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Magellan RoadMate 1470

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As GPS prices edge lower and lower, and manufacturers scramble to remain competitive, premium features are becoming more and more common on entry-level models. The latest example of this trend is Magellan's RoadMate 1470 (\$299.99 list), which is loaded with features previously available only in the company's top-of-the-line Maestros (such as the \$500 [4350](#)), as well as a big 4.7-inch screen and a fast, easy-to-use interface. Out of the box, the 1470 might not have everything you want—live traffic costs extra, for example—but its range of capabilities could make it a good

choice for frequent vacationers and business travelers.

The 1470 measures 3.3 by 5.2 by 7 inches (HWD) and weighs 6 ounces. The larger-than-average 4.7-inch display features 480-by-272-pixel resolution, so text and graphics look larger than they do on your typical 4.3-inch-screen device. There's a tab on the mounting bracket that slides into a groove on the back of the GPS, which is more convenient than on old RoadMates. The ball-and-socket adjustment is also much better than the adjustment screws that were previously used.

Navteq maps for the U.S., Canada, and Puerto Rico come preloaded, as does a points-of-interest (POI) database with a robust six million entries. (Maps and POIs for Mexico are also installed on the device and can be unlocked with the purchase of a \$50 code.) You get support for three languages (English, Spanish, and French), but you don't have a choice of voices, as you do with some other GPS devices. The 1470 is upgradable to live traffic with a \$79.99 receiver, which includes lifetime updates.

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OneTouch, a feature formerly found on more expensive Magellan units, gives you instant access to either locations or saved searches. The device comes with entries for Home, Previous Destinations, Local Info, Gas, ATM/Bank, GPS status, and Emergency; there are four other icons you can assign, or you can reassign some (but not all) of the factory-configured icons. Saving search criteria is a feature unique to Magellan. For example, you can create a search for the nearest Starbucks, save it, and then use it anywhere you travel. (See the [for an example](#).)

The 1470 comes with Highway Lane Assist, a handy feature that provides lane guidance and shows highway road signs as you approach a maneuver. This feature is becoming standard on most mid- and premium-priced models on the market, but TomTom included it in its new \$200 [One 140-S](#), and Nextar included it in its budget-priced, big-screened [SNAP7](#). Like text-to-speech, lane and road-sign guidance features are important safety extras that are likely to become standard on all GPS devices in the near future. Magellan adds to the 1470's value with the inclusion of the AAA TourBook, which provides ratings and information about AAA-approved hotels, restaurants, and other businesses. AAA categories include auto repairs, campgrounds, TourBook destinations, AAA branch offices, and places that offer AAA discounts. The emergency OneTouch entry brings up a "Where Am I" option that provides your exact location, along with AAA's roadside assistance and enrollment numbers.

Other features adopted from the Maestro products include multisegment routing, which lets you add waypoints into existing routes. You also get multiple route options (fastest time, shortest distance, mostly freeways, and least use of freeways). However, avoidances are limited to U-turns and toll roads, and the 1470 features only a single-vehicle profile. And there's also no pedestrian or bicycle mode.

The POI search capabilities on the 1470 are among the best I've seen. You can search by one of the 29 categories (such as Gas, Coffee, Restaurants, ATMs and Banks), by name, or from the AAA TourBook. And you can search near your current position, near a city, near an address or, if you have an active route, near your destination or along your route.

On the map view, if you tap the lower left-hand corner, the data field toggles between speed, time, elevation, and direction. With an active route, you toggle between direction, speed, distance to destination, and ETA. Magellan's inclusion of Local Info on the 1470's main menu lets you access local events, attractions, nearby cities, gas, and all local restaurants. I'm glad Magellan included this local information and AAA TourBook on most of its RoadMate models; these are unique features that other devices don't offer.

The 1470 doesn't support dynamic volume control, but its large speaker provides plenty of volume for the voice directions—even at highway speeds. The routes the 1470 calculated were generally good, and very similar to what I've observed on other Navteq-based devices.

The Magellan RoadMate 1470 offers a lot for its price, including a slightly larger-than-typical screen, an easy-to-use interface, excellent POI handling, and AAA's TourBook. My only lament is the lack of live traffic out of the box. If that's important to you, you might want to consider the Garmin nüvi 265WT, the traffic-equipped version of our [Editors' Choice 265T](#)—it also costs \$299.99 and has ad-supported free lifetime traffic and a hands-free Bluetooth phone interface, but no lane guidance. If screen size doesn't matter, you can save some cash on otherwise-identical RoadMates; the 1440 with its 4.3-inch screen, (\$249.99) or the 3.5-inch 1340 (\$179.99). Like the 1470, both deliver the same great features you once had to pay a premium to get.

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