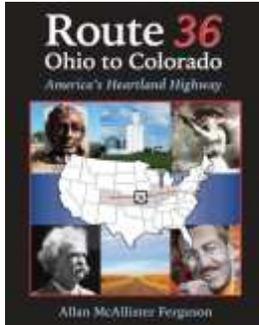


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RELEASE AT WILL - RE: TRAVEL IN THE COVID AGE



contact: Allan Ferguson
1743 S Marion St
Denver CO 80210
ph 303-722-3441 (o)
720-789-0042 (m)

THE PERFECT TIME TO TRAVEL HISTORIC ROUTE 36 IN AN RV

The Guidebook - *ROUTE 36: OHIO TO COLORADO—AMERICA'S HEARTLAND HIGHWAY*

For more information about the book and the author see www.us36guidebook.com.

DENVER—No one has wished it, but in this time of pandemic restrictions, RV travel has come into its own. With food in the fridge and a comfortable bed waiting, RV travelers are sharing the open road with far fewer travelers this year.

While most Coloradans head west to the mountains, Denver author Allan Ferguson wants RV travelers to turn east to discover or re-discover Route 36—once America's main route between the Midwest and the Rockies. "For my money," he says, "Route 36 is far more compelling and historic than

Route 66.” Ferguson is the author of *Route 36: Ohio to Colorado—America’s Heartland Highway*.

Route 36 stretches over 1,400 miles from eastern Ohio in the foothills of the Appalachians to Estes Park, the “Gateway to the Rockies.” From Uhrichsville, Ohio, to Norton, Kansas, the highway traces the middle one-third of what was once a transcontinental highway running from New York’s Times Square to the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco (the Pikes Peak Ocean to Ocean Highway).

“The great thing about Route 36,” Ferguson says, “is, first, it’s a largely two-lane experience far more interesting than interstate travel. Second, it is replete with the small towns and villages of the Midwest and High Plains. The highway passes through or around only two large cities, Indianapolis and Denver.

“Unlike better-known highways like Route 66 and the Lincoln Highway,” he says, “Route 36 hasn’t been obliterated, obscured, or superseded by the interstate highway system. Route 66 was de-commissioned in 1985; Route 36 is still there to be driven along much the same route as our parents and grandparents drove before the coming of the interstate highway system.”

Ferguson touts the “remarkable swath of American history” found on Route 36—icons like “Cy” Young, Annie Oakley, “Mad” Anthony Wayne, Abraham Lincoln, Mark Twain, Walt Disney, General John J Pershing, J.C. Penney, the Pony Express, Denver’s “Unsinkable” Molly Brown, and F.O. Stanley of Estes Park.

“Sites dedicated to these famous Americans,” Ferguson says, “are less heavily-traveled this summer than in any time in recent memory. RV owners practicing ‘slow travel’ can spend weeks on Route 36 getting an education in American history and the country’s westward expansion.

Ferguson’s book includes six state chapters, two chapters on transportation history, essays describing forty-five towns, recommended side trips, 164 images, a bibliography, a chronology, and an index. The book is available on Amazon or directly from the publisher at www.us36guidebook.com.

Ferguson is also the author of *Golf in Scotland: A Travel-Planning Guide with Profiles of 74 Great Courses*.

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BACKGROUND

The Pikes Peak Ocean to Ocean Highway (the “parent” of Route 36) was promoted primarily by boosters from Colorado, Kansas, and midwestern states as an alternative to the Lincoln Highway and the National Old Trails Road. In particular, the “Pikes Peak” was an answer to the Lincoln Highway Association that had by-passed Colorado and the northern counties of Kansas and Missouri by routing the Lincoln through Iowa, Nebraska, and Wyoming.

In 1926, US highways were numbered and the “named trails” became a thing of the past. The transcontinental named trails were broken up. US36 went through several east-west extensions as highways were built and improved. Its current expanse from Uhrichsville, Ohio, to Estes Park, Colorado, has been in place since 1978.

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