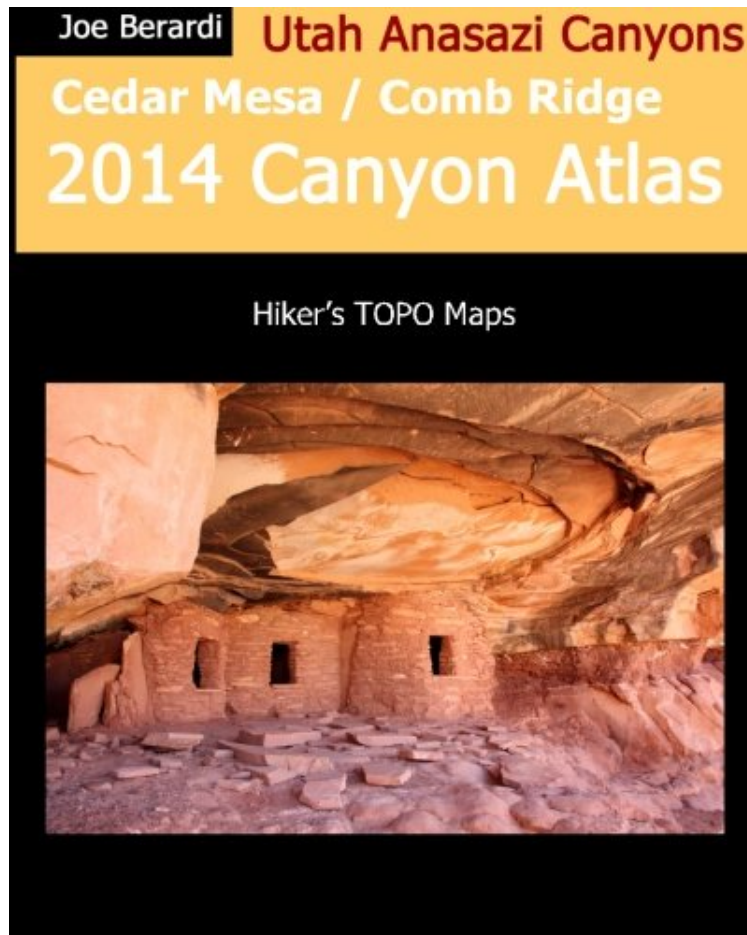


(Read now) Cedar Mesa / Comb Ridge 2014 Canyon Atlas

Cedar Mesa / Comb Ridge 2014 Canyon Atlas

Joe Berardi

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Joe Berardi : Cedar Mesa / Comb Ridge 2014 Canyon Atlas before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cedar Mesa / Comb Ridge 2014 Canyon Atlas:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Poorly organized, incomplete, and terrible graphic design. By Toolman On the positive side, the maps in the book show the locations of ruins, which have all been removed from newer USGS maps. But that's a neutral because without that information there would be no reason to buy the book in the first place. That said I find several serious flaws with this book. The first is that there is very little verbal route information. The second is that the maps are poorly organized. The individual maps are listed at the front of the book but not visually indexed (as with a "gazetteer" style map atlas), a big negative since you have no idea where any individual map fits in the big picture. The listings give the number of each map as well as the page, but then the maps don't have the numbers marked on them. My third observation is that the individual maps' scales are "all over the map", from very large scale to fairly small scale. In most cases individual hike maps are at appropriate scale, but sometimes not. For instance, the map of McCloyd Canyon, where the very impressive Moonhouse ruin is located, is at

