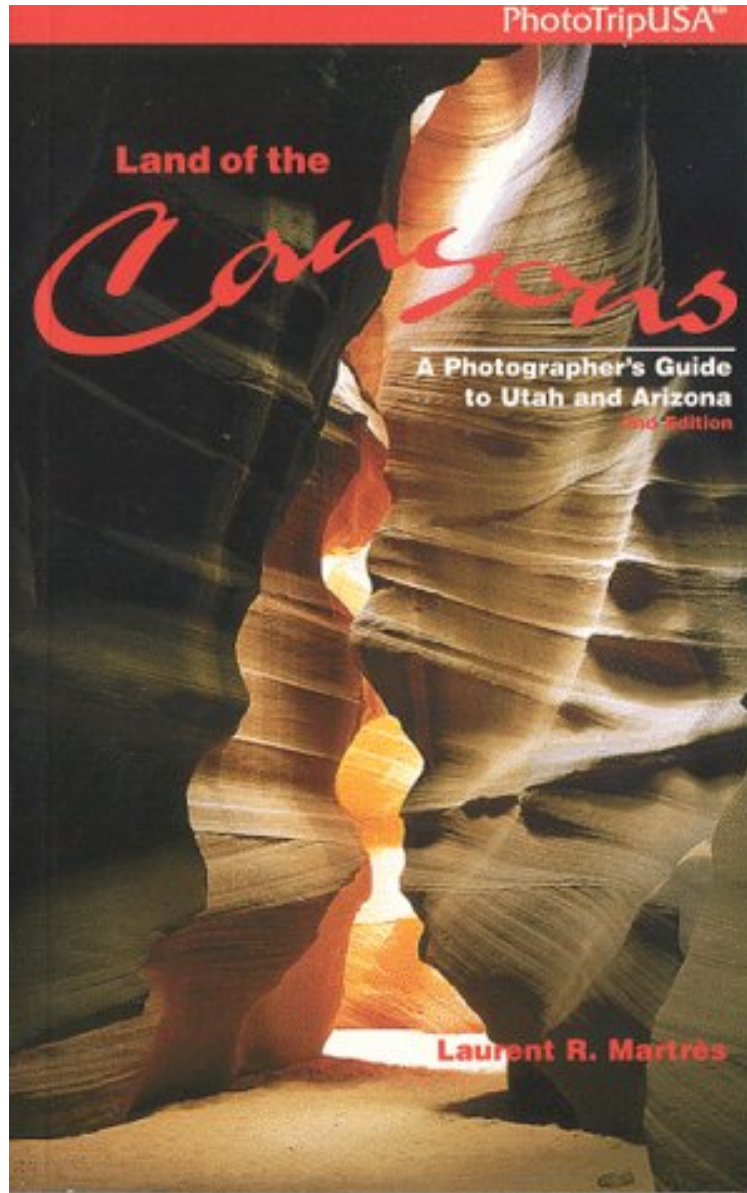


Land of the Canyons: A Photographer's Guide to Utah and Arizona, 2nd Edition

Laurent R. Martres

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Laurent R. Martres : Land of the Canyons: A Photographer's Guide to Utah and Arizona, 2nd Edition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Land of the Canyons: A Photographer's Guide to Utah and Arizona, 2nd Edition:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Two StarsBy Rick KnepperBlack and white photos. Doesn't measure

up to the quality of the other Martres guides. 24 of 24 people found the following review helpful. Awesome book, packed w/places to visit for the adventurous! By Shineylewis I bought this book prior to my 21 day vacation to the Southwest. With few exceptions, I tailored my entire trip around the suggested places mentioned in this book, and visited most of them. The majority of suggestions are off the beaten path and a little adventurous, which I prefer. The author pays a lot of attention to photographic concerns, which helps immensely if you are a photographer, but you need not be to benefit from this book. I found the directions to be very accurate, although route finding skills were still necessary for some of the more remote hikes, such as The Wave, in the Paria Wilderness Area. This book is perfect for getting ideas of places to visit, including numerous slot canyons, and then following up with some additional info from the internet. I would definitely recommend this book for anyone visiting the Southwest, who wants to visit places you've only seen in photography magazines. You won't be disappointed! 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Rather outdated incomplete info By M. Stratton If you are completely unfamiliar with the Canyon Lands of Utah and Arizona, this book might be a starter course, like a community college course 101 text book, that covers the very basics along with very simple, nearly useless maps and B W photos that look 30 yrs old. Save your money... at nearly \$15, the book is \$13 overpriced. You can do much better.

Land of the Canyons, Second Edition, combines a vast quantity of information on numerous sites on the Colorado Plateau with a photographic perspective. - exciting new locations include Coyote Buttes, the Wave, the Subway, Lower Anetelope Canyon, Taylor Creek, Double Arch Alcove, and more - all national and state parks of Southern Utah and Northern Arizona - 96 photographs - 20 detailed maps - how to get there - how and when to get the best shots - lots of travel tips, even for the non-photographer - optional companion CANYONS CD-ROM to "previsualize" the sites.

