

ATLAS OBSCURA AND NISSAN PRESENT

**There are few things more  
quintessentially American  
than the road trip.**

In *Rogue Routes*, Atlas Obscura and Nissan present fifty wondrous and unusual drives through the United States. Each trip is an opportunity to explore America from a different angle and to experience the incredible sights, tastes, and landscapes that make up our country. Whether you decide to travel off-road along the TransAmerica trail, to visit the country's best pinball parlors, or to eat your way through the best bakeries and diners, *Rogue Routes* offers a menu for exploration and discovery for the adventurous driver.

# Rogue Routes

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**Extraordinary and Unusual  
Road Trips Across America**



Atlas Obscura



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# **Rogue Routes**



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Extraordinary and Unusual  
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# Welcome to the Open Road

There are few things more quintessentially American than the road trip, but the idea of making a trip across the country in a car was ridiculous at the turn of the twentieth century. The roads were bad, the cars were slow, and the roadside service was just you and the tools you'd packed. Even so, as soon as Americans got their hands on automobiles, they were driving them as far and as adventurously as they could. In the words of an early road tripper who traveled from Colorado Springs to Santa Fe in 1903, driving is a chance to travel with "the speed of an express straight into the heart of an unknown land."

By the 1960s, road tripping had become an expression of American freedom, rebelliousness, and rogue creativity. From the *Green Book* to the Beat poets to Hunter S. Thompson, the fastest path to freedom and beauty was the open road. It's still that way. Road trips are the best route through America's national parks and to the small-town diners and tree-lined back roads along the way.

In *Rogue Routes* we are presenting fifty possible paths, fifty adventures, fifty road trips—each with a different focus. From cliff-edge off-road treks to a tour of the country's best pinball parlors to a trip through its historic punk-rock venues, every route takes a different view of this vast country. At Atlas Obscura, we believe every road trip is an act of both creativity and exploration. So continue reading and then hit the road. Where you go from there is all up to you.



**West**



# Meander through the Mesa via the White Rim Road

**START**  
Moab, UT

**END**  
Island in the Sky  
Visitor Center

**DISTANCE**  
60 miles

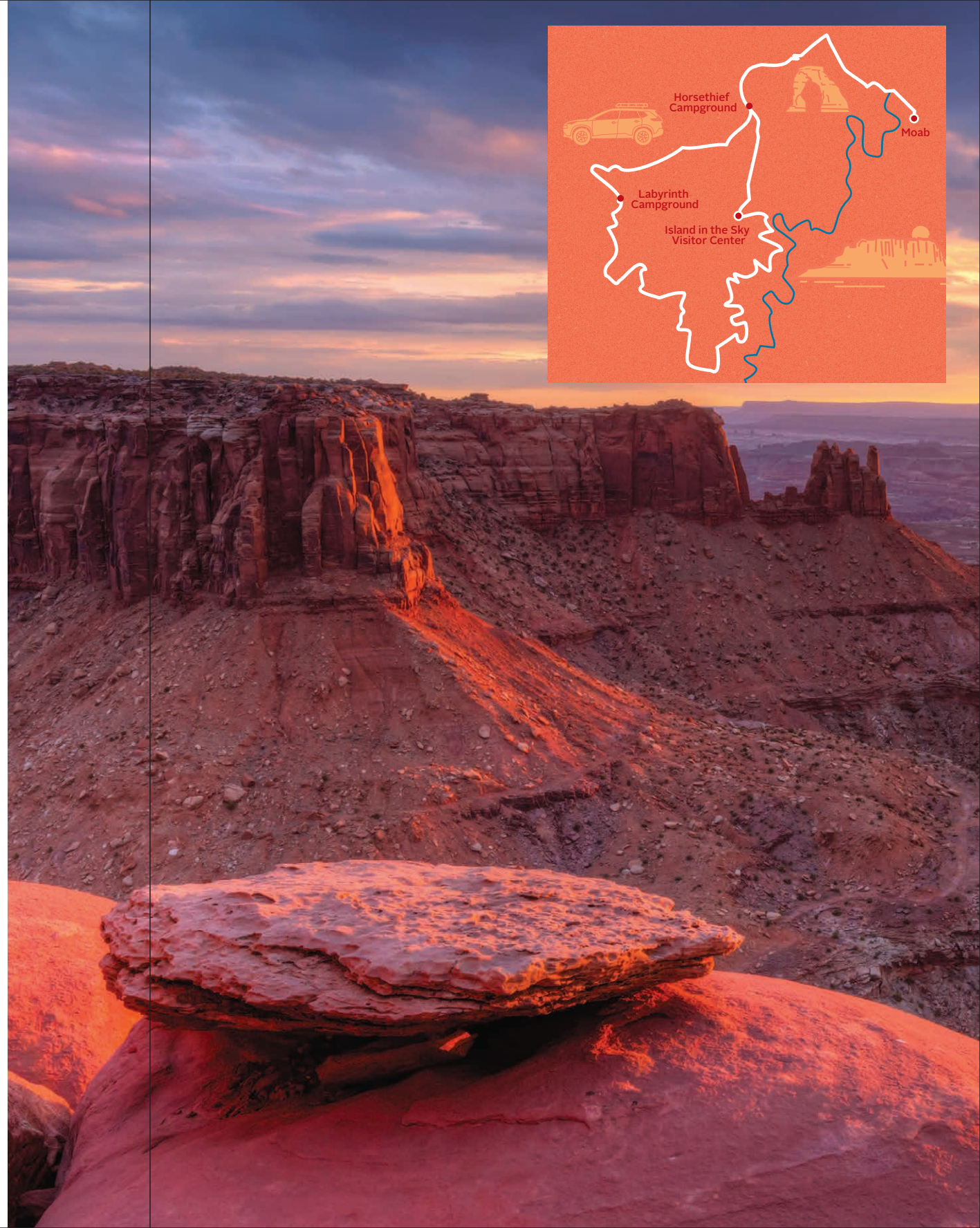
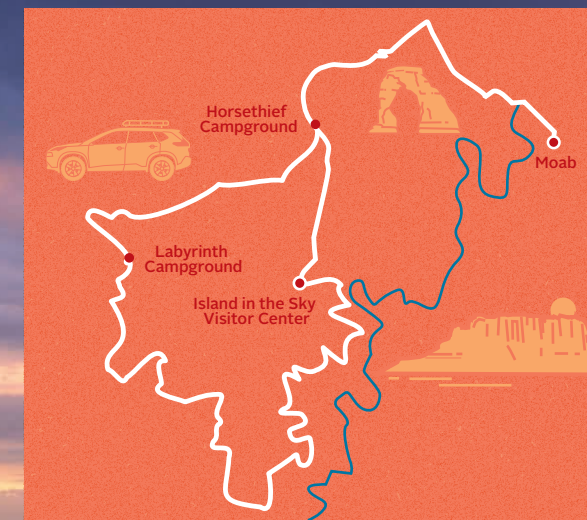
## View heaven from a dirt road at the edge of the “Island in the Sky.”

