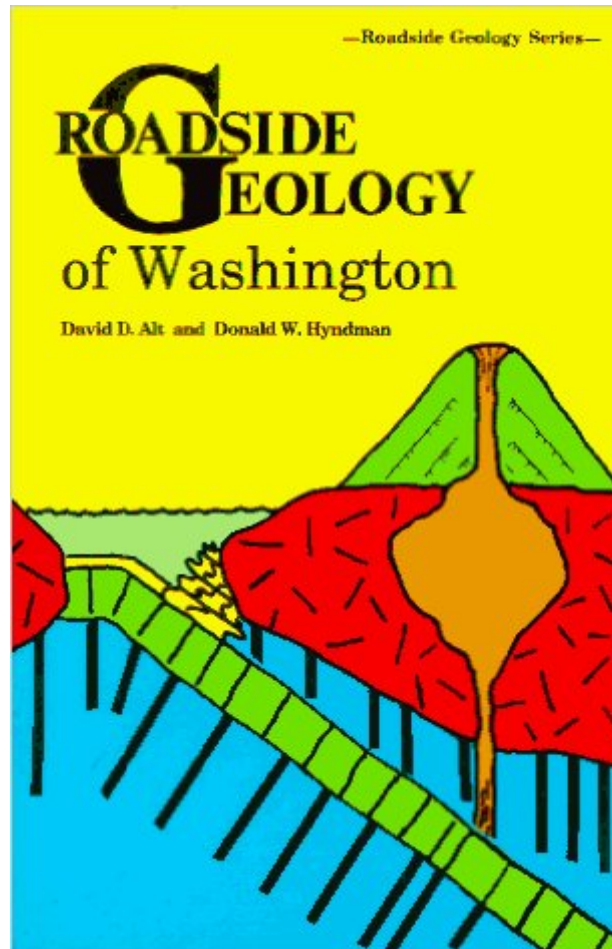


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# Roadside Geology Of Washington (Roadside Geology Series)



## Synopsis

The geology of Washington is a story of islands--micro-continents--coming in from the sea. Two hundred million years ago most of Washington consisted of two large islands, each one a scrap of continent, lying somewhere in the vastness of the Pacific Ocean. One after the other they docked onto the North American continent, each adding its distinctive bit to the complex geologic and geographic mosaic of western North America.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (30 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

This is not a book for rockhounds -- there are no mineral lists, no collecting sites or things like that. It is aimed at a general reader with an interest in geophysical features and phenomena. I'd say it scores pretty well. The authors focus on what can be seen along, and what underlies, many major Washington highways. They deal with both the surficial geology and the underlying basement rocks. There is an emphasis on relating what is right in front of you to "how it got that way" and how it continues to change today. Their preface is an excellent description of plate tectonics, the engine that powers all the geologic activity. It would be easy for this description to lose the non-technical reader, but their writing makes it seem clear. Throughout the book they have a consistently light but careful prose style. More people would be interested in geology if introductory geology textbooks read like this one!

Geology has long been a hobby of mine. I own several of these books and thoroughly enjoy them

all. The Washington roadside guide has the most meaning to me since I live in Washington State and have had reason to travel throughout the state for the last 12 plus years. I like the authors approach of using highways and cities as reference points. In addition, the pictures add realism. You can actually go to those places and look at the pictures in the book and see exactly what they are talking about. I think this book is a valuable educational tool as well for people with children. What fun to drive from place to place and learn about what is really under the surface of the ground! Reading the geological story of a particular part of the state made me want to travel there as well. Great books, very easy to read.

Let's say you have a craving for geology, which is one of the hottest subjects on the planet (you know, molten rock and such). Let's say you want to drive a particular route through Washington State. This book is organized by route (just like the other books in the series) so you can have an expert's explanation of what geologic features you are looking at and how they were formed. Imagine a time of massive flooding when glacial Lake Missoula burst out of the ice dam and drenched most of Eastern Washington with 500 cubic miles of water more than 30 times. You can easily find the evidence today with the help of this book. Imagine a time when the northern end of Puget Sound was blocked by glacial ice, the level of water in the sound was about 100 feet higher than today, and all the rivers draining into the South Sound were dammed up and forced to escape to the South, through modern-day Black Lake and down the Chehalis River Valley. Some people worry about Mt. Rainier erupting again, which of course it will. But imagine the numerous and relatively recent mudflows off Mt Rainier which were not even associated with an eruption. Some of these mudflows contained up to a cubic mile of material with the consistency of liquid bricks. The inundated areas are now inhabited by hundreds of thousands of people. All you folks in Sumner and Orting, good luck in the next one! Once I wanted to be a Geologist, but the projects took too long to complete. If you have this book, at least the explanation is fast and easy to understand for the non-geologist such as myself. All the books in this series are fun to read when traveling through the subject areas. Thanks, Steve Willie, Olympia, WA

My 13 year old son and I just finished a 1000 mile trip son through Washington, Idaho, and Montana. This series of books was our companion. My son read it aloud as we drove. We both learned a lot about the Columbia river basin, and the cascade mountains. After reading it, my son could spot and identify the different general rock types and color changes described. An excellent companion with good diagrams and short sections that convey the most important (and observable)

facts.

this is a great book i would recommend it to anyone who has ever wondered at what made the interesting formations along the road when on a long trip. it now sits on my desk within easy reach for review. a great introduction to the active geology that shaped the land we live upon.

When driving up and down the roads the route should be researched in this book then all the rocks have a message and new meaning. I've driven by some of these sights for years and never knew what I was seeing. Excellent book. Great information. Exceptional family fun.

Such a great concept! Interesting geological spots organized by location along highways. Grab the book and the kids, pack a picnic and hop in the car. Drive to fascinating glimpses of the Earth's continuing evolution. If this book doesn't spark an interest in geology, nothing will.

This book gives a good overview of how the state of Washington was formed and what you can expect to see in general areas. If, however, you are expecting to be told exactly where to go to see specific formations you're in for a disappointment. Instead of "As you travel 6.4 miles north of the intersection of highway xyz look at the road cut on the west side of the highway and here's what you'll see..." we get a lot of "Here's a picture of what you might find near, just north of, around, a few miles from, inbetween this town and that town... etc." The best you can get from this book is the ability to cruise around a given area and hope you stumble on to something that resembles the formations pictured in the book. Guys, guys, we all have maps of Washington, tell us where to stop!

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