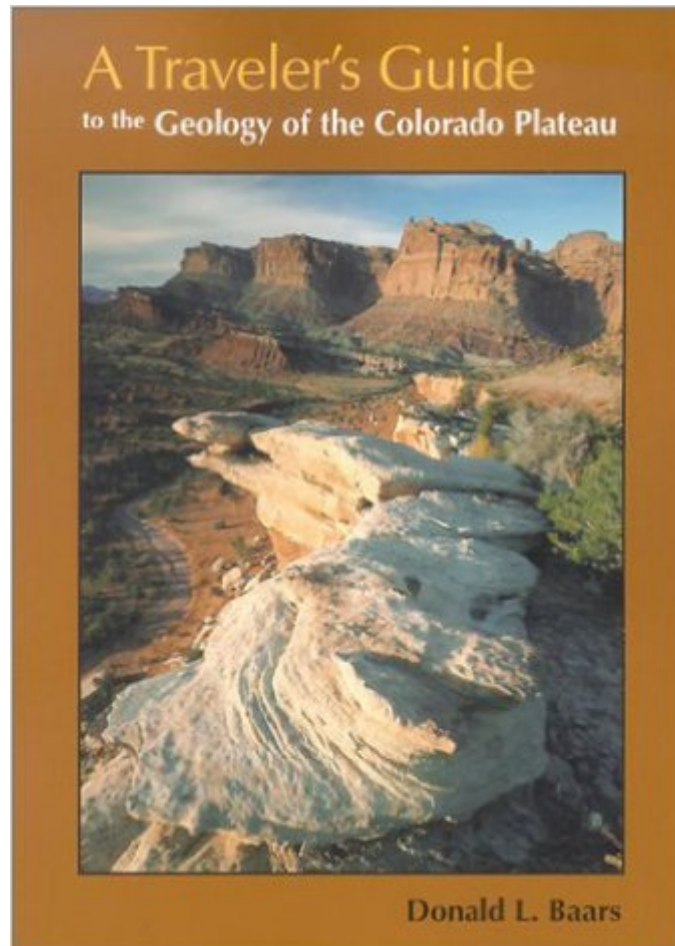


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A Traveler's Guide To The Geology Of The Colorado Plateau



Synopsis

Driving across I-70 in southern Utah one can't help but wonder about the magnificent upturned rocks of the San Rafael Reef. With *A Travelers Guide to the Geology of the Colorado Plateau* in hand, you'll soon discover that you were driving through Page and Navajo Sandstone formations, sharply folded into a monocline along one of the "Basin and Range" fault lines. Nearing Flagstaff, Arizona, on Highway 89, you will learn that Mt. Humphrey of the San Francisco Peaks, a Navajo Sacred Mountain, was once an active volcano. Keep reading and you'll find many things worth a slight detour. *A Traveler's Guide to the Geology of the Colorado Plateau* will enrich and enliven all of your trips through the varied landscapes of the Colorado Plateau as you learn about the geological forces that have shaped its natural features. The mile-by-mile road logs will take you from Vernal, Utah, in the north to the southernmost reaches of the Plateau in Sedona, Arizona; from the red rocks of Cedar Breaks National Monument near Cedar City, Utah, to the edges of the soaring peaks of the San Juan Mountains near Durango, Colorado. The most comprehensive geological guide to the Colorado Plateau

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is another of Donald Baars' series of excellent geology books. Centered on the Four Corners, the Colorado Plateau displays some of the most varied and spectacular geology found anywhere. To make reading and understanding easier, the author divides the Plateau into seven smaller units, e.g. the Paradox Basin. Each section begins with an explanation of its geologic history then identifies every rock formation seen along what appears to be every road that crosses it. This latter

is done at a level of detail I've seen only one other place (Roadside Kansas by Buchannan and McCauley). If you enjoy knowing just what you're looking at when you drive through this area or, like me, have a developed a hobby of collecting rock samples, this is a marvelously useful book.

The guidebook is useful in some ways, but woefully lacking in others. The organization uses precise mileage, which is helpful in finding the features Baars mentions. The geological cross-sections are clearly diagrammed and the prose is accessible to the layman. However, the photos are poor (mostly taken under the high-angle mid-day sun) and the lack of an index is absolutely unacceptable. Once you are on the road and have found the chapter, then it is easy to follow, but it is frustrating when trying to find a specific area or topic while reading/researching at home since there is no index to refer to.

Hard to read and not so easy to understand. Guess you need to be a geology major to decipher it.

I like the writing style of the author. I won't vote anything down, but it would be great if ALL the photos were color. It would also be great to have GPS coordinates with the mile-post information. How about GPS info and many more color photos on a DVD in a future edition?

good stuff for road trips.

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