Headline: Route 93 always heads in right direction

Deckhead: 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 Canadian Rockies. The limestone walls of Maligne Canyon, Angel Glacier, Spirit Island, Miette Hot 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 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 Overs 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 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.

Cutline: 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.