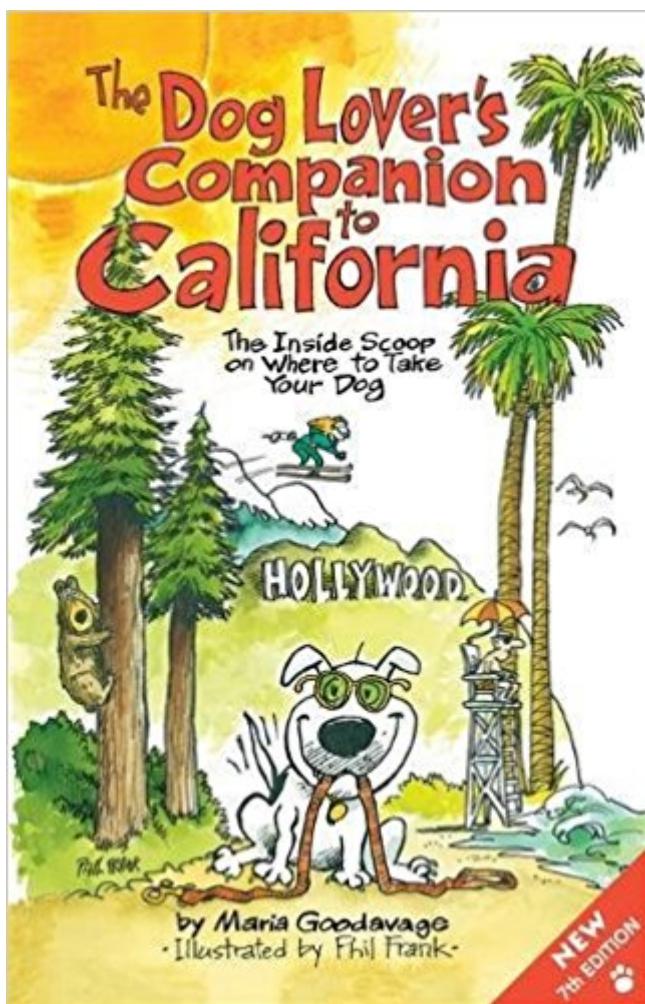


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# The Dog Lover's Companion To California: The Inside Scoop On Where To Take Your Dog (Dog Lover's Companion Guides)



## Synopsis

The Dog Lover's Companion to California has the inside scoop on the best dog runs, parks, beaches, hiking trails, camping areas, pet-friendly businesses, and much more. Local author Maria Goodavage and her trusty companion Jake have dug up many surprising resources available to dogs in the Golden State, such as baseball games, summer camps, and pet parades. For the less outdoorsy dog, there are doggy spas, art openings, and even winery visits! Packed with helpful maps, up-to-date leash laws, and a useful "paw" ranking system for all locations in the book, The Dog Lover's Companion to California is a dog's best friend.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jake the Yellow-Lab-sort-of-dog and Maria Goodavage have traveled throughout California to check out some of the most dog-friendly parks, beaches, lodgings, and restaurants in the world. As part of their research, they've ridden on ferries, horse-drawn carriages, cable cars, gondolas, and steam trains. They've visited chichi art galleries, dumpy drive-in movies, kitschy tourist attractions, dog-friendly wineries, high-end stores, ski resorts, major-league ballgames, and even had high tea together. They've eaten at restaurants where dogs are treated almost like people (except they never get the bill). They've stayed at the best hotels, the worst flea-bitten motels, and everything in between. Jake's favorite saying: "You're not really gonna leave the house without me, are ya?" (This is usually accompanied by all his extra folds of neck skin drooping forward into his face, his floppy ears hanging especially low, his tail sagging

dejectedly, and his big seal-like eyes looking wet and wide and oh-so-woeful.) Since Jake still doesn't have a driver's license after all these years, he relies on Maria, former longtime USA Today correspondent, to be his chauffeur. Maria is well qualified; she started chauffeuring dogs many years back, when her intrepid Airedale, Joe, joined her during some of her travels for the newspaper. With all of their experiences on the road, it was only a matter of time before a book was born, followed by a series of books. Both *The Dog Lover's Companion to California* and *The Dog Lover's Companion to the San Francisco Bay Area* are now in their seventh editions. Maria is a freelance writer, as well as an editor and blogger for Dogster, one of the most widely read dog websites in the world. She lives near the beach in San Francisco with her husband, their daughter, and Jake. Phil Frank (1943-2007) penned the cartoon strip Farley for more than 21 years.

