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The Milepost 2014



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Synopsis

The MILEPOSTÃ Â® is the "quintessential" travel guide to Alaska and the highways and byways of the North. Since 1949, this "bible of North Country Travel" has offered details on road conditions, ferry travel, lodging, camping, fishing, sightseeing and services in Alaska, Yukon, British Columbia, Alberta and Northwest Territories. Travelers will find trip planning help and answers to frequently asked questions on such topics as wildlife viewing, crossing the border and traveling with pets.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Reviewed by: Susan Frissell, Ph.D., Publisher/Editor, www.womenwithwheels.comÃ Â This may be the biggest book youÃ¢â ¬â„¢ve ever read. It is also, by far, the most comprehensive and invaluable tome when navigating the Alaska Highway. When traveling throughout Alaska and northwestern Canada, The Milepost, a much-needed Bible since 1949, is the book to have under your arm-or car seat.In its 64th edition, The Milepost is the Ã¢â ¬Å“essential guideÃ¢â ¬Â• for Alaska travelers, since 1949. This edition is edited by Kris Valencia, and with nearly 700 color photos and 100 maps to edit, her job is a big one. According to Valencia, Ã¢â ¬Å“traveling the Alaska Highway is worth the price, and the memories are worth the mileage.Ã¢â ¬Â•This reviewer can attest to that. Taking off on my big adventure in 1972, a friend and I traveled from Chicago, IL to Fairbanks, AK and back. With dozens of stops along the way-and only one flat tire-we drove 28,500 miles in 28 days. Ã Â At that time, the famous Highway was not all paved; much of it gravel. Now, the Highway is paved, allÃ Â Ã Â Ã Â miles of it, which probably means the trip is a little

faster.Covering some 14,000 miles of road, The Milepost lists detailed descriptions of all the communities along the way, a mile-by-mile log of all Northern routes and attractions inboth Alaska and northwestern Canada. When traveling the Alaska Highway, we found the mile-by-mile logs extremely helpful; particularly, when in need of a fuel stop and/or eating establishment. We had our camping sites scheduled ahead of time, which helped, but referred to Milepost time after time when searching for suggestions about where to stop and/or eat. Ã Â I have kept my original Milepost, which in the 1970s was a considerably smaller version.As I did when traveling in Alaska, The Milepost recommends all travelers carefully plan their itineraries ahead of time. For instance, if you are traveling in a good size RV, you will find there are extended parking areas available most everywhere along the way.Ã Â Travelers can also combine road travel with the Alaska state ferry system and the Alaska Railroad. We triedbooking the Ferry before we left town and even at that time, there was no more room available. In 2012, I suspect this is more of a problem, due to far more travelers to Alaska.Readers and travelers neednÃ¢â ¬â„¢t purchase The Milepost only if they are planning a trip to Alaska. On the contrary, for the armchair traveler alike, The Milepost is just great fun to read and peruse. There is so much contained in this travel planner, it is great reading. You will learn a lot."...Nothing is too small to escape the attention of The Milepost. If you are wondering if the next turnout has trashcans or if there is a fish-filleting table next to the boat launch up ahead, just consult this travel guide. Besides mile-by-mile descriptions, has lots of useful information on preparing for a trip to Alaska, whether you are planning to travel there by RV, fly there and rent an RV, sail there on a cruise ship or take a ferry...."-Ã Â RV Life,Ã Â April 2012Ã Â "A "must-have" is the most recent edition of The MILEPOST which contains updated information on maps, road conditions, ferry schedules, campgrounds, businesses, and colorful side trips on every road in Alaska, Yukon and BC."- MotorHomeÃ Â "If you are planning a trip to Alaska, or even dreaming about taking one, The MILEPOST is an absolute must. There is a wealth of information in this take-along book."-Ã Â Woodall’s CamperWays

I might have given this book a 5 star rating because it is chock full of great information and very comprehensive, but I had the advantage of reading The Milepost 2013 edition and it is a better value. It can be purchased for less money, has more pages, was printed on better quality paper and has some prettier photographs. Buy last year’s edition since whatever the "improvements" are, it’s too hard to tell. In fact, I wonder why this book is published every year instead of every 2-4 years. My 2014 edition has fewer pages than the 2013 edition (graciously loaned by a friend which is why I wanted my own book). The seemingly thinner pages --yes, hard to believe -- result in the pages

rippling instead of being completely smooth. For me it is annoying see pages that are akin to have been wet then dried. It's not that bad, but the best way to describe the ripple look. Buy a Milepost book, just don't feel you have to have this year's edition to get great info.

I called this my moving bible. It was the best thing I had for navigation as I moved from Alabama to Alaska. It gave a lot of helpful information about the towns, and made it easier to plan our trip, when we had to stop traveling at night because of limited open fuel resources, and where the best towns to stay in were. Even though the Milepost does not tell you everything that is in a town, you could get a good feel about your options, based on the town size and who/what companies were advertising. This made it easier to pre-plan where were would stop for things. Since there were two of us, one person would drive, and the other person would read the random facts at each mile or kilometer marker. I'm a history buff, so it was great to hear about the things that had happened during the creation of the Al-Can. It was difficult to understand how to use it as first, as it does not read like a typical map or travel guide, but once we got the hang of it, it was great! The biggest challenges is when you would change roadways and trying to figure out new/different numbering patterns/layout in the book. This is a must have for anyone making this journey!

