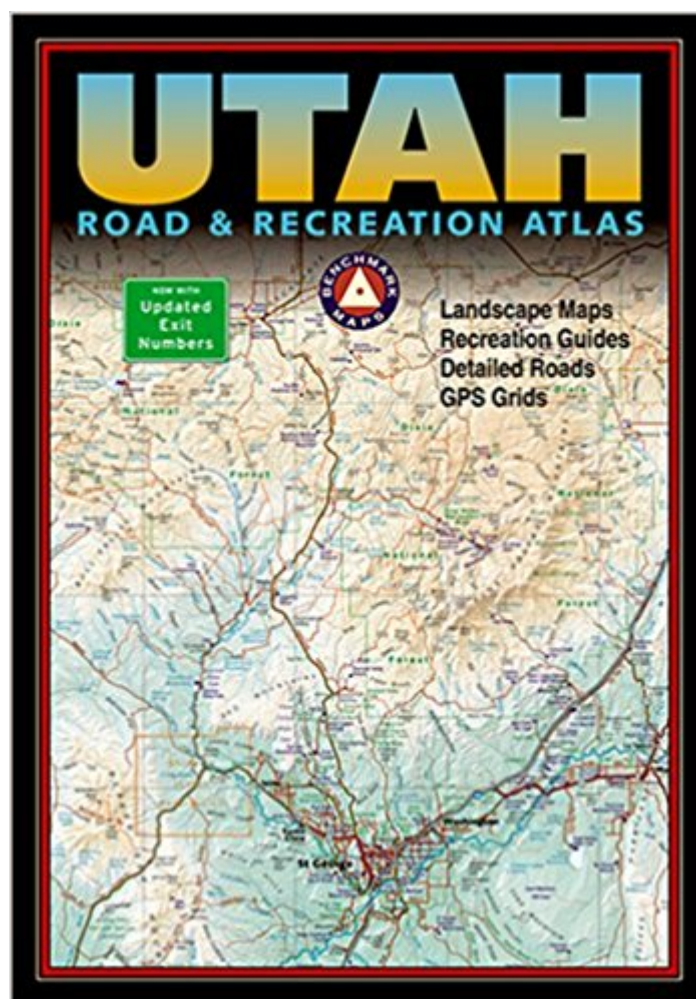


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Benchmark Utah Road & Recreation Atlas - Third Edition (Benchmark Map: Utah Road & Recreation Atlas)



Synopsis

Utah, with its flat-topped mountains, deep-gouged canyons and salt deserts, deserves an atlas that matches its dynamic scenery. Benchmark's Utah atlas is it! There you'll find hundreds of recreation sites, fishing spots, hunting areas and a myriad of other things to do in the Beehive State. Landscape Maps show all drivable Utah roads, classed by surface and purpose, and thousands of campgrounds and other destinations.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Benchmark are absolutely the best road atlases out there. I have the AZ, UT, OR, and CA maps that I have purchased for trips (I use my CA one all the time, but I live here) and find them invaluable. I can always find my way when lost, and they really do a great job of showing detail that you wouldn't expect, even in metro areas. They show the most random and remote Forest Service or BLM roads, and points of interest on those roads that you would otherwise need specialty maps to see. If there's a dirt road or otherwise going there, these maps show it. Highly recommended!

If your're going to Utah and plan on doing any driving there,whether your're staying on the main roads or driving on the back roads,Benchmark Road and Recreation Atlas is the book to buy.It lists the scenic byways,the backways and points of interest along the way.This book covers just about any recreational activity you can think of,from amusement parks to fishing,boating,sking,rafting and lots more.It's also very good for finding many of the hiking trailheads in Utah.I find it very

informative, well organized and easy to read. Well worth the money. A great book!!!! I highly recommend it!!!!

If you haven't been to UT, you need to go. Colorado seems to get all the hype when it comes to mountains, but UT is better for an assortment of scenery and things to do in the mountains. Benchmark Atlases are the benchmark from which all other road atlases are measured. My GPS nav system, as well as Google maps, will direct me to take dirt roads as part of a 'shortest route.' This is not an acceptable route on my Goldwing. These detailed maps clearly and precisely show the type of road from interstate to 4-wheel drive. It has helped me avoid bad routes numerous times.

