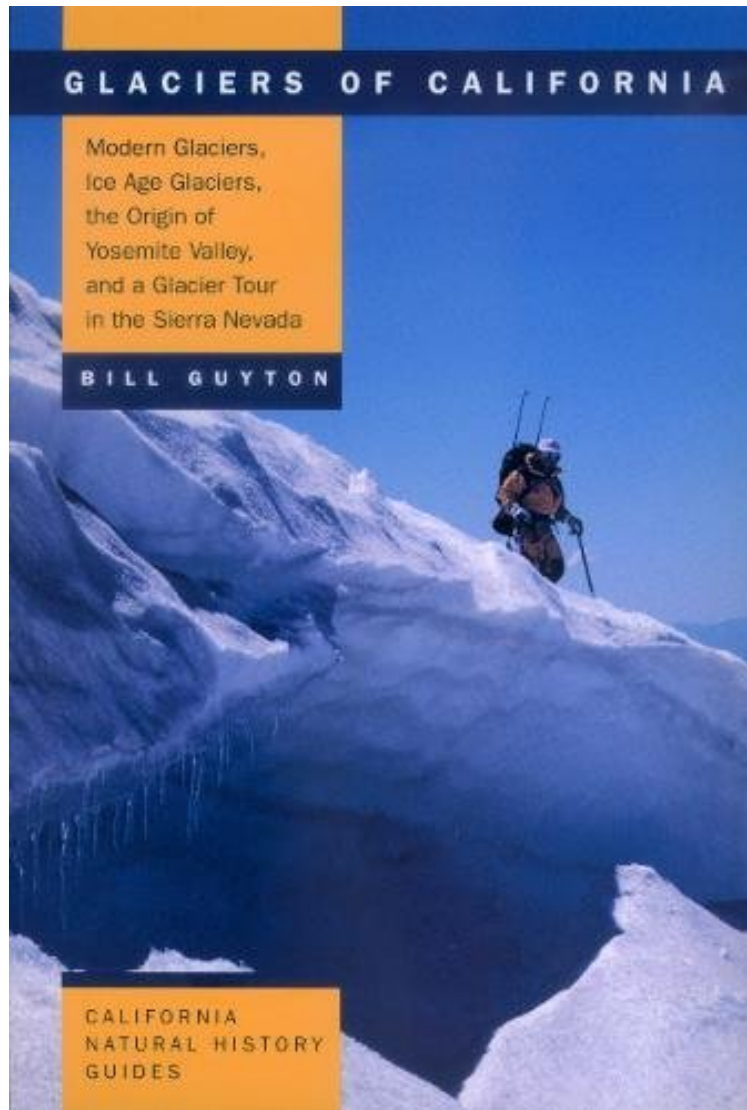


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Glaciers of California: Modern Glaciers, Ice Age Glaciers, the Origin of Yosemite Valley, and a Glacier Tour in the Sierra Nevada (California Natural History Guides)

