this is perfect for that.

Benchmark maps are the best! The first section details recreational options and the second, larger, section is the landscape section. The maps are very detailed but we still carry paper maps & an atlas too. Add GPS & the Benchmark maps become the cornerstone of a good trip!

This is my third edition to the Benchmark series of maps for Arizona. I prefer this brand over Delorme maps because these maps show trail heads, forest road and gates, waterfalls and other natural landmarks. For outdoor enthusiasts, these are the best to have because you know right away what kind of land you are on: national forest, forest service wilderness, BLM or state land, state park, fish and wildlife refuge, military, Indian or national park. Phoenix, Tucson and the Grand Canyon are highlighted separately. Then there are 53 more detailed quadrants that cut through the state, often breaking up urban areas like Prescott and requiring one to go back and forth between two non-joining pages to study an area. The state is broken down into six recreational areas. I live in

the far southeastern corner of the state and that includes Tucson. By the dividing the state this way, people interested in one area have a larger area that is featured, so one can read of recommended trails to hike, and places where to camp for both tents and RVs, both private and on public lands. Phone numbers are also noted. You also get scenic sites and trails, historical sites, golf courses and "other" sites like ghost towns, museums and boat ramps at lakes. All this makes traveling through useful without needing to use a GPS or online resources. I've been in remote areas where internet or GPS were not available, so the Benchmark is invaluable. I have all the Benchmark maps of the western states, and I use them all when planning my road trips.

This is an updated version for Arizona with the usual very good Benchmark quality. It's still reasonably priced and worth purchasing if you like to travel off road and see the terrain. The publication is easy to read. Another good job for Benchmark.

I use these Benchmark atlases for all of my adventures in the west. Over the years I accumulated almost all of the DeLorme Atlas and Gazateers for the western states, but I find the Benchmark maps to be more accurate, and they make it much easier to differentiate between various road types. I often found with the DeLorme maps that what I often thought was a 2 lane gravel road ended up being a jeep trail.

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