I am a freak for the American road trip. And I'm not alone, as some of this country's best writers have taken a shot at describing that quintessentially American experience. "There is no such knowledge of the nation as comes of traveling in it, of seeing eye to eye its vast expanse, its various and teeming wealth, and, above all, its purpose-full
There's an untapped treasure in the uncharted wilderness of the United States. A vast, untold story of adventure and discovery lies hidden in the landscapes and forgotten towns that dot the map.

The above map is the result of a painstaking and, admittedly, quixotic effort to catalog the country as it has been depicted and explored in American road-trip books. This effort has yielded a rich trove of historical and cultural information about the American experience, from the earliest explorers to modern-day adventurers.

To be included in this map, a book must have explored a region of the United States. The book must also have been written by an American author, and the book must have been published in English.

The map includes books written by a wide range of American authors, from Mark Twain to F. Scott Fitzgerald to Peter Jenkins. Each book is represented by a different color, and the books are arranged in geographical order, with the west coast on the left and the east coast on the right.

This map is not exhaustive, and there are undoubtedly many books that have not been included. However, it is a good starting point for anyone interested in exploring the rich literary history of American road-trip books.

Related Articles

The Great American Road Trip: A History of the United States in 12 Books

Blue Highways: A Journey into America, by William Least Heat-Moon


Rolling Nowhere: Riding the Rails With America's Hoboes, by Peter Jenkins

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas, by Hunter S. Thompson

The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test, by Gary Burden

The Stranger, by Dostoevsky

Kidnapped, by Robert Louis Stevenson

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Not a traditional road trip book where the driver is behind the wheel on the open road, but rather Mike decided to hitchhike across the country from San Francisco to Cape Fear, North Carolina, which would be challenging in and of itself. But Mike decided to do it without so much as a penny. He would have to rely on the goodwill and help of complete strangers on the open road in order to find rides, eat, and have a place to sleep. The Obsessively Detailed Map of American Literature’s Most Epic Road Trips. Books to Inspire the Ultimate American Road Trip. The 9 Best Road Trip Books from Adventure Journal. Road Trip!