The area around Moab, Utah, is legendary for its overland treks, and even though the hundred-mile White Rim Road is well known as a mountain bike destination, four-by-four vehicles are welcome to cruise in the Canyonlands National Park. Those who dare traverse the trail (named for the white sandstone that edges the tops of canyons in the area) will be treated to dramatic mesa, mountain, valley, canyon, and stone arch views that rival those of Arizona’s Monument Valley.

From the town of Moab, cross the Colorado River and head up into the national park to the Island in the Sky mesa top. Your first stop is the visitor center, where you’ll pull off the pavement and begin your off-road adventure. Once you’re on the trail, you’ll have your choice of campgrounds as you make a wide loop around Junction Butte.

Weave through the park and connect up with the Green River, which along with the Colorado is responsible for carving out the exceptional backcountry views. Then make your way out of the park via the Horsethief Trail or circle back to the visitor center.

Your AWD Rogue should be able to make the full trip in two days, though you’ll need to plan ahead to get a permit for camping, which is required. In addition to the amazing rock formations, you’ll also be able to spot elk, deer, pronghorns, foxes, and hawks, plus paintings and carvings made by Indigenous peoples centuries ago.





# Miners, Ghost Towns, and Mountains

Turn on the 4WD and head for the hills on Colorado's iconic Alpine Loop Trail.

The Alpine Loop Trail, a sixty-five-mile circular route in the San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado, traverses the same trails that prospectors and settlers used decades ago—but you'll be a little more comfortable behind the wheel of your Rogue than atop a pack wagon. As with all our off-road routes, we recommend the AWD upgrade to more easily travel across the steep mountain grades and unpaved dirt or gravel roads. When you're ready to brave the backcountry, the trail will reward you with mountain and valley vistas, abandoned ghost towns and cabins, waterfalls, and mining camps.

Travelers can depart from Lake City, Ouray, or Silverton to begin the loop. The AWD upgrade will come in handy as the path crosses through two mountain passes above twelve thousand feet: Engineer Pass to the north and Cinnamon Pass to the south, both with amazing views. The full loop can take just seven hours if you move nonstop, but there are plenty of campsites, hiking trails, and side spurs to explore.

**START**  
Silverton, CO  
**END**  
Silverton, CO  
**DISTANCE**  
70 miles





# The Wildest Road in America

**START**  
Elk City, ID

**END**  
Darby, MT

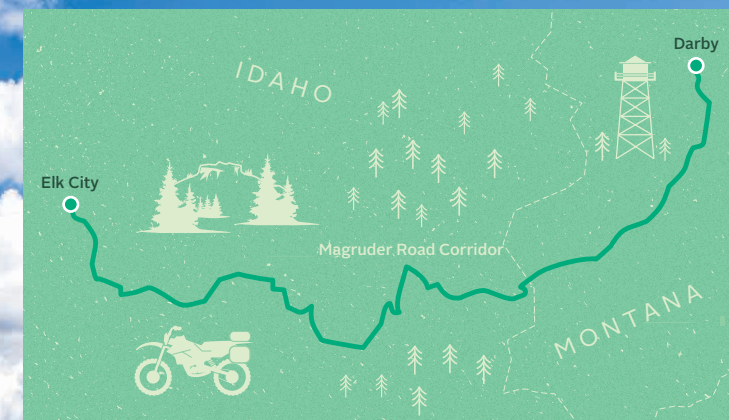
**DISTANCE**  
130 miles

**Lose yourself on the Magruder Road Corridor, a thin, unimproved stretch of road etched between two wildernesses.**

Spanning more than one hundred miles, the Magruder Road Corridor dates back to the 1930s, when the Civilian Conservation Corps carved out this rustic route in northern Idaho. Today it doesn't look much different from how it did nearly a century ago, as the narrow, unimproved single-lane pathway still winds between the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness to the north and the Frank Church–River of No Return Wilderness to the south. (Catchy name, right?)

Drivers who dare to scramble through what has been called the wildest road in America will find themselves in the middle of more than three million acres of wilderness. You'll need a certain persistence—the average speed on this trail tops out at about fifteen miles per hour (and the upgraded AWD on your Rogue is also a near-necessity). It's also recommended that as long as you're taking your time, you should stop and camp out at one of the campgrounds along the way.

Explorers can go hiking, mountain biking, or fishing or just enjoy the solitude, though take note of your gear: even though the available travel months are only between June and October, snowstorms could whip up at any time.





# A Short Drive to Mars

From maars to MDRS, visit the landscapes where scientists research the red planet and astronauts train to become Martians.

