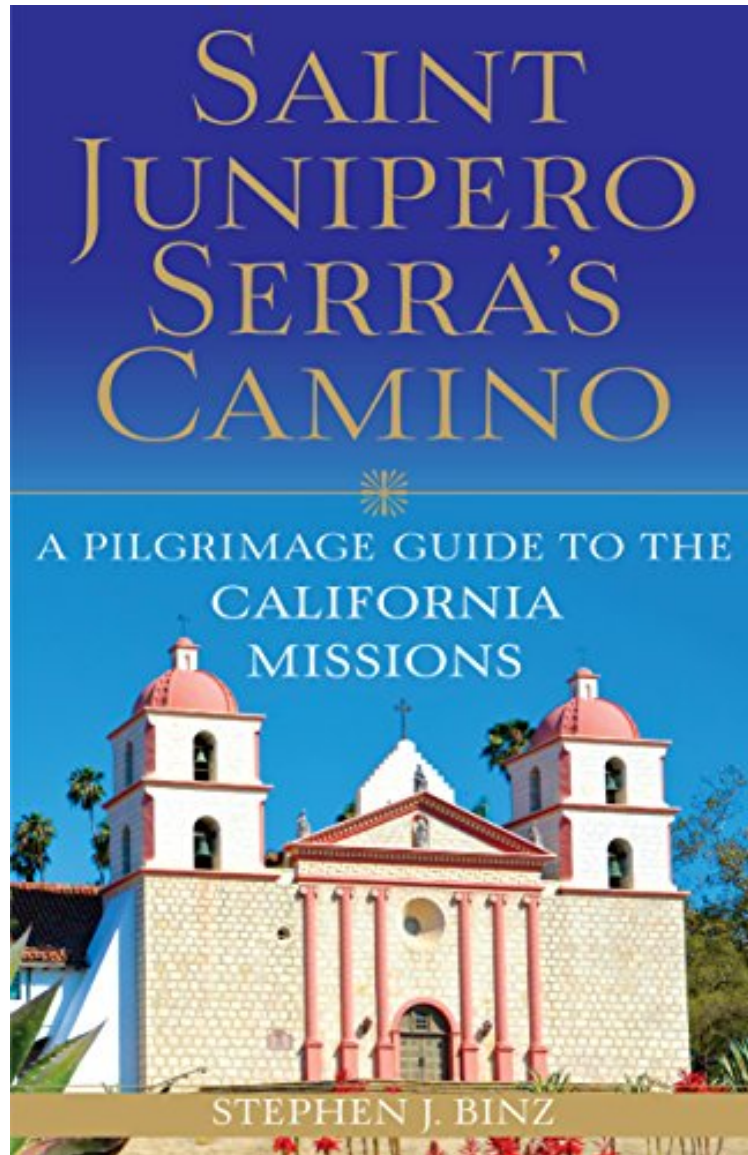


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Saint Junipero Serra's Camino: A Pilgrimage Guide to the California Missions

Stephen J. Binz

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Stephen J. Binz : Saint Junipero Serra's Camino: A Pilgrimage Guide to the California Missions before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Saint Junipero Serra's Camino: A Pilgrimage Guide to the California Missions:

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excellent book which I would highly recommend. Diligently researched and very valuable to anyone interested in the 21 California mission. Even a home bound person can make a pilgrimage. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Book By Marc Morin I enjoyed it. I have visited all of the missions in California. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. What A Wonderful Travel/History Book! By Peterack What a wonderful book this was. I am both a hiker and a person who lived in Southern California for the first 42 years of my life. Thus, I had access to and loved occasionally exploring the various Missions in the State. Like no other this book offers a little something for everyone. There is the wonderful summary and history of the Missions and Junipero Serra, which actually enticed me to read more about the now saint in a fuller biography, though the one provided in this work will suffice for anyone wanting to know about him. Then there is the historical look at what the Missions did and did not do in history. The author takes the extreme versions of history - where the clergy were all great people who worked well with native folks, and ones where there was much oppression and forced enslavement and takes it to an understandable middle - where there are humans there will be bad ones and there will be disagreement, strife and more. I felt this book did a wonderful job of providing an honest look at the Missions, their history, and where that went right and where it went awry. Finally, the book is for the traveler and offers everything you would want if you considering some of all of these places, including intricate looks at what you might find that will surprise you and may not be widely known. So, part bio, part history, part travel pamphlet - these elements are drawn together in a tight, enjoyable and very readable book. Whether you want to travel by armchair, or wear out some shoe leather, and/or immerse yourself into some history you will enjoy this book!

Travel Saint Junipero Serras Camino Real in California with a pilgrims heart and this book in hand and prepare to continue, in your own way, the forward journey that he began in the 1700s. You'll make your way to 21 missions, stretching from San Diego to Sonoma north of San Francisco Bay. The more you seek, the more you will find. The more you ask, the more you will receive. Such is the nature of a pilgrimage. Each of the missions is a unique jewel and a spiritual oasis. Some are found wedged into cities; others are surrounded by mountains and valleys. They range from simple to ornate. The grounds are filled with bells, statues, fountains, and gardens, all symbols of life and feasts of color. Old Spanish mission art can be found next to Indian wall paintings. Symbols of piety from two centuries form a wonderful holy mix. But author Stephen J. Binz does not gloss over the sometimes-painful historical aspects of the missions. The mission histories are difficult reading, documenting mistreatment and uprisings. But despite the many flaws of the Spanish mission system, the gospel still found ways in these missions to break through to hurting communities and it continues to break through today. For each of the 21 missions, this guide offers you the street address for your GPS, the missions website, a brief history of the place, the story of the missions patron or namesake, and information about the mission bells. You'll be given a tour of the mission church, as well as a prayer service for your visit. But this book is much more than a simple travel guide. You'll learn more about the life of Saint Junipero Serra, whose vision is responsible for this holy Camino. You'll be enriched by two interwoven traditions: the Spanish Franciscan and the American Indian. You'll find yourself becoming more committed to being a missionary disciple, always desiring to communicate the reason for the joy and hope that is within you. Let the journey begin.

