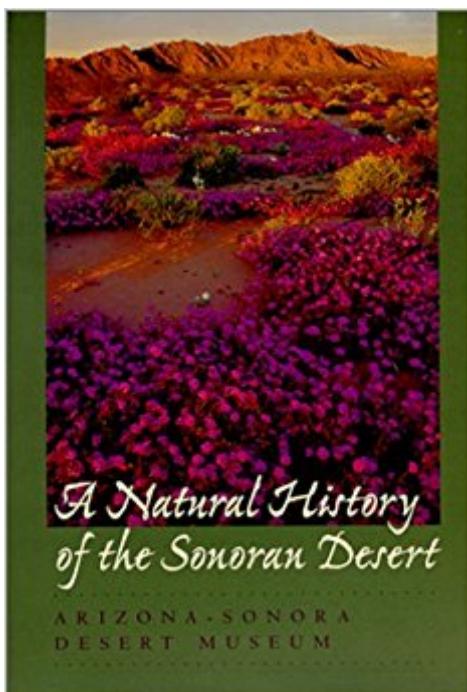


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# A Natural History Of The Sonoran Desert (Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum)



## **Synopsis**

The Sonoran Desert is one of the most wildly diverse and fascinating regions in the world. Covering southeastern California, the southern half of Arizona, most of Baja California, and much of the state of Sonora, Mexico, this vast area is home to an amazing variety of plants and animals. Its terrain varies dramatically, from parched desert lowlands to semiarid tropical forests and frigid subalpine meadows. A Natural History of the Sonoran Desert provides the most complete collection of Sonoran Desert natural history information ever compiled and is a perfect introduction to this biologically rich desert of North America. The authors—experts in many fields—begin with a general look at the region's geology, paleoecology, climate, human ecology, and biodiversity. The book then looks in depth at hundreds of plants, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, native fishes, and invertebrates that live in the northern part of the Sonoran Desert. Throughout, the text is supplemented with anecdotes, essays, color and black-and-white photographs, maps, diagrams, and 450 finely-rendered drawings. This comprehensive, accessible natural history is written for nonscientists and will surely become an invaluable companion for nature enthusiasts, birdwatchers, hikers, students, and anyone interested in the desert Southwest. A copublication with the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"An indispensable guide for any desert visitor."--"Sunset Magazine

"This fine book offers one-stop shopping for authoritative answers to all your questions about a most

wonderful place, the Sonoran Desert. Bees, birds, beetles, biodiversity, all right here in one place in accessible prose. Who can ask for more than that?"&#151;John Alcock, author of *In a Desert Garden*"Definitive and delightful&#151;a fabulous compendium of facts and experiences written by the most knowledgeable scholars in the field. This encyclopedic guide will make desert rats out of those who aren't already."&#151;Ann H. Zwinger, author of *Run, River, Run*"Once in a generation, a guide to understanding a major North American landscape comes along. This book is such a touchstone, sure to become a classic. The emphasis here is on biodiversity, mutualism, co-evolution, and, especially, ethno-relationships&#151;the long history of connection between desert peoples and their homeland, on both sides of the border. This book gives desert dwellers everything they need to develop the crucial awareness, to say, 'This is a remarkable place, filled with astonishing creatures and processes. We must act now, with fierceness and tenderness, or it will be gone.'"&#151;Stephen Trimble, author of *The Sagebrush Ocean*

I am new to the desert, about 2 years. I love the outdoors and have been trying to learn a new environment. have a whole bookshelf of books on the Arizona region, but would have never bought them if I came across this one first. it is comprehensive but not a 800 level college text. very readable, but full of substance. well done.

This is a marvelous book which for me sets the standard for a book on the natural history of a specific area. Many times a multi-author book is the kiss of death for quality, but the editor did a great job bringing out the academic strengths of each author while maintaining quality and style. This book reads almost like poetry while describing in excellent scientific detail the plants, physiological adaptations, climate, weather, and people of the Sonoran Desert. I find myself re-reading sections just for the pleasure of reading it. If you would like to know more information about the Sonoran Desert, you cannot go wrong ordering this book. It will enrich any visit to the area and make you want to return both to the book and to the Desert to learn more.

This is one of the best natural history books I've ever read. The incorporation of a variety of expert authors makes it a gem. I can pick it up anytime, open to any page, and enjoy myself. A great companion on any trip to the Sonoran Desert, to pick up where the field guides leave off.

This is a complete description, written for the resident or casual visitor, of why the Sonoran desert is there, how the desert works, and what lives there. Totally enjoyable.

very interesting facts about my desert

I have lived in Tucson most of my life and I learned several things I never knew about the area from this book.

excellent, everything was as advertised.

I do a narration on a tour boat in the desert and this is my bible.

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