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Book Review: Stars Above, Earth Below: A Guide to Astronomy in the National Parks

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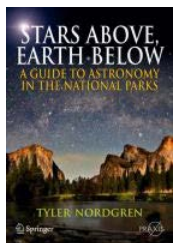
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Stars above, Earth below : a guide to astronomy in the national parks



Nordgren, Tyler. Springer/Praxis, 2010

444p, 9781441916488 \$29.95

LC Call Number: [QB44](#)

There are numerous field books on astronomy on the market, but this new book stands out. Astronomer Nordgren (Univ. of Redlands) spent 14 months traveling across the US, visiting 12 national parks and contributing to their nighttime public outreach programs. The result is this beautiful diary of the author's experiences and account of the unique aspects of the night sky at each site. The text nicely captures the astronomy, geology, history, and sociology of the parks. Most chapters are illustrated with beautiful color photos, many of them taken by Nordgren. Each also contains handy "See for Yourself" sections. Frequently, the book compares the geology of a site to what one would see on other planets in the solar system; hypothetical "tourist posters" for each planetary comparison are a creative touch. The book's major theme is that the national parks are some of the few remaining sites where one can still see a "primeval night sky" free from light pollution. The next time one visits a national park, he/she should remember that the night scenery is just as beautiful as the daytime scenery.

Summing Up: Highly recommended. All levels/libraries.

Reviewer: [T. D. Oswalt](#), Florida Institute of Technology

Recommendation: Highly recommended

Readership Level: All Readership Levels, General Readers, Lower-division Undergraduates, Upper-division Undergraduates, Graduate Students, Researchers/Faculty, Two-Year Technical Program Students, Professionals/Practitioners

Interdisciplinary Subjects:

Subject: [Science & Technology - Astronautics & Astronomy](#)

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