You can't yet drive a Mars rover, but you can pretend to. The canyons, craters, and dry lake beds of the western United States are, both visually and scientifically, a strong match for the terrain of the red planet—so much so that they are home to a simulator NASA uses to prepare for a human trip to Mars.

Get started, and get a feel for the Mars terrain, at the Lava Beds National Monument in Tulelake, California. Home to volcanically sculpted, semidesert terrain, the strange geology will also give you a new vocabulary: fumaroles (gas-emitting openings in the Earth's crust) and cinder and spatter cones (mounds of ejecta that form around vents). Right on the border with Oregon, the Lava Beds are the site of a NASA research program that aims to use a robotic rover to search inside the lava caves for mineral biomarkers: exactly the kinds of structures that, if found on Mars, would point to life existing there.

Continuing in your roving rover, drive south through California to Death Valley National Park for an experience nearly as arid as the surface of Mars. So analogous are the environments that NASA and the national park host an annual "Marsfest," when scientists explain the similarities between the desert park

and the desert planet. While peering into the six-hundred-foot-deep Ubehebe Crater, ponder that it was made by the explosive meeting of hot lava and groundwater, a type of volcanic feature called, hold onto your hats, a "maar." (This is the moment to turn to a fellow visitor and whisper, "Welcome to *Maars*.") Keep driving through the park to Badwater Basin, at 282 feet below sea level, the lowest point in North America and one of Earth's best analogues for the geological conditions of Mars.

Dipping into Arizona will take you past the Grand Canyon and through the Painted Desert, giving you all the sand and rocky red cliffs you need to pretend you're on another planet. Both Earth and Mars share enormous canyons, and peering into our own helps us understand the violent geology at work on the planet named after the god of war.

Sunset Crater, north of Flagstaff, Arizona, will return you to the volcanic landscape where researchers are studying Martian "aeolian processes," or how the wind and erosion sculpt the landscape over time. Nearby, take in the lasting effects of an extra-terrestrial visitor: Meteor Crater in Winslow is Earth's best-known and best-preserved meteorite crater.

**START**  
Lava Beds National Monument in California

**END**  
Mars Desert Research Station in Utah

**DISTANCE**  
1,530 miles



## VISITING

Lava Beds National Monument  
Ubehebe Crater  
Badwater Basin  
Grand Canyon National Park  
Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument  
Meteor Crater Natural Landmark  
Wupatki National Monument  
Mars Desert Research Station (MDRS)

After taking in the ancient impact crater, consider heading north to Wupatki National Monument for proof that humans have always been able to make homes in seemingly inhospitable places. Here you'll find beautiful examples of Pueblo architecture carved into the red dust and stone, including a still-working natural air-conditioning system. Human ingenuity runs deep, whether you're looking to our past or to our extraterrestrial future.

To find modern humans prepping for that future, head to the Mars Desert Research Station (MDRS) in Hanksville, Utah, operated by the Mars Society with funding from NASA. There, scientists live for months in a small, cylindrical building, don space suits every time they want to venture outside, and use the harsh desert landscape as a stand-in for that of Mars in order to train for a hypothetical human mission to the red planet. After this epic trip, you'll be prepared to suit up and join them.



# A Race to the Clouds

**By bikes, skis, trains, and cars, this loop takes you on a tour of the history of speed.**

Colorado's annual Race to the Clouds has seen drivers race to the top of Pikes Peak for more than one hundred years. Drivers and motorcyclists can make the twelve-mile climb in under ten minutes—but we're recommending much more time for this slower trek that takes you to sites friendly to mountain bikes, skis, cars, and even trains.

From Denver head north to the Hidden Valley ski area where back-country skiers (and sledders) get off the beaten path for deep powder runs on a mountain that hasn't officially operated in years—but you can still access the ski trails. After a quick run, ditch the skis for a mountain bike ride through Alpine terrain on the Wasatch Crest Trail in Utah, with full-circle views across nearly the entire ride.

After your bike trip, head north to one of the most famous railroad sites in the nation—the Golden Spike National Historical Park, where the intercontinental railroad met for the first time to give the nation a swift new way to get coast to coast. And you can't feel a need for speed without a trip to the Bonneville Salt Flats on the western edge of Utah, where land speed records fall regularly to jet cars, motorcycles, go-karts, and even barstools.

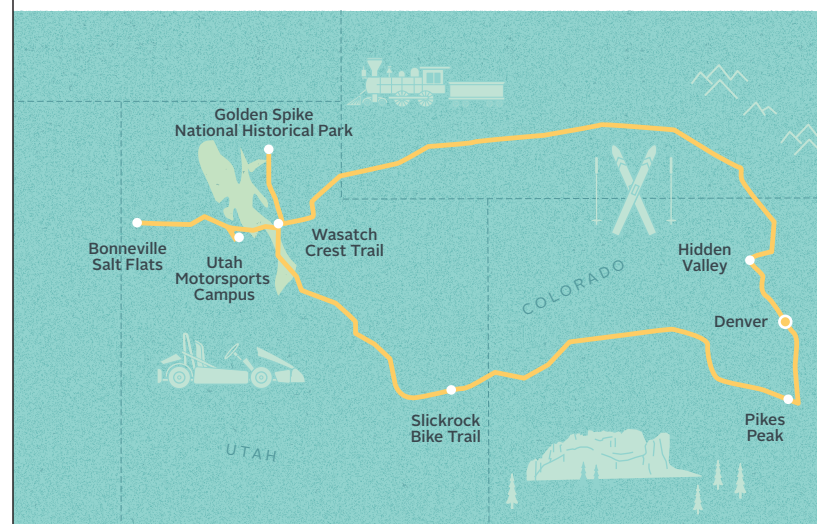
One good speed run deserves another, so head back to the Utah Motorsports Campus where you can take a *Fast & Furious*-style "drift driving" class, hit sixty miles per hour in a go-kart, or even just take your street vehicle to the track and see how fast you can push it. From here head to the Moab area for a quick spin around the famous Slickrock mountain bike paths (see page 116 for more) and then over to Pikes Peak itself just outside of Colorado Springs.

