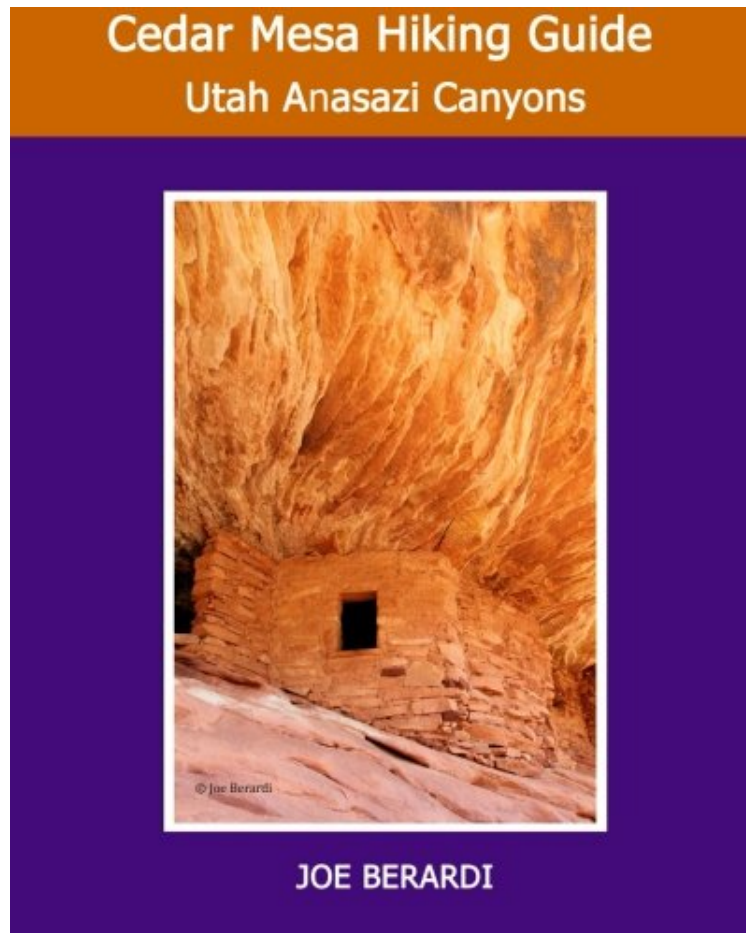


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Cedar Mesa Hiking Guide: Utah Anasazi Canyons

Joe Berardi

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Joe Berardi : Cedar Mesa Hiking Guide: Utah Anasazi Canyons before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cedar Mesa Hiking Guide: Utah Anasazi Canyons:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Overall a pretty good hiking guideBy William R. DrakeFor the most part, this is a good hiking guide with hike descriptions and photos as well as topo maps that have clearly marked trails to specific hiking destinations and UTM coordinates to aim for along the way. The book covers about 37 hikes, many of which direct the reader to significant cultural resources.The introduction includes much helpful information about fees, weather, hiking (helpful for the beginning hiker), etc. I have spent a lot of time on Cedar Mesa, and his general advice about being cautious on some of the roads, including after a rain storm is very important. He mentions that washes crossing roads during a rain storm can pose a problem but another concern not mentioned is the fact that some roads, such as those east of Grand Gulch (Cigarette Springs Rd., etc.) become oil like in moderate to heavy rain, and you can easily slide off the road and get stuck.The introduction advises hikers to not touch the ancient ruins, but should say more about how to behave at cliff dwellings and rock art sites. (For example, doing rubbings of petroglyphs