The book contains 95 pages. The book divides the State of Utah into small sections, similar to counties, starting from the northwest to the northeast, then from central west to central east, and finally from southwest to southeast. The quality of the printing and color is excellent. The topo maps are a pleasure to study. All the places you have in mind are here, for example, Arches, Canyonlands, Goosenecks, Goblin Valley, Monument Valley (just south of the border), Bryce, Zion, and so on. These places are the great emblems of our land, the symbols of America. In studying the maps, one is struck by the number of dangerous names. Just for fun, I wrote most of them down. These include: Devil's Garden; Hell Hole Pass; Hell's Backbone; Dead Horse Reservoir; Devil's Gap; Devil Mesa; Bad Land Cliffs; Deadman Point; Deadman Point; Dry Mountain Hollow; Sick Cow Spring (the poor cow); Skull Valley; Desolation Canyon; Dead Horse Point; Dirty Devil River; Hell's Half Mile; Deadman Spring; Hell Roaring Canyon; Dead Horse Overlook; Dead Ox Pass; Devil's Gate; Deadman Mountain; Dead Cow Point; Poverty Point; Last Chance Ranch; Hell's Kitchen; and Stinking Spring. If any rock'n'roll band, especially a heavy metal band or punk band, is searching for a name, there is no shortage of inspiration from this book of Utah maps. Once again, FIVE STARS to this marvelous book. The roads are clear, the major hiking trails are also there, and the places to avoid, such as missile ranges and chemical storage sites, are all clearly marked. *** **

***Here are some post-vacation comments. Day 1. Arrive in Salt Lake City. The plane landed in mid-morning. Drive to Moab, making certain to turn left and not right at Spanish Fork. Arrive in Arches National Park, about ninety minutes prior to dusk. Hike the entire Park Avenue trail and the short trail to the Delicate Arch viewpoint. Moab has at least twenty motels, many gift shops, a photography art gallery (Tom Till's gallery), and many restaurants including a couple of microbreweries. Day 2. Spend entire day in Arches. Hike the Devil's Garden area and view numerous "fins," Landscape Arch, and Navajo Arch. Hike the Windows Section, and view Balanced

Rock, Double Arch, North Window, and Turret Arch. Also, hike the long trail directly to Delicate Arch. Delicate Arch, from this viewpoint, is one of the symbols of the United States of America, along with, e.g., the Empire State Building, Golden Gate Bridge, and Yosemite's Half Dome. This trail also features an alcove containing some cool petroglyphs. Spend a second night in Moab.

Day 3. Drive southwards and stop at Canyonlands, that is, in the Needles section of Canyonlands. A lengthy paved road passes by an array of dramatic Yosemite-type cliffs, and leads eventually to the entrance at Canyonlands. On the way, one passes Newspaper Rock, located just a few paces from the paved road. Newspaper Rock contains an excellent assembly of ancient petroglyphs. Once at Canyonlands, the best hike might be the trail from Elephant Hill, through the Needles, and on to Chesler Park. The hike is only about six miles round trip. The trail to Chesler Park passes through several unique areas, each having a distinguished appearance. First, there is the "elephant" area. Next, there is a curved wall resembling the inside of a temple where the curved wall partially encircles a flat area. Then, there is a gentle canyon dipping down, just before the pinnacles, and so on. During our early April hike, we passed about four other hiking groups on the way to Chesler Park. The frequency of the hikers provides some assurance that one won't get lost. Drive south to Monticello and spend the night in Monticello. Monticello has three or four motels.