You won't be taking racing speeds to the 14,115-foot summit, so allow plenty of time to take in the views—as well as a world-famous doughnut: they've been serving them there for more than a century.

**START**  
Denver, CO

**END**  
Denver, CO

**DISTANCE**  
1,580 miles



## VISITING

Denver, CO  
Hidden Valley  
Wasatch Crest Trail  
Golden Spike National  
Historic Park  
Bonneville Salt Flats  
Utah Motorsports  
Campus  
Slickrock Bike Trail  
Pikes Peak



# Tour of Ancient California

**START**  
San Francisco, CA  
**END**  
San Francisco, CA  
**DISTANCE**  
1,710 miles

The distant past is within reach through petrified forests, cave paintings, and a forty-eight-hundred-year-old tree (if you can find it).

Long before California was known for tech campuses and freeways, it was home to Native people and natural wonders. This full-state tour is a little over a day of driving, but you'll cover an epoch's worth of history.

Our loop starts at perhaps the state's best-known ancient landmark: the Calistoga Petrified Forest, one of the world's finest examples of a preserved ancient forest. Over three million years ago, a violent volcanic explosion knocked down and buried a forest of enormous redwood trees. Today, you can wander the ancient forest with a view of Mount Saint Helena, the now-extinct volcano that started it all.

And if you like adventure, the Methuselah Tree is a must-see—if you can find it. Older than the Egyptian pyramids, this 4,850-year-old Great Basin bristlecone pine is somewhere along a four-and-a-half-mile trail high in the White Mountains. Its precise location is kept secret after an arsonist attacked several nearby trees in 2008.

Head south to Fossil Falls: not a waterfall but a shiny black lava flow sculpted by rushing water twenty thousand years ago. You're also a few hours from the mysterious petroglyphs of the Coso mountain range. The best way to see the thousands of images carved into basalt by Paleo-Indian hunter-gatherers is with a guide

from the Maturango Museum in Ridgecrest, dedicated to the history and environment of the northern Mojave Desert.

For more ancient mysteries, travel to the Blythe Intaglios, giant human and animal geoglyphs drawn on the ground's surface—the largest at 171 feet long. The drawings are believed to have been made by the Mohave and Quechan peoples between 450 and two thousand years ago. They're best seen by air, but then how did the Indigenous artists see them? That might be worth asking at your next stop: The Museum of Us in San Diego, a cultural anthropology museum focused on the pre-Columbian history of the western Americas.

Heading back north, be sure to stop at Chumash Painted Cave State Historic Park, a small cave with colorful art from before European settlers took over California. Though the meaning of the thousand-year-old symbols is unclear, it's believed that the artwork is related to Chumash cosmology. Then travel all the way up to San José to the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum and Park, the largest collection of mummies and Egyptian artifacts on the West Coast. Not exactly California history, but the project is the work of the mystical Rosicrucian Order, whose history dates back to the early 1600s. While you're in town, be sure



to swing by the Luis Maria Peralta Adobe, built in 1797 by José Manuel Gonzalez, an Apache settler who accompanied the Juan Bautista de Anza expedition as it explored what would become California.

One last stop to get back to where we started: the mammoth rubbing rocks on the coast of Sonoma County. The blueschist rocks rise ten to fourteen feet—about the height of an adult Columbian mammoth. Scientists believe the buffed spots on these stones are too methodical to be the result of natural forces, and they feature the same tiny gravel scratches as modern African elephant rubbing rocks have.

## VISITING

The Petrified Forest	Rosicrucian
Methuselah Tree	Egyptian Museum
Fossil Falls	Luis Maria Peralta
Maturango Museum	Adobe
Blythe Intaglios	Mammoth Rubbing
Museum of Us	Rocks
Chumash Painted	
Cave State Historic	
Park	



# Pacific Northwest



# Over the Atigun Pass

Can one of America's "most dangerous roads" also be one of its most beautiful?

Indulge your inner ice road trucker on the highest stretch of road in Alaska to be maintained year-round, the treacherous Dalton Highway, also known as the North Slope Haul Road.

Set out from Fairbanks and travel alongside the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, taking in views overlooking the Koyukuk and Dietrich rivers. After you cross into the Arctic Circle, you'll pass through the tiny settlements of Coldfoot and Wiseman as you climb into the Brooks Range toward the Atigun Pass.

The pass sits at an elevation of nearly a mile above sea level and is the point at which you cross the Continental Divide; from here north, rivers flow into the Arctic Ocean rather than the Bering Sea to the southwest. Watch for sheep on the mountainsides.

Rogue drivers can traverse the pass with their 2WD vehicles or even motorcycles in optimal summer weather, but use your AWD upgrade for these and all other remote routes. Once you clear the pass, it's a straight shot across the permafrost all the way up to Prudhoe Bay. If you travel the full highway, you'll be spending a long, lonely twelve hours on the road.

**START**  
Fairbanks, AK  
**END**  
Prudhoe Bay, AK  
**DISTANCE**  
500 miles





# In Search of Bigfoot

**Come to your own conclusions as you follow Sasquatch's footsteps in the wilds of the Pacific Northwest.**

On October 20, 1967, Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin recorded 954 frames of film that would launch an international star. The infamous footage supposedly captured a female Bigfoot nicknamed “Patty” walking across Bluff Creek in Northern California. In the half-century since, Bigfoot’s icon status has grown to a level somewhere between that of Elvis Presley and aliens. Nowhere is this obsession on greater display than in Bigfoot’s ancestral home, the Pacific Northwest.