or touching pictographs or petroglyphs is to be avoided, and taking away artifacts is illegal.) I like that his book starts with overview maps of Cedar Mesa highways and primary roads. I like that he notes which USGS topo maps are involved. It would be good for him to add approximate hiking times, something you can't determine from the distance involved, even though this will vary from individual to individual. 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). 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 without going any further, there are about 9 such sites in the canyon. He also states that after House on Fire there are several more ruins about four miles in from the start of the canyon. Actually the 2nd ruin is about 2 to 2 1/2 miles into the canyon, with the 3rd about a mile after that, and the 4th after another mile. For N. Mule Canyon he only notes one of about four ruins. To use another example of inadequate information, for Fish Mouth Cave, along Comb Ridge, for Description he states The Fish Mouth Cave hike is the northern most of the canyons along Comb Ridge. The cave can be seen far-off from Butler Wash and CR-262. This is one of the shorter hikes into Comb Ridge. For Itinerary he states, Walk west from the parking area. Follow the route on the map. This is, at best, a mediocre description of the hike. For one thing, there are two ruins and a small cave with petroglyphs on the way to Fish Mouth Cave. Furthermore, the hike up to Fish Mouth Cave (as well as the small cave with petroglyphs) is steep and can be challenging for some people. (Additional information on the hikes can be found in such books as *Hiking From Here to WOW: Utah Canyon Country* or on the Climb-Utah website [people who sign up for a membership have access to the more information than others].) 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. An example of this lack of clarity is his map on p.53 for Butler Wash West Fork. And I am not sure what his 4 line going NW from the road on that map relates to. Of the 5 UTM coordinates in the description for this hike, only the one for the ruins is on the map (and is it for Target Ruins or the next one? almost certainly Target Ruins but it is not clear on the map). 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. 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.) This is a useful guide for hikers even though it has some room for improvement.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book will give you a great idea of places to hike in the Cedar Mesa ...
By Nicholas Scholz
This book will give you a great idea of places to hike in the Cedar Mesa area. However, it is obvious that the author has not personally visited each site and/or hike listed. For example: In the map of Road Canyon, the author shows the GPS point for, "Seven Kivas Ruin", as being located in the same side canyon as the GPS point he provides for the general area the Kivas are located in, it is actually located down stream further in the main canyon. If you are proficient at canyoneering, you will not find the GPS points provided in this guide helpful. They do not always lead to the sites listed. Unfortunately, this is probably due to the fact the author has not been personally to these sites.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Rick
Spent many many hours studying all the hikes and will cover perhaps a third of them in April 2016.

Cedar Mesa Hiking Guide Cedar Mesa and nearby Comb Ridge in southern Utah are famous for two things, the myriad of canyons / ravines that make great backcountry hikes and the cultural history of the large concentration of Anasazi ruins, petroglyphs and art panels here. This book covers thirty-seven prominent canyons in Cedar Mesa and Comb Ridge that can be hiked. Hundred of hikes are possible by looping together multiple canyons or forks. Some of the hikes are easy to do day-trips while others are in remote canyons that require up to a week to fully explore. Key GPS coordinates are provided with trail descriptions, driving directions, full color topographical maps for the hikes and photographs. Hike among the Anasazi ruins and immerse yourself into the historical past. There are many rugged remote canyons to be explored in this outdoor museum with many short easy hikes to long backpacking adventures that will challenge the hardest of hikers. Arch Canyon, Bullet Canyon, Butler Canyon, Collins Canyon, Coyote Canyon, Deer Canyon, Government Trail, Grand Gulch, Hat Flat, Johns Canyon, Kane Gulch, Lime Creek, McCloyd Canyon, Mule Canyon, Owl Creek, Fish Creek, Pollys Canyons, Road Canyon, Shagrla Canyon, Sheiks Canyon, Slickhorn Canyon, Step Canyon, Todie Canyon and Water Canyon are some of the best canyon hikes in southern Utah. Explore the House on Fire Ruin, Fallen Roof Ruin, Arch Canyon Ruin, Mule Canyon Seven Tower Ruin, Perfect Kiva Ruin, Jail House Ruin, Butler Wash Ruin, Seven Kiva Ruin Sand Island Rock Art Panel, Procession Panel and many more historical sites in the Cedar Mesa area. Get started today and plan your trip to hiking these

breathhtaking vistas of canyon country in southern Utah.