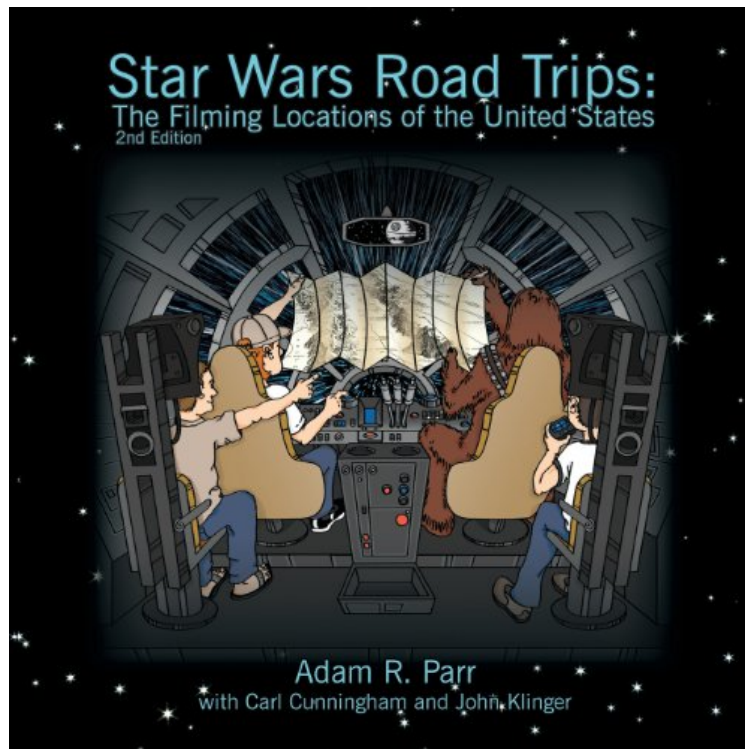


[Read download] Star Wars Road Trips: The Filming Locations of the United States

Star Wars Road Trips: The Filming Locations of the United States

Adam R Parr

**Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#4042258 in Books 2013-03-03Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x .34 x 8.50l, .55 #File Name: 0982784899132 pages | File size: 50.Mb

Adam R Parr : Star Wars Road Trips: The Filming Locations of the United States before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Star Wars Road Trips: The Filming Locations of the United States:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Impressive. Most impressive!By Lukas K.I wondered a little bit about some of the mediocre reports but decided to get the book nevertheless as we are planning a trip to the States and wanted to see some of the Star Wars filming locations as well. I was quite impressed about the wealth of info you get when travelling to the sites and didn't regard those as fillers at all. To me its more like a "Location tripping for Jedi padawans" as basically everything you should think of is nicely explained in its context. Some of the locations are in the middle of the desert so i find it clever to remind travellers of leaving a note about your excursions plans with friends, bring lots of water and also check you've got the right camera equipment to get great pictures not frustration out of your trip. Its true you can find information like this scattered over the internet. But i prefer a handy package with great illustrations from people that really care for the saga and show their enthusiasm with every word they've put in writing. I consider this not to be a rival publication to Lucasfilm supported books like J.W.Rinzlers "The Making of Star Wars". Its a true labour of love from some hardcore Star Wars fans that want to share their love for the saga with fellow travellers. I'm sure a lot of other reviewers will shout "Plant!" now, but this is truly my own opinion. Coming from a 42 year old that saw Star Wars at 7 years and fell in love with the saga ever since. Maybe that is why i see the passion and effort that went into this book more clearly than other book critics here. Concerning the price. Sure you can get everything cheaper nowadays but sometimes i like to think more about worth than price. And to me the first