This route takes you through the lush, mountainous forests of California and Oregon, where the mythical creature is most commonly spotted. Along the way you’ll visit sites both kitschy and absolutely serious, dedicated to our large and possibly fictional furry friend (or foe).

Where better to start the trip than at the site of the film: Bluff Creek in California. Surprisingly accessible by car, it’s just a four-hundred-foot walk from a dirt road to the very spot where Bigfoot lumbered by on camera. After recreating the footage yourself, head to Six Rivers National Forest, known as the “Gateway to Bigfoot Country,” where in 1958 a tractor operator spotted sixteen-inch-long footprints in the mud. The old-growth forest

is stunning and makes for a beautiful visit regardless of the presence of large bipedal hominids.

Swing down to nearby Willow Creek, sometimes called the epicenter of Bigfoot sightings, for a visit to the China Flat Museum. You’ll know you’re there when you see the twenty-five-foot-tall Bigfoot statue out front. The main exhibit is an impressive collection of footprint casts, photos, and other artifacts, but the museum also houses an equally impressive (and decidedly real) collection of local and tribal history. No doubt famished by your tireless cryptozoological hunt, grab a bite at the nearby family-owned-and-operated Bigfoot Steakhouse. The “Bigfoot One-Pound Burger” will set you right. (We suspect Bigfoot is a herbivore, but we won’t say anything.)

From there, begin your drive back north up the “Bigfoot Scenic Byway,” which begins in Willow Creek and winds through the beautiful Hoopa Valley along the Trinity and Klamath rivers. It ends at the town of Happy Camp in Siskiyou County, where you can pitch a tent for the night and hope for a Sasquatch sighting of your own.

Continue your journey from California into Oregon; this is the longest driving stretch.

**START**  
Bluff Creek in California

**END**  
Columbia River Gorge in Oregon

**DISTANCE**  
560 miles



## VISITING

Bluff Creek, Site of the Patterson-Gimlin Bigfoot Film

Six Rivers National Forest

Willow Creek China Flat Museum

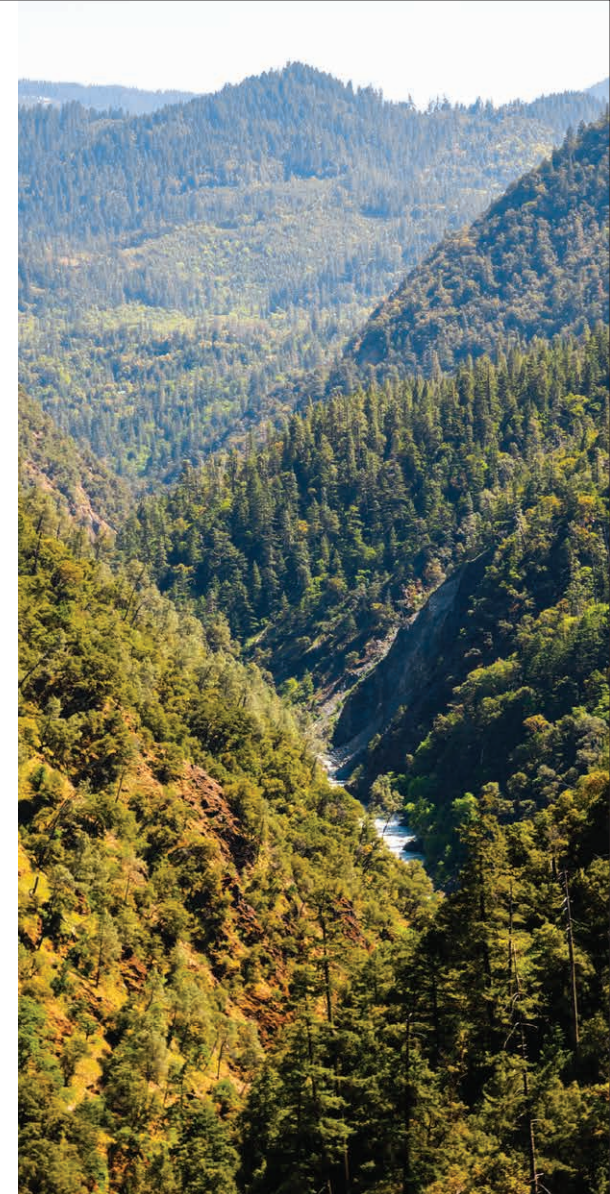
Bigfoot Steakhouse

Happy Camp on California State Route 96, End of the Bigfoot Scenic Byway

Canby, OR  
North American Bigfoot Center  
Columbia River Gorge

You’ll find yourself on a narrow bit of human civilization surrounded by national forest, with terrain so rugged it’s one of the largest roadless wild areas in the continental United States. If you’ve timed your trip correctly, you’ll arrive in Canby in August, just in time for the yearly Oregon Bigfoot and Beyond Festival, drawing seven thousand people, many in their very own Bigfoot outfits.

Head next to Boring, Oregon, stopping by the North American Bigfoot Center, with



more artifacts like handprints and footprints, and, of course, a selfie-ready Bigfoot sculpture. Your trip ends in Portland, where you’ll park your Bigfoot-mobile and end your journey on a boat with a Bigfoot Adventure Cruise. Relax on a 140-mile trip to the Columbia River Gorge and back, all while learning the lore and legend of the Pacific Northwest’s best-known and least-seen resident.

It’s a “big” world out there—best to start exploring it.



# A Natural Habitat

**Explore the country's lushest, most spectacular natural environments in this Oregon loop.**

Don't get sidetracked by the Seattle skyline or the northern California redwoods: Oregon's misty, wooded splendor deserves every bit of your Pacific Northwest attention. This route takes you to dramatic ocean vistas, lush forests, soaring waterfalls, and even volcanic geology.

