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Traveling America's Loneliest Road: A Geologic And Natural History Tour Through Nevada Along U.S. Highway 50



Synopsis

A guide to what some call America's loneliest road Highway 50 between Lake Tahoe and Great Basin National Park. It takes the reader through historic mining towns, the Nevada gold belt, ghost towns, petroglyph sites, rock collecting localities, and wildlife viewing areas along the way.

Book Information

Series: Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology Special Publication (Book 26)

Spiral-bound: 132 pages

Publisher: Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology (August 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1888035056

ISBN-13: 978-1888035056

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 11.3 x 0.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #653,353 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in Books > Travel > United States > Nevada > General #33 in Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Geology > Historical #155 in Books > Travel > Specialty Travel > Travel with Pets

Customer Reviews

Joseph V. Tingley is an economic geologist with the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology in Reno. Over the past 40 years, he has examined prospects, mines, and mining campus throughout Nevada and the Great Basin. Kris Ann Pizarro is a cartographer and technical illustrator with the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology. A Nevada native, she has maintained a lifelong interest in studying and photographing the state's plants and wildlife.

This is a must have for those planning a trip across the loneliest road in America. My son & I used this book to help us find some fantastic places to camp, during our month long trip across Nevada. This book has great information on some little known history of highway 50.

"Close enough for government work" is a slam with a core message that is demolished by Tingley and Pizarro's book. The inside cover makes it clear that this book, published by the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, is keyed to the designation by the Nevada Legislature of US 50 as the official "Loneliest Road." Thus forewarned to what by conventional wisdom ought to be a badly-organized

piece of legislation-inspired junk, I was blown out of the water (OK, sand) by the photos (plenty of color but also outstanding B&W), organization, and clear and enthusiastic writing. The emphasis is on geology over social history, but the interaction between the two is always made clear. And it's not just history--wise comments re the possible sound of Sand Mountain versus the reality of OHV roaring alert readers to what is worth stopping for. Anyone traveling through Nevada on US 50 as opposed to I-80 or I-15 must be a tourist. This book gets granular for you.

What a great road trip companion. Gonna be hitting highway 50 multiple times this year and look forward to this wonderful resource.

This guide is so much fun! We always take it with us when we travel highway 50.

Driving through Nevada can be a speedy trip just to get to the other side or a leisurely, exploration using this book. Frequent stops to chat with towns people, picnic in city parks, learn about silver mining or see a night sky filled with stars.

I only learned about this book just before our trip began, and there wasn't time to order it. I searched several communities for this book before finding it at the Economy Drug Store in Ely, Nevada. I also purchased guides from the same series for Highway 93, and later, the Reno area guide. The only drawback was that we were driving east to west, and the guide was oriented the other way, so we were paging through it backward to identify mines, geologic features, interesting sites, and more. By the way, it also reads well forward. I especially like the mining and geologic detail, something usually omitted by the travel book writers who are busy hunting for their next gourmet French restaurant. I would not travel without these three books, and I suspect one of my previous travel guides will be retired in favor of one of these. The spiral binding makes it easy to hold the book open at the right area, the high quality paper means no tearing and wear (as long as you take reasonable care), and the color sections are delightful as well. By the way, the Toiyabe Cafe in Austin, NV, is a terrific place. Their winter hours are only 6 am to 2 pm, so if you are on the road, plan to be in the right place at the right time. It was one of the best meals we had on the trip. Back to this book - I found only one consistent error - the authors can't spell Haslam - it appears as Haslum throughout the text, but it is correct in captions. I'll forgive them for this, as a good job was done on the rest of it. This book assured that we would miss very little on the main highway, and we always knew what to look for in advance. Muddy conditions made it impractical to leave improved roads (we tried), but we

had a great time on the highway. I hope that more areas of Nevada will be covered by this series - I suspect there's probably a Las Vegas one in the works. I especially liked the explanations of things like why tailings are a different color - no weathering, and they may be of a different composition than the surface rock, and from the Reno book, the explanation of self-sorted stone stripes. I didn't even know that these things were an occurrence - I thought it was just the soil eroding away from low areas and exposing the rock. By the way, if you follow this guide, be sure to view the copper mine in Ruth, NV, (out of Ely) from the overlook. The overlook itself was closed, but we watched the haul trucks and every other piece of heavy equipment traveling on the haul roads. Even with persistent falling snow and fog, we saw a lot, and look forward to seeing the place again when the sun is out.

I live in western Nevada and have had the opportunity to travel this road many times on my exploration of the state. This book is the best one that you will find that goes into great detail about the geology, history, and sights along Highway 50. It's very professionally done and goes into great detail. It's fascinating to read it even if you haven't travelled it. (I had the unique opportunity last year to do this trip on a bicycle over a period of a week. That REALLY allows you to see things you would miss in a car.) Many people just want to drive through Nevada as quickly as possible getting to California or other destinations. That's too bad because they miss a lot of very interesting western history. Nevada is the state with the largest number of mountain ranges in the US. When you travel east/west across the state, you have to go over them. These large changes in elevation gives rise to the wide diversity of plants and animals that are associated with these various zones. All you have to do is just go off the main roads down some of the valleys and you will find many old ghost townss--seeÂ Nevada Ghost Towns and Mining CampsÂ and Stan Paher's "Nevada Ghost Towns and Desert Atlas", Vol. 1 Northern Nevada--hot springs, aspen groves, and idyllic camping spots by a stream with very few people. It is truly "The Big Empty", where one can find many unique individuals . (A good companion book along these lines is "Passing Through" by Richard Menzies.) There are still many ranchers that live in these valleys. It takes a certain kind of person to make a go of it under these remote conditions. This book is a great guide to what is available along Highway 50 and I can't recommend it enough.

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