New full-color guidebook features 20 of the best Aspen hikes, from family and wheelchair-friendly to challenging treks

The Best Aspen Hikes
By Rod Martinez

June 13th, 2014 — The twelfth CMC Press regional pack guide for the State of Colorado, The Best Aspen Hikes not only includes hikes within a short drive of town but also trails near Glenwood Springs, Carbondale, and Leadville. Casual hikers will be awed by the reflection of the iconic Maroon Bells in Maroon Lake, one of the prettiest and most photographed spots in Colorado, while they stroll along the Maroon Lake Scenic Trail. Experienced hikers will revel in the challenge presented by the twin-summitted Mount Sopris, which rises more than 6,000 feet above the Roaring Fork Valley to serve as a stunning backdrop to the town of Carbondale.

For outdoor enthusiasts who would rather stay in close proximity to Aspen, the Rio Grande Trail, a paved wheelchair-accessible path, allows for easy access to many of Aspen's parks and provides a beautiful panorama of the surrounding mountains and Roaring Fork River. Another option, though much more strenuous, is Ute Trail, which climbs high above town and offers spectacular views of the town below.

“If you can only visit one part of Colorado for some great hikes, you should choose the Aspen area. Aspen is well known for its skiing, but the hiking trails in this area are second to none. Forty-plus years years ago I was introduced to Aspen by taking a 10-mile drive from Aspen to Maroon Lake, via Maroon Creek Road. I immediately fell in love with the area.” —author Rod Martinez

The Best Aspen Hikes includes:

- Complete trail descriptions, color photos, and maps (created using National Geographic Maps TOPO! software)
- Information on trailhead accessibility, parking fees, whether the trails are dog-friendly, and much more
- Interesting cultural and natural history anecdotes that enrich the trail experience

104 pages * 4 x 7 * 40 color photos * 21 maps * paperback $12.95 *
ISBN 978-1-937052-08-9 * Available wherever books are sold

About the author: Rod Martinez has always loved spending time outside. As a kid growing up in Cripple Creek, he explored the nearby hills and old mines. As he grew older, he found another love—photography. In time he discovered 35mm photography and a lifelong passion was born. Rod has climbed 17 of Colorado’s Fourteeners and has hiked in almost all of the Western states, primarily in Colorado, Utah, and Northern Arizona. He has been able to combine his two passions to visually capture nature’s beauty on every hike. His work has resulted in him being named Grand Junction’s Photographer of the Year for four years in a row. In 2001, he helped form the Southwest Photographic Arts Association Camera Club, and he currently teaches photography and lead photo workshops. Rod joined the Colorado Mountain Club in 2000 and has served as the program director for the Western Slope Group and currently acts as treasurer and trail steward for the group.

Also available and new this summer: The Best Telluride Hikes, by Rod Martinez (May, 2014)