



Drives of a Lifetime: Where to Go, Why to Go, When to Go

National Geographic Society , Katrina Goldsaito (Contributor)

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Pack your suitcase, load up the car, and head for the open road! In the tradition of *National Geographic Traveler* magazine's award-winning annual feature showcasing the world's best auto trips, National Geographic presents *Drives of a Lifetime: Where to Go, Why to Go, When to Go*. This lavishly illustrated, hardcover travel planner and gift book gives you every bit of information you'll need to navigate 400 amazing driving routes in some of the world's most fascinating locales.

This practical travel planner provides specific, in-depth descriptions of the sights each drive offers. A clear, detailed, easy-to-read map of each route. Useful information on the best time to travel. And insider tips to help you get the most out of every fabulous trip. Abundant sidebars call your attention to standout sights along the drive or entertaining background information on the region and its culture.

While handy indeed as a planner, *Drives of a Lifetime* doubles as a full-color gift book with more than 200 dazzling, large-format photos and crisp, evocative text that will enchant armchair travelers. The book immerses you in the unique appeal and beauty of hundreds of inviting locales.

Sample entries include the road to the spectacular ancient ruins in and around Angkor Wat in Cambodia; the Natchez Trace Parkway, along an ancient Native American trail through Mississippi; the scenic old coastal route from Dublin to Wexford in Ireland; an off-road dune drive in Dubai; the famous ocean views along the Cabot Trail in Nova Scotia, Canada; the Winelands Route through South Africa's Western Cape; a drive among the incredible land formations in South Dakota's Badlands; and an archaeological tour through Syria. In addition, you'll find several fun Top Ten lists: skyscraping drives, Mediterranean island roads, African wildlife excursions, and more.

Chapters organized by theme include Ultimate Road Trips, featuring famous drives such as Highway One down the California coast; Over Hill and Mountains; By Sea and Shore; The Road Less Traveled, highlighting unpaved and untamed routes and safaris; Village Byways through some of the world's most picturesque hamlets; and Historic Trails, tracing the paths of history's great builders and explorers.

Whether you travel these storied routes by car or through the pages of the book--countless wonders await your discovery in *Drives of a Lifetime*.

Drives of a Lifetime: Where to Go, Why to Go, When to Go Details

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From Reader Review Drives of a Lifetime: Where to Go, Why to Go, When to Go for online ebook

Renetta says

Planning a road trip and this book has some beautiful areas I'd like to see.

Rj says

A collection of interesting drives across the planet from the folks at National Geographic. A handy guide includes not only the trip, a brief description but also the highlights of each drive.

Alex says

This is a good coffee table book with excellent photography, but is very thin on information for people who may actually drive some the routes described.

As you would expect in a coffee table read the information is presented thematically, with no attempt to provide a geographic finding aid which would be useful to narrow down trip locations beyond the entire planet. Maps are small, and little detail is offered about food, accommodation, weather, local politics, or even where to locate a vehicle.

Driving any of these trips would take considerable additional research. In areas I am familiar with I noticed that some of the authors are quite happy to subject themselves to huge stretches of interstate or bald prairie that many will describe as mind numbingly dull.

This is a pretty book which might give you an idea about a trip, but as a tool to assist people actually considering the drives, a reader is left with more questions than answers.

Kathy Doll says

A beautiful guide, done in typical National Geographic style.

Lots of gorgeous photos, florid travel brochure-like summaries of the drives and sights to be seen along the routes, tiny little maps of the route and an even tinier map of the route area placed within the country. Little information of real value to folks actually planning these drives.

I would say this book would be a starting point for further research to those with pots of money to spend, or those who love to imagine themselves with pots of money.

Angie says

Great vivid pictures that feature popular routes. I enjoyed seeing the miles and time lapse on the road trips. Definitely a coffee table/adult wishlist of places to visit.

Elaine says

I certainly enjoyed thinking of the places I want to go.

Tim says

a good book in the "national geographic" lifetime travel-book series, with a heavy dose of american routes.

Don Gubler says

Some intriguing trips. The places I have been are described pretty accurately. Lots of places worth visiting.

Liviu says

another coffee table book one browses often but this one actually has a lot of cool ideas for driving (and I actually did a few drives mentioned there from Italy, Austria, Switzerland and Germany from the book, and a bunch from here in the US before actually reading about them in this one, and plan to do more as opportunity arises); excellent stuff with tons of inspiration for trips - has a companion with 500 journeys of a lifetime but this is better imho (if you are a fan of driving in cool places of course)

Kasey says

A fun book with lovely pictures. It's like a wishbook for road trip loving adults! However, I question some of the choices, as I have driven some of the routes and some I personally thought were amazing got only honorable mentions, and others that I didn't think were that great were featured. A good example of this is Alaska, where the Denali "Highway" a long, remote, washboard-rough gravel route that we didn't find to be that spectacular was featured above the Richardson Highway which was amazing. Hatcher Pass was probably the most unbelievable road I have travelled and it and wasn't even given a mention. But that's just my opinion I guess. Overall it has some really amazing routes I hope to travel someday.

Armelle says

It's a pretty book and fun to look at. The pictures are gorgeous. The descriptions are fairly minimal, but they do tell you what's along the route.

I'll never go to 99 percent of the places described, but that's okay - I can dream.

Janet says

While I only jotted down 38 of the 500 trips that I (realistically) want to take and will, the book itself is a wonderful journey.