Day 4. Leave Monticello and drive through Cortez (Cortez, Colorado), and arrive at Mesa Verde. Enjoy the pinto bean fields and pinto bean factories by the road, but be careful of the frequent tumbleweeds that roll in this area. One of them poked a hole in the plastic bumper of my rental car. View Spruce House and the Cliff Palace ruins. When in the Mesa Verde gift shop, be sure to consider buying a compact disc that teaches elementary Navajo. It makes more sense to listen to this, while driving, than to one of the contemporary country western radio channels. Drive from Mesa Verde back through Cortez, then take the back roads along McElmo Creek, past Hovenweep (no time to tour Hovenweep), past the village of Aneth, and then drive through the nearby town of Montezuma Creek, through Bluff, through Mexican Hat, and arrive at Monument Valley. In the Aneth area, we passed about twenty oil wells, bobbing up and down. Once past Mexican Hat, the horizon contains the familiar Jack O'Lantern mouth structures of Monument Valley. We arrived at Monument Valley about two hours before dusk. Spend the night in the motel in Goulding, a village adjacent to Monument Valley. The motel has a little movie theater, where there are free John Wayne movies shown from a videodisc. At dawn, the view from the motel room sliding glass door reveals the Jack O'Lantern silhouettes so characteristic of Monument Valley.

Day 5. Drive from Monument Valley to nearby Goosenecks State Park, and then take the direct route (Route 261) to Natural Bridges. Goosenecks Park, which requires a drive of only one minute from the main road, is a standard subject in the repertoire of

landscape photographers. The direct route from the Goosenecks area on to Natural Bridges involves a zig-zag dirt road that rises from an initial elevation of 4244 feet up to 6425 feet. I would never do this again. Too scary and risky. The better approach would have been to take the longer route (Route 191) to Blanding, and then to Natural Bridges. Natural Bridges proved, unexpectedly, to be more awesome than Arches. The hike to the base of Sipapu Bridge will change your life forever, in the same way that the eleven mile Kalalau trail in Kauai will change your life forever. Continue from Natural Bridges, northwards through Glen Canyon, and then on to Hanksville. Hanksville has a remarkable roadside convenience store, carved out of the interior of a mountain. Tour nearby Goblin Valley. Goblin Valley is accessed by a nice, new asphalt road. The strange hoodoo formations in Goblin Valley can be previewed by photos available on the internet, or by the goofy, fun science fiction movie, *Galaxy Quest*. Actually, the main goal of my vacation was to see Goblin Valley, since I'd already seen the other parks. Spend the night in Price, Utah. Price has a nice dinosaur museum in an elegant new building. Day 6. Leave Price, and continue on northwards to Lehi, and tour the dinosaur museum at Thanksgiving Point. There are plenty of fossil skeletons. For those who have already seen dinosaur skeletons elsewhere, there will still be some surprises here, e.g., a dwarf elephant native to California, and fossilized dinosaur eggs. The presentation of the fossils is not dignified. There are dramatic colored backgrounds, staged setups of the skeletons fighting with each other, fake foliage, continual groaning sounds coming from loudspeakers, and harsh lighting, resulting in bright highlights and deep shadows. Another problem occurs in the marine fossil room, which is dimly lit to simulate the deep sea. There are two large wonderful fossil marine animals here, but they are impossible to see because of the lack of light. I prefer the dignified, straight presentation of dinosaurs found, e.g., at the Peabody Museum in New Haven, Connecticut. There was plenty of time left before our nine o'clock evening plane flight. Using this time, we toured the Bingham Copper Mine, located in the foothills just to the west of a Salt Lake City suburb. Drive west on a road passing through several neighborhoods, called "12600 South," to reach the mine. The deep pit of the Bingham Copper Mine, together with the steam shovels at the bottom (capacity 96 tons of ore) and the continual array of trucks (capacity 360 tons of ore) coming out of the mine, have an elegant design quality and make an interesting "kinetic sculpture."

This atlas assisted me very well during my road trip in Utah national parks.

I own both the Delorme Utah Atlas & Gazetteer and the Benchmark Utah Road & Recreation Atlas and the Benchmark Atlas seems to have a lot less clutter when trying to find something. The roads

stand out a lot better as do the terrain features due to the shading almost giving a 3D effect. This is why I use the Benchmark Atlas when traveling to Utah. I also have the Benchmark New Mexico R & C Atlas and it is also excellent in my opinion. I do, however always have Delorme Topo 6 running on a laptop computer and it is indispensable on road trips.

Utah has a TON of backcountry roads - Don't drive into back country Utah without one! Enough said!

Gives a good general landscape - adequate for getting to ski/hiking/recreational spots. Would be inadequate for detailed salt lake city map.

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