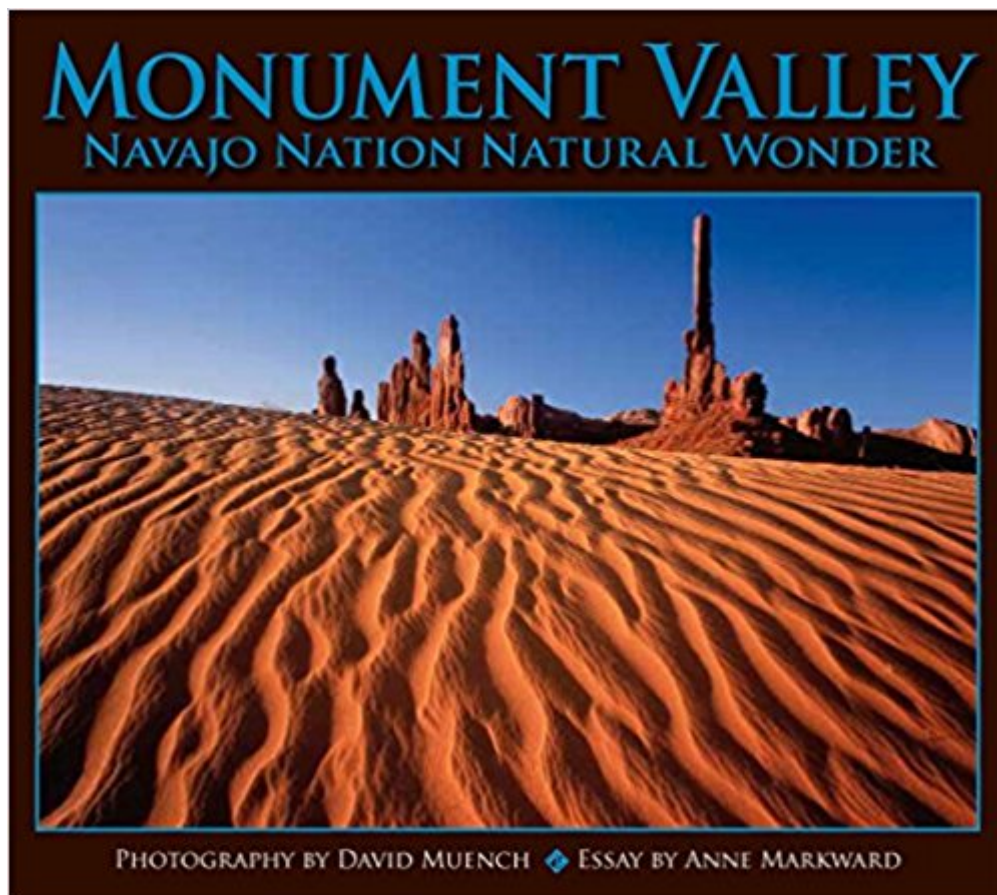




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# Monument Valley: Navajo Nation Natural Wonder (Companion Press Series)



## Synopsis

Welcome to Monument Valley Tribal Park—a world of weather-carved rock and wind-driven sand, of massive buttes painted with dark desert varnish, of hardy plants clinging to the earth. At dawn and sunset, an ever-changing sky silhouettes the dark-looming monuments against washes of color from delicate to vibrant. Monument Valley's Navajo residents live in harmony with this challenging, beautiful landscape. Dynamic forces of earth, wind, and water built and sculpted the dramatic forms of this land. The visible rock of Monument Valley—carved today into buttes, monoliths, and mesas—represents millions of years of contrasting land layers as ancient sands compressed over geologic time into rock. Then the vast Colorado Plateau uplifted, erosion cutting its softer surfaces back down, leaving pockets and markers of hard rock still standing. Grain by grain, wind and rain still carve the rock forms of Monument Valley. Ancestral Puebloans settled into the recessed rock alcoves dotting this region more than a thousand years ago. Only fragments of their lives—masonry dwellings, hand-formed pottery, rock art—remain. Many generations later, the Diné—the People—established a homeland in the red rock country and a community based on harmonious life between Mother Earth and Father Sky. Harry Goulding came to Monument Valley with his young wife, Mike, in 1924 to establish a trading post at the foot of Big Rock Door Mesa. They raised sheep, traded handwoven Navajo rugs for food and household items, and hosted an ever-growing number of curious visitors. During the difficult Depression years of the 1930s, the Gouldings attracted early moviemakers to Monument Valley. John Ford's films created an entire generation of moviegoers' views of the American West—and travelers from around the world have visited Monument Valley ever since. The Navajo Tribal Council established Monument Valley Tribal Park in 1958. Now this place of traditional lifestyle and spectacular scenery is preserved for its beauty as well as its ancestral and contemporary importance to the Navajo. Those who travel here find not only the rich history of this desert place, but a sense of Monument Valley's special harmony as well. Let the rhythm of this land thrum through your soul; let the voice of its spirit call you home.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

David Muench's National Parks (Graphic Arts Books, May 2013) captures in images the iconic national parks that millions of Americans cherish. From the Great Smokies—the most visited of our national parks—to Gates of the Arctic—perhaps one of the most remote and therefore one of the least visited—Muench's colorful and creative images display the character of each park. Nature writer and author Ruth Rudner contributed thoughtful essays throughout the book, and for those chapters that have no essay, there are descriptive captions to add to your sense of place. It's easy to find your favorite park as the book is broken up into a park per chapter. Notes on the images, found in the back of the book, identify the subject and provide camera information (and sometimes a little extra). Muench hopes that this book will spark Americans' appreciation of these national parks even as they lose federal funding. David Muench is an award-winning landscape and nature photographer who identifies closely with the American West. In 1997, the Muench Family received NANPA's Lifetime Achievement in Nature Photography Award. • Niki Barri, North American Nature Photography Association (NANPA)

No one fills a photographic frame with such authentic power, majesty, and passion as America's master landscape artist, David Muench. For more than half a century, he has roamed the great natural places of our vast country to burn his own indelible image of the wild upon our souls. • James Lawrence

Interesting detail on the entire area of NE AZ, title of book little misleading. It includes more than Monument Valley.

Good

Absolutely beautiful book with brief history of the area, stunning photography, and short write ups of the amazing natural sculptures. Definitely would recommend it.

Fantastic photos of Monument Valley !

It was all I expected and more.

David Muench is the best

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