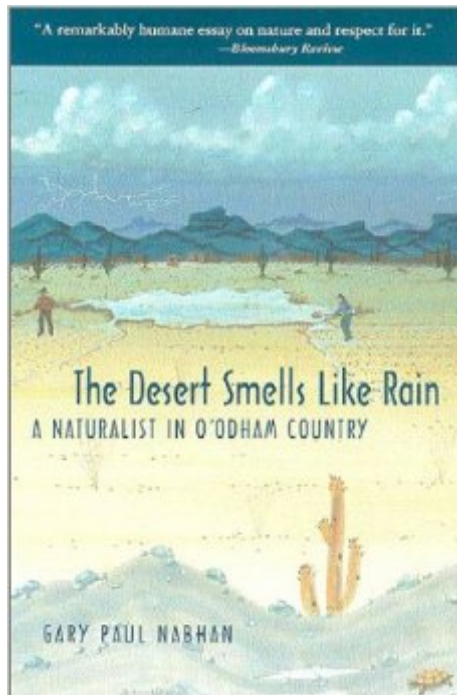


The book was found

# The Desert Smells Like Rain: A Naturalist In O'odham Country



## Synopsis

Longtime residents of the Sonoran Desert, the Tohono O'odham people have spent centuries living off the land—a land that most modern citizens of southern Arizona consider totally inhospitable. Ethnobotanist Gary Nabhan has lived with the Tohono O'odham, long known as the Papagos, observing the delicate balance between these people and their environment. Bringing O'odham voices to the page at every turn, he writes elegantly of how they husband scant water supplies, grow crops, and utilize wild edible foods. Woven through his account are coyote tales, O'odham children's impressions of the desert, and observations on the political problems that come with living on both sides of an international border. Whether visiting a sacred cave in the Baboquivari Mountains or attending a saguaro wine-drinking ceremony, Nabhan conveys the everyday life and extraordinary perseverance of these desert people in a book that has become a contemporary classic of environmental literature.

## Book Information

Paperback: 148 pages

Publisher: University of Arizona Press (April 1, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0816522499

ISBN-13: 978-0816522491

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars— See all reviews— (8 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #581,855 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Ecosystems > Deserts #728 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Nature Writing & Essays #1210 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Human Geography

## Customer Reviews

Nabhan gives us two perspectives on the O'odham. First, his training as a botanist exposes us to the O'odham use of wild species, both plant and animal. He also introduces us to ecology of the desert by showing how human use of an oasis interacts with its use by birds, providing details on population numbers and species. As a bonus he analyzes how the O'odham diet may relate to their diabetes. Second, he gives us a brief introduction to O'odham ethnography, and readers will find his description of the O'odham wine drinking (fertility) ceremony interesting although I would have

appreciated his setting of the ritual in its larger context i.e. Mexico. Although the ceremony today is rare, or kept secret, it was common in the 1950s. For a fictional account of one based on numerous ethnographic accounts see, IN SAGUARO'S SHADOW. [ernestschusky.com](http://ernestschusky.com)

My wife and I found it interesting how the Tohono O'odham used rainfall alone to successfully subsist in the desert. We were also fascinated with the knowledge and use of herbs to maintain their physical well-being and to ward off disease. We found some of the folk tales amusing. Having lived in the Tucson area, we found we could identify with the book. We thoroughly enjoyed it. The author did an excellent job of capturing the essence of the Tohono O'odham (Papago) culture and lifestyle.

Being a winter resident of this area of Arizona I learned a great deal about the Indian culture. Despite the book's having been written in the early 80's it is relevant today as the impotence of water conservation becomes greater than ever. I sent the book to my grandson, an environmental engineer senior, for the discussion of Indian agriculture was so interesting and informative.

My favorite Nabhan book, as a desert grasslands dweller, just the title spurs my imagination.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Desert Smells Like Rain: A Naturalist in O'odham Country Desert Smells Like Rain: A Naturalist in Papago Indian Country David Smells!: A Diaper David Book Rain, Rain, Go Away If I Ran the Rain Forest: All About Tropical Rain Forests (Cat in the Hat's Learning Library) Prince: A Secret Biography - A Rare Biography Of A Musical Legend - Purple Rain Music Icon (Prince Secret Biography - Purple Rain) Desert Boats. Predynastic and Pharaonic era Rock-Art in Egypt's Central Eastern Desert: Distribution, dating and interpretation (BAR International) Sonoran Desert Food Plants: Edible Uses for the Desert's Wild Bounty A Natural History of the Sonoran Desert (Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum) Acadia: The Complete Guide: Acadia National Park & Mount Desert Island (Acadia the Complete Guide Mount Desert Island & Acadia National Park) In the Heart of the Desert: The Spirituality of the Desert Fathers and Mothers (Treasures of the World's Religions) Southwestern Desert Plants: A Folding Pocket Guide to Familiar Species (Pocket Naturalist Guide Series) Seasons in the Desert: A Naturalist's Notebook Southwestern Desert Life: A Folding Pocket Guide to Familiar Plants & Animals (Pocket Naturalist Guide Series) Naturalist's Guide to the Atlantic Seashore: Beach Ecology From The Gulf Of Maine To Cape Hatteras (Naturalist's Guide Series) The Deserts of the Southwest: A Sierra Club Naturalist's Guide (Sierra Club Naturalist's Guides) Know Your Onions - Graphic Design: How to Think Like a Creative, Act

like a Businessman and Design Like a God A Desert Country Near the Sea: A Natural History of the Cape Region of Baja California The Country Diary of An Edwardian Lady: A facsimile reproduction of a 1906 naturalist's diary Victoria: Romantic Country Style: Creating the English Country Look in Your Home

[Dmca](#)