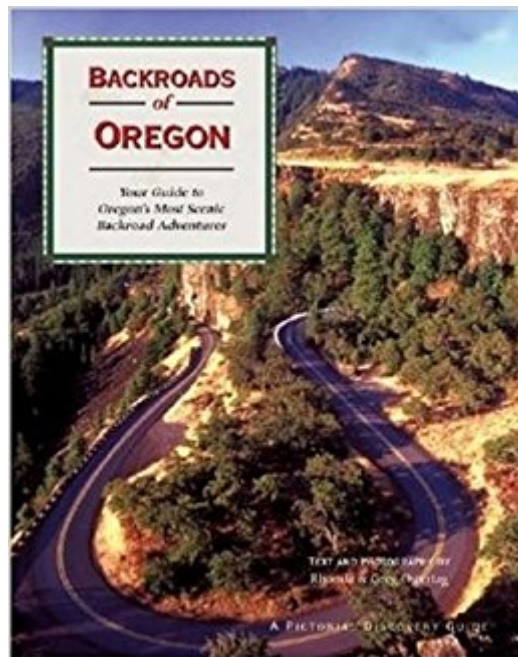




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Backroads Of Oregon: Your Guide To Oregon's Most Scenic Backroad Adventures



Synopsis

From the drama of the Historic Columbia River Highway to the snow-capped volcanoes and icy waters of the Cascade Mountains; from the fly-fishing mecca of the Deschutes River to the other-worldly landscapes of Hells Canyon, thirty of Oregon's most varied and vibrant attractions are presented here, inviting you to explore them. "Backroads of Oregon" written and photographed by local experts takes you on routes that lead to the state's most secluded and overlooked natural areas and sites that capture Oregon's colorful history. Whether you're planning a day trip, looking for unusual destinations, or simply want to learn more about the state, "Backroads of Oregon" will lead you deep into the soul of Oregon beyond the bustling cities and common tourist attractions. About the Author and Photographer: Rhonda and George Ostertag of Oregon have traveled around the state for the past twenty years, uncovering the state's prized haunts and raptures. They have collaborated on eighteen outdoor guidebooks and hundreds of articles, calendars, and postcards.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Washington State Grange News, October 2005 (circ.: 30,500) "A beautifully produced source of information that will urge you to get off the beaten path and into some truly sensational scenery. When the trip is over this book will end up on your coffee table where its beautiful photos will evoke renewed memories of your excursion." Book News, Inc., November 2005 (circ. unavailable) "With period and contemporary photos and maps, this well-hiked couple, who have authored

many outdoor guidebooks, share 30 of the Beaver State's less-traveled byways. The Oregonian, July 3, 2005 (circ.: 335,980) "The pictures are spectacular and whet the appetite for a few of the real thing. The descriptions of the selected routes and the attractions they lead to are entertaining and informative."

Rhonda and George Ostertag have traveled around the state for the past twenty years, uncovering the state's prized haunts and raptures. They have collaborated on eighteen outdoor guidebooks and hundreds of articles, calendars, and postcards.

If you want bullet-point lists and fast-travel plans (like one of the other reviewers) this isn't the book for you. If you want to get out at each stop spend exactly 4.8 minutes there, take a photo on your cell phone, then jump back into the car and stomp on the gas until you reach the next item on the list, this book isn't for you. My girlfriend and I have driven about a third of the routes in this book so far. Each route is about a day's worth of traveling at an exploratory pace. You can link up multiple routes easily using the maps, camping or hoteling overnight in between. Two routes in a day is certainly possible if they are shorter, although it can be a long day that way. So many times we were amazed by the places we found, often with virtually zero cars because they are... wait for it... the back roads. There are usually lots of photographic and picnicking opportunities if the weather is nice. The ideal companion to this book, however, is a hi-resolution detailed atlas (or a GPS map device, but don't count on regular old cell reception in many of these areas, you need GPS). With this book and a good atlas, you are set up. The maps in the book are detailed enough for route planning, but it is very helpful to consult an atlas for specifics. This is a book for explorers who know that life is about the journey, not the destination. Highly recommended.

The book has very nice looking captioned photographs but they might rarely help you to make decision about trip and the unstructured format of the book doesn't help much either. For example, instead of actual photographs on point of interests on Oregon shore you will see cropped up photograph of bridge in fog with sun rays. Yes, beautiful for my PC wallpaper but not helpful for me to decide whether a point of interest on that route is actually interesting. Like lot of other outdoors books authors forgets that almost no one is going to read this book start-to-end. Authors also don't seem to realize that most people aren't going to take every single trip instead they would be - as always - faced with very difficult choice of what to do if you have to do just one or two things and if you had only 4 hours or 16 hours. This is why I like "Don't waste your time in ____" series of books.

Unfortunately this book is simply a map of route, few photographs (not necessarily of actual "point of interest" always but instead whichever looks good) and then a lengthy 2-4 pages of description. If this book had structured information instead, for example, in following format it would have been very helpful:

1. Name of the route
2. List of point of interests on the route with one sentence description of each + color photo of how each point looks like
3. Total timer to allow, millage info
4. Best options for lodging
5. Best options for food
6. Time of year its open and best time to go
7. Nearest hiking, skiing, fishing and other outdoor opportunities
8. Other trivia about route - each no longer than one sentence

But instead you will be forced to read pages of description to extract above info in this book and it just becomes painful. The book could have also included some kind of matrix for which route is best to do in which month so you can quickly look up your options for the month. From the content point of view I think the book shy away from detail info on perhaps 3 most important and popular routes (101, Gorge and Mt Hood). These 3 routes could itself fill up an entire book of this size but we find much less info on these 3 in this book. On bright side, I'm happy that book on this subject even exists. The book can be "glossed over" just by looking at pictures and reading captions in under an hour to get the very good idea of what entire state has in store for outdoor lovers. If you are traveling in Oregon you can always look up this book and take little detour. Also photos in this book are really eye catching, in full color and pleasing even though may not be "useful" at all times. The most useful and enjoyable part of the book is "Oregon Outback" which is probably the most stunning and unusual area and probably most overlooked too.

Book didn't have detail info it advertises. Commercial of certain spots. No planning help or maps. I thought it'd have more trail details.

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