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Michigan Recreational Road Atlas (Michigan Recreational Travel Atlas)



Synopsis

Our researchers have scoured their sources to compile one of the most exhaustive collections of Michigan recreational information available. Combined with completely new, up to date maps of the entire state, it is the authoritative guide for outdoor activities and business travel in Michigan.

Book Information

Series: Michigan Recreational Travel Atlas

Paperback

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Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

The one reviewer who gave this atlas one star seems to be stuck on one thing: she doesn't like the grid layout. No one system will be completely convenient for every user, however, and the grid layout is really quite efficient. It's used by Delorme and in every atlas I've ever owned. So far, I've traveled the whole of the Lower Peninsula with this atlas without hassle. In fact, the coloring of the maps is really quite user friendly. I am particularly appreciative of the extras on the maps.

Campgrounds and other recreational facilities are really useful. The only negative I would mention is some sloppiness when it comes to accuracy on smaller back roads. Checking the errors against other sources, I found the mistakes are repeated in my Delorme Atlas and on Google maps, so it's hard to fault them too much. Overall, this is a great atlas, well worth the \$\$.

UPDATE (4/14/10):
Having used this more extensively, I had to trim a star from my review. The roads are all off in places. When I use the map around places I know well, I find it to be frightfully inaccurate in places. Roads that don't go through are marked as through-ways. Things misspelled, icons not always in the right place. Still useful, but I now bring both this atlas and my Delorme when doing serious exploring.

This is a fantastic map book. It even shows little dirt 2-tracks in the national forest! Love it!

It is true that Universal switched from a county-by-county view to a grid system, but overall I think this is a much much better product. I prefer this atlas over the Delorme atlas and over the Michigan County Map Guide published in 2000 by the Michigan United Conservation Clubs. The maps are busy, but they show everything you would want to know, including the public land survey system Township-Range boundaries, section boundaries and numbers, township names, county boundaries, and even zip code boundaries. Universal obviously poured a lot of work into this. I was able to drive diagonally across the state using only back roads and never had to flip around, trying to figure out what page to turn to next. All those sectionline country roads are named, as are parks, airports, and all kinds of points of interest, both expect and unexpected. This book is kind of a hidden treasure, it doesn't seem to be getting much promotion from the publisher or the booksellers.

Apparently Universal Atlas no longer publishes a Michigan County Atlas. When I needed to replace my old Michigan County Atlas, I was surprised to find this atlas is divided into arbitrary grids. For example, if one wants to drive M22 from Frankfurt up to the tip of Lelanau peninsula, you have to flip through three disparate grids, located throughout the book, one of which has the bare tip of the Lelanau peninsula along with the Elk Rapids area on the other side of Grand Traverse Bay. As well, the maps are funky in general as they are cut up to show 1 mile sections, township boundaries, township ranges, zip codes and tons of other useless information, making it difficult to follow roads and natural features like rivers and streams. Most likely someone at Universal Map thought they were making a better product. But it is difficult to imagine that anyone who actually used maps would think this arbitrary grid format and the incomprehensibility of these maps was any kind of improvement. As it is, this atlas is a waste of paper and I am very sorry I purchased it.

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