About the Author Born in Paris and based in Los Angeles, Laurent Martres is President of Graphie International, Inc., a software and multimedia consulting firm he founded in 1982. He sits on the Board of Directors of several other software companies, including ASD Software, Inc. and Alsyd Corp. Laurent has spent a large amount of time criss-crossing the planet - and in particular the American West - on roads, 4x4 trails, footpaths and horse trails. He wrote this guide so others could benefit from his experience. Laurent also serves as a moderator of CompuServe's Photography Forum. As a photographer, he prefers the 6x4.5 Medium Format. His work can be seen at <http://www.phototripusa.com> Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. From Chapter 9, Antelope Canyon Page has become a must-see destination on the route to the canyons since the discovery of Antelope Canyon by the media. Until the end of the 1980's, few people had heard of this extraordinary slot canyon and only a few stray professional photographers had ventured there. In the old days, getting there was like playing roulette. If the Begays - the Navajo family responsible for the land of the Upper Antelope Canyon - weren't answering their phone or were unable to meet you at the gate, you were stuck. At the time of his first visit in the 1980's, the author had the luck to find one of the Begays to open the gate and was able to go on about his way quite happily in his own 4x4 vehicle. On his second visit, things were already a bit more organized and the LeChee Chapter of the Navajo Nation had taken over control of visits to Antelope Canyon. During the season, a guard was stationed at the gate in his truck and would open it for you after collecting \$5. If you had a 4x4 vehicle, they'd leave you to go it alone. During the off-season, it was necessary to call ahead. The author spent a rainy afternoon in November calling the Begay children numerous times to ask that someone be sent to open the gate. After several round trips between Page and Antelope, and 3 or 4 hours lost, he gave up. These bittersweet recollections will serve to illustrate how things have changed. Today, several accredited companies will take visitors in groups for a fee between \$25 and \$50, depending on whether the tour is qualified as "regular" or "for serious photographers". In season, it's still possible to visit Upper Antelope Canyon without a guide by presenting yourself at the gate and paying \$15 (or only \$5 if you wish to leave your car and walk the 6 miles round trip on foot). Out of season, you'll have to go to the office of Navajo Parks and Recreation in Page (see Resources in the Appendix). At worst, you'll have to wait and go with a tour company the next day. If the weather is threatening rain, the visit will be canceled. Lower Antelope Canyon is closed to the public since the tragedy of August, 1997, which took the lives of 11 French and Swiss tourists. The Youngs - the Navajo family responsible for this concession - as well as those in the LeChee Chapter of the Navajo Nation and the Navajo Tribal Parks agency are looking into various solutions that would permit its re-opening in summer of 1998. It's interesting to relate the circumstances of this tragedy for the lessons one can learn from it. The visitors were descending in the company of a Navajo guide - you descend by a system of ladders - when a violent storm struck about 8 miles to the southeast at an altitude of about 2,000 feet. The Navajo guide told the tourists they would have to leave and they reluctantly complied, disillusioned at having to turn back after having come so far. On returning to the surface, the group, seeing that it wasn't raining, demanded to go back down. As the Navajos have a naturally passive temperament, the guide did not attempt to prevent them from doing so. A few minutes later the group was literally swept away by a wall of water over 30 feet tall spouting from the narrow passage, drowning the unfortunate tourists. There were eleven dead and two badly injured survivors. It was many weeks before all the bodies were recovered from the debris and mud; the last two

were finally found in November 1997. The lesson to be learned from this is that you must follow your guide's instructions as flash floods are frequent and it doesn't necessarily have to be raining in the canyon. This is true for all the slot canyons or narrows mentioned in this book. Always obey your guide's or the rangers' instructions, even if it means missing the photo of the century. You should never risk going into a canyon if a storm is threatening close by, which is to say anywhere within a 10 mile radius. Getting there: leave Page by Route 98 going to Kaibito, aiming towards the power plant. The entrance to the canyon is two miles down this road on the right and is well marked. If you decide to go with an organized tour, consult the chapter on Resources in the Appendix. Photo advice: Antelope Canyon is at once both simple and difficult to photograph. Speaking of equipment-to obtain the best results you'll really need a tripod. If you don't have one, you can rent one in town. A cable release is also recommended, but if you don't have one, the self-timer on your camera will work just as well to prevent blurred pictures due to camera shake. Don't use a flash if you want to preserve the texture of the walls and the nuances of color created by natural light. However, the flash will give acceptable results if you are just taking shots of the family or trying to capture the general atmosphere of the canyon. The best time to visit the canyon is between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., when the sun is at its zenith. This is a blessing for photographers, who rarely have such interesting possibilities during the middle of the day. Basically, the walls of the canyon are around 120 feet high and the sinuous nature of the narrow passage makes it difficult for the light to penetrate. Don't be put off by the absence of sunshine, take longer exposures and you'll be pleasantly surprised with the results. Also, consult the general photo advice for slot canyons in the Introduction. Time required: 1 hour round trip to get there from Page, including transit by 4WD vehicle to the canyon's entrance, plus 1 hour minimum inside the canyon.