

THE PACIFIC CREST TRAIL
HIKING THE PCT FROM MEXICO TO CANADA
by Brian Johnson

CICERONE

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All maps and photographs by the author

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Dedication

To all those trail angels who make life so much easier for the PCT hiker.

Thanks

The author has been unable to re-hike the PCT for this updated edition, but has relied on extensive notes provided by David Jordan who hiked the trail in 2016 and the comprehensive information available on the internet (see Appendix B). The author and publisher would like to thank David for his invaluable contribution to the book and for his article on the challenges of the Pacific Crest Trail, which appears on the Cicerone website.

Warning

The Pacific Crest Trail is designed as a summer trail to be hiked when it is free of snow and the creeks are relatively low. You should be aware that navigation could be difficult and the trail could be dangerous when there is snow in the mountains or when the creeks are running high because of snowmelt. The maps in this guide will not be adequate for navigation when snow covers the trail. If you hike the PCT you will be going into high mountains, wilderness areas and deserts. You might be faced with severe storms, fording unbridged creeks and hiking through long waterless sections in high temperatures. Mountain and wilderness trekking can be dangerous, carrying the risk of personal injury or death.

The author and publisher have made every effort to ensure that the information contained in this guide was correct when it went to press, but, except for any liability that cannot be excluded by law, they cannot accept responsibility for any loss, injury or inconvenience sustained by any person using this book.

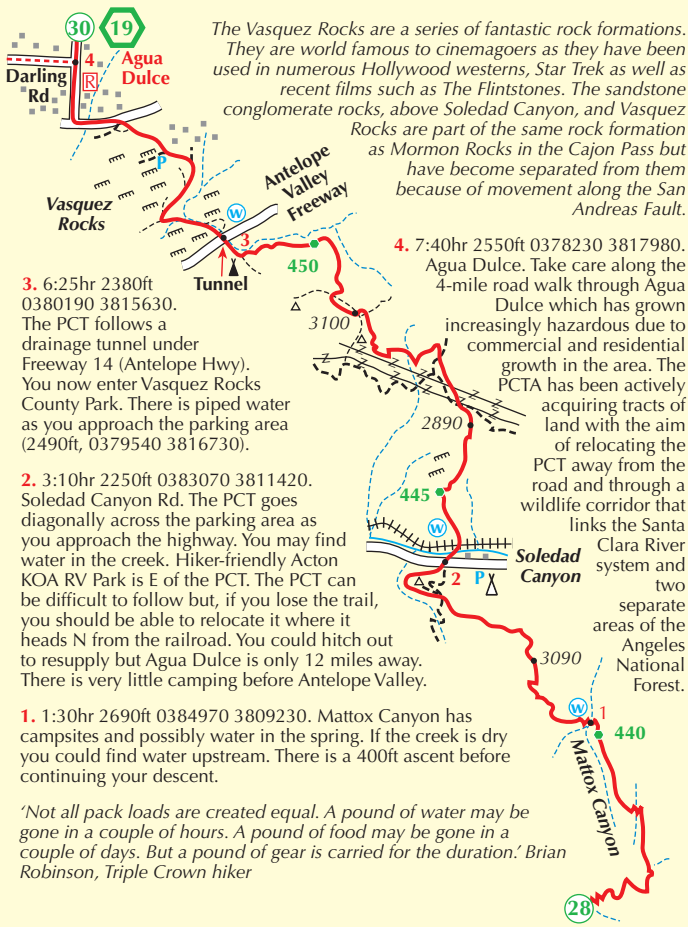
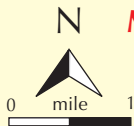
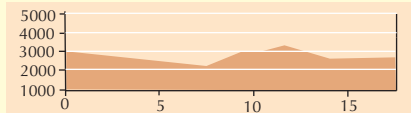
Information on fire damage to the trail has not been updated.

Updates to this Guide

While every effort is made by our authors to ensure the accuracy of guidebooks as they go to print, changes can occur during the lifetime of an edition. Any updates that we know of for this guide will be on the Cicerone website (www.cicerone.co.uk/920/updates), so please check before planning your trip. We also advise that you check information about such things as transport, accommodation and shops locally. Even rights of way can be altered over time. We are always grateful for information about any discrepancies between a guidebook and the facts on the ground, sent by email to updates@cicerone.co.uk or by post to Cicerone, Juniper House, Murley Moss, Oxenholme Road, Kendal LA9 7RL.

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Front cover: Crabtree Meadows in the High Sierra (Section 30)



The Vasquez Rocks are a series of fantastic rock formations. They are world famous to cinemagoers as they have been used in numerous Hollywood westerns, Star Trek as well as recent films such as The Flintstones. The sandstone conglomerate rocks, above Soledad Canyon, and Vasquez Rocks are part of the same rock formation as Mormon Rocks in the Cajon Pass but have become separated from them because of movement along the San Andreas Fault.

3. 6:25hr 2380ft 0380190 3815630.
The PCT follows a drainage tunnel under Freeway 14 (Antelope Hwy). You now enter Vasquez Rocks County Park. There is piped water as you approach the parking area (2490ft, 0379540 3816730).

2. 3:10hr 2250ft 0383070 3811420.
Soledad Canyon Rd. The PCT goes diagonally across the parking area as you approach the highway. You may find water in the creek. Hiker-friendly Acton KOA RV Park is E of the PCT. The PCT can be difficult to follow but, if you lose the trail, you should be able to relocate it where it heads N from the railroad. You could hitch out to resupply but Agua Dulce is only 12 miles away. There is very little camping before Antelope Valley.

1. 1:30hr 2690ft 0384970 3809230. Mattox Canyon has campsites and possibly water in the spring. If the creek is dry you could find water upstream. There is a 400ft ascent before continuing your descent.

4. 7:40hr 2550ft 0378230 3817980.
Agua Dulce. Take care along the 4-mile road walk through Agua Dulce which has grown increasingly hazardous due to commercial and residential growth in the area. The PCTA has been actively acquiring tracts of land with the aim of relocating the PCT away from the road and through a wildlife corridor that links the Santa Clara River system and two separate areas of the Angeles National Forest.

'Not all pack loads are created equal. A pound of water may be gone in a couple of hours. A pound of food may be gone in a couple of days. But a pound of gear is carried for the duration.' Brian Robinson, Triple Crown hiker

MAP 54



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mile