hand experience of searching, finding and photographing all those sets is worth every penny. 12 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Very Incomplete Overpriced By Concerned Consumer Despite my mostly negative review, I genuinely congratulate these guys for their enthusiasm and hard work. They're passionate fans and this was clearly a labor of love. But sadly, this book falls far short of its promises. Here's why: I've been Star Wars location hunting for many years, so I was really excited when I heard about this. I followed it through the Kickstarter bid and their Facebook page, and was eager to grab a few more finds it. I've been to most of the locations in this book, and in particular I've made 6 trips to Death Valley to either hunt locations or guide fans to them (including as a geology major, but more about that in a minute). So I'm very familiar with what they tried to do and how hard it was. They boast that it fills a gap in Star Wars literature and "has no rival", but big claims require big proof. Sadly, I walked away greatly disappointed. THE POSITIVES It has nice, original art and recreated movie views. Lucasfilm didn't grant them screen grabs (a fact not explained in the book though), so in the few places they provide it, they worked around it nicely. It's also a colorful book with nice photography (they have a good eye) and a bunch of useful road maps. It provides travel tips based upon personal experience (nice!). Lastly, I enjoyed the "Our Story" parts, because, as a fan I enjoy hearing other fan's experiences. THE NEGATIVES At \$30 this is WAY overpriced for what you get. It's a small paperback similar in size and quality to a collection of "Calvin Hobbes" or "Foxtrot" comics (it's 8-1/2"x8-1/2" less than 1/2" thick). Yet it costs twice what those books do. If you're looking for GPS coordinates for specific camera shots used in the movie (as many fans have found), this book only offers 14 total (including 3 ILM locations, if you count them as "actual" camera locations). I've personally found over 20 film shots just in Death Valley alone, and there are at least 40 in all the locations listed in the book. Apparently they didn't find them. Instead, you mostly get a bunch of generic coordinates to general areas where the filming occurred. In other words, this will get you to the stadium, but not home base. So if you're looking to find the actual Star wars shots, this book fails epically. (BTW: Of the few camera locations offered, I compared some of their coordinates with mine and they were within 30 to 50 feet. Due to many possible factors affecting GPS accuracy, that's within an acceptable margin of error) Moreover, they don't offer much Star Wars history on the locations, so the book seems fluffed up with lots of excessive, non-necessary information, as if they wanted to pad it and make it thicker. For example: * 1-1/2 pages of "thanks and credits" that could easily have been put on one page. * An entire page just to explain 6 abbreviations for the movie titles. * A list of Death Valley rules and regulations. The park gives them to you in a brochure when you pay to get in, so why pay for it here? * One paragraph for why you need a camera strap, one paragraph for why you need a permanent marker, one paragraph for why you need batteries! And one paragraph for. . . etc, etc. It repeats for lens cleaner, tripod, film bag, and more! * A whole page telling us to go to Desert Tower and Boulder Park (non-Star Wars sites) because there is plenty to do there, but it doesn't say what there is to do and see. Why pay to go somewhere I know nothing about? * There are plenty more examples of fluff, but these serve as an example. The book also lacks a balanced structure. Death Valley got the biggest write-up with 11 pages of geologic, anthropologic, and non-Star wars film history. In contrast, ALL the various Redwoods areas got a total of only 3 paragraphs. Buttercup Valley, Modesto, and Monument Valley got NONE. If you're going to write about one area, then why not write about all? Additionally, the info isn't entirely correct. As I said earlier I'm a geologist who's studied Death Valley (DV) as a student, and the book's geology information is flawed in places. For example, DV does not have meteor craters (p.7). Perhaps they're confused because Apollo astronauts trained on Ubehebe crater (caused by underground steam explosions, not meteors). The so-called geologic "history" on pp. 12 13 is really a timeline of events, not the actual geologic story. Strangely, after giving the "history", the same info is repeated in a Geologic Time Chart (another example of non-necessary fluff). The few actual geologic terms used are also not explained (most readers don't know what "basin-and-range" is, nor the "Pangeatic continent"). Additionally, they beat to death the dangers of Death Valley, repeatedly and excessively warning you to be prepared. Yes, a warning is warranted, but they do it so much sounds like a trip to Hell while passing through Fallujah. Yet millions of people visit it safely every year. These fans experienced real heat dangers at Buttercup Valley, but oddly, they scarcely play up the perils there even though it isn't patrolled nearly as well as DV. Another example of excess and lack of balance is their camera advice. If you follow it you'd go broke. You're told everybody should have multiple film, digital, and disposable cameras, multiple speeds of film, plus all the normal camera support gear. You're also told it's good to have AT LEAST one video camera! If you have 4 people in your car and follow this advice, you're lugging at least 12 still cameras, at least 2 video cameras, piles of batteries and memory cards, video tapes or DVD-Rs, tripods, monopods, bandoliers of film, flash units, camera bags, plus all other necessary tools for a road trip. No wonder Death Valley freaked them out. They were packing more gear than a sandcrawler! I could go on and on about the many flaws in the book but I think I've made my point. I hate to denigrate this so thoroughly, but it is a very expensive disappointment and a waste of your money. It truly doesn't fulfill its promises, and has limited use. You can find most of this info on the Internet. . . for FREE. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Too much filler By Mark Even though a lot of work I'm sure went into this book, which I do appreciate, there is just too much pointless filler. I mean a LOT of filler. The first part of the book is dedicated to just the history, lodging, directions, and useless statistics of Death Valley. This all could have been summed up with just a few pages, but gets stretched to nearly 1/4 of the book. Next we have the actual locations- primarily the desert and forest locations

from A New Hope and Return of the Jedi. This is the part of the book I think everyone was mainly interested in. Unfortunately there's not a whole lot to it and probably could have filled a little booklet without sacrificing anything. The book could have also used more location photos since people would like to actually see what's there before making the trip. There were plenty of Death Valley images and movie comparisons, but the Endor locations had virtually nothing. We then get treated to a few non-Star Wars locations that really have no place in the book, various George Lucas related locations in Modesto, and Grauman's Chinese Theater in Hollywood. I'm sure the completist will appreciate this section as a sort of reference, but everyone else will probably see more filler here. The final 22 pages of the book is chock full of travel tips, what kind of shoes you should buy, how to use your camera, and several pages of just web addresses for everything under the sun- travel agents, where to buy your shoes, city web sites, and the list goes on. If you have internet access and know how to use Google then you already have a good half of this book. Did I mention it had LOTS of filler? My conclusion is this book was more of a good idea in theory than reality. The amount of actual location content would have been fine for a website or even an ebook, but I think a physical book at this price demands a bit more substance.

This is a Star Wars reference book that you can actually use; a book that covers places that you can actually visit. Essentially, it is a guide to Star Wars in your own backyard. These are some of the most beautiful natural environments that you'll find anywhere in the United States of America. This book was not written in a lab or a library; it's based on our first-hand experience and extensive field work. It's based on our travels, our research, our photography and our documentation. This book has no rival. It provides detailed routes and directions, maps, photographs and illustrations, original location and scene artwork, travel tips, personal experiences, historical background information, photographic suggestions and much more. It is an exhaustive reference, and a perfect addition to any Star Wars book collection.