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United States Explorer [Laminated] (National Geographic Reference Map)



Synopsis

The United States Explorer map is a classic example of the cartographic excellence National Geographic is known for. This colorful political map clearly shows state boundaries, capitals, major highways, rivers, lakes, and many major cities. Insets show detail of Alaska and Hawaii. The color palette is vibrant and stunning shaded relief provides additional texture and detail. The map is encapsulated in heavy-duty 1.6 mil laminate which makes the paper much more durable and resistant to the swelling and shrinking caused by changes in humidity. Laminated maps can be framed without the need for glass, so the frames can be much lighter and less expensive. Map Scale = 1:6,396,000 Sheet Size = 32" x 20.25"

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Founded in 1915 as the Cartographic Group, the first division of National Geographic, National Geographic Maps has been responsible for illustrating the world around us through the art and science of mapmaking. Today, National Geographic Maps continues this mission by creating the world's best wall maps, recreation maps, atlases, and globes which inspire people to care about and explore their world.

Was not crushed in transport. I initially disliked the idea that it was laminated, but could not find this size map any other way. Now I'm really glad that it is. It didn't occur to me how much we, and others would lean in and touch the map. Imagine the dirty, greasy fingerprints that would have left! We also

found an extremely affordable way to frame it out. Just by happenstance, we were at Home Depot and we saw large pieces of Styrofoam used for insulation larger than the map itself. It cost us less than \$8. We cut the foam down and spray mounted the map directly onto the silver side of the Styrofoam. Bought thin pieces of wood to frame out the map and then hot glued those pieces to the edge of the map/foam. Not only do we have a very lightweight map that won't weigh down our wall, the foam allows us to still use pins to mark our destinations. We researched investing in an actual frame, cork board backing, foamcore boards, etc. All were expensive options. This alternative was extremely cost effective and looks great!

Very happy with this laminated map. I got it to help visualize/plan several trips this year as we are in the college search process. It is fairly thin, but I have not found that to affect the quality of the product. I use vis-a-vis pens to map our routes, they are easy to see and wipe off cleanly. The map is big enough to easily see major cities in each state and see the state boundaries, but is not large enough to map out routes on specific roads...you'll need a more detailed map for that. I like that there is also plenty of room in the border for me to make notes as to length of drive time between our stops...it just gives a handy overview of the plans.

I certainly can't say this is the best map in the world but for the price it is great. Someone had mentioned dull color but I do not see an issue with the color of this map and I believe it is pretty accurately displayed on my computer screen. The lamination serves its purpose as a thin protector. This map also has more detail than the previous one I had, which displayed Fairbanks as the only city in Alaska. I also like the road numbers. The only thing I had an issue with was the size. I thought it was 2ft x 3ft but it ended up being more like 20 inches by 32 inches.

Great map, construction is reasonable but did not exceed expectations. Worked perfectly for the project I used it for. Used along with a custom build frame and frontlit with recessed LED's. Backed with insulation and ended up pretty nice for the wife to pin!

Wonderful map. Arrived in a protective clear tube. I really enjoy the level of detail (national monuments/parks are often identified on the map as well). I purchased this and a framed pebbled cork (from Board Dudes found on [here](#): [Board Dudes 35 x 46 Inches Dual Effex Premium Pebbled Cork Board with 2-Tone Frame \(12784\)](#)) to create a great family travel map for our home.

This is a nice map. I glued it to a foam board and put it up to mark off road trips and locations of family. Looks great!

Great, readable and durable map. I mounted it on a wall to mark our travels it map tacks. I mounted it on a piece of luan, and framed it with small pictures of the places we'd visited. What a great way to remember people and places!

This is incredibly well worth the value and the lamination is key. It helps prevent from people pointing at it and wearing out the color on the map. It's also a nice neutral color, so it goes with anything. Plus, the population density, vegetation, and south polar region sub maps are cool conversation pieces. I learn something new every time I actually spend time looking at it. Finally, it helps to keep the atlas eye level if you're going to hang it, or I suppose one could just roll it up and stow it somewhere.

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