Grab a cup of coffee in Portland, and then head straight to the ocean for a waterfront itinerary that takes in some of the nation's most impressive coastal views. Start at the north end of the state at Cannon Beach, where Haystack Rock cuts an iconic image of the Oregon Coast. Soaring 235 feet out of the sea, the monolith (and the smaller Needles around it) is home to tide-pool anemones and migrating seabirds such as the toucan-like tufted puffins.

A two-hundred-mile cruise down US Highway 101 gets you to additional geological marvels like Rockaway Beach's Twin Rocks, plus the picturesque Cape Meares Lighthouse and a sea cave called Thor's Well that causes some soaring geyser-like sprays from beneath the ocean depths.

Swing through the gently sandy slopes of the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area and back inland through the Umpqua National Forest to traverse nearly a million acres of old-growth forest before stopping at Crater Lake National Park. This lake—the deepest in the country—was formed by volcanic activity about eight thousand years ago, and . . . sometimes it disappears. At an elevation of over six thousand feet, the lake's surface will occasionally get “swallowed up” by the clouds.

Head back north to Deschutes National Forest to visit the Lava River Cave, a mile-long subterranean lava tube available for tours, and on to the slopes of the ancient, extinct volcano Broken Top, where you'll find a tiny lake known as Broken Top Crater, sitting eight thousand feet above sea level. Continue north and pitch a tent at the beautiful Camp Colton, and then close the loop with a return drive to Portland for a final stop at one of the city's famed craft breweries.

**START**  
Portland, OR

**END**  
Portland, OR

**DISTANCE**  
800 miles

## VISITING

Portland, OR  
Haystack Rock  
Twin Rocks  
Octopus Tree  
Neskowin Ghost Forest  
Thor's Well  
Sea Lion Caves  
Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area  
Crater Lake National Park  
Lava Cast Forest  
Lava River Cave  
Broken Top Crater Trailhead  
Camp Colton





# Rainforest Road

**From the largest rainforest in the country to the largest in the Olympic Peninsula (there are four), this trip takes you on a coastal tour of America's most amazing rainforest environments.**

It may come as a surprise that you can actually drive to the rainforest—not the tropical jungles of the Amazon but the incredible temperate rainforests of the United States, including the largest one on the planet.

Washington's million-acre Olympic National Park is home to four rainforests receiving up to fourteen feet of rain per year. First stop is Quinault Rainforest, where you won't want to miss the world's largest spruce tree: 191 feet tall and one thousand years old. Then head to Queets Rainforest, considered the most isolated and unexplored rainforest in the park.

The Hoh Rainforest is Olympic Park's most accessible and popular forest, famous even before it was featured in the *Twilight* books. The Hall of Mosses Trail is a must-see mile-long hiking loop, where you'll find maple trees (and everything else) draped in otherworldly club moss. Hoh is also known for excellent elk spotting, as the park is home to the largest wild herd of Roosevelt elk in the United States.

Your last stop on the Olympic Peninsula is Bogachiel, which roughly means "muddy waters" in the language of the local Quileute Tribe. Needless to say, come prepared for lots of rain throughout your trip.

Yet Olympic Park is small compared to your final destination: the seventeen-million-acre Tongass National Forest. Drive a couple of days north through Canada to the Alaska Panhandle to experience the Tongass—the largest US national forest and the world's largest remaining temperate rainforest.

**START**  
Quinault  
Rainforest in  
Washington

**END**  
Tongass  
National Forest  
in Alaska

**DISTANCE**  
1,490 miles

## VISITING

Quinault Rainforest  
Queets Rainforest  
Hoh Rainforest  
Bogachiel Rainforest  
Tongass National Forest





The background of the image is a solid orange color with a faint, light-colored outline map of the United States. The map shows state boundaries and major geographical features like the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River. The word "Midwest" is centered over the map.

# Midwest

# Midwest Motorsports

Take a spin through the tiny towns and famous ovals that make the Midwest a mecca for car enthusiasts.

Car enthusiasts will dig this decidedly Midwestern tour of drag strips and dirt tracks culminating in a pilgrimage to the epicenter of professional motorsports.

Start your engine in the streets of tiny, resort-filled Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin. Those streets are sleepy now, but in the early fifties they were packed with what passed for race cars. Any novice with enough gas could drive their big steel boat up to the starting line on race days, when the main street would become a temporary main drag for amateur and professional drivers.

Not surprisingly, these legal open-road races didn't last long. They did, however, catalyze a gearhead spirit in the area. With open-road racing banned, local leaders replicated the experience with Road America, a track holding fourteen turns in a little over four miles. It hosts runoffs, sprints, and series for a variety of racing organizations, including NASCAR, and opens the track up to amateurs steering pretty much any type of vehicle imaginable.

If you like your racing without any turns, head south, where the Great Lakes Dragaway outside of Kenosha, Wisconsin, offers a quarter-mile drag strip to test who can go the fastest flat-out.

**START**  
Elkhart Lake, WI

**END**  
Indianapolis Motor  
Speedway in Indiana

**DISTANCE**  
450 miles

Or give up the rules altogether and keep going south to Joliet, Illinois, where you'll find the Route 66 Raceway. It's also home to a drag strip for professional racing, but the big draw here is next door at the Dirty O, a dust- and mud-filled oval hosting old-school demolition derbies all summer. Show up early for the near-professional tailgating, but don't show up without a ticket—demolition nights routinely sell out in advance.

Hop over the Indiana border and head south to reach the Terre Haute Action Track. Another dirt oval, the Action Track is a slightly banked half-mile set up for sprint, midget, and dirtcar racing.

