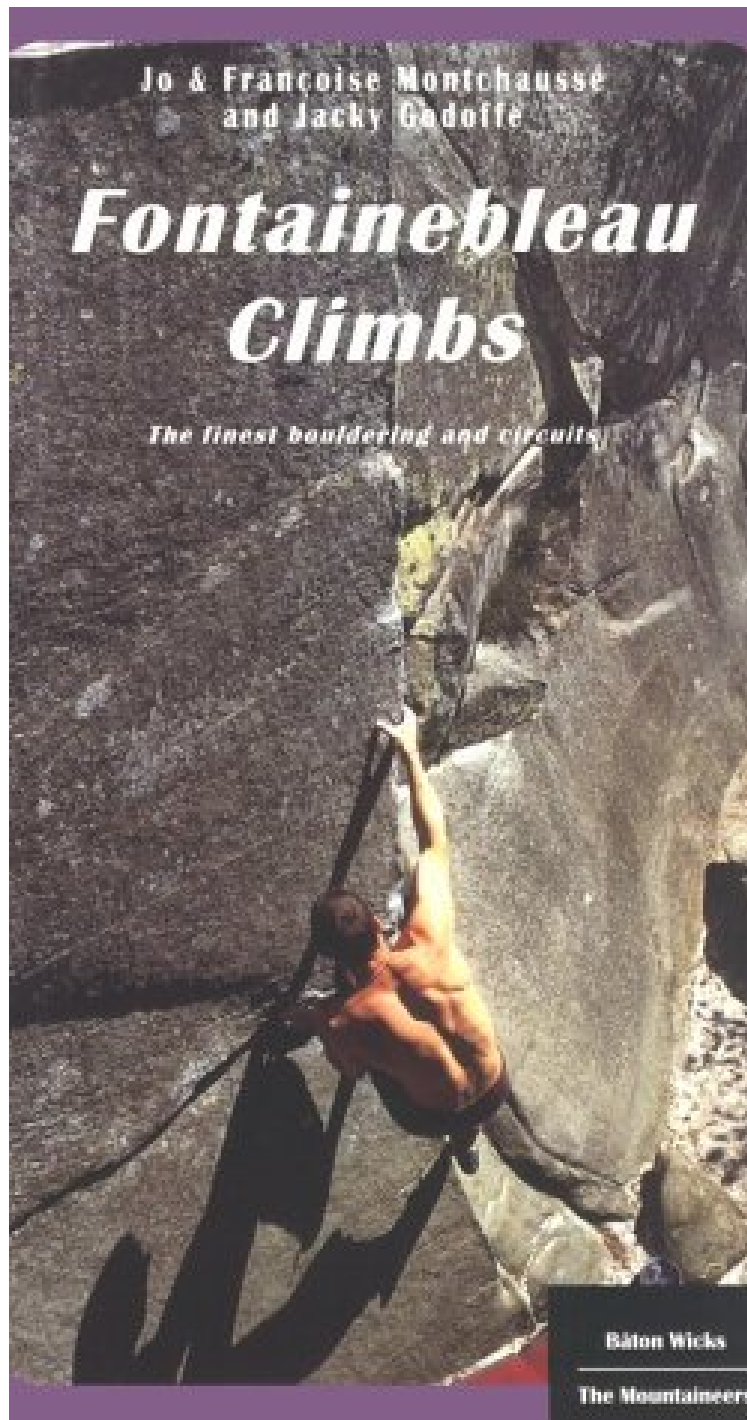


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Fontainebleau Climbs: A Guide to the Best Bouldering and Circuits

Jo Montchausse, Francoise Montchausse, Jacky Godoffe
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Jo Montchause, Francoise Montchause, Jacky Godoffe : Fontainebleau Climbs: A Guide to the Best Bouldering and Circuits before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fontainebleau Climbs: A Guide to the Best Bouldering and Circuits:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. The guide for the ultimate bouldering destination!By QuikdrawWell, what can I say, Fontainebleau is the world's premier bouldering destination. There are thousands of beautiful sandstone boulders strewn through the forests south of Paris and Whether you boulder V0- or V12 (~5a to 8a+) there are literally thousands of great problems for you to do. Go there or be square!This is really the only guide you'll probably ever need whether you plan on visiting for a day, week, month, or dare I say lifetime.Because of the complexity of the forest in general and problems in particular (There are about 3000 problems mapped by this guide!!!) it would be easy to create a guide that was nearly useless. The Montchauss's have done a great job to cut the areas into digestible chunks. Moreover they've tailored the book so that almost whatever length of time you're visiting for and whatever skill level you climb at, it will be extremely useful for locating climbs for you to try. The map graphics are well conceived and easy to use, something like a treasure hunt really!The book is organized primarily by "circuits" which were first created in the 1940's by mountaineers who wanted a way to train for routes. A circuit is a group of problems forming a "trail" that are roughly the same difficulty. Generally a circuit will have about 40 problems in it and there are over 200 of these circuits today ranging in difficulty from childrens to elite. This book covers over 100 of them. There are also "off-circuit" problems which are generally very hard classics. Lists of specific types of problems (traverses, problems to improve balance footwork, and suggested problems to work through grades) compliment the circuit maps. There are also sections and blurbs of history and local color that you can read in-between attempts or while relaxing with a glass of wine!What's missing? Not much, some index of super-classic must do problems would be nice, but then again most of the problems are at least interesting, or would be moderately classic at most areas in the US... A map of Gites and to the Carrefour (supermarket ...) would be nice. I finally did figure out how to get there...mmmm Yum, stinky cheese and great wine!

-- Icons describe routes-popularity, shady or sunny, child-appropriateness, and even distance to the parking lot, among others-- Comprehensive appendices tell how to get there and places to stay-- Includes tips for the first-time visitorLocated near Paris, Fontainebleau is one of Europe's most popular rock climbing and bouldering destinations. This user-friendly guide offers all the information a climber needs when making a trip to the region: the best sites and routes, difficulty ratings, suggestions for ideal climbs with children, and more. Fontainebleau Climbs is chock-full of inspiring color photos, and detailed maps show a variety of routes to provide options for different levels of difficulty.

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