



Cairns: Messengers In Stone

David B. Williams

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From meadow trails to airy mountaintops and wide open desert, cairns those seemingly random stacks of rock are surprisingly rich with stories and meaning. For thousands of years cairns have been used the world over to connect to the landscape and communicate with others, and are an essential guide to travelers. These man-made rock piles can indicate a trail, mark a grave, serve as an altar or shrine, reveal property boundaries or sacred hunting grounds, and even predict astronomical activity. The Inuit of the Arctic have more than two dozen terms to describe cairns and their uses!

In *Cairns: Messengers in Stone*, geologist and acclaimed nature writer David Williams (*Stories in Stone: Travels through Urban Geology*) explores the history of cairns from the moors of Scotland to the peaks of the Himalaya where they come from, what they mean, why they're used, how to make them, and more. Hikers, climbers, travelers, gardeners, and nature buffs alike will delight in this quirky, captivating collection of stories.

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