Stephen Binz has written a great practical guidebook for exploring the California missions and the spiritual legacy of St. Junipero Serra. I pray that this book will lead many people to rediscover the ancient practice of the pilgrimage and to renew their commitment to the new evangelization of California and the American continent. Most Reverend Jos H. Gomez, archbishop of Los Angeles Just as for centuries pilgrims have walked the Camino de Santiago de Compostela in Spain, this concise volume will encourage a similar Camino to the twenty-one missions in our state. Binz California history is correct, his prayer-guide devotional, and his artistic descriptions captivating. Michael C. Barber, S.J., bishop of Oakland I am most pleased to endorse this superb and very timely new book written by Stephen J. Binz. I see this book as a tremendous addition to our library of significant works telling the story of the life and legacy of St. Junipero Serra and his companions, and helping us in trying to build bridges. Richard J. Garcia, bishop of Monterey I am very grateful to recommend this work of Stephen J. Binz.... I find that his personal descriptions of the missions beautifully describe the reality of Faith, prayer and history that is evident at each of the missions. This is especially true of Mission San Juan Capistrano, where I frequently visit as the bishop of the diocese where this mission is located, and where I like to stop and pray in the Serra Chapel. Kevin W. Vann, bishop of Orange Part hagiography of a courageous missionary, part honest historical reference, and part handy travelogue, Stephen Binz's Saint Junipero Serras Camino is first and foremost a spiritual preparation and call to action in our own sharing of the Good News of the Gospel. With keen detail and deep spirituality, Binz encourages each of us to fully embrace our role in the New Evangelization by following in the footsteps of California's spiritual giant, St. Junipero Serra. This Californian can't wait to journey with Binz to discover Father Serras journey in bringing the faith to my home state and beyond! Lisa M. Hendey, founder of the Catholic Mom blog and author of the Chime Travelers series What an extraordinary pilgrims guide this is! This book shows how to maximize a pilgrimage experience and make its graces and challenges a part of ones ongoing spiritual development. It is invaluable for anyone wanting to understand Junipero Serra. Murray Bodo,

OFM, author, Francis: The Journey and the Dream Few writers are as dependably accessible and warmly instructive as Stephen Binz. Anyone looking for a new way of pursuing spiritual growth, and a generous introduction to one of the Church's newest saints, will be enriched by this wonderful book. Elizabeth Scalia, editor-in-chief at Aleteia and author, Strange Gods: Unmasking the Idols in Everyday Life Stephen Binz has written an excellent volume. It makes an important contribution to popular studies of Saint Junipero Serra, and it will be a great help to people who are visiting the California missions. Robert Senkewicz, professor of history at Santa Clara University, author, Junipero Serra: California, Indians, and the Transformation of a Missionary Stephen J. Binz has studied and learned the purpose of the California missions and their place in the history of the West Coast of America. I welcome this book and pray that it will assist future readers to assimilate and further the notion of evangelization, and how it will figure into the final analysis of missionary work along El Camino Real. Msgr. Francis J. Weber, scholar of California Catholic history I recommend this book to everybody, whether you are journeying along the California Camino or staying in the comfort of your own home. This is an all-in-one and must-have resource for anyone interested in learning more about the missions and the newest American Saint who founded them. Daniel P. Horan, OFM, author, The Franciscan Heart of Thomas Merton This book by Stephen J. Binz provides a timely, comprehensive, and liturgically invaluable resource for those seeking to balance the historical and spiritual dimensions of their experience.. Binz effectively guides the reader through the evangelization of California by way of a heartfelt reconciliation of words, deeds, prayers, and cultural histories not often appreciated in today's increasingly secular world. Ruben G. Mendoza, PhD, RPA, California State University, author, The California Missions Source Book In California our El Camino and its missions offers wayfarer pilgrims a range of meaningful experiences and relevant insight into the life of California's Founding Father, Saint Junipero Serra. From rugged coastlines to serene vast valleys, each step of El Camino is at the crossroads of history serving as a living rosary chain of our faith. Definitely recommend for those taking the journey. Jewel-Sean Yahut Gentry, MA Ed., California Missions Coordinator, Diocese of Monterey, Carmel Saint Junipero Serra's Camino by Stephen Binz is an excellent guide for the pilgrim who wants to walk with the saint. I heartily endorse the book. John Cella, OFM, director of Franciscan Pilgrimage Programs An excellent resource for catechetical ministers and for all who align their lives more closely with the Gospel of Jesus and embark on the journey of transformation as missionary disciples. Edith Prendergast, RSC, former director of religious education, archdiocese of Los Angeles