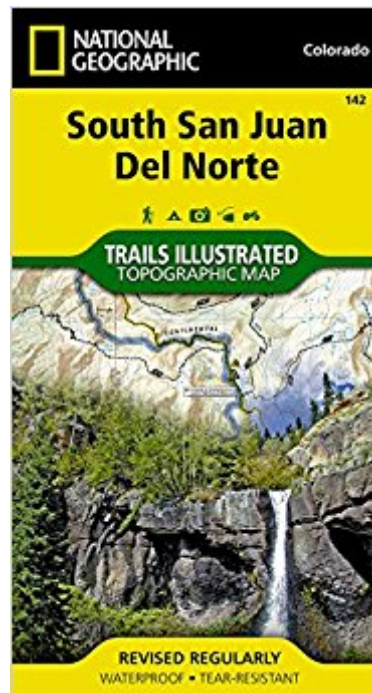




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# South San Juan, Del Norte (National Geographic Trails Illustrated Map)



## Synopsis

Waterproof Tear-Resistant Topographic Map

Expertly researched and created in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management and others, National Geographic's Trails Illustrated map of South San Juan and Del Norte provides an unparalleled tool for exploring this rugged region of southwestern Colorado. The map's coverage includes San Juan and Rio Grande National Forests, South San Juan Wilderness, San Juan and Chalk Mountains, Rio Grande River and the Continental Divide. This map can guide you off the beaten path and back again with mapped trails, color-coded according to their designated usage, including the Continental Divide Trail. The map base includes contour lines and elevations for summits and passes. Private land is clearly marked to avoid any disturbances while exploring the area. Recreation features such as campgrounds, trailheads and overlooks and contact information for various agencies is included as well. Los Caminos Antiguos and Silver Thread Scenic Byways are also marked for those who wish to explore the area by car. Every Trails Illustrated map is printed on "Backcountry Tough" waterproof, tear-resistant paper. A full UTM grid is printed on the map to aid with GPS navigation. Other features found on this map include: Blue Mountain, Rio Grande National Forest, San Juan National Forest, South San Juan Wilderness, Summit Peak. Map Scale = 1:63,360 Sheet Size = 37.75" x 25.5" Folded Size = 4" x 7.5"

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Founded in 1915 as the Cartographic Group, the first division of National Geographic, National

Geographic Maps has been responsible for illustrating the world around us through the art and science of mapmaking. Today, National Geographic Maps continues this mission by creating the world's best wall maps, recreation maps, atlases, and globes which inspire people to care about and explore their world.

I have both the current (2008) and prior (1997) editions of this map. The current version has better shading and detail; it's easier on the eyes. And it shows in valuable detail most of the same trails that the prior edition showed. However, I have to agree with the lone other reviewer to date that the map is missing some routes. I'm most familiar with the area around Cumbres Pass, Colo., at the southern end of the map's south side. Unlike the prior edition, it doesn't show the full extent of the Rio Grande National Forest's Los Pinos Trail No. 736. I know from personal experience that the trail turns from a rough doubletrack into a singletrack around the point where the current map shows the end of the route. It's not wonderfully maintained, but it is easy to follow. At the South San Juan Wilderness boundary, there's a new trail, the No. 735 Flat Trail, shown on the often excellent [redtrails.com](http://redtrails.com) website but not the Forest Service's official site, that skirts the Wilderness boundary, taking one southwest over to the Continental Divide Trail. (The name must be ironic; the trail is very steep.) The map doesn't show the Flat Trail either. In fairness, however, the Flat Trail was built fairly recently and the current edition of the map may have been researched just before the trail was built. From the little bit I know about the north side mountains, southwest of Del Norte, the map appears to be accurate and complete. It's important to maintain perspective. No map is completely accurate, and no map shows every route. This map would be excellent for 99 percent of people visiting the remote and beautiful public lands in the South San Juan-Del Norte area. If you are an extremely accomplished wildlands explorer and seek to go to an exceedingly remote area, you will undoubtedly already know that your life could depend on additional research done beforehand, including obtaining local knowledge, precisely because no one map is entirely reliable. In areas like this, always carry a GPS receiver, and, especially if you're alone, a registered personal locator beacon or similar device as well.

My experience with National Geographic "Trails Illustrated" maps has always been one that ends up in me getting lost. I don't think their maps are created by hikers. You can tell because there are often important details that are left out or misplaced in their maps, such as where a trail crosses another trail or where a stream crosses a trail. These omissions or misprints result in missed turns or getting lost when you are out on the trail. When I was planning a backpacking trip to Colorado

months in advance, I cringed when I discovered that Nat Geo maps were the only ones available for the area I wanted to hike in. I am used to USFS maps, which are of much better quality. I only used this map in the Elk Creek portion. It is missing a key forest road (#126) that parallels the Elk Creek Trail on the other side of the mountain. Had this been printed on the map, I would have realized the mistake I made in my navigation. This omission and missed turn set me back one day and ruined the backpacking trip. Skip the Nat Geo maps and (if they are available for the area) get a USFS (United States Forest Service) map of the area where you want to hike. They are much more accurate and the newer ones that are made in the last few years are quite durable.

Doesn't include the entire South San Juan Wilderness. Requires the Weminuche Wilderness map to see the Quartz Creek Trail.

very useful and much needed for trekking. the san juans are beautiful and the crowds are a non issue. a compass and this map were needed for the hike.

So far the map has been up to date and accurate. I especially like the water resistant paper. Good detail.

Great Product!

Confusing maps for this part of Colorado.

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