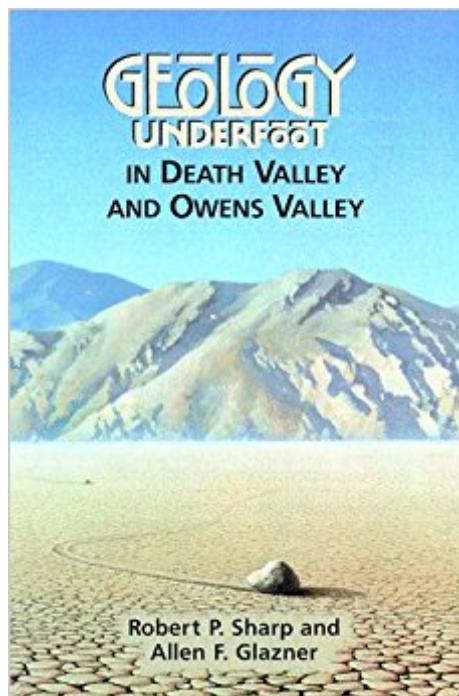


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Geology Underfoot In Death Valley And Owens Valley



Synopsis

Eastern California boasts the greatest dryland relief in the contiguous United States, between 14,499-foot Mount Whitney in the Sierra Nevada and minus-282-foot Badwater Basin in Death Valley. That relief offers a rich variety of environments--and spectacular geology. Through driving and walking tours, *Geology Underfoot in Death Valley and Owens Valley* provides an on-the-ground look at the processes sculpting the terrain in this land of extremes. Illustrated with photographs, maps, and diagrams, each geological vignette weaves the tale of a particular scene, feature, or relationship in the landscape. Some sketches ponder questions that have puzzled geologists: what formed the turtlebacks in the Black Mountains and how do stones mysteriously slide on desolate Racetrack Playa? Others spotlight the role of volcanoes and earthquakes as landscape artists: the superb lava columns of Devil's Postpile, the massive steam explosion at Ubehebe Crater, and fault scarps that shape a golf course's greens. Still others focus on less obvious but equally powerful geologic processes: boulders shattered by salt crystals and rocks blasted by windblown sand. Together, these snapshots introduce readers to eastern California's rich, dynamic geology.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Robert Sharp and Allen Glazner are to geology what Carl Sagan was to astronomy." --Eclectic Book Reviews

Robert P. Sharp first visited Death Valley and Owens Valley as a child around 1920, and he

continues to lead geology field trips to the area. Sharp is a professor emeritus at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena and received the Penrose Medal of the Geological Society of America. He and Allen Glazner cowrote *Geology Underfoot in Southern California*. Allen F. Glazner holds a Ph.D. in geology from the University of California at Los Angeles and is currently a professor of geology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. A native Californian, he has done geological research in the Sierra Nevada and the Mojave Desert since his undergraduate days at Pomona College.

Packed full of information. I appreciate the fact that Sharp takes the time to define and clarify information so that a novice (me) can enjoy reading the book. I've learned a lot about an area that I took for granted. I can't wait to get back out there to see and experience Death Valley with a fresh, more informative set of eyes. And, yes, I'll be bringing this book with me.

Most years we vacation in Mammoth. This book describes a number of convenient and interesting side trips to take with the family. We wander around, sometimes visiting the same features, sometimes visiting a new site. Always appreciating more & more of the world around us. My children have a much better feel for geological processes and their impact on the landscape than do their peers. The book starts with a five page description of Eastern California's geological history, then jumps into 30 sites of interest, nearly evenly distributed between Death Valley & vicinity and the Eastern Sierra & vicinity. A glossary, "Sources of Supplementary Information," and an index round out the book. Each site receives its own chapter, replete with photographs, maps, geological diagrams, and even driving directions, as needed. I'm not a serious geologist, but landscape features fascinate me. The explanations that the authors give work well for me: I can understand them well enough to explain them to children. If you're interested in how the land has been shaped, if you're willing to turn off the tube & make contact with the natural world, then this book is for you. One of the best "field guides" to geology I own. One of my favorites, too. (The companion volume, *GEOLOGY UNDERFOOT SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA*, is also an excellent book).

I've always had an interest in geology, but have had only a little formal education in the subject. I've also been to Death Valley and Owens Valley a few dozen times. The accuracy and attention to detail in this book along with the vivid descriptions often made me feel like I was back there as I read. On more than one occasion, I could replay what I had seen when I was out there as I read (in some cases picturing things that I had hardly taken notice of when physically there). The many

photographs and diagrams also helped immensely. The occasional touches of humor made reading fun, and it being a series of vignettes, it's easy to cover a chapter in a short time and not worry about setting it down until later. I highly recommend this to anyone with an interest in geology and how the area got to be what it is today, and you don't have to be an expert to enjoy the book.

This was a replacement for a copy I had managed to lose. Very informative. I keep it in the car for my western deserts trips. Well organized. Definitely for anyone interested in Western geology.

Death Valley is one of the most interesting places on earth and is loaded with geological features that you just HAVE to know more about. I am so glad to have this book!

A really good review of death valley and surroundings geology, easy to understand, includes whats not in research papers.

locates many geologic features in the area. Technical enough to be appreciated by geologists (as I am), but very understandable for the lay person.

great

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