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The Milepost: Alaska Travel Planner



Synopsis

Book by

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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The 2009 edition of "The Milepost" is the current version of the most uniquely valuable travel guide to Alaska and Northwest Canada (British Columbia, Yukon, and Alberta Provinces). This guide is a must-have resource for the tourist, RVer, and North Country camper. Alaska and Northwest Canada cover a huge geographic area with significant terrain and weather variations and far less travel infrastructure than most travelers are used to in the lower '48 states. Travelers should not expect gas stations, restaurants, and franchise hotels at every exit off the main roads, nor should they expect that facilities or even roads are open year-round. Dangerous weather and driving conditions are possible to likely as much as six months or more of the year. In addition, travelers need to be alert to both the prospect of wildlife viewing and sometime close encounters in the road. "The Milepost" provides maps, diagrams, photographs, and most of all, an almost mile-by-mile travelogue of what to expect along the main roads in the North Country. This detailed information will allow the traveler to locate the next gas station, campground, hotel, or scenic spot in areas where signs and billboards may be scarce. The text is seeded with advertisements for many of the commercial establishments along the Alaska Highway in Canada and the limited major road network in Alaska,

allowing travelers to plan ahead for scarce beds. Travelers can also plan ahead for fishing charters on the world-famous Kenai Peninsula or the operating hours of the few but often fascinating small museums and roadside attractions that can be found along the way. The annual updating of "The Milepost" assures the traveler of some advance notice for construction or major changes in the road network. "The Milepost" does include some information on the location of trailheads, but serious walkers, bikers, and snowmachiners should seek elsewhere for detailed information on off-road routes. This guide includes convenient scheduling information for the Alaska Marine Highway System and directions to the digital version of "The Milepost." This publication is very highly recommended to both the resident and the visitor in Alaska and Northwest Canada, which are some of the most scenic parts of North America. Don't leave the lower '48 without it.

My husband really liked this book. He used it a lot to research our trip to Alaska. It helped him focus on information, then he would use the web to get deeper information.

In process of planning a fishing trip to Alaska in year 2010. Have been to Alaska four times over past 9 years; however, used Milepost as a guide to other parts of Alaska. Maps provided were helpful in pin pointing location and driving directions to popular and successful salmon fishing areas in Kenai and Matsu-valley areas. The fishing areas were derived from Alaska Outdoor Journal entries for 2009. The Journal would be more useful for fishermen if it had a section that focused on productive salmon fishing locations across Alaska. Part of a memorial Alaska fishing or hunting trip for the lower 48 Alaska visitors are facilities that can be used to freeze fish for further transport home. A section that lists freezer facilities that can be rented on a daily basis in Anchorage, Matsu valley, and Kenai. For those who prefer others to process their fish, fish processing facilities across the state would also be helpful (filleting, vacuum packing, freezing). Ended up using a lot of time doing internet search to identify a few places in Anchorage, could not find anything outside of Anchorage. Same with businesses that smoke fish for visiting fishermen. Couple of random business ads indicated potential for smoking fishermen caught fish with little other info. More information concerning halibut fishing should be provided as well - which ports are better than others, average costs, etc. Fishing guide information would also be useful to those who do not have time to enjoy Alaska on their own. Hunting was not mentioned, but should be since this is another part of the Alaska experience that people are interested who use the Milepost guide. There are specific regulations concerning hunting for visitors from outside of Alaska that should be mentioned for people planning a hunting and fishing trip to Alaska. Milepost appears to be primarily oriented to

the RV traveler, not the visiting sportsman. Milepost 2009 would be better informational source if it addressed the sportsmen who are RV visitors and non-RV visitors. More info on dumping stations would be useful to the RVer. All in all, good map source with good camping/RV area information, plus some beneficial suggestions for the visitor to consider. Due to the bear and human integration problems in the wilds of Alaska, it would be beneficial for Milepost to include a couple of pages on how to interact with Alaska's wildlife. This can save the lives of humans as well as the animals that attack because they feel threatened. Milepost can use some of the information on Alaska's Dept of Fish and Game website to supplement this good reference document. Lastly, there was no information about RV'ers camping in areas outside of RV parks. National forests allow camping in remote areas outside of designated campgrounds. The guide should address any regulations associated to camping/RV parking in National forests. All in all, a definite 4 out of 5 stars and well worth the purchase price.

Got as a gift, he liked it as far as I know

When my family and I got orders to Alaska (military) and were told we could only ship one vehicle, the drive from Texas to Alaska stared down at us like a grizz on a salmon run -- hungering, licking its chops, and breathing fire... (Oh, wait... that's dragons...) Needless to say, driving 4000 miles across the Great White North was a daunting undertaking... add 7 kids and a dog and it's enough to send you to the nuthouse before you even start. Enter "The Milepost." Full of landmarks, hotel recommendations, restaurant guides, and even historical info, this little handbook made our 10-day nightmare into a peaceful, family-bonding vacation... On several occasions, we detoured off the main highways to explore the "alternate" route (at the behest of the book) and were NEVER disappointed. Spent the night in Jasper National Park. Stopped to see the Giant Beaver in Alberta. Swam for two days in White Horse's Canda Games Centre. Always knew where we were going, when we'd be there, and where we were going to stay and eat, all thanks to "The Milepost." Would NOT recommend driving to Alaska from the Lower 48 without it!

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