**THIS REVIEW IS FOR THE KINDLE VERSION** I bought the e-version for a trip to San Diego on Thanksgiving 2012. Turns out the latest physical book edition is 2011, but the only Kindle version is 2008. I looked up 6 restaurants in the SD area, 4 had gone out of business, 1 had moved locations 2 years ago, and the sixth had removed their dog-friendly patio seating last year. In addition to out-dated information, this is not an e-book; it is a bunch of text and some images dumped into a file. Table of Contents items are links to chapters, and some businesses have websites that are web links, but there are no links for map references, or for mentions in a review of another nearby businesses or park location. For example, the beginning of each chapter has "Pick of the Litter", a list of the best of each sub-section. It will say something like "MOST DOG-FRIENDLY PLACES TO EAT", BOB'S DINER, (page 100). Well, thanks for giving me a page number for a thing that has no page numbers. The two stars I've awarded this title are based on the previous 2 editions I've owned (paper books, not Kindle books): past books have been pretty helpful and on a few occasions it's really saved me a lot of time. I'd recommend the current, physical edition of this book, but I absolutely would not recommend the Kindle version right now. If the publisher does eventually update the Kindle version, I'd recommend that you wait until there are reviews so you can figure out if they've actually spent some resources on designing a usable e-book.

We were new to the Bay Area when we purchased this book and it has become our go-to weekend guide! We simply decide where we want to go and then read through the descriptions to see what suits our mood. On really hot days, we'll look for a place that is nestled in a eucalyptus grove or on the beach. We can also pick out where we want to eat before or after our adventure. I haven't been

blown away by the restaurant recommendations, but the park descriptions have been great. We have two smaller dogs and the author is reviewing from a big dog owner's perspective. Again, we just look at the initial summation (how highly rated it is, if it's off-leash or not) and then we look through to see what our dogs will appreciate most. They aren't too interested in getting wet or muddy, but they do love exploring new landscapes with few people around. All in all, this book is absolutely wonderful and we've gotten a lot of use out of it. I only wish they had one for every area!

Such a great book. I give to friends when they get a dog.

I've only had the chance to try a few of the places mentioned in the book but so far it's been good. I am really looking forward to trying out some of the northern California locations next year. Overall I would say this is a great resource for someone with fur children.

Great reference book for a road trip Monterey to San Simeon to Santa Barbara to Paso Robles. Good for dog friendly beaches and places to walk. I give it four stars only because it is a bit dated for lodging and restaurant listings.

Gave this as a gift to my daughter and her family who have adopted a lovely Golden Retriever from rescue. They were thrilled as they love to camp and explore with their family. This book has lots of information which will help them plan their family outings and camping or overnight travel, since now they will be traveling with Charly, the Golden Retriever! As I dog lover myself, I know that you must plan ahead to travel with a pet...and even to hike with a dog, or go to the beach. There are many pet friendly places and this book is a great resource.

This is a great book if you are traveling in California with a dog. Has a lot of the dog parks listed. I appreciate the fact that each town that has something in it has a listings and there is a rating system through out the book so I can tell at a glance what we can do and what the author thought of it. There is also great advice on fun places to go with dogs. My Husband and I grab it and our dog on the weekend and go out and adventure with it. Highly recommend it.

It is very nice to have some inside information on good places to take your dog. This book was helpful BUT it represented itself as being up to date and it was not. It had out of date information as well as missing information that really should have been included. I had the same problem, though

to a lesser degree, with the Oregon version of the book. Despite that drawback, I did have several lovely outings with my dog and did find some nice places to stay in California and Oregon.

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