



How can I find cool rocks to collect?

We have two suggestions. First, be aware and informed. There are terrific “Gem Trails” books for many states, as well as geology centered highway guides. Keep your eyes open for interesting rock opportunities wherever you travel. Slow down and look carefully at the rocks in road cuts. Join your local geology club. Visit rock shops and speak with the proprietors about local rock hounding opportunities. Notice the crossed picks symbol on maps that mark mine sites. Search your library for a book about your locality. Most of all, become aware of the rocks that are around you.



Our favorite technique for finding interesting rocks is to find a pebbly rocky place and sit down. Relax. Look around, take a deep breath and enjoy the place for a little while. Now start picking up and looking closely at the rocks that are within your reach. Take your time. You might play a little elimination game; find a good rock, compare another to it, keep the best one, or two, and repeat. Don't move until you have thoroughly examined the rocks within your easy reach. Then you may move to another location, taking along your favorite rocks so far, and do the entire process over.

Use your water bottle to get rocks wet. This can make a plain rock look fabulous. The same can be true if you polish rocks in a tumbler. Almost any rock that is hard, that is, if it can't be scratched with a nail, will polish beautifully.

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