All this muddy, messy, freewheeling racing builds to something. Take Interstate 70 another seventy-odd miles northeast, and you'll arrive at the pinnacle of American racing, Speedway, Indiana. Each year, drivers get a chance to make their names at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Their dreams are specific, and odd. Indy 500 champs get to take a drink of milk and pour the rest over their heads, while winners of the NASCAR Cup Series kneel to kiss the starting-line bricks.



## VISITING

Elkhart Lake, WI  
Road America

Great Lakes  
Dragaway

Route 66 Raceway

Terre Haute Action  
Track

Indianapolis Motor  
Speedway



# Frank Lloyd Wright's Midwestern Icons

**Start at the architect's longtime home and wind up at his most famous work.**

More than four hundred buildings designed by Frank Lloyd Wright still stand, and most of them are in the Midwest. This tour will make sure you don't miss any of America's most famous architect's most famous (and personal) structures.

Start at Wright's own eight-hundred-acre Taliesin estate, comprising his home, school, studio, and other buildings designed for family members in the rugged Driftless Area of southwestern Wisconsin. Wright's residence, completed in 1911 and rebuilt twice after fires, is a thirty-seven-thousand-square-foot wood and stone home built on his favorite boyhood hill, and it was the longest ongoing project of his career.

The next stop has a long history too: Monona Terrace in nearby Madison. Wright originally proposed the lakeside civic center in 1938, but plans were put on hold for decades due to budgetary concerns and local regulations. It was finally completed in 1997—long after Wright's death in 1959.

Then head east toward Racine, Wisconsin, home of cleaning supplies company S. C. Johnson. Just north of the corporate campus, Wright designed Wingspread, the fourteen-thousand-square-foot home of H. F. Johnson Jr., grandson of S. C. Johnson. The thirty-acre property is the largest of Wright's signature Prairie-style homes and features a centrally located thirty-foot-high chimney and five fireplaces, a glass-enclosed crow's nest lookout, and a cantilevered "Romeo and Juliet" balcony. Also completed in 1939 was the company's iconic Administration Building, the last operational Wright-designed corporate headquarters. Wright later built the company's Research Tower, one of the tallest structures ever built on the cantilever principle—153 feet tall on a thirteen-foot core—with walls created from fifty-eight hundred Pyrex glass tubes.

Travel south to a smaller but no less important building in Oak Park, Illinois, on the western edge of Chicago. The Frank Lloyd

**START**  
Taliesin in Wisconsin

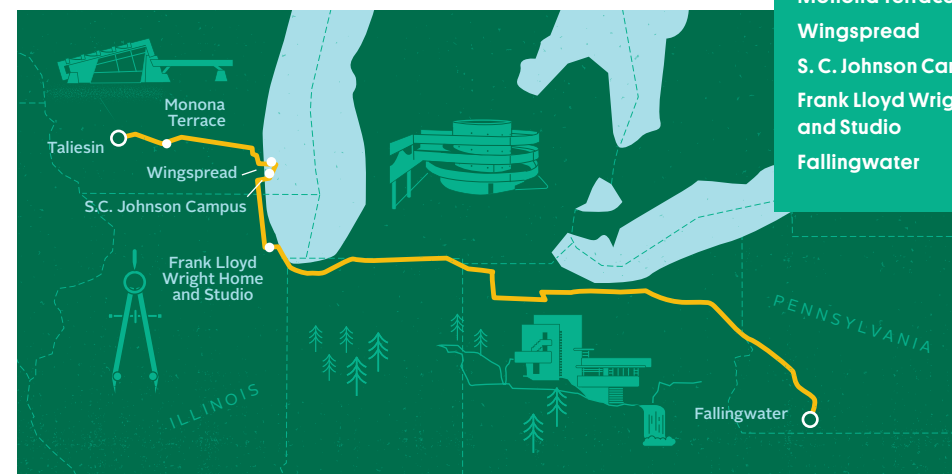
**END**  
Fallingwater in Pennsylvania

**DISTANCE**  
750 miles



## VISITING

Taliesin  
Monona Terrace  
Wingspread  
S. C. Johnson Campus  
Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio  
Fallingwater



Wright Home and Studio was the first home he built for his family, in 1889, where the young architect lived and worked for twenty years before Taliesin. Then head east to his most iconic home and structure, Fallingwater, in Mill Run, Pennsylvania. Designed for the Kaufmann family in 1935, Fallingwater was

designed to protrude over a waterfall and is considered Wright's crowning achievement in organic architecture. Today, Fallingwater is the only major Wright-designed house to have been opened to the public with its furnishings, artwork, and setting intact.



# From Gnaw Bone to New Modernism

**START**  
Brown County, IN

**END**  
Columbus, IN

**DISTANCE**  
40 miles

**Soak up the Indiana stereotype with the old-timey romanticism of Brown County, then turn it upside down with the modernist architectural masterpieces of Columbus.**

Drive long enough and you will probably find yourself passing through Indiana—the aptly nicknamed “Crossroads of America.”

And just when you think there’s nothing but cornfields, you’ll hit a section of I-65 or I-69 south of Indianapolis and west of Cincinnati where natural beauty breaks through. Brown County State Park sits directly between the two highways with lush, rugged trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding.

About fifteen minutes north is the county seat, Nashville, where you can find gems like the Brown County Art Colony sitting next to re-creations like the Pioneer Village and Old Log Jail. Then pass through unincorporated Gnaw Bone, with its worthwhile flea markets and commitment to the rural idyll, on the way to a surprise thirty minutes east: the modernist architectural marvel of Columbus.

