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Grand Canyon: Window Of Time



Synopsis

With over 500,000 copies sold in 5 languages, this is a "must have" book on the Grand Canyon. "The Grand Canyon," available again in paperback, shows the elements of color, contour, and immensity of the Grand Canyon. Stewart Aitchison details the area's biology and geology, taking readers from the Sonoran-type desert at the bottom of the Grand Canyon to alpine tundra at the summit of the nearby San Francisco Peaks. Aitchison details the area's natural and human history, and also introduces readers to the variety of plant and animal communities that reside there.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

" . . . full of those pictures you hope you'll take, if only you have time" --Popular Photography Magazine "... a tantalizing overview of the history, the values, the facts, and the mysteries that have inspired life-times of human endeavor and contemplation." --Jim Ruch, Grand Canyon Trust "The number of books on the Grand Canyon is almost as vast... but few present the subject so effectively for the layperson." --Library Journal

Stewart Aitchison has been exploring, studying, and writing about the Grand Canyon region for almost 40 years. When not writing, he escorts natural history trips on the Colorado Plateau, Southeast Alaska, and Mexico's Baja Peninsula. He makes his home in Flagstaff, Arizona, with his wife Ann and daughter Kte.

This kind of large-format book illustrated with high quality color plates is always available to tempt impulse buyers in the onsite gift shop. There are several such outlets in the huge area comprising the Grand Canyon National Park; however, online prices for these books tend to be 20% to 30% lower than the premium prices usually found in these onsite shops. This Sierra Press book is authored by Stewart Aitchison, something of a lifelong enthusiast and expert on the Grand Canyon and on several other National Park sites in the US. The book has mostly informative and well-written text double-column printed on about half of the 64 high quality gloss pages; the remaining pages carry full-color photographic plates of the stunning landscape by various different photographers. The chapters cover: 1. An overview of the Canyon, the architecture and railroad 2. The more-visited South Rim, Grand Canyon Village and the relevant geology 3. The less-visited North Rim, including an amusing page about the two different squirrel species 4. Below the rim, hiking in the Canyon and weather issues, place names 5. The Colorado River and an article on John Wesley Powell 6. The history of human habitation in the area 7. Field guides to the wildlife 8. Resources & other reading suggested by the author

The National Parks have been described as "America's greatest idea". Certainly they are managed well and, as a non-American visitor, I would concede they are almost universally excellent. The natural and historic features of the landscape are well showcased; facilities are good; ranger-services and policing uniformly polite, non-intrusive but effective; and a sense of respect for the place and freedom to roam is instilled in the visitor which is an object lesson in how to do these things right. The Grand Canyon is a prime example of this excellent management and planning, and differs from some other sites in the US only in its enormous scale. The Canyon has its own airport where you can fly direct to a number of destinations including Las Vegas, or fly over the Canyon in a helicopter or light aircraft (a stunning experience under no circumstances to be missed). The perimeter roads offer frequent stopping places for spectacular overlooks and photo-shoots, and all the parking is free. Even the cafe food is reasonably edible. This is a good coffee-table book and the outstanding photography in particular does justice to the impressive magnificence of the landscape of this, one of the planet's great natural wonders. Looking at this book may even make you want to visit.

Memories of the Grand Canyon. Beautiful images. If you have been to the Grand Canyon this is the perfect book to remember the views.

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