such a large scale that the map is useless for the actual hike into the ruin, which is the main attraction in the canyon (and one whose trail is difficult and somewhat dangerous, as well as faint and easy to lose). The scale of that map was probably chosen so that the numerous minor ruins in the canyon could be shown on the same map, but at the expense of making the map virtually useless for actually hiking into the most important ruin. Last, and worst, the graphic design is terrible. The maps have great big thick, Magic Marker-like lines for trails and roads that the author added (many trails going off to no specified destination). In addition, all the author's map notes use font sizes varying from large to HUGE. It's as if all the graphics were done at one scale, and then the the more individual maps were blown up, the bigger the lines and notes became. To make matters worse, all of the notes have big blocked-out blank areas behind the text that obliterate any topographic information that is under them. Better graphic design would have helped a lot.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Overall a helpful atlas
By William R. Drake
Overall, this seems like a pretty good atlas, with a topo map on each page. As the author notes, his maps draw from different USGS maps so the hiker does not have to go out and buy each topo map. It has well marked trails to specific hiking destinations and UTM coordinates to aim for along the way. Putting the book together must have been a monumental task. It is a helpful guide to many cultural resources and other features in SE Utah. The designation as a 2014 Canyon Atlas may be a little misleading. To me, this title implies the maps, trails, etc., are all current as of 2014. For one thing, however, the USGS topo maps used by the author are certainly older than 2014. Regarding the routes and UTM coordinates given, some maps note they were field checked in 2014 but other maps do not have that notation so presumably the authors information on those pages predates 2014. Some information, however does not need updating every year, so my concern may not be a big one. It is not always clear to me why he picked a certain point on the map for marking a UTM coordinate. An explanation related to his logic in the introduction would be helpful. It seems apparent that he put UTM coordinates for places where there is a fork in the trail or a direction turn is needed (as well as for trailheads and parking spots). In some cases a UTM coordinate is right next to a point on the map, and sometimes the author draws a line from the coordinate to a point, but once in awhile the coordinate-point connection is not 100% clear. For example, on p.24, the map for Butler Wash West Fork, one has to infer that the 3 west-most coordinates relate in sequence to the 3 points or dots S of Target Ruins. The way he has the coordinates positioned, one could assume the top one relates to Target Ruins, but I dont think that is consistent with his general approach as it appears to me. It is even a little harder to tell which points the coordinates relate to on his map of Butler Wash West Fork on p.23. And I am not sure what his 4 line going NW from the road on that map relates to. I have hiked many of the canyons the author focuses on. Hikers looking for cliff dwellings should keep in mind that his maps are not always thorough in identifying such features. For example, in S. Mule Canyon he only notes the first cliff dwelling, House of Fire (AKA House on Fire). While it is probably the case that many people stop there and don't go any further, there are about 9 such sites in the canyon. For N. Mule Canyon he only notes one of about four ruins. He does have a list of map definitions at the end of the book, which is helpful. I could tell that MP designation on some maps seemed to relate to mileage but I was not clear on what MP meant until I found the definition mile post in the back. Hikers should understand that for some of the hikes, more information would be helpful, if not necessary, in terms of finding the destination, for example with some of the cultural resources along Comb Ridge. The authors book Cedar Mesa Hiking Guide offers descriptions of hikes to help fill this need, but even that books descriptions are sometimes lacking (see my review of it). Better or additional information can be found in such books as Hiking From Here to WOW: Utah Canyon Country or on the Climb-Utah website (with more information made available for people who sign up for a membership than for others). Perhaps out of respect for site protection (?), for the most part, he seems to avoid giving coordinates for cliff dwellings and rock art (although the maps get you pretty close to such sites, and in some cases he does locate a site, for example, Procession Panel.) Since the book directs hikers to cultural resources such as cliff dwellings and rock art, the author should include information related to how to behave at such sites other than do not remove or take anything other than photographs [on the hikes]. For me, this is a serious concern about the book. This is a useful guide for hikers even though it has some room for improvement.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Compact and Precise Guide
By Ron P
Having hiked Cedar Mesa a number of times over the years, the locations of sites I am familiar with seem to be accurately represented on the maps. I found the maps organized in a reasonable way and have found them to be quite useful in planning hikes on the mesa. The only flaw I could see is the absence of a key to designate the meaning of some of the map symbols, though one could sort that out with a bit of work. I am happy to have this resource for my own purposes and find it more precise than other previous hiking guides I have seen for that region. However, the proliferation of such precise guidance to some of the more obscure wonders on the mesa seems to put these ancient sites in danger of being defaced and overrun with hikers unfamiliar with the care one needs to take when visiting these ancient sites.

Cedar Mesa is an area west of Blanding, Utah and not even labeled on many road maps. The Cedar Mesa / Comb Ridge 2014 Canyon Atlas is a great hikers companion for anyone who wants to explore the canyons of Cedar Mesa and the nearby Comb Ridge canyons using full color topographical maps. This atlas has individual hike maps for the most popular canyon hikes into Anasazi Country for both Cedar Mesa and the Comb Ridge area. The hike maps

include GPS coordinates and annotated major landmarks. It also includes a set of maps for a road tour of major roads cutting through this region; UT-95, CR-262 and CR-237 tour showing the most popular landmarks and side road access points. This area of Utah is very popular for hiking to see Ancestral Puebloan cliff ruins and rock art in a pristine setting including the House on Fire ruins in Mule Canyon and the Fallen Roof Ruins in Road Canyon. Backpackers can enjoy many miles of spectacular canyons lined with ruins that are amazingly inaccessible, perched high on ledges and under overhangs. There is plenty of scenery and wildlife, as well as the solitude of desert canyons in this remote area. The Cedar Mesa / Comb Ridge 2014 Canyon Atlas makes finding and exploring the Cedar Mesa Canyons much easier: Arch Canyon, Bullet Canyon, Collins Canyon, and Government Trail to Grand Gulch, Grand Gulch, Kane Gulch, Mule Canyon, Lower Mule Canyon, Owl Creek Canyon to Nevills Arch, Road Canyon, Slickhorn Canyon, Todie Canyon There are individual hike maps for the Comb Ridge for the most popular Comb Ridge Canyons for exploring Anasazi ruins including: Fish Mouth Cave, Split Level ruins, Cool Springs Cave, Monarch Cave, Procession Panel, Double Stack Ruin and more. Plan your exciting trip to Utah with the Cedar Mesa / Comb Ridge 2014 Canyon Atlas.