

RECOMMENDED READING

(in no particular order)

The Hidden Canyon, a River Journey, Edward Abbey, photos by John Blaustein, Penguin Books, 1977, recently reissued by Chronicle Books.

A journal-style record of a dory trip through the Grand Canyon accompanies magnificent photos taken by a long-time boatman. Remember that Abbey wrote a lot of fiction.

Desert Solitaire, Edward Abbey

A year on the Colorado Plateau from Abbey's inimitable perspective. Entertaining, well-written, and an excellent introduction to the desert country of the Colorado Plateau.

Grand Canyon, Today and All its Yesterdays, Joseph Wood Krutch

On our trip we will see the Grand Canyon from the bottom up. This well-written book does it the other way. It starts at the rim of the Canyon and works down as it investigates topics such as ancient peoples in the Canyon, plant and animal communities, geology, and humans' relations with wilderness.

Exploration of the Colorado River and its Canyons, John Wesley Powell

We will follow in Powell's famous wake. This book is Powell's account of his two exploratory trips (told as though it were one trip). Even now river-running in the Grand Canyon expends a lot of adrenalin. When Powell did it the Grand Canyon was the Great Unknown. A real-life adventure.

Beyond the Hundredth Meridian, Wallace Stegner

A comprehensive study of Powell's relationship to the exploration and development of the West, with particular emphasis on the role of water. It can be a bit long-winded but at least Section I, chapters 11 and 12 and Section II are of great interest.

Corridors of Time, Robert Redfern

A good Grand Canyon book with gorgeous photos, including some impressive panoramas.

Down the Grand Staircase, Paul Geerlings

Beautiful photos and good diagrams give the regional perspective from the young rocks of Zion and Bryce to the ancient ones in the depths of the Canyon. Marred by poor writing.

Cadillac Desert - the American West and its disappearing water, Marc Reisner

Looks at the Colorado River as water in the desert, and explores the results of the water policies Powell hoped we would avoid.

The Colorado River Through Grand Canyon - Natural History and Human Change, Steven W. Carothers and Bryan T. Brown; University of Arizona Press, 1991

200 detailed pages on all aspects of Colorado River natural history, based on the many studies of the changes resulting from Glen Canyon Dam. Excellent; very detailed.

Life on the Mississippi, Mark Twain

I know it is a different river, but reread this! Chapters 1 through 21 give an outstanding description of the process of learning a river. Our boatmen have done it for the 280 miles of the Colorado River, although they only have to know the river going downstream.

Grand Canyon - The Story Behind the Scenery, L. Greer Price

A good summary of the story behind..., full of fabulous photos. Put it on the coffee table and make your friends envious (paperback)

The Man Who Walked Through Time, Colin Fletcher

An interesting, though somewhat self-congratulatory, story of the challenges and rewards of hiking in the vertical desert of the Grand Canyon.

There is This River—Grand Canyon Boatman Stories, Christa Sadler, Editor. This Earth Press, Flagstaff AZ. www.thisearthpress.com

Stories of the River written from the perspective of the folks who've spent more time there than any of us—the boatmen. A delight; especially good reading once you've been there.

Grand Canyon: Time Below the Rim, Craig Childs, photos by Gary Ladd, Arizona Highways Books, 1999

Beautiful, lyrical, written by people who've spent a great deal of time in the Grand Canyon. A book that will bring the experience in the canyon back, and make others want to make the trip. Put this on your wish list.

Sunk Without a Sound; the Tragic Colorado River Honeymoon of Glen and Bessie Hyde, Brad Dimock; 2001; Fretwater Press

In 1928, Glen and Bessie Hyde ran the Green and Colorado Rivers from Green River, Utah at least as far as Diamond Creek in the lower Grand Canyon. They disappeared somewhere below that point, and the legends have proliferated. This long-time Colorado River boatman devoted years to *research in The Colorado River: orig*, reconstructing and understanding what happened. A terrific adventure story. A wonderful writer and storyteller, Brad has several stories in *There is this River*, above. I think Brad's own dory, though not Brad himself, will be on our trip.

Down Canyon—a Naturalist Explores the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon, Ann Haymond Zwinger, 1995, University of Arizona Press

Ann Zwinger writes well and gives a good sense of the Canyon. You will find the name of at least one of our boatmen in the acknowledgments.

Carving Grand Canyon—Evidence, Theories, and Mystery, Wayne Ranney, 2005, Grand Canyon Assoc.

The Grand Canyon was cut by the Colorado River, of course, but the cutting removed most of the evidence of when and how. This book gives you some details, and some of the flavor of geological argument. Real geology wonks might prefer the papers by the original authors on the subject: *The Colorado River: Origin and Evolution*, 2004, Richard Young and Earl Spamer, eds, Both books from the Grand Canyon Association:
www.grandcanyon.org

The best general purpose nature guide is Steven Whitney's *A Field Guide to the Grand Canyon*, Mountaineers Books, 1996. The library will on the trip will include this book, a bird book, and some other general guidebooks. If you have a special enthusiasm: insects, say, or shrubs, you would do well to bring your favorite field guide. Contact me if you have questions.

A source of books:

Grand Canyon River Guides (GCRG) home page www.grcg.org has a list of Grand Canyon books. They sell through Amazon, so you get a discount and GCRG gets a commission. This is an organization of river guides, as the name suggests. They have played an important role in the evolving thinking about use and protection of the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon. Members (you can become one too) support River and Canyon advocacy and also receive GCRG's interesting quarterly journal.