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# The Milepost 2015



## Synopsis

The MILEPOST<sup>®</sup> 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 mile-by-mile logs of all Northern routes, with 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. Updated annually, The MILEPOST<sup>®</sup> gives readers over 700 pages of detailed information on everything from the famous Alaska Highway system to cruising Alaska's Inside Passage.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Reviewed by: Susan Frissell, Ph.D., Publisher/Editor, [www.womenwithwheels.com](http://www.womenwithwheels.com) This may be the biggest book you'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 "essential guide" 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, "traveling the Alaska Highway is worth the price, and the memories are worth the mileage." 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. At that time, the famous Highway was not all paved; much of it gravel. Now, the Highway is paved, all 4,140 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 in both 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. 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. Travelers can also combine road travel with the Alaska state ferry system and the Alaska Railroad. We tried booking 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 need not 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...." - RV Life, April 2012 "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." - MotorHome "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." - Woodall's CamperWays

Alaska is, for most visitors, the journey of a lifetime, a chance to visit a place where wilderness is, as they say, only half an hour from downtown Anchorage, the entry point for many travelers. Alaska and Northwest Canada offer a chance to experience a pre-urban world with a sub-continent's worth of rugged country, covered with forests, streams, mountains, tundra, glaciers, and lots of wildlife, where the prepared traveler might spend hours or days out of sight of his or her fellow humans. The

opportunities for outdoor adventure, whether hiking, biking, canoeing, kayaking, skiing, snow machining, dog sledding, fishing or hunting, are fantastic. The flip side of this outdoor wonderland is far less tourist infrastructure than visitors from the lower '48 or lower Canada might be used to. Gas stations, restaurants, and places to sleep may be few and far between outside the towns. What there tends to fill up quickly. The road network itself can be pretty sketchy in places. Planning ahead is a great way to ensure a good experience, and the Milestone is just the planning and traveling resource that most visitors need. The 2016 version of "The Milepost" is the 67th edition of a uniquely useful travel guide to the limited road network in Alaska, the Yukon, and the northern portions of the Canadian provinces of British Columbia and Alberta. The guide includes seasonal road access routes in the Northwest Territories of Canada. It also includes basic information for the Alaska Marine Ferry System, a way to see Southeast Alaska from the water and take your vehicle with you. This guide is a must-have resource for those planning an extended trip in the region, whether by car, RV, or camper. "The Milepost" offers a mile-by-mile travelogue, updated annually, for the main roads of the North Country, along with maps, diagrams of some key towns, photographs, and advertisements for attractions, accommodations, and other travel facilities. It includes small delights that might not make it into guide books. It lists the next gas station, some small but worthwhile museums, scenic overlooks of glaciers, historical markers, and even unique restaurants specializing in local wild catch or "the world's best cinnamon buns." Visitors can and should plan ahead for such delights as fishing charters on the world-famous Kenai Peninsula or the operating hours of hot springs, wildlife parks, and ferries. "The Milepost" in new or recent used condition is very highly recommended to the visitor and the resident of Alaska and Northwest Canada, which are some of the most scenic parts of North America. Don't miss the sights, and don't leave home without The Milepost.

I lived in Alaska for many years and each summer we would drive from Anchorage over "Top of the World" highway down into Dawson City. We would never leave without the most updated version. Why? because by the time we got home the Alaskan Milepost was more than paid for by the coupons inside. We did the Alcan (Alaska-Canadian) Highway more times than I can remember from many different U.S. entry points and the Milepost was there to always give us the answers we needed. I would never let a family member drive up to see us without having this in their car. Some hints: the book breaks down highways in a unique way, at first it may seem disorganized but after being on almost all of these highways you would begin to see that this is done for a very good reason. \*\*\*Go to the dollar store and buy those multicolor book marks with sticky tabs. In the front of

the book there is always the full spread map with the different colored major highways, color coordinate that reference highway map with the colored stickies indicating the coordinating highway chapters, otherwise you will wear these thin pages down going back and forth. I kept my Milepost in a large static free grey see-through flight bag that zip locked so I could read it easily without wearing down or tearing the pages. Beware: treat the Alaskan Milepost carefully, there will be fights over it, there will be spills on it, pages will rip but it will prepare you for every nook and cranny those roads have to offer. Remember that when your 100 miles past the last town and 100 miles before the next one, that the German Shepard standing at the tree line along the road is not really a dog.

If you're planning a trip to western Canada, Alaska, or more specifically, up the ALCAN highway, then this publication will help a great deal. It explains a good deal about places to travel to, sights to see, campgrounds, and accommodations. It also provides a great wealth of information for a few other routes as well as areas of interest in Canada and Alaska not on the ALCAN. I used it as a beginner's reference to search and research a trip, but once familiar with specific areas on the ALCAN, using google maps and the gas buddy app provided more in-depth information. Now, when traveling on the highway there are a great deal of places that do not have phone service or internet, but if you plan your route ahead of time and list places, phone numbers, and have reservations in advance, then this publication can be used as another resource. Having done the trip on the ALCAN now, I feel confident that I will not need to purchase this magazine again. There are websites that provide real-time travel information and road conditions for both British Columbia and Yukon territory (services of the provinces) and doing online research will provide the most up-to-date information, rates, and most importantly, availability. Still a good investment, and I do recommend that if you have not traveled through western Canada or to Alaska that you acquire this publication; it is a valuable tool to assist you in your travels. Lastly, most of the attractions, hotels, and services pay this magazine for advertising. There a number if RV parks and other business not listed, I assume they wished not to pay their fees. Take it for what its worth. Good luck.

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