The cruel joke is that there are no (or very few) mileposts on the Alaska Highway anymore and trying to use this book will drive you crazy. There is some good information if you take the time to tediously tease it out. However, it seems that it only includes that which business owners have paid to have listed.. Guide to the Alaska Highway is not as inclusive, but it is better and more readable.

There's no doubt that pretty much the only people who would buy this book are people who are planning a road trip to Alaska, myself included. The unfortunate thing is, there's really no accurate review that can be made until you make that trip. Given that most of the reviews on this book (at this moment) are from June 2014 or earlier, I can say that many haven't made the trek with the book. Myself included, for what it's worth in an honest review...I'm scheduled for a whirlwind tent-camping trip between August and September...a trip I've wanted to make since I've been able to drive.I was reluctant to buy the Milepost, mostly because of price. After thinking about it, though, considering I'll be investing thousands of dollars into my trip...it ultimately became a no-brainer for what it can bring with up-to-date info and essential knowledge along the journey. Few would argue that the Milepost is the quintessential reference for the Alcan trip, but now that I have it, the value is far more than I expected. To me, the real savings (and reason I don't begrudge the purchase) was with the maps

included of all the various routes. I had planned on purchasing a map of AK, BC and the Yukon (’cause you’ll never get this guy to totally trust GPS technology) to supplement the trip, but now I don’t need to. (There’s $10+ right there.)As for what’s included? Every ridiculous thing you could practically want to know from pretty much any major or minor route in, into and out of Alaska. You’ll find out about the crazy festivals, the camping and hotel opportunities, historical information, things to do, places to fuel up, mileage markers...in fact, I don’t even know why I’m trying to detail it, as I could never do it justice. The point is this. As for me and my road trips, I don’t like to plan too much ahead...I like to have a route planned, but let the trip happen to me within a general timeline, instead of forcing my way through through the trip. (Don’t get me wrong, I’m an experienced and relatively prepared camper, road tripper and traveler.) I was nervous about taking that laissez-faire approach with Alaska, mainly because there are some serious distances between things and knowing where you are and where your next gas and night’s sleep is can’t be understated. To me, this book alleviates any concerns. We’re not studying it extensively now, just flipping through...we have the route planned and will have an undeniably excellent road reference for the 5500 mile posts we’ll be passing on this journey. I’m comfortable with taking a more laid back approach to the trip because of this book, so that’s what matters to me.I’ll report back once I’ve made the journey, but it’s aiming to be unforgettable!Usage Edit: Returned from our trip, it was absolutely amazing! This book did turn out to be a tremendous resource for figuring out what to do, where to camp and where we could locate services we requested. We felt that with the information we were armed with, an "impromptu" trip was easily put together and figured out on the fly.That said, it wasn’t without it’s pitfalls. The biggest issue we had was locating things in the book. GPS coordinates would have been much preferred, but rather, the book commonly provided only mileage from a known point as the locator. We found ourselves having to add or subtract mileage quite often to get a reasonable idea of where the thing of interest was and in many cases, we had no clue as to how far we were from a city or junction. This caused us to inadvertently miss some things we wanted to see because we were off in our estimations by a mile or two. In other cases, there wasn’t any detail on where to locate a thing, such as a couple campgrounds we searched for. Fortunately, with the GPS, another camping book and countless brochure from the places we wanted to visit...it overall worked out pretty well. The point is that mileposts aren’t as common as they used to be and KM posts across Canada only appear every 10KM, if you’re lucky!The other issue we ran into is that the info wasn’t quite current for 2014. For example, we wanted to stay in High River, just outside of Calgary. Well, come to find out, in mid-2013, the entire town experienced the worst flood of memory and everything (including the campground) was shutdown even a year later. We realize that this is probably checked the year

prior, but this along with other issues with closures of gas stations and other camps, makes me wonder how much they're really updating the information every year.Although this might not be a concern for many, another concern is that navigation solely on this book would have been nearly impossible. It's great that it has maps of most of the little towns and such, but they're not the type that are good for navigating. Missing are common street names or other info that can be used to locate where you are or where you want to go from there. GPS is almost a necessity if you're interested in exploring the little towns you come across.Despite these gripes, it was a fantastic resource to use on the trip and when we do it again, we'll probably consider purchasing a current copy.

I love the mile post. This my third one. I wore the other two out. I do believe the first two were a little more comprehensive. There were a few little things or details on some the routes that were left out that would help people especially people like me who love to fly fish. Other than that it is still be used as the bible for traveling in Alberta, CA. British Columbia CA and the Yukon Terr. It also does a great job on Alaska. I would recommend it to anyone traveling in those regions. My only advice to people using it is to study it and not to use it for reaching certain goals. Stop and visit. Smell the roses. I have met many interesting people and seen many interesting places. I would have given this a five star if it had a little more like the old ones. Russell Williams

I bought the 2014 Milepost to use on my roadtrip when I was moving to Alaska last summer. Let me just say, I have never seen such a detailed travel guide. Every single pullout, trash can and animal crossing along the highway is listed. While it was a bit overkill at times I did find it really useful. I also got the chance to use my Milepost again acouple months ago when roadtripping up to the Dalton Highway from the Kenai Peninsula where I live. I found it especially helpful on the more remote roads to help gage mileage for gas usage especially, when gas stations are few and far between. If you're planning a roadtrip in or to Alaska, or BC/Alberta/Yukon I would say it's a worthwhile investment.

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