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Southwest Unbound Reading List

- ❖ [House of Rain: Tracking a Vanished Civilization Across the American Southwest](#), by Craig Childs. A thought provoking book that assembles research as well as personal adventures throughout the American Southwest to help create a narrative as to what happened to the Anasazi.
- ❖ [A History of the Ancient Southwest](#), by Stephen H. Lekson. Archaeologist Lekson challenges many preconceptions and interpretations of how the ancient cultures of the Anasazi and Hohokam and more lived and why they suddenly disappeared.
- ❖ [In Search of Old Ones: Exploring the Anasazi World of the Southwest](#), by David Roberts. Archeologist and sleuth Roberts provides a good introduction to the Anasazi culture. He pairs his theories with accounts of his time spent rock climbing and canyoneering throughout the southwest. This book introduces many of the theories of how they lived and their mysterious disappearance.
- ❖ [Desert Solitaire](#), by Edward Abbey. A collection of vignettes about life in southeastern Utah and an introspective work on conservation. Similar in thought to *Walden Pond*, Abbey crafts an homage to the necessity of wilderness and America's national parks.
- ❖ [The Monkey Wrench Gang](#), by Edward Abbey. A comedy-filled read about fictional environmentalists living in the southwest. Abbey crafts an absurdist blend of environmentalist pathos and anarchism that's a fun read, if not the most informative.
- ❖ [Beyond the Hundredth Meridian: John Wesley Powell and the Second Opening of the West](#), by Wallace Stegner. Wallace Stegner recounts the successes and frustrations of John Wesley Powell, the distinguished Civil War veteran, ethnologist, and geologist who explored the Colorado River, the Grand Canyon, and the homeland of the Native American cultures of the southwest.
- ❖ [Cadillac Desert: The American West and its Disappearing Water](#), by Marc Reisner. This is an enlightening and intriguing history about water politics in the West. That may sound dry, but Reisner's wit and engaging writing style make his well-researched accounts a compelling read. It will help define some of the major politics at play in the areas that we visit. **Highly recommended.**
- ❖ [John H. Riffe The Last Old-Time Ranger](#), by Jean Luttrell. A story about one of the first National Park Service Rangers at the Tuweep Overlook at the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. This is a story about how the area changed overtime.
- ❖ [Shadows of Time: The Geology of Bryce Canyon National Park](#), by Frank Decourten, A great introduction to the geology of Bryce Canyon National Park.
- ❖ [Water, Rock, & Time: The Geologic Story of Zion National Park](#) by Robert L Eves. An interactive book that introduces readers to the basic geologic features encountered in Zion National Park.
- ❖ [The Colorado Plateau: A Geologic History](#) by Donald L. Baars. Baars writes for the general reader and creates a comprehensive geological overview of the Colorado Plateau. It's an engaging scientific read, and the newest version incorporates new test, photographs, maps, and geologic data.

- ❖ [Outlaw Tales of Utah](#) by Michael Rutter. A look at the rich history of some of Utah's most notorious inhabitants, including Butch Cassidy, the Sundance Kid, Kid Curry and the Wild Bunch Gang. Rustlers and robbers have never been so interesting.
- ❖ [Four Corners: History, Land, and People of the Desert Southwest](#) by Kenneth A. Brown. Brown's portrait of the four corners goes beyond mere nature writing and weaves together ecological, geological, and human histories. It's an engaging read for nature, science, anthropology, and travel lovers.