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# Ansel Adams In The National Parks: Photographs From America's Wild Places

ANSEL ADAMS



IN THE NATIONAL PARKS



## Synopsis

With more than two hundred photographs - many rarely seen and some never before published - this is the most comprehensive collection of Ansel Adams' photographs of America's national parks and wilderness areas. For many people, Yosemite, Yellowstone, Glacier National Park, and other iconic American wildlands exist in the mind's eye as Ansel Adams photographs. The legendary photographer explored more than forty national parks in his lifetime, producing some of the most indelible images of the natural world ever made. One of the twentieth century's most ardent champions of the park and wilderness systems, Adams also helped preserve additional natural areas and protect existing ones through his photographs, essays, and letter-writing campaigns. Edited and with commentary by Andrea G. Stillman, the foremost expert on Adams' work, this landmark publication includes quotations by Adams on the making of numerous photographs and essays by Wallace Stegner, William A. Turnage of The Ansel Adams Trust, and journalist and critic Richard B. Woodward. This is a must-own for Ansel Adams fans and all those who, like Adams, treasure America's wilderness.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

What I Can Tell You:I have always been interested in Ansel Adams. As someone who calls themselves an amateur photographer, his use of black and white has always amazed me. It was so fun to open this huge book chock full of Ansel Adams rarely seen photos. It was fascinating to hear the rational behind the photos. Ansel was a visionary who has documented some of the most

beautiful nature photos. How can a man who worked in black and white have had such a career? I never know when to use black and white and found myself in awe of Ansel's vision and use of light. "A photograph is made, not taken." I love that line from the book. This week I told two people who noticed my camera and said, they can't take good photos with their current camera and wish they had a camera like mine. Both were told as nicely as possible, that it is not necessary to spend a lot of money on a camera. It is the photographer who makes the picture, not the camera. My entire life, I have been told, your camera takes great pictures. More often than not I was insulted by the statement. After 8 camera's and many years of maturation, I just roll my eyes at that statement. Ansel Adams In The National Parks is a great gift for the photographer in your life, the Ansel fan, or just for someone who appreciates the beauty of the glorious world we live in.

Ansel Adams is best known for his black and white photographs, and the magic of his simple and captivating images can once again be experienced in the new book, Ansel Adams in the National Parks. The book features over 200 of Adams' photographs and spans forty national parks, from Yosemite to Yellowstone to Glacier National Park. Ansel Adams in the National Parks also includes commentary by the photographer on certain photos, giving us more insight into his creative process. I enjoy photography, but am by no means a fanatic, and I loved browsing through the book and learning more about the National Parks (I've never been to one). There were a few particular images that really made me stop and take notice of every detail; I'm sure everyone will find some that do the same for them. Ansel Adams in the National Parks is beautifully presented and would make an amazing gift to anyone who appreciates nature photography, or is simply a fan of a great coffee table book.

I was fortunate enough to review Ansel Adam's In Colour last year and was eager to read the newest release - In the National Parks. Adams travelled and photographed forty national parks during his 50+ year career. This newest volume contains over 50 photographs never before published. Ansel is one of the greatest photographers in the world. His stunning pictures are all the more incredible as he worked with what we would now consider 'basic' equipment. Prints were developed by hand, a skill he excelled at. His black and white work is instantly identifiable. "For Ansel, the creative process began at the camera but did not end until he felt a sense of satisfaction in the darkroom. His photographic prints are a personal intensification of what was in front of the camera. They reveal not only the photographic process, but also the photographer." To quote Adams - "A photograph is made, not taken." Ansel was an ardent proponent of preserving 'America's

wild places.' Through his photographs, campaigns, and Sierra Club activities, he was successful in his raising awareness and affecting change. As I slowly perused each page, I was struck by the beauty of each and every photograph. Stand outs for me were Redwood Stumps and Ferns/California on Pg33 and Forest/Alaska pg186 . These two images radiate movement and fairly leap off the page. The play of shadows in Grand Canyon/Arizona 1942 on pg35 was breathtaking. It accentuated the timeless and enduring quality of the stone. The detail captured in the waves and mist of Grand Prismatic Spring/Wyoming pg36 is again a testament to Adam's skill with a camera, but also his ability to see the beauty in our natural world. I think perhaps my favourite shot is Aspens at Dawn/Colorado 1937 on pg66. The lighting makes the trees look so eerily beautiful. Accompanying many of the pictures are letters from Adams, setting the time and place, along with his thoughts. Also included are essays from Andrea G. Stillman and essays by Wallace Stegner, William A. Turnage of The Ansel Adams Trust, and journalist and critic Richard B. Woodward. These are intriguing as well, describing Adam's thoughts, actions and processes. Also included at the end are selected additional notes for certain images. "Ansel often said ' I go out into the world, I make a photograph, and I give it to you as the equivalent of what I saw and felt." Thank you. These timeless images are a reminder of the beauty of our natural world. And why we need to look after it.

Kudos to Andrea Stillman and Little, Brown for two recent books: Ansel Adams in the National Parks (2010) and Ansel Adams 400 Photographs (2007). Both are nicely designed and finely printed. The size of the books and plates inside feels just about right. The printing is first-class, although the best-ever probably still goes to Ansel Adams California (Little, Brown 1997)! The books faithfully reproduce the beauty of Ansel Adam's photographs with minute details and range of brilliance. If you carefully compare a same plate from both books, you may see small variance in contrast or brightness, but same details are preserved and both would get an OK from Ansel himself. Of the two I like this one better. The subject is obvious and that is the beauty and diversity of our national parks. The book contains quite a few photographs rarely seen in other Ansel books. There are interesting short notes written by Andrea to accompany some of the photographs and other longer articles about Ansel as well. The book brings back my memory of moments in the national prks and makes me want to go back more!

I have ordered 6 of this exact book for our 4 Yosemite vacation rentals. They are a big hit with our guests from all over the world. I highly recommend this book. I have already had to replace one from

use by our guests.

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