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These guys have written the book on road trips

Southern B.C. routes rated by authors

The Province
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As a motorcyclist who plans to spend countless hours on two wheels this season, it's safe to say I've found my new favourite book.

For those of you avid road-trippers who have taken Destination Highways -- A Motorcycle Enthusiast's Guide to the best 185 Roads in Southern BC along with you, you know exactly what I mean.



CREDIT: Jon Murray, The Province
Brian Bosworth (right) and Michael Sanders hold a stack of their guide books.

The brains behind the handy-dandy sized book are Brian Bosworth, co-owner of Videomatica in Kitsilano, and Michael Sanders, who practises criminal law in Vancouver.

"We'd been down to New Zealand on a bike trip in January of 1999," says Sanders. "I came back, bought a brand new bike in March, and wanted to take it on its first big road trip. Brian said, 'Are you crazy, it's March?'"

Bosworth chuckles: "I said, 'If you're goin', I'm goin' with you.'" "They headed up the Duffy Lake Road, but got turned back in the Monashees by snow. They just had to write a guide.

These boys were on a mission from then on, logging thousands of kilometres on their bikes, helmet cams in place, microphones hooked up for running commentary to document each twist in the road, each bad stretch of pavement, each beautiful mountain ridge towering by the roadside and each

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stop of interest along the way.

Destination Highways rates B.C.'s roads according to the original rating system TIRES. Short for Total Integrated Road Evaluation System, TIRES looks at a particular route's twistiness, pavement condition, engineering, remoteness, scenery and character, and the book is chock-a-block full of useful tidbits to make any biker's road trip more efficient, and much more enjoyable.

"We scratched out the idea for the TIRES concept on a napkin in Lumby's good ol' Blue Ox Pub," says Bosworth.

Also included in this useful tome are not just the major highways throughout B.C., but many "Twisted Edges."

These are little forays off the beaten path that you may never have known existed -- maybe taking that extra 20 minutes to explore a new lakeside road and it's phenomenal scenery, or finding out there's a fabulous campground at the end of that super twisty side street.

Included is such useful info as how long a particular campground stays open, the times of ferries from a specific point, even whether a restaurant on the map serves breakfast and lunch, or just dinner.

And there are really important facts such as whether there are flush toilets available or "do I have to tough it out and use the outhouse?" (Ick!)

Since that first trip in '99, Destination Highways has released a guide for Washington state and later this year a third book will cover Northern California.

Bosworth and Sanders have logged 56,000 kilometres on their Honda VFRs getting that one ready for print. "We did this in order to ride more," says Bosworth.

"I guess we got our wish."

Destination Highways' B.C. book is available for \$44.95 online at www.destinationhighways.com and there is a lot more on the website.

You can check out video clips from different routes, and while you're there, don't forget to print off the list of close to 140 hotels, motels and restaurants that are motorcycle friendly and, in some cases, offer significant discounts when you present your Destination Highways guide.

Look for Destination Highways rides of the week, coming soon in Hot Wheels.

You can contact Corrie at corriemiller@gmail.com and listen to her on weekday mornings on the Bro Jake Morning Show, Classic Rock 101.

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