

Title: Geological Journeys
By Nick Norman & Gavin Whitfield
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If you've ever had the remotest bit of interest in or curiosity about South Africa's incredible rock formations, this book is for you. Written for the road traveller, it describes rock formations to be seen along the major routes we're likely to travel, both when we're off adventuring and when we're just driving from city to city, and it also includes some places a bit off the beaten track that were chosen just for their sheer beauty.

It's chock full of fantastic photographs of rocks and strata – rocks in cliffs, rocks alongside the road, on beaches, on top of koppies, in road cuttings, in kloofs, on mountain tops, and even in buildings. It describes - in detail that's accessible to the layman and the professional - the ancient geological history of our continent: the continental collisions, plate tectonics, ice ages, ancient volcanoes and floods that shaped our landscape, and the impact of these upheavals in the earth's crust on our economy – think mining, think marble, diamonds and cement, just for starters.

And if you're interested in natural history, you'll learn a bit about fossils and the mysterious 117 000 year old footprints of "Eve", about a rock that was the earth's first oxygen generator, about springs and about the formation of caves - the cosy homes of our early ancestors.

Written by two prominent and well-known geologists with a passion for their subject, it's full of fascinating facts and a vast amount of extremely interesting information, and every few pages there are simple maps and stratigraphic charts linked to the photographs, making this book a pleasure to use. One of the book's intentions is to open the traveller's eyes to the beauty of our geology, encouraging us see the landscape – and our place in it - differently, and in this it succeeds enormously. Get one before your next road trip.