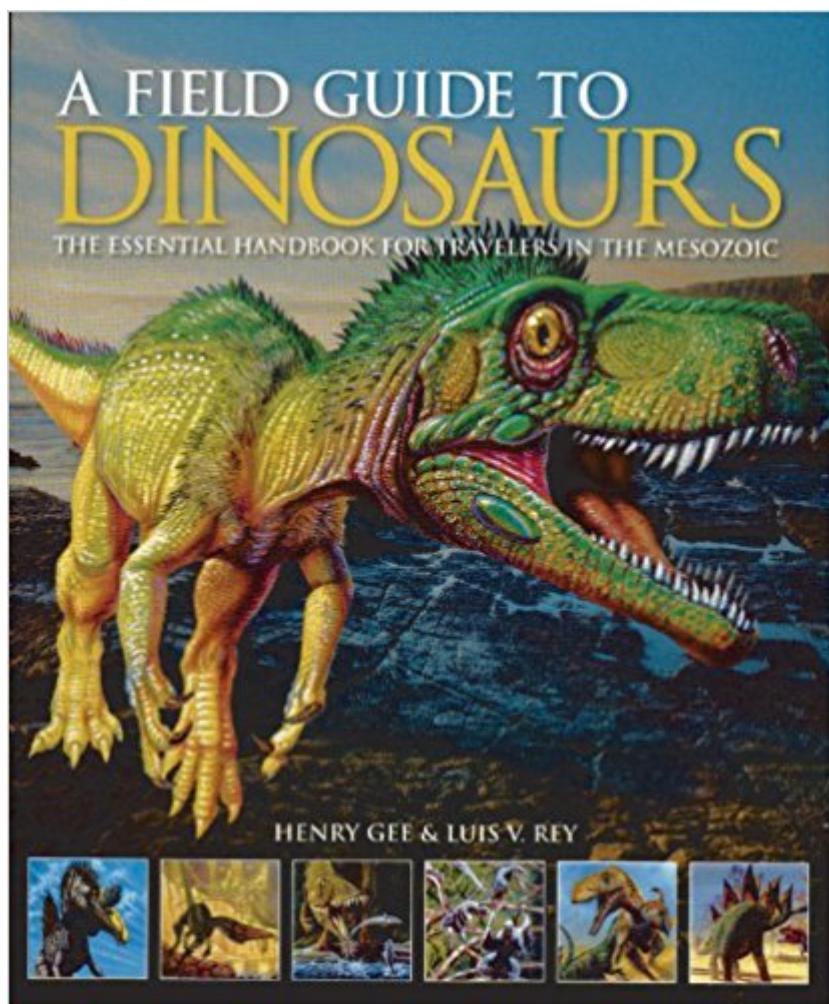


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A Field Guide To Dinosaurs: The Essential Handbook For Travelers In The Mesozoic



Synopsis

Sensational discoveries during the past decade have shed new light on the most intimate details of dinosaurs' lives, including their appearance and behavior, their family structures, and their sex lives. The latest dinosaur findings present a far more vivid and complete picture of this extraordinarily successful group of animals than would have been thought possible only a few years ago. Recent findings in South America, Madagascar, Mongolia, China, and Australia have revealed the existence of amazing and exotic dinosaurs. Paleontologist Henry Gee and artist Luis Ray have seamlessly integrated all of the most recent discoveries in the making of this unique book. In *A Field Guide to Dinosaurs*, Renowned dinosaur artist Luis V. Rey and paleontologist and writer Henry Gee use up-to-the-minute research findings to paint a vivid picture of the dinosaurs' world. Their unique approach gives readers lifelike portrayals of dinosaurs similar to that of naturalists in the wild, observing living animals of our own era. Readers will experience dinosaurs as living, breathing creatures, with each kind described "from the field" and shown in breathtaking illustrations. Dinosaur physiology is shown in full-color paintings, anatomical sketches, and a host of fascinating incidental detail, much of it never published outside specialist journals. Readers will understand the dinosaurs' environment in terms of the world's changing face throughout the 180-million-year extent of the dinosaur-dominated Mesozoic Era, with a detailed, full-color chart that relates the time span of each dinosaur group. The book also includes at-a-glance icons that convey information about different dinosaur groups, including size, taxonomy, geological period, and geographical origins.

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Customer Reviews

"One thing must be made clear from the start: this is a work of fiction." Having gotten that admission out of the way at the very beginning of his text, paleontologist Gee, a senior editor at the prestigious journal *Nature*, goes on to explain that picturing the outsides of dinosaurs known to us only by their bones is inherently an act of imagination, but one based on scientific realities. Did dinosaurs do mating dances? Nobody knows, but many animals do, so perhaps dinos did, too. And since dinosaurs are now believed by many to be the ancestors of birds, it makes sense to imagine them in as wide a range of colors as today's avian species. Each of 56 dinosaur species is presented here through black-and-white sketches of heads and claws and other body parts, and in full-color, full-body paintings that are indeed striking for the range of colors and textures: blues and greens and reds, with speckles and stripes, scales and feathers. Rey, a leading dinosaur artist, pictures his subjects in action, climbing trees, chasing prey, baring their fearsome fangs in habitats ranging from jungle to seaside. At the end of his introduction, Gee returns to the question of veracity-the dinosaurs probably didn't look as pictured here, he admits: "they were far, far stranger." But dinophiles will enjoy this excursion into a vividly illustrated possible past world. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 6-9—"One thing must be made clear from the start: this is a work of fiction." So states the first line of the extensive, well-written introduction, and should readers skip it and dive headlong into the sumptuous "field guide," they may take for unshakable fact material that, while based on current findings, is largely extrapolation. Gee discusses a wide variety of topics-fur, feathers, color, an "imagined reality," the dinosaur-bird connection, continental drift, and the nature of the Mesozoic world. A time line, an excellent cladogram, instructions for using the "field guide," and a warning regarding the speculative nature of many of the "facts" presented are included. The "field guide" is divided into the Triassic, Jurassic, Early and Mid-Cretaceous, and Late Cretaceous periods, presenting representative dinosaurs from each one. Rey offers a host of small black-and-white sketches and vividly dramatic, brilliantly colored paintings as well. Many of the selected saurians are the "usual suspects"-T. rex, Stegosaurus, Triceratops, and the like-but a horde of the newest finds, such as Masiakasaurus, Amargasaurus, and Muttaburrasaurus, are also included. As in a standard field guide, a global-positioning map for each dinosaur is included, as is information on description and size and paragraphs on distinguishing features, habits, and habitats. Handsome and engrossing, this book should have a large and appreciative audience, especially among fans of the stunning videos of *Walking with Dinosaurs* (BBC).Patricia Manning, formerly at Eastchester Public

