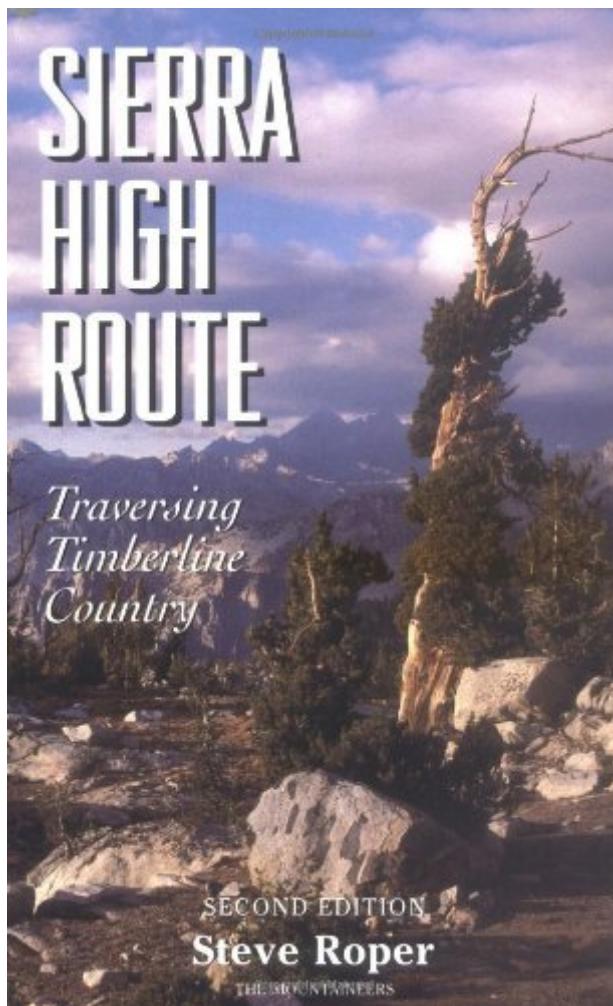


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The Sierra High Route: Traversing Timberline Country



Synopsis

Guide to a spectacular 195-mile timberline route in the sub-alpine region of California's High Sierra.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

My brother and I picked up the original version of this book, back when it was published as a small, grey Sierra Club tote book. I did sections with my brother and friends over the years, and then went solo on two of the most challenging sections. Over a ten year period I explored all sections of this 195 mile route. I've traveled some sections several times. Roper has written a wonderful guide book. He gives good advice on what routes to take, and what precautions to watch out for. Read it before you travel, then take it along and read it as you travel through the country. It's like having a mountain guide and a naturalist at your side. However, be aware that this route is meant for the experienced wilderness traveler. This journey goes far beyond backpacking on well maintained trails. It includes scrambling up and over mountain passes, stream wading, and route finding over rough terrain. We always bring our ice axes, walking sticks, altimeter watches, compasses and a great set of maps. (I still can't get myself to carry a GPS...spoils our route finding fun.) Summer weather on the route is often very pleasant. We've also had our share of rain, wind, snow and

spectacular lightning storms. As a result, we tend to overpack, to be ready for any kind of weather. Ropers revised edition of the High Route is definitely an improvement over the original Sierra Club tote book. The route descriptions are more clear and easy to follow. The original book worked well enough for us though. This is definitely a great book for the savvy wilderness traveler. PS: I recently went back and completed the first part of the high route, after a 20+ year hiatus from this section. I was delighted to find it almost as pristine as it was back in the 1980's. In some places, there is a faint trace of a trail, but overall the terrain is still well preserved and litter free. I took along my original USGS 15 minute series maps, along with a couple of Andrew Skurka's 7.5 minute maps. Andrew did a great job of putting together a complete map set of the route, though I still prefer my original 15 minute series maps. Roper talks about how the 15 minute maps give you all the detail you need to navigate cross country, plus a great overview of surrounding mountains and other features. If you can find the 15 minute series maps, I highly recommend them. If you can't, Andrew's map set is probably your best bet.

My girlfriend and I now refer to this book as 'Stevie' after spending a month thru-hiking the SHR with it this fall. I'm not sure that Mr Roper would approve of having his name taken in vain, but we sure took a liking to his style and found that his words of wisdom quickly became our loyal companion. Like others before us (and it broke my heart to do it) we cut out the actual guide section of the book to keep weight down, and I highlighted all route-finding information to make it stand out from the amazingly informative and, at times, highly entertaining, descriptive detail. Used in conjunction with Andrew Skurka's excellent accompanying map set (available via web) we had very few route-finding problems, although we were blessed with exceptionally good weather and zero snow cover. It appears that the guidebook maybe too good, as we found that use trails had become pretty well established over large portions of the route, possibly to the dismay of Roper and cross-country purists. If you are planning to thru-hike the SHR, you need this book. It is not an easy trek (much more rugged than the JMT) and there is no other hard-copy guide. The book's also worth buying if you are craving a shorter High Sierra trip, as some great options are described for incorporating sections of the route into loops with access points on both sides of the range. The author's advice is priceless for safe cross-country travel through some of the world's most spectacular mountainous scenery. May Stevie become your friend too - but tread lightly so that it remains as rewarding a challenge for future Sierra lovers as it was for us.

Not only should it be required reading prior to the adventure, possession of appropriate sections

should be in-hand when entering the high-country. It is like having a personal guide providing critical decision making information as you move along the Sierra High Route. I'd strongly suggest the purchase of two copies, (One to keep and one to disassemble for trail use.) Since it is well written and enormously informative as to specific travel details.

I really enjoyed this book and found it very useful in planning and doing this hike. The trail descriptions are sometimes vague and the maps are a bit lacking but that made for more of an adventure while out there. I would recommend creating your own maps from TOPO or some other software. The author describes the hike as a backpacking trip above timberline through the Sierras. Not being a climber I would say this is about 95% accurate while the other 5% was on the edge of mountaineering or climbing.

Great book, lots of cool background. Maps could be more detailed, but Roper is known for being vague on purpose; in order to preserve the reader's sense of adventure.

Great read, even if you never do the High Route. Lots of interesting history. Topos included.

Still the definitive book on the SHR

If you like to a lil'Adventure in your life, you will start planing now after reading this one. Great read, good info & well written. Great on the history behind Sierras & the great pioneers how got to roam these wild's.

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