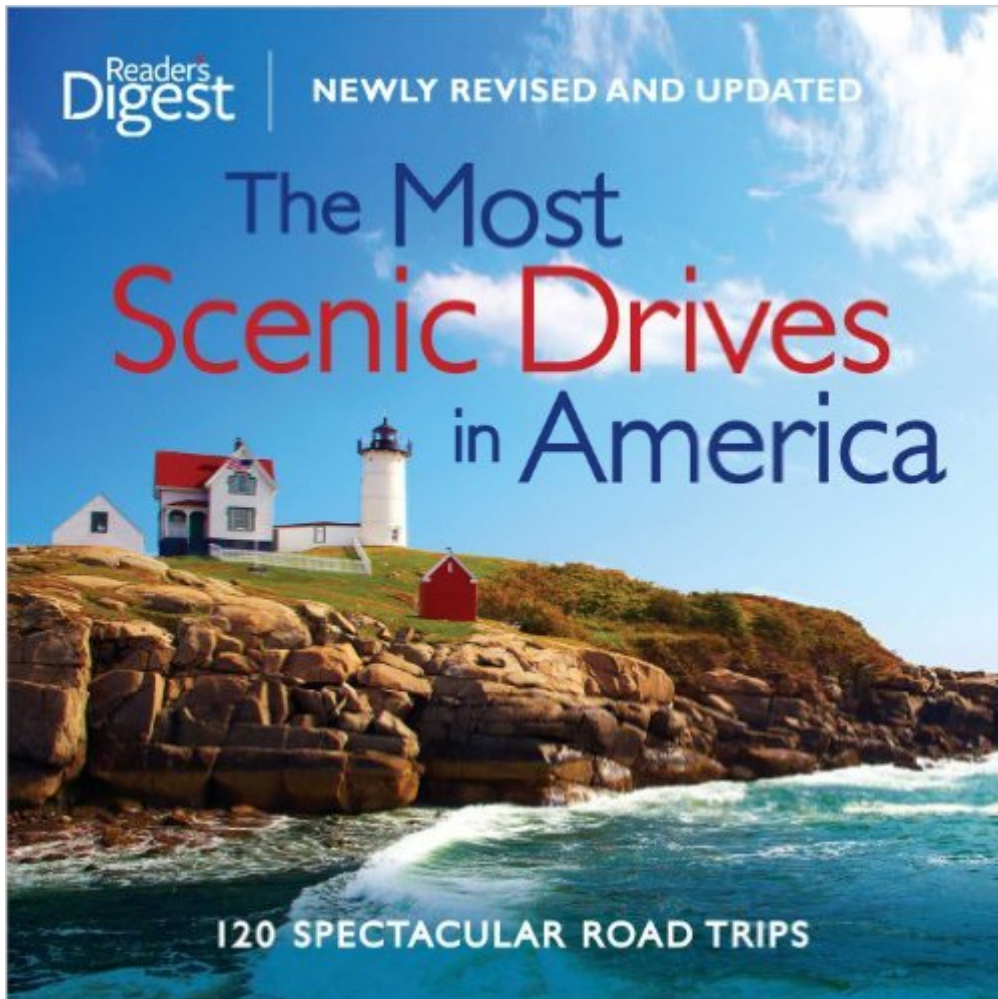


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The Most Scenic Drives In America, Newly Revised And Updated: 120 Spectacular Road Trips



