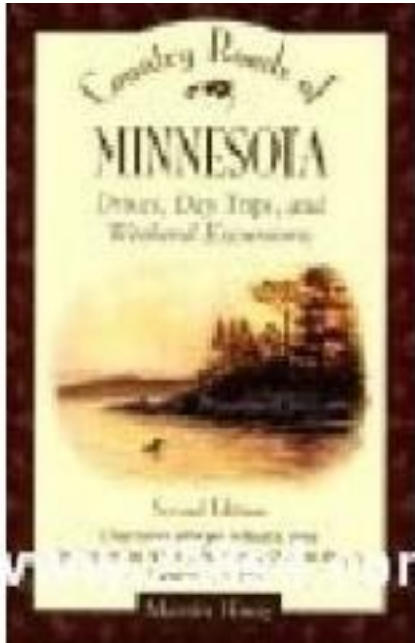


# Country Roads of Minnesota: Drives, Day Trips, and Weekend Excursions



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Before hitting the Country Roads of Minnesota a traveler needs to know some of the basics: the who, what, where, why, when, and how. Longer than it is wide (406 miles from north to south and about 200 miles from east to west at its skinniest point midstate) Minnesota is bordered by Canada to the north, the south by Iowa, the east by Wisconsin, and the west by the Dakotas. The state can be divided into three distinct terrains: the grassy prairies in the west, the pine forests of the north, and the hardwood forests in the east. Only about 10,000 years ago the landscape was covered by glaciers.

When they melted the lakes and rivers were created to bring more shoreline than in California, Florida and the Great Lakes combined. While the state license plate says "Land of 10,000 Lakes" there are actually at least 11,000 that have not been mapped. Coming up with names has been a challenge for surveyors. There are only so many Big Lake, Little Lake, a Lake and Lake Lake appellations to go around. In fact there are 201 Mud Lakes and 154 Long Lakes. So names started into One-Mile Lake, Two-Mile Lake and so on. And there is even a Swan Lake (in Nicollet County, six miles east of New Ulm). Some of the best lake names are Log Lake, Diddle de Woddle and Dismal Swamp. There are 842 lakes of more than 10 acres each with one boat for every six people. The state received its name from the Dakota Sioux who called their country Minisota which means "sky-tinted waters."

作者介绍:

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