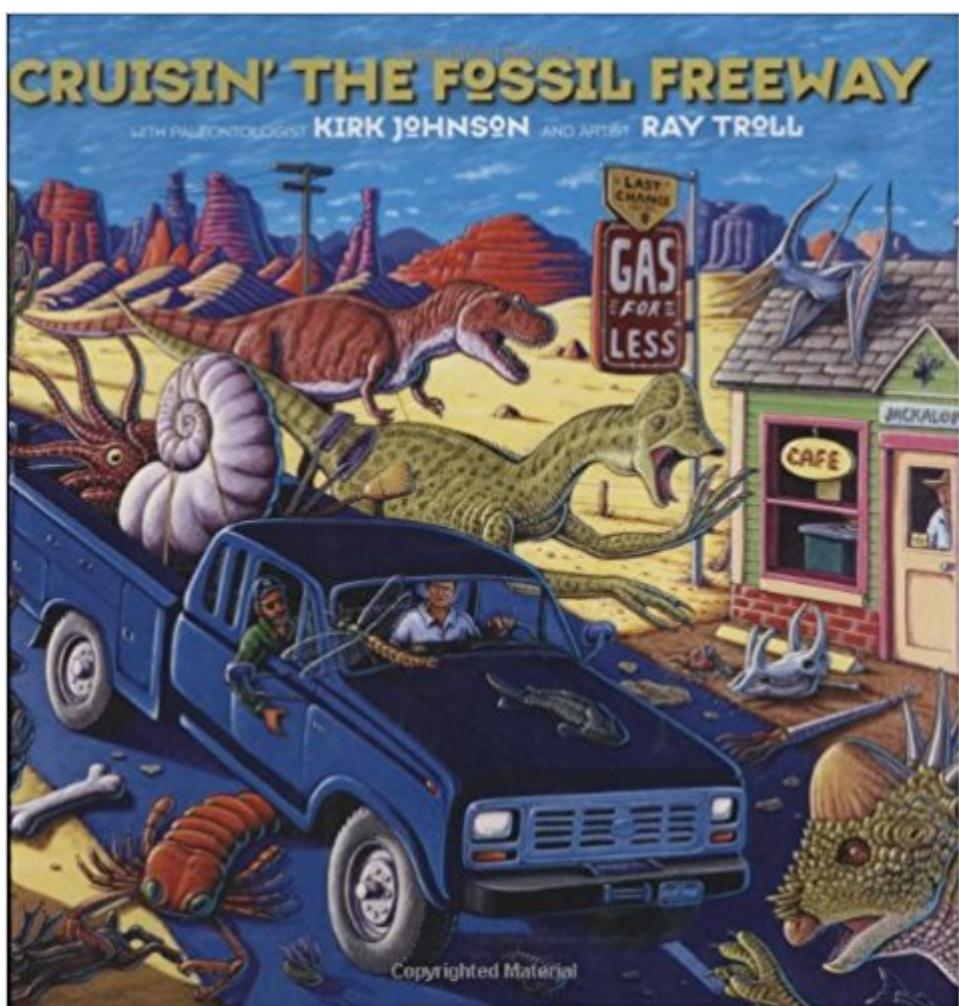


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# Cruisin' The Fossil Freeway: An Epoch Tale Of A Scientist And An Artist On The Ultimate 5,000-Mile Paleo Road Trip



## Synopsis

The travels of a paleontologist and an artist as they drive across the American West in search of fossils. Throughout their journey, they encounter "paleonerd" like themselves, people dedicated to finding everything from suburban T. rexes to ancient fossilized forests.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"...Cruisin' is accessible, fast-paced and informative, showing the rich history of fossil collecting in the American West." -- *Geotimes*, May, 2008 "...a fantastic work of art that is truly fanciful and awe inspiring, catching the real flavor of a bygone life." -- *Science Books & Films*, May/June 2008 "...belongs on coffee tables of every paleonerd, art lover, and general science enthusiast, and the home of anyone with children." -- *blogcritics.com*, December 23, 2007 "...this book will make anyone want to go on a fossil hunt." -- *True West*, March 1, 2008 "...Funny, stealthily informative...This is one of a tiny handful of books equally useful to adults and twelve-year olds."