Synopsis

The all-in-one trip planner and travel guide-now totally revised and updated-will steer you down the most scenic road every time. The all-in-one trip planner and travel guide-now totally revised and updated-will steer you down the most scenic road every time. From Florida's Road to Flamingo to Hawaii's Oahu Coastal Loop . . . from British Columbia's Sea to Sky Highway to Cape Cod's Sandy Shores . . . each featured road trip is pictured in stunning full color and described in vivid text, keyed to an easy-to-follow newly revised map. Whether you choose a drive in a far corner of the continent or a back road in your own state, this book is your ticket to North America's most beautiful byways. Drives are grouped in four pictured-packed sections-Western, Mountain, Central, and Eastern states and provinces-and are accompanied by detailed, easy-to-use maps. New drives featuring some of Canada's most stunning destinations have been added. As a bonus, handy Trip Tip sidebars include: Mileage best season to travel nearby attractions special events "learn more" contact information including website addresses A special feature called Star Routes offers thumbnail sketches of shorter but especially scenic roads located in the same region as the main tours. Additional boxes highlight distinctive characteristics of the areas, including local plants, animals, customs, foods, and a variety of historical events. Whether on the road or in the comfort of your easy chair, this newly revised Reader's Digest travel guide will be a welcome companion.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Even with gas prices up, driving still is the best way to see America and this book makes it even

more appealing by finding many beautiful and accessible areas and grouping them by region, perfect even for a single vacation. Although it's grouped into drives in four regions (and Canada)--West, Rockies, Central and East--it covers places in all 50 states (and Canada). What I especially liked are the maps that come with each drive. They show the route with numbered points of interest--whether town/city, natural features (including national forests and parks), or historic site. They also give mileage (so important to planning), the best time of year to go, and what events or attractions may be near. There are "Did You Know" facts about the area and sidebars with many kinds of local information. For those who have an avid "travel planner" in the house, each trip includes places you can contact for more information. 24 places are listed in the West, from George Parks Highway in Alaska to Aloha Loop in Hawaii. The Rocky Mountain Region begins in Wyoming's Icefields Parkway and lists 52 places, the last being Upper Peninsula Drive. You can see at a glance, which areas are close enough to be grouped together easily on a single trip, time permitting. The Central Region highlights an often neglected part of the country travel-wise, and the Eastern Region shows places from the southern tip of Florida to the Maine Coast and Quebec. There are large color photographs on every page, a detailed map with points of interest for every individual drive, all adding to the overall message--this is a gorgeous country..

What a delightful book! The purpose is laid up right at the outset (Page 5): "One of America's most popular pastimes is, quite simply, going for long, leisurely drives in the country--and that's what this book is all about." Through this volume, we see 120 separate trips, each described in enough detail (normally 2-4 pages with a map) to decide if that tour might make sense to you. Let's look at a few examples. One from my own experience--many years ago--is California's Big Sur Coast (pages 74-77). The trip starts at Monterey, goes on to Carmel-by-the-Sea to Big Sur (what a view from the highway, as I recall!) to San Simeon and the Hearst Castle, ending in San Luis Obispo. I'm from Illinois, and there is precious little here from my home state! One is a trip from Galena to Port Byron; the other is a drive through the Shawnee Hills National Forest. I also lived in Western New York for many years. This tour ends at Niagara Falls, one of my favorite spots. The tour starts at the Eisenhower Lock along the Saint Lawrence River and winds through Ogdensburg (with its wonderful Remington Art Museum) to Thousand Island and on to Rochester and Old Fort Niagara with an end in Niagara Falls. I have seen many of these sites and can attest to the delight I would experience if I traveled the full length of this route. In the end, a delightful book to read and to provoke the imagination as to what the various trips would be like.

I downloaded this book to a Kindle Fire and am very disappointed with the results. Because there are no page numbers, it is difficult to quickly locate those of the 120 specific "scenic drives" that you want to read about. Also, it is necessary to zoom in on any of the maps in order to read town names, roads, etc. The bottom line is that this book is cumbersome in an e-reader format and would have been better-acquired in print form.

In New Orleans we have a saying about places that used to be here... They "ain't there no more". I don't know who did the editing in this book, but on page 336 you are told that you can take a railroad trip at Kinzua Bridge State Park in Pennsylvania. I know this isn't true, because my family (from that area originally) went to take photos of the bridge back in 2003 after it was blown down in a tornado. It is not going to be rebuilt. Apparently there is going to be a skywalk on part of the bridge that didn't fall, but... the Kinzua bridge "ain't there no more". Hopefully this was the only oversight in the book... I don't know about any others.

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