Rocks above the clouds: A hiker's and climber's guide to Colorado mountain geology

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Abstract

A Colorado mountain geology book written specifically for climbers, scramblers and hikers. A geologic primer for mountain people with range-by-range geological descriptions of Colorado mountains and detailed geologic information on the Fourteeners. Rocks Above the Clouds is the first geology book written for climbers, scramblers and hikers. It is an exploration of how the nature of mountains and the challenges they present to the climber and hiker are influenced by the rocks that form them, in other words, by their geology. After describing the types of rocks found in mountains, the authors of Rocks Above the Clouds cover the geologic process from the big bang through the processes that continue to shape the mountains today. This mountain geology primer is a range-by-range description of what to expect in the Colorado mountains followed by some very curious information on the Colorado 14ers. Whether you travel in the mountains as a casual hiker, peak bagging scrambler, or technical climber, knowledge of mountain geology can help in planning your route, selecting your campsite and evaluating the hazards you face. Knowing something about different rock types might enable you to pick a route that avoids loose rock. Knowing that when wet, a particular rock surface will feel like oil might encourage you to forgo that siesta on the summit and head down before the afternoon thunderstorm.

Study Area
Rocks above Clouds: A Climber’s Guide to Colorado Mountain Geology. by Jack Reed. No Customer Reviews. Along with six maps and a range-by-range geologic description of what to expect in the Colorado mountains, it includes some very curious information on the Colorado Fourteeners. Rocks Above the Clouds explores how the nature of mountains and the challenges they present to the climber and hiker are influenced by the rocks that form them—in other words, by the weeklong circuit around the Rocky Mountain state featured such top pros as 2011 Tour de France winner Cadel Evans, large, raucous crowds, and a chance for the world to see some of the finest roads for cycling anywhere. That’s where you come in. Whether you’re a casual cyclist, aspiring racer, ardent weekend warrior, or are new to the sport, Colorado is beckoning. Relatively speaking, this is one of the flattest and most manageable of Colorado’s long rides. Head due west out of the town of Avon and the base of Beaver Creek Ski Resort on Highway 6 along the Eagle River. At 5,280 feet above sea level, Denver represents the lowest altitude of any of our Rocky Mountain rides. However, the recommended route (same one the pros rode) goes up before it comes down.