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This is, in some respects, an amazing book: lavishly illustrated, with mostly excellent line and color drawings, diagrams, charts, and maps. The dinosaur images are finely done, though often shown in an irritatingly distorted perspective (the cover illustration is a good example). Still, they were intended to be dramatic, and they succeed in that. My main problem with the book is not altogether the fault of the authors. I was looking for a current factual guide, not a fictitious extension of the facts, so it has proven to be useless for my purposes since, based though it is on current knowledge, it proves to be more imaginative extension than fact. It would help if it were properly described in the advertising. It also contains the most preposterously reasoned cause for the dinosaur extinction I've seen to date. On page 24, the authors say: "...it all has to do with size....large animals might be more prone to extinction than smaller ones. They are more visible and have fewer places to hide; they also tend to breed less frequently and have fewer offspring than smaller animals. By extinction [sic], we think that whatever wiped out the dinosaurs preferentially affected the larger species, leaving the smaller ones--the birds--unscathed." The obvious problem with this is that not all dinosaurs were large, and not all small dinosaurs were birds, but all (except those few birds) were victims of the extinction event(s), so the effect was not size preferential. The Middle School quality of reasoning in this argument is disappointing coming from people who are supposed to be experts in their field. Aside from that, it's a nice book, but requires far too much work to re-distill the facts from the mix to be useful as a reference. Still worth buying, so long as you know up front that it's largely fiction.

I received this book and was pleased with all of the information, inside. It has pictures and good fossil pictures, a book you should long enjoy!!

I bought this for my 11 year old granddaughter and she has already 'used it up'. Now I have to get a second copy. Of all the dinosaur books that she has or has checked out of our library, this is the one book that has the most information. Very well written and a must-have for serious lovers of all things dinosaur.

My son loves this book. Lots of information

My husband said this a good reference book

My son loves it.

Dinosaurs are known from the bones of animals that died and were turned to stone and embedded in stone millions of years ago. These animal remains have captured the imagination of thousands of scientists and artists for a couple of hundred years but only in the last fifty years have artists begun to portray the ancient creatures in color. Although the colors are fanciful, they are based on what we know of present day bird colors and color patterns. I enjoyed looking through this book and seeing how the artist brought the dinosaurs to life.

I own over a dozen books that are supposed to be "up-to date field guides to dinosaurs". But none of them can ever compare to this. Most other books like this are scientifically inaccurate by now. For example, they show velociraptors with scaly skin, like those seen in "Jurassic Park". BBC's "Walking With Dinosaurs" was supposed to be updated, but many dinosaurs looked horribly inaccurate. This book is written by an authoritative author and lavishly illustrated by, in my eyes, the most talented dinosaur artist alive today. It has everything that "Walking With Dinosaurs" didn't had. It is full of awe-inspiring illustrations of dinos in action. The dinosaurs look so frighteningly realistic you almost think you've been taken back to the age of reptiles. But these dinos don't look like reptiles. They occupied the same niches as elephants, giraffes, lions, tigers, and wolves does today. Therefore, the authors have also carefully studied modern wildlife to make these interpretations of the prehistoric creatures. For example, the sail-backed meat-eater Spinosaurus could actually have looked more like a 40-foot pelican than the dragon seen in "Jurassic Park III". And Velociraptor probably looked like a sharp-toothed fish eagle with claws on its wings! The book provides amazing new looks on well-known dinosaur species like Stegosaurus, Diplodocus and T-rex, as well as some of the most recent and bizarre discoveries, such as the funny-looking Masiakasaurus, the smallest dinosaur Microraptor and the dawn tyrant lizard, Eotyrannus. The book begins with a short introduction to dinosaurs, and on page 30, the field guide begins. It is divided by period and continent. Each dinosaur is presented with several color and b/w sketches, a short description, size, and possible behaviour of the dinosaur. Of course, the behaviour is just based on guesses, but it's an interesting read. The images makes this book more than a field guide - it's a true art book. It makes you want to start drawing dinosaurs yourself, or write stories from the mesozoic. I'm currently planning an upcoming dinosaur comic book, and a lot will be based on the look and behaviour of the

dinosaurs presented in this book. Over all, this is by far the best general dinosaur book I've ever read. Packed with facts, and lavishly illustrated, this book is a must have for anyone who's interested in dinosaurs. For the laymen, it is a fantastic journey into a lost world. And all paleontologists, buy it for the artwork! I promise you, it's worth it!

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