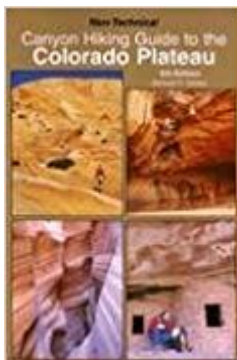


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Non-Technical Canyon Hiking Guide To The Colorado Plateau



Synopsis

This is a hiking guide to the non-technical canyons of the Colorado Plateau. The Colorado Plateau is a large physiographic region which roughly covers the southeastern half of Utah, the northern half of Arizona, the western fifth of Colorado and a small area in the northwestern corner of New Mexico. It basically includes the middle section of the Colorado River drainage. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The author was born in 1943, and experienced his earliest years of life in eastern Utah's Uinta Basin; first near the town of Myton, then Roosevelt. In 1954, the family moved to Provo, where he attended Provo High School, and later Brigham Young University, where he earned a B.S. degree in Sociology. Shortly thereafter he discovered that was the wrong subject, so he attended the University of Utah, where he received his Master of Science degree in Geography, finishing that in June, 1970. It was then real life began, for on June 9, 1970, he put a pack on his back and started traveling for the first time. Since then he has seen 223 countries, republics, islands, or island groups. All this wandering has resulted in a number of books written and published by himself. Here are his books, listed in the order they were first published: Climber's and Hiker's Guide to the World's Mountains and Volcanos (4th Edition), Utah Mountaineering Guide (3rd Edition); China on Your Own and the Hiking Guide to China's Nine Sacred Mountains (3rd Edition-Out of Print); Canyon Hiking Guide to the Colorado Plateau (4th Edition); Hiking and Exploring Utah's San Rafael Swell (3rd Edition); Hiking and Exploring Utah's Henry Mountains and Robbers Roost (Revised

Edition); Hiking and Exploring the Paria River (3rd Edition); Hiking and Climbing in the Great Basin National Park (Wheeler Peak, Nevada); Boater's Guide to Lake Powell--Featuring Hiking, Camping, Geology, History and Archaeology (2nd Updated Edition); Climbing and Exploring Utah's Mt. Timpanogos; River Guide to Canyonlands National Park & Vicinity; Hiking, Biking and Exploring Canyonlands National Park & Vicinity; The Story of Black Rock, Utah; and Hiking, Climbing and Exploring Western Utah's Jack Watson's Ibex Country. He also helped his mother Venetta B. Kelsey, write & publish a book about the town she was born and raised in, Life on the Black Rock Desert--A History of Clear Lake, Utah. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Pretty comprehensive guide. As other note, the author has some rather unusual styles and quirks. This is a guide for experienced hikers that are looking for e.g. trailheads and key information. I'd call it an 'old-style' guide; it's not well suited for e.g. casual tourists blowing through an area, but seems to be tailored for those looking for out-of-the way places. This is a great guide for its comprehensiveness, and for the experienced hiker will greatly facilitate trips to more out-of-the-way places. A wonderful guide for planning adventures. The author's hiking times are as you might expect from someone that writes a guidebook: they are reasonable for a very fit, very experienced hiker that's used to the terrain and moves very quickly, and doesn't stop much or long to look at scenery. This is not your average hiker, so most people will need to calibrate to these times, and I suspect most people will want to increase the times by 20-30% for a moderate pace and some water/snack stops. Trail runners will of course reduce times ... you get the idea- all times are estimates, but most guides err on what is (for me) a too long estimate. This book bucks that trend so be warned.

I have visted Utah from the east coast 6x. Each trip has been an adventure and this book is packed with my next adventures. I especially appreciate the area around the Comb Wash and this book gives great detail into accessing historic ruins, petroglyphs and rock art along with the pure scenic beauty of the area. Maps are included and I am using this book to plan my next adventure.

Covers a lot of area in the four corners area as well as most of southern Utah. Biggest complaint is that it is poorly organized with no index. A listing of the areas is the closest thing to an index and it is arranged by state roughly in order of area. Print is small and the write-ups, while informative, are a bit hard to follow. Neat pictures though.

We love all of Kelsey's books about hiking. This one too. Though it is very technical (too much info), at times, it gives you more than any other hiking book I've ever seen for Utah. And awesome photos.

The information is sketchy this is more for experienced canyon hikers and some rope work is required for some of the canyons. The descriptions are mostly just a series of short notes and the how to get to the hikes is difficult in some cases to follow. However there is not much else and with the book and the Internet more detailed information can be found on the majority of the canyons.

This has been very helpful for our trips to Southern Utah. The pictures are nice and help to find places worth visiting. The maps are somewhat crude but when paired with a real map I find them beneficial.

While missing an index is a somewhat minor fault in a "non-technical" book such as this, it is hard to forgive the publisher/author for using such small type. This book is difficult to read in the best of situations. It also uses a paper of high grade glossiness, which looks really great, but makes the book about 2x heavier than it should be for a guide. Essentially, as long as you don't take this book with you on your hikes, it has everything you will need for hiking the canyons.

The content in this book is second to none. That's the hard part and the author gets it right. However, the format and organization make the book practically unreadable. This isn't a novel, you need to be able to get to the page you want to read fast -- but that's totally impossible without a usable table of content and an index. Also, the font is too small and I don't know how he did this, but he managed to have no whitespace between rows. It's very hard on the eyes in good light -- let alone in a tent. I guess I'm packing a magnifying glass and a spotlight. Also, why does he think "photo" is spelled "foto." It's distracting. If he hired an editor and relayed out the book, it would be great. I could have returned it but I didn't which tells you how good the content is. Heck, I guess I would do the job myself if he promised to guide me on some of these trips.

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