Bill Guyton

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Bill Guyton : Glaciers of California: Modern Glaciers, Ice Age Glaciers, the Origin of Yosemite Valley, and a Glacier Tour in the Sierra Nevada (California Natural History Guides) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Glaciers of California: Modern Glaciers, Ice Age Glaciers, the Origin of Yosemite Valley, and a Glacier Tour in the Sierra Nevada (California Natural History Guides)*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book on glaciersBy W. N. Glaciers are really neat. Once you learn about them visiting places like Yosemite or Kamikochi in Japan, probably most of the Rockies, becomes a lot more interesting. Good overall description of glaciers in general and the glaciers of the Sierras and Cascades in California. Excellent companion to Geology Underfoot in Yosemite. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great reference and read for California high country travelersBy C. Ryan This is the most interesting and useful book on California glaciers, particularly in the High Sierra, that I have come across. Author Bill Guyton is a Cal State Chico emeritus geology professor who has apparently done glacier field work, especially in the Palisades region, but the book is well written in a manner accessible to anyone with an interest in the topic. Besides the general (apparently conventional but still evolving) history of California's Ice Age glaciations, a topic covered in a number of books on the Sierra, Guyton focuses on the details of prior epochs' alpine glaciations - the lower Northern California mountains and the southernmost documented glaciers that occurred in the San Gabriel Mountains just east of Los Angeles. The most interesting section for hikers is Guyton's inventory of current high country glaciers on Mt. Shasta, in the High Sierra and some tiny ones in the Trinity Alps. Reviewing the calculations of other geologists and applying his own knowledge and definitions Guyton determines there are currently (as of 1998?) 509 California glaciers. Actually he counts 108 actual glaciers and 401 "glacierets". To me the "glacierets" category really represents what are presently (for the time being) permanent ice patches which are the remnants of previously active, i.e., flowing, glaciers. Given the rapid retreat of most Sierra ice it seems possible that each year one or more of the 108 "true" glaciers is becoming a "glacieret" each year. The winter of 2004-2005 was an extremely heavy snow year in the High Sierra, but by September, after an unusually warm spring and typical summer, the Yosemite high country did not seem to have significantly more end-of-season snow cover than usual although the September meadows were a bit greener and more mosquito infested than I would normally expect. Therefore I don't think anyone anticipates any of the "glacierets" will expand to become glaciers again in the near future. One of the best features of the book for either hikers or car tourists interested in seeing actual glacier phenomenon is the section "Seeing for Yourself" that describes in detail a drive across Yosemite National Park from Glacier Point, over Tioga Pass and down to Lee Vining with suggested stops and day hikes to see both formerly glaciated landscapes and some living glacial remnants. Guyton emphasizes the long run view of geologic history and refers more than once to the fact that periodic advances of California's alpine glaciers, followed by their total disappearance for long periods, has been the normal situation for eons. In doing so he subtly provides a reality check on some of the hysterical end-of-the-world global warming hoopla that pervades the media. The book has lots of useful black and white photos plus a section of color photographs as well as typical geology text diagrams of glaciers and related phenomenon. There is one map showing the maximum extent of California glaciations and a map-like diagram of Mt. Shasta's current glaciers, but some more detailed maps of current glaciers in the two most described areas - the Palisades and Yosemite's Tioga Pass region - would have been useful. I'd also like to see some "then and now" comparison photos of some of the glaciers. Highly recommended for hikers, climbers and amateur naturalists who want to know more about the glaciated landscape and Ice Age glacier remnants in California, particularly in the High Sierra. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Short, sweet, and very understandable. By George D. Smith This is a basic, understandable review of the Ice Age and later glaciation of the mountains of California. The focus is on Yosemite, but other mountains in California are briefly covered. Glaciers that are present now date to the Little Ice Age, from 100- 700 years old only. They are shrinking fast. But older, "big" ice-age glaciers covered these mountains, starting with the glaciations of 1.5 million years ago. After reading the book, you understand why our mountains are so dramatically sculpted. The author briefly discusses the causes of cyclical changes in the temperature of the Northern hemisphere that accounts for recurrence of ice ages. There follows a good tour of Yosemite, by car, foot, and backpack, where you can see modern glaciers as well as the evidence of ancient ice ages. Many mountaineering terms (Col, Horn, Arête, Couloirs, etc) refer to mountain features that are products of glaciation, and are defined. There is a good glossary. Hikers, climbers, and mountain-visitors will enjoy this good book.

Glaciers in sunny California? Many people will be surprised to learn that there are several hundred in this state, ranging in size from the impressive Whitney Glacier on Mt. Shasta and the Palisade Glacier in the Sierra Nevada to tiny glacierets. While California's glaciers are small compared to those in the northern Rockies or the European Alps, each one is interesting and some are suitable for exploring. Also of note is the fact that Ice Age glaciers carved California's most spectacular mountain scenery - the High Sierra was glaciated several times and glacial landforms are prominent features of the Sierran landscape today. Bill Guyton summarizes the history of the discovery of Ice Age glaciation and modern-day glaciers in California, as well as the development of modern ideas about the state's glacial history. He describes the controversy about the origin of Yosemite Valley and quotes from the colorful accounts of early mountain explorers such as John Muir, Josiah Whitney, and François Matthes. His book provides a primer on glaciers and glacial landforms, a glossary of technical terms, helpful illustrations, and a 100-mile Sierra field trip guide for readers who want to see glaciers and glacial features for themselves. Glaciers of California will make any visit to the mountains more interesting, whether one is carrying a camera, crampons, or a fishing pole.

"I heartily recommend this book to anyone as an introduction to glaciers and glaciation in California. It presents a concise yet broad treatment of the topic in a clear, engaging style that builds a foundation of knowledge for reading more advanced literature. The advanced reader will be hard pressed to find a better organized synthesis of this material and should benefit from the historical context it provides and its numerous citations to other literature. Anyone should find the book a pleasure to read."--L. Allan James, "Geotimes" From the Inside Flap "This book gives all California mountain lovers another reason to head for the hills. Guyton explains in layman's terms the subtle differences between glaciers, glacierets, and permanent snowfields . . . and takes us on a superlative 'glacier tour' of Yosemite National Park. This is a great addition to the mountain literature of the Golden State." Steve Roper, author of Sierra High Route "Geologist Bill Guyton explains clearly how glaciers work, how they form and move and what they do to the landscape. With excellent illustrations . . . this book is an eye-opener." Mary Hill, author of Geology of the Sierra Nevada "Guyton brings alive the ancient courses of glaciers into modern pathways for understanding. He transforms today's icy relics on the shadowed heights of the Golden State into crystalline visions of a very different past--and perhaps future--when global cooling reigned over the highlands." Galen Rowell, photographer, author of Poles Apart