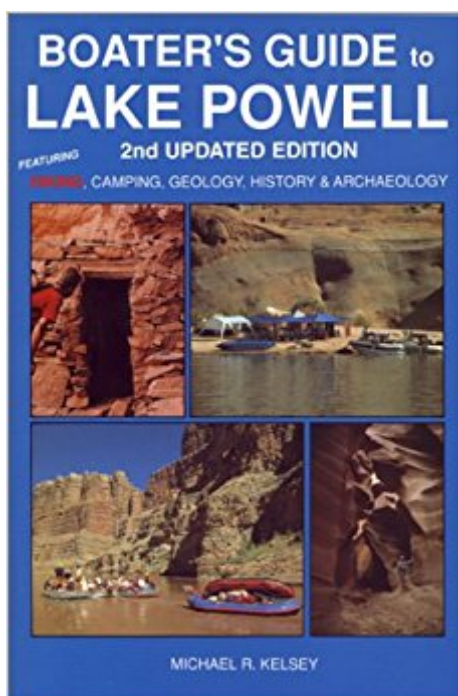


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# Boater's Guide To Lake Powell : Featuring HIKING, Camping, Geology, History & Archaeology



## Synopsis

This book is a guide to Lake Powell, which has formed behind the Glen Canyon Dam in the middle part of the Colorado River. The dam is located in extreme northern Arizona, near the town of Page, but 99.9% of Lake Powell is in Utah. It has a shoreline of 2900 kms or 1800 miles. The emphasis of this book is on hiking with boater access. Also covered are potential campsites, geology, history of the early pioneers and cattlemen; the ones who came to build trails, look for minerals, and explore. Excerpts from the John W. Powell and the Dominguez & Escalante expedition diaries have been added in the appropriate locations, plus archeological sites and their history are documented using studies from the Universities of Utah and Northern Arizona from the 1950's, before the lake covered many of the sites. There are 43 mapped areas, which show inlets and the canyons above, and hiking and camping information. Shown on these maps are Anasazi ruins, petroglyphs, and other information for mostly day-hiking. All sections of the lake are included, from Cataract Canyon in the upper end, to the San Juan Arm; plus the Escalante River drainage and its many great hiking canyons, and Rainbow Bridge, the one of the largest in the world. There are also lots of great slot canyons with boater access only; these include West Canyon, maybe the best all-around canyon hike on the Colorado Plateau. This 2nd Updated (3rd) Edition has 251 photographs, including 10 color fotos on the front & back covers.

## 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.

Like other reviewers, I found this somewhat helpful on a recent boating trip to Powell but it was more of a historical record than guide book. I've got several of Kelsey's books and have had issues (sometimes serious) with all of them, and unfortunately this was no exception. But, it's really the only thing available that was written to serve water-based hikers like me.

Kelseys guide books are the best. Just keep in mind that few people can hike at his level and adjust your time estimate accordingly, and get a real map and check with rangers before heading out to find if conditions have changed. All of which he recommends in the guidebooks.

From what I can tell, Kelsey appears to be the foremost authority on Lake Powell and the surrounding area. I can't see how you could get more information out of another book. That being said, it isn't the kind of book you read cover to cover for sheer enjoyment of reading and learning. Think of it as a user manual for the lake and you will be on the right track. There are a lot of pictures

(in black and white) and a lot of very detailed maps and informative graphs. To use this book, I would suggest that you plan your trip and then consult the book to see what it says about that area. If there is ANYTHING of interest to be seen there, it will tell you where and what it is. It is divided into the following parts: I - Condensed history of the lake area (19 pages) - very fact filled (survey like). II - The marinas on Lake Powell and other possible launch sites along with weather and climate for each season, a word about hiking season and equipment, photography and film type, insects and pest, drinking water, and places to camp and their fees. III - Geology, the types of stone seen in the colorful strata and suggested maps for the area. Then it launches into sites of interest in the area and gives good maps (quite technical) of each. There are 34 of these and may well cover all of the canyons and hikes on the lake. If you want to get the most out of your trip, I would highly recommend this book. If you were wanting to just read about the history of the area, it will be about as much fun as reading the dictionary.

I definitely would have never bought this book if I had any inkling of the content it provided. If you are looking for a book on where to go to, in order to see what the lake provides from your boat, boy, forget this book. It's all about getting out of the boat and hiking. And it isn't even clear how to get to those sites. The writing is deplorable, with misspellings, grammatical errors and rambling. One section I read aloud to my friends on the boat (as an example of how bad it is) started with how to get somewhere, went halfway through the details and then segways off into something entirely different. The directions were useless. GPS coordinates would improve this book tremendously, so then I could give it three stars (maybe). I've never, ever seen type that small in a book and the lines so close together (have your glasses ready!). How, in this day and age, you can't use spellcheck, grammarcheck and a proofreader, is a mystery. If I read one more "the author...", What books does "the author" read that have "the author..." written in it five hundred times? The maps are hand drawn, not North up and with no clear landmarks and detailed distance to judge where you possibly could be. We had two days on the lake with an expensive, rental boat and wanted to see significant areas. We should have thrown the book overboard. But, we didn't want to litter. My sister had come all the way from Illinois and we wanted to show her petroglyphs. Forget that, he tells you that a whole cove has "some petroglyphs". You end up squinting at the cliffs the entire way. Why, WHY was it called "the Boaters Guide"? Honestly, I have never been so disappointed in a book and I've read hundreds. I can't even understand why a hiker would want it with all the "the author found...", the tiny print with the narrowest lines I've ever seen. Guess they had to save on how many pages the book contained. Suggestion, take out all of the "the author saw..." You'd think I'd want my money

back, but that pales to the anger I feel over being completely unprepared and frustrated on my short time on the lake. "The author" of this review would suggest not buying the book.

After decades of saying that America will soon adopt the metric system Mr. Kelsey finally puts distances and elevations in miles/feet in addition to meters. His hikes also include dates and lake level at the time as this has a big effect on what you will find when you go. I had his Second Edition of this book, which was written when the lake was near full (3700 feet above sea level). The Fifth Edition was researched in more recent times when the lake was around 3600 feet. His maps also show the water line in some of the canyons at these lower lake levels, in addition to the high water mark that you will find on any other map of Lake Powell. It still has all of the great geology and history that you come to expect from a Kelsey guidebook. Although it is called the "Boater's Guide", it is really a hiking guide. Don't expect to find too much advice on boating here.

The content is very good and very useful, but the letters (font) are too small and the space between the lines is smaller than the standard for most books, this makes it difficult to read. You need to buy a map to complement the reading/exploration of the region.

Better suited for the adventurers. It did give decent descriptions but once I flipped through it, it was obvious that it didn't suit our water sport needs. Take advantage of reviewing a few of its' pages (if possible) before ordering to make sure it's what you're looking for.

The book has some good info and there is not much out there as far as detailed guides to Lake Powell but the print is small and really crammed in on the pages, it makes it very difficult to read and I have 20/20 vision. So the info is good but read it twice before you go or else you will have no use for it.

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