--*Foreword Magazine*, Jan-Feb 2009

Kirk R. Johnson is the Sant Director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. He received his PhD in geology and paleobotany from Yale University in 1989, and did postdoctoral research in the rainforests of northern Australia before joining the Denver Museum of Natural History in 1991, where he directed the installation of the museum's Prehistoric Journey exhibit. His research focuses on fossil plants, the environmental effects of the dinosaur-smashing asteroid,

and the birth and death of biomes. Johnson also works with artists to create accurate and plausible paintings, murals, and dioramas of prehistoric landscapes, several of which are on display in the Colorado Convention Center. Johnson lives in Washington, D. C.

Very impressive visually. A beautiful book. Geological explanations are creative and easily understood by non-geologists (example: the pig in page 9). Maps are a bit overcrowded and I was sorry the book did not cover the eastern portion of the country, where I live (Virginia). Localities shown are too far for me to get to. Of course, the eastern portion of the country seems less rich in fossils, (except Pennsylvania?) The book is about a subject that I love, paleontology. My favorite fossils are the ammonites, more so than the dinosaurs. They have aesthetic value, in addition to the scientific value. Of course, dinosaurs are more popular, specially among the younger, but they also take much more work to put together for viewing in museums. The recent find of three triceratops in Wyoming should give this book added value since the authors treat Wyoming sites with special emphasis.

Kirk Johnson captures the inveterate geekiness of a hard core paleontologist who started young and never veered from his love of rocks or redheads with rock tumblers. Illustrator Ray Troll, the Ketchikan artist who is responsible for all the "Spawn Til You Die" t-shirts and many other fin (sic) art renditions of Alaskan humor, does an impressive job of filling the pages with more stuff than you can possibly absorb. When trying to follow maps of their adventures, I would veer off road (much like my geologist husband is wont to do on similar treks) due to some triceratops in the way. But, that is the point of the book. The fanciful drawings stoke the imagination, and Johnson's big circle way of writing (start in one place and wander all over to make a bunch of interesting points, to arrive back at an original thought with an fun twist) will make you want to fill your car with dino juice and hit the road for your own rock hound adventure. If you have kids wild for dinosaurs, this could be a fabulous off-beat way for them to experience what it really is like to be a flesh and blood guy who never grows out of it. It may charm them or scare them away, and I'm not about to say which way is best.

Great book, wonderful illustrations

I love this book! I have been suffering a fair amount of "road trip envy" - Imagine riding along with Kirk Johnson to learn about fossil hunting, and Ray Troll for a unique perspective on the adventure!

Except for the whining inside my head about wanting to go look for fossils, I found this to be a thoroughly enjoyable read, laced with an impressive amount of information.

Interesting and fun way to learn about the dinosaurs of the American West. Humor and science are good buddies in this book, kids and adults will learn and have fun. Author is now president of the Smithsonian Museum, and is a well respected paleontologist.

I had purchased this for my 9 year old granddaughter, but to me it is more for teens or older adults who would not be bored with all the writing. There are lovely color photos. I also purchased the book 'Walking With Dinosaurs' which gives detailed info about sites in Colorado.

We bought this book to get some ideas about where to visit the area. We are REALLY into paleontology these days and this book is like trilobite candy! The writing is fun for all ages and the illustrations are beautiful and creative. Some say the maps are too busy but that is part of the fun and style of the art. Not sure if we will get the map but the book is worth every penny. Let's put it this way, before I started homeschooling my son, I knew nothing about this and cared less. Now, I see fossils everywhere, we time travel to the late cretaceous and have a huge group of scutosaurs grazing in the backyard!

Outstanding read. Should be compulsory reading for anyone planning to travel on their own fossil highway as I plan for 2017

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