Exploring Glacier National Park (Exploring Series)

David Rockwell
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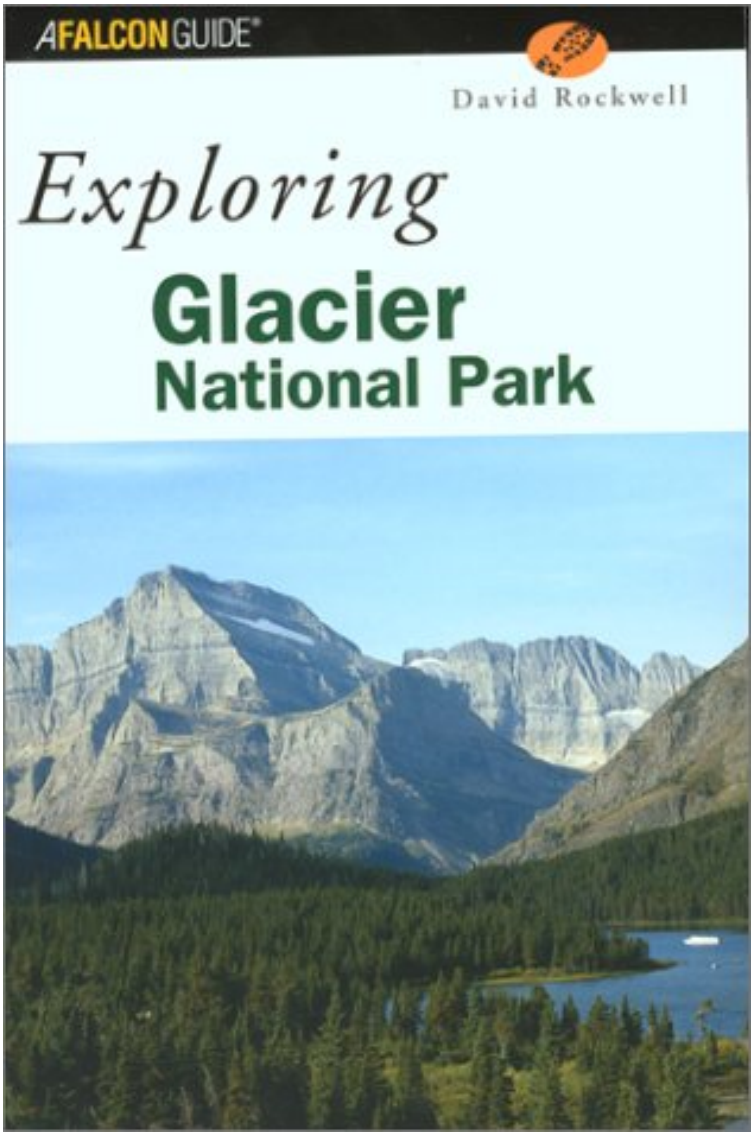

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David Rockwell : Exploring Glacier National Park (Exploring Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Exploring Glacier National Park (Exploring Series):

23 of 44 people found the following review helpful. Not a very useful bookBy Richard CherianI don't recommend this book, except if you're interested in learning about how the area around the park was formed a long time ago. Otherwise, this book is of no help on a trip to Glacier.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Open your eyes to what makes Glacier National Park different from all the rest of the Rocky MountainsBy a Midwest reviewerI

did not make it through most of the book before my trip to Glacier, however this book was worth it for the first two chapters I read on geology alone. Some people pay $45-80 to go on one of the guided bus tours of Glacier. Read the parts of this book you find most interesting and get out of your vehicle and see the wonders for yourself for a fraction of the cost.According to this book, there are only two places in the lower 48 that still have all their original predators they had 250 years ago: and they are the northwest (North Fork) and northeast (Belly River) corners of Glacier NP. During the week and a half I was in Glacier, another hiker saw a wolverine at the top of the trail to Sperry Glacier (there are only about 60 wolverines in the entire 1 million acre park).Geology is another big part of what makes Glacier National Park so unique and colorful and astounding. The geology of glaciers carving out valleys is why Mt. Cleveland is one of the steepest cliffs anywhere in the lower 48, rising about 4,000ft in a fraction of a mile. In contrast to so many other parts of the Rockies to the south, there's absolutely no granite in Glacier National Park. And unless you read a book like this you will not understand why there are entire jaw-dropping mountains made entirely of deep red rock (such as some near Redgap Pass near the Belly River basin, and near Siyeh Pass), or wide bands of green rock the color of the Statue of Liberty. I found myself pointing out the cracks and wave ripples in the rocks created 1.0-1.4 billion years ago to other nearby hikers, who were truly fascinated to realize what they were looking at on all sides of them and under their feet. And explaining how both the red rocks and the sage green rocks had lots of iron in the sediment, and the key difference was not the type of sediment, but whether they were soil and sediment above ground that oxidized in the air (at times when the shallow sea dried up) or soil and sediment deposited on the floor of shallow sea where a different chemical reaction took place in the absence of air. Or pointing out how the less common black rock we walked over as we approached Iceberg Lake was probably the same stripe of black rock that can be seen at the very top of the cliffs surrounding Iceberg Lake (diorite - though I didn't remember that name at the time while I was in the park).If you find science uninteresting then this book is probably not for you. However if you have even a glimmer of interest in geology and wildlife and the balance of nature, David Rockwell does an amazing job of making the scientific wonders of Glacier interesting and awe-inspiring. For instance, to make things tangible he describes picking up a small rectangular piece of rock that recently fell onto the trail before his feet, and then explains in a paragraph how this piece of rock started as sediment eroded off land over a billion years ago, was trapped and compressed under tens of thousands of feet of similar sediments and encased deep underground for a billion years, this layer was lifted up and tilted and the rock fractured, then ripped away by glaciers, and now just recently fell out of a cliff to be exposed to air again for the first time in the present day. Making scientific information colorful and fascinating like this takes a gift, and David has that gift.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Not what I expected.By K. C. RamsayI was looking for more of a travel guide, but allowed myself to dig into this beautifully written tribute to both Glacier Park and nature itself. I began as an ecology novice and finished with a new passion for preservation of nature.

Glacier National Park in northern Montana offers visitors the chance to be immersed in a pristine landscape, and an opportunity to experience the Rocky Mountain West in all its unspoiled glory.

From the Back CoverOne of the jewels in the national park system, Glacier National Park encompasses the dramatic landscape where the vast watersheds of the Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, and Hudson Bay converge. Here plants and animals unique to those three basins come together, making it one of the richest, most diverse natural places in North America. Wolves, grizzly bears, and moose wander its woods and high alpine meadows. Western redcedar, whitebark pine, and glacier lily thrive and mingle on the slopes of its glacial valleys.