Headline: Life is a highway on 15,000-mile roadway

Deckhead: Pan-America Highway navigates from top of globe to bottom

The best vacations often are ones as simple as hopping in a vehicle to take off and see the U.S., one mile at a time.

There are a bevy of choices. The Pacific Coast Highway quickly comes to mind. So does Route 66, Great River Road and Florida Highway 1. But these are only a snapshot of the thousands of miles of pavement throughout the intercontinental 48 states that offer never-ending stories, as well sights.

For travelers eager to conquer a serious challenge, the Pan-American Highway awaits. It’s the ultimate road trip – stretching 15,000 miles from Alaska to Argentina and it passes through 14 countries – making it the longest road in the world.

In North America, it takes you through the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. And passes through Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile and Argentina in South America.

It’s the trip of a lifetime – one that would take likely a year to complete, but decades of memories await. Choosing to navigate only parts of it is priceless.

Travelers venture onto side roads and often face detours. An endless number of unique towns, sights and historic destinations make it a peerless bucket list journey. A trip could cover as many as 30,000 miles once completed.

Most who travel this highway do so in nine months to two years, depending on where they begin and conclude. A section between Panama and Colombia can’t be crossed by vehicle. Environmental reasons make the Darien Gap unpassable. The only way across is by ship. The cost to have a vehicle transported can cost as much as $1,000, depending on its size.

Hundreds of stops await. See sights your eyes could never have imagined.

Climate and geographic changes will wow senses. Witness glaciers, topical beaches, polar bears and monkeys. Traverse the Andes Mountains – the longest range in the world. Learn about the cultures of other countries. Taste their food, meet their people and make a few friends.

Begin inside the Arctic Circle. You’ll cross from Alaska into Canada before returning to the U.S. Spectacular landscapes, small towns with huge personalities and big cities like Los Angeles, San Diego, Las Vegas and San Antonio are awaiting your visit.

See a number of wildlife species, sit on beautiful beaches and touch ancient structures. Allow your curiosities to serve as your compass and take hundreds of photographs along the way.

The Pan-American Highway twists and turns its way from the Arctic Circle to not far from Antarctica. It’s a trailblazing path, where history and Mother Nature spin tales that could fill a library of novels.

See it all on one trip or navigate parts that pique your interests. Either way, it’s unlikely you ever will experience anything like it. Check that. You *never* will experience anything like it.

The Pan-American Highway … It seems like a myth but delivers like a legend.

Cutline: ROAD TRIP – The Pan-American Highway snakes through the Geoglyphs of Pala, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Peru. Image: Leonid Andronov. Adobe Stock.