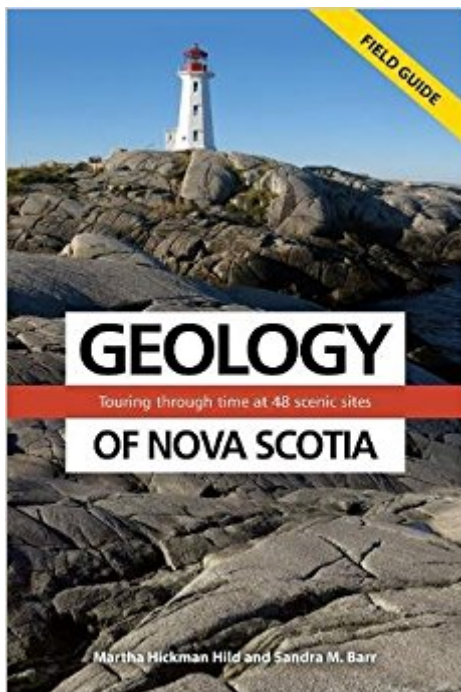


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# Geology Of Nova Scotia: Field Guide



## Synopsis

A traveller's guide to 48 sites of geologic interest in Nova Scotia. Maps, GPS waypoints, and travel directions make it easy for anyone to visit breathtaking, informative locations both on and off the beaten path. Together, these sites reveal the geological history of Nova Scotia. Colour photographs and accompanying descriptions capture the appeal and significance of the rocks at each site.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Sandra Barr is a faculty member in the Department of Earth and Environmental Science at Acadia University in Wolfville. Widely recognized as an expert in the geology of Nova Scotia, she is also co-editor of the scientific journal *Atlantic Geology*, and is book editor for the Geological Association of Canada. Martha Hickman Hild has a PhD in Earth Sciences and is a member of the American Geophysical Union. Early in her career she co-directed a research laboratory and lectured in geology. She has worked as a textbook editor and is the author of *Geology of Newfoundland: Field Guide*.

As an enthusiastic but very amateur geologist, this wonderful guide hit the spot for me. First, the guide starts with an easily-understood overview of geological processes and the geological history of Nova Scotia. Second, directions for driving, parking and walking to the sites are very clearly described, and include helpful sketch maps. This information is linked to both routes on the standard

Nova Scotia tourist route maps and to precise GPS waypoint coordinates. Third, the guide is full of useful color diagrams, photos and other illustrations, along with excellent captions. Finally, the writing is refreshingly clear. And if you can't make it to Nova Scotia in person, the guide serves as an extremely enjoyable armchair guide.

As a American not familiar with NS, but interested in planning a geology tour, I find it to be a great resource....trip planning still in the works.

How do you make a book about rocks fascinating? This is how. Partly a very accessible tour of history as seen through geology, partly a travelogue, I now can't wait too see Nova Scotia for myself. And I'll have this book with me at all times.

Let me first start by saying I am a geologist by training, with an advanced degree and decades of experience in various geological disciplines. I live in southern New England, which shares much of the same geology as Nova Scotia, for over 25 years, where I have studied the regional geology from a professional and academic perspective. I have used many field guides as a travel companion to understand regional geology in places I visit around the world. If you are looking for a roadside guide, this book isn't one. If you are looking for good basic geological maps of the province, this book doesn't have any. If you are looking to understand the rocks you are looking at, when passing by many of the spectacular outcrops in Fundy, the Annapolis valley, Cape Breton, the Cabot Trail, the Caleigh Trail and on and on and on, this book doesn't provide them. If you want to understand how today's landscape was shaped by glacial action, you won't find it in this book, which is an unbelievable omission, given the huge impact that repeated continental glaciations of the last 2 million years have had on the landscape of northeastern North America. At the Five Islands location, which contains exposures of early Jurassic sandstones, there is also a thick deposit of stratified glacial drift and there is no mention of it in the guide. Here is a perfect textbook example of glacial processes which would be very instructive to a lay reader and not one word. The term glacier is not even in the index. Instead, what you get is a basic academic primer on the tectonic development of the province, which is of some use to the lay reader. The province consists of three tectonic terranes, or groups of rock formations which share a common geologic history. The book then goes on to divide the various locations you want to visit into three groups based on these terranes. Since rock outcrops representing these terranes are scattered throughout the province, you end up having to page through three sections of the book to find field locations that may be in geographic locations

right next to each other, which I found maddeningly frustrating. The other thing is that the places the author suggests you visit are ones that will teach you some lessons about an aspect of geology, like an example of a fault, or type of metamorphism, or folding, or sedimentary deposition. That is all well and good if your goal is to teach geology, but many of the suggested outcrops are nondescript or poorly exposed. I got the impression before I went to Nova Scotia, that it was probably hard to find good exposures of any rock formations. Much to my surprise, especially in Cape Breton, there were spectacular outcrops one could easily see at the many roadside pullouts and absolutely no discussion of them. In one instance, a field location suggested by the author was a stone wall in a Cabot Trail pullout for a replica Scottish stone cottage, where you were to look at boulders in the wall. You have got to be kidding me. Towards the end of my trip, I stopped by the Fundy Geological Museum. In the gift shop, I purchased the Nova Scotia Geological Highway Map, published by the Atlantic Geoscience Society. This map is also easily understood by the lay person, providing brief context for the various geographic regions one might visit, provides dozens of locations along roads one might drive on, has three-dimensional block diagrams, which provide better context than plain map views (which the map has in abundance as well on the reverse side). This document does not go into glacial geology much either, but at least it mentions the glacial deposits at Five Islands. The bottom line is that this book is a waste of money. It is neither fish nor fowl, as the saying goes. It is not an academic text. It is not a practical field guide for the novice, it provides no regional context, and it provides no information on glacial processes that have also shaped the province. Give it a pass and buy the Nova Scotia Geological Highway Map. You can order it from the Nova Scotia Geomatics Centre (902-667-7231) or the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History (902-424-6451). Please note that I have no association with the Atlantic Geoscience Society or the other organizations.

Following the success of Hild's acclaimed *Geology of Newfoundland* (Best Guidebook 2014 by the Geosciences Information Society) comes this user-friendly, inviting and informative trip through time and terrain in Nova Scotia. Like its companion, this field guide is beautifully illustrated, clearly mapped and enticingly written. It brings to mind the qualities of a Peterson Field Guide. The concise narratives give you the essential markings: where to go, what to focus on, and how to make sense of it. A welcoming tour of Nova Scotian geology told with skill, warmth and class. Kudos. Can't wait to see what this team does next!

Don't pay any attention to the prior, dyspeptic review. Judge for yourself. Martha Hild is a

widely-admired researcher and writer, and anything she produces is well worth readers' consideration.

Well-researched, well-written, comprehensive field guide. If you are looking for a book on this subject that explains concepts clearly and succinctly with fantastic visuals - this is it. Highly recommend.

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