

Route 93 always heads in right direction

Western highway boasts more stops than a bus route

Road trips reward travelers with an up-close gift that unlocks a surprise sure to result into a treasure trove of memories.

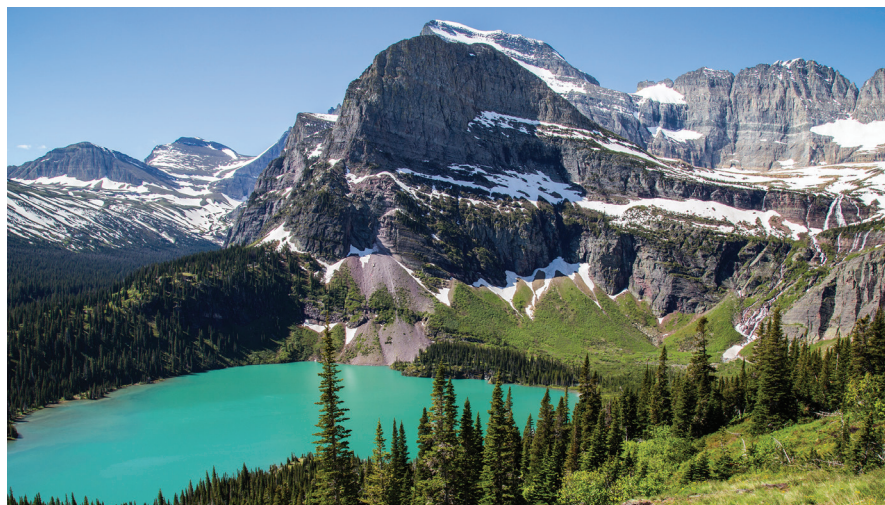
A kaleidoscope of landscapes swiftly change settings along the way. Snowcapped mountains transform into lush forests, vast deserts or unique towns.

North America is teeming with vast highways. Miles of pavement open doors to fresh experiences, and few do it better than Route 93.

It's a border-to-border road trip – covering more than 2,200 miles – that begins in western Canada and concludes on the U.S.-Mexico border. It can be driven, without stopping, in 38 hours, but that leaves out all the fun. Travelers should plan for at least 10 days. There's too much to see to cut it short.

Drive from the rugged north through college towns and big cities. Scale mountains and plunge into valleys. See dormant volcanoes, lakeshores and historic sites. Learn about the Wild West. The run between Jasper National Park in Canada to Nogales, Mexico is brimming with magnificence, wildlife, protected lands and a myriad of characters.

Jasper National Park is more than 2 million acres and the largest of its kind in the Canadian Rockies. The limestone walls of Maligne Canyon, Angel Glacier, Spirit Island, Miette Hot



STUNNING – Mountains hover over one of the more than 700 lakes at Glacier National Park, an essential stop off Route 93. *Image: ricktravel. Adobe Stock.*

Springs and Cavell Meadows highlight the park's beauty.

Snow-covered mountains reflect off the turquoise waters of Lake Louise in Banff National Park. Witness glaciers, azure lakes and crashing waterfalls. The summer season allows visitors to bike, hike, fish and mountain climb. Scuba dive to see a submerged Victorian resort village in Lake Minnewanka.

Cross the border into Montana. A nature theme continues at Glacier National Park, where spring wildflowers, autumn leaves or winter

wonderlands surround more than 700 lakes. Conquer the curves of Going-to-the-Sun Road but do it with caution.

Scorching lava, cinder and spattered cones, and rock bombs transport visitors to another universe at Craters of the Moon National Monument in Idaho. Short trails send visitors up the windy Inferno Cone to catch a glimpse of the Great Rift.

Route 93 becomes known as Great Basin Highway in Nevada. Towns are scarce, but the history is deep. Stop by Pioche's Million Dollar Courthouse

or Caliente's Mission Revival railroad depot. Ward Charcoal Ovens is six still-standing beehive kilns used to make charcoal for smelters in the 1870s.

Great Basin National Park redefines remote road trip. Located off Route 50 – aka "The Loneliest Road in America" – travelers can see thousand-year-old Bristlecone pines and stalactites in Lehman Caves. It's lack of light pollution provides the best visibility of the Milky Way in the continental U.S.

Lights shine no brighter than in Las Vegas. See a show, visit its laundry list of museums, take a seat at a gaming table or just absorb its decadence. Stop by Hoover Dam when leaving. It's well worth it.

The Titan Missile Museum in Sahuarita, Arizona once was one of the most-secret sites in America. The gallery is all that remains of the 54 Titan II missile silos that were the first line of defense against nuclear attacks during the Cold War. Tours take guests underground to the control center and to the silo to see the Titan.

The trip concludes in Nogales – on both sides of the border. The Hilltop Gallery ranks among the finest stops. It's exhibited artists from both countries for more than five decades. A historic ceremony on the Arizona side observes Dia De Los Muertos – a two-day holiday that reunites the living with the dead.

Route 93 – it borders on perfection.

Things to know before renting an EV

AAA lays out blueprint to make sure all goes well

Better pricing, knowledge and accessibility are driving consumers to purchase electric vehicles. They've gone from becoming high-end toys to reasonably priced, everyday cars.

EVs provide a number of benefits. Consumers who drive them spend as much as 60% less on fuel costs annually than those who drive gas cars, according to AAA. EVs also are better for the environment.

EVs even are trickling into the rental market. Consumers are finding that renting an EV while on vacation is a smart way to test whether one is for them. AAA offers advice to those considering renting an EV.

Make sure you understand how EVs work – The operation of an EV is different from a gasoline-powered vehicle. An electrically powered vehicle immediately accelerates as opposed to a more gradual acceleration. Another difference is how they are fueled. EVs require charging stations that are found via your smartphone in public areas like parking garages and shopping malls. Some might offer free charging. It's wise to be conscience of where charging stations can be found.

Consider range of EV carefully –



ELECTRIFYING – Be sure to have a solid understanding of EVs before renting one. *Image: AAA.*

Different models come with different ranges and choosing one that meets your needs is essential. Consider a model that comes with an extended range if you are taking a long road trip. Some models include features that increase the range of your vehicle. Most EVs can travel as much as 300 miles on a full charge.

Don't forget about insurance when

renting an EV – Insurance often is overlooked when renting an EV. Making sure you have the proper coverage is essential. This will help protect your finances if something happens while driving the vehicle and provide peace of mind and assurance you are adequately covered. Speak with a AAA Travel Advisor to ensure you have adequate coverage.

EVs are the eco-friendly option – EVs have lower running costs and produce significantly fewer emissions, making them an eco-friendly and cost-effective option. EVs can produce zero tailpipe emissions, meaning they produce less harm to the environment than traditional gas-engine vehicles.

Expect that the experience will be different – Most people need to become more accustomed to EVs and all the nuances with which they come. Expect the driving experience to change and take time to feel fully comfortable behind the wheel.

Tips for renting an EV – Check the charging infrastructure of the area you plan to visit. Most EVs come with a charging cable and plug for use at home, but you might need additional cabling if you plan to use public-charging stations. Also consider the cost benefits of renting an EV. Charging the EV should be cheaper than filling it up with gas, which should reduce your overall rental costs. And don't forget about the insurance. Many rental companies offer special packages for EVs but read the fine print carefully before signing up. It's also important to be aware of any restrictions.