This company town of just under forty-five thousand—where global engine manufacturer Cummins is the largest employer—is the space-age, postmodern counterpoint to the 1860s trappings of Brown County. Drive

across the town’s signature bridge and the sign marking the town as the birthplace of Vice President Mike Pence, and something odd will start to stand out. Dotted around the Cummins campus and mingling with the Main Street ice cream shop and the 1889 Crump Theater are masterpieces from architects I. M. Pei, Eero and Eliel Saarinen, César Pelli, Skidmore Owings & Merrill, and Richard Meier.

The town’s unmatched architecture—including seven national historic landmarks—may be unexpected, but it isn’t accidental. Former Cummins CEO J. Irwin Miller, looking for a novel way to attract international talent to the relatively remote town, started a program in the 1940s under the Cummins Foundation to pay the architecture fees for any public building, provided the architect was chosen from Miller’s preapproved list of outstanding talent. The resulting churches, schools, and newspaper offices constitute some of the best examples of modern architecture, condensed into one conversation spanning little more than a few square miles.



Today, Columbus capitalizes on its assets with Exhibit Columbus, an alternating biennial symposium and exhibition drawing international architects and artists to the small town each year. The city’s architectural value is so undeniable that even nearby University of Indiana felt the pull, moving its graduate architecture program into the low-slung, glass and steel Republic Newspaper Office.

## VISITING

**Brown County State Park**

**Pioneer Village  
Gnaw Bone, IN**

**First Christian Church by  
Eliel Saarinen, 1942**

**Miller House by Eero  
Saarinen, 1957**

**North Christian Church  
by Eero Saarinen, 1964**

**First Baptist Church by  
Harry Weese, 1965**

**Cleo Rogers Memorial  
Library by I. M. Pei, 1969**

**St Peter’s Lutheran  
Church by Gunnar  
Birkerts, 1988**

**Republic Newspaper  
Office by Myron  
Goldsmith, 1971**



# Rising from the Ruins

**START**  
Chicago, IL

**END**  
Buffalo, NY

**DISTANCE**  
800 miles

**After the loss of manufacturing, the Rust Belt is re-defining itself. This route takes you through some of the most incredible adaptive re-use projects in America.**

Detroit. Pittsburgh. Cleveland. Buffalo. These cities were once bastions of the rugged, blue-collar American powerhouse industries: cars, railroads, steel, coal. Nowadays it's less about what these places were built for than it is about how modern designers are reimagining industrial spaces for new uses. This area used to be called the Rust Belt, but lots of effort is putting a shine back into these cities.

We start at Plant Chicago on the city's southwest side, where a firehouse has been transformed into a space for urban farmers, kombucha producers, coffee roasters, artisanal bakers, and even a brewery, all with the goal of turning the entire operation into a closed-loop system in which all waste will be consumed and reused by various parts of the plant.

From there we head across Michigan to the Detroit Foundation Hotel, which opened in 2017 in the former Detroit Fire Department headquarters. The five-story neoclassical building retains the original soaring arches, red brick, and terra-cotta tiles on the outside, while the inside features one hundred modern guest rooms lined with reclaimed wood walls as well as a top-tier restaurant with double-vaulted ceilings and a bar wrapped in a rail reminiscent of a fireman's pole.

Heading east, we take a spin through Cleveland's downtown, a shrine to how adaptive re-use can revitalize an entire neighborhood. From the high-end apartments that now sit inside the Cleveland Athletic Club (1911) to the Heinen's supermarket, which sits beneath a stained-glass dome that used to house the Cleveland Trust Company bank, more than a hundred projects have contributed to the city's revival.

A quick trip down to Pittsburgh's Strip District takes us to the five-block Terminal, once the city's massive railway-fed produce market, which has been turned into a retail hub, office space, and entertainment district, including restaurants, indoor golf, and breweries. From here we swing north to Buffalo to conclude the drive at Silo City. Once a soaring series of structures responsible for processing millions of bushels of grain, the entire site has been restored to an urban garden on twenty-seven acres next to the Buffalo River.

The route brings a sense of full-circle completion to this part of American history—and you can drive it in a long weekend.



## VISITING

Plant Chicago  
Detroit Foundation Hotel  
Cleveland Athletic Club  
Heinen's of Downtown Cleveland  
The Terminal  
Silo City



# Stay Weird, Wisconsin

**You name it, Wisconsinites probably collect it—accordions, bobbleheads, bottles of mustard. Explore these eccentric collections across America's Dairyland.**

Pick an object. It could be a bottle of mustard. Or a full-size troll statue. Or a metal sculpture with big steampunk energy. It doesn't really matter, as long as you gather so many of them that your collection becomes a roadside attraction and a cherished local landmark. A remarkable number of Wisconsinites have chosen this life path, and the result is a truly extraordinary collection of collections scattered across the state.

Some of the collections you'll recognize by the name of the destination: National Bobblehead Hall of Fame, A World of Accordions Museum, the aforementioned National Mustard Museum. Others aren't immediately clear, like the House on the Rock, home to collections of dollhouses, model airplanes and ships, circus memorabilia, and the world's largest indoor carousel, boasting 269 carousel animals, 182 lanterns, twenty thousand lights, and hundreds of mannequin angels hanging all around. Or Dr. Evermor's Forevertron, a sprawling collection of scrap-metal sculptures by the late artist (who also helped build the House on the Rock).

And if there's any doubt, the FAST Fiberglass Mold Graveyard is exactly that—a field full of the molds used to make life-size gas station elephants, water-park frog slides, and mini-golf dinosaurs. (The FAST in FAST Fiberglass LLC stands for Fiberglass Animals, Shapes & Trademarks.) FAST also made the 143-foot muskie you'll find outside the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame.

**START**  
Green Bay, WI  
**END**  
Green Bay, WI  
**DISTANCE**  
930 miles

## VISITING

Hamilton Wood Type & Printing Museum

American Geographical Society Library

National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum

L. R. Ingersoll Physics Museum

National Mustard Museum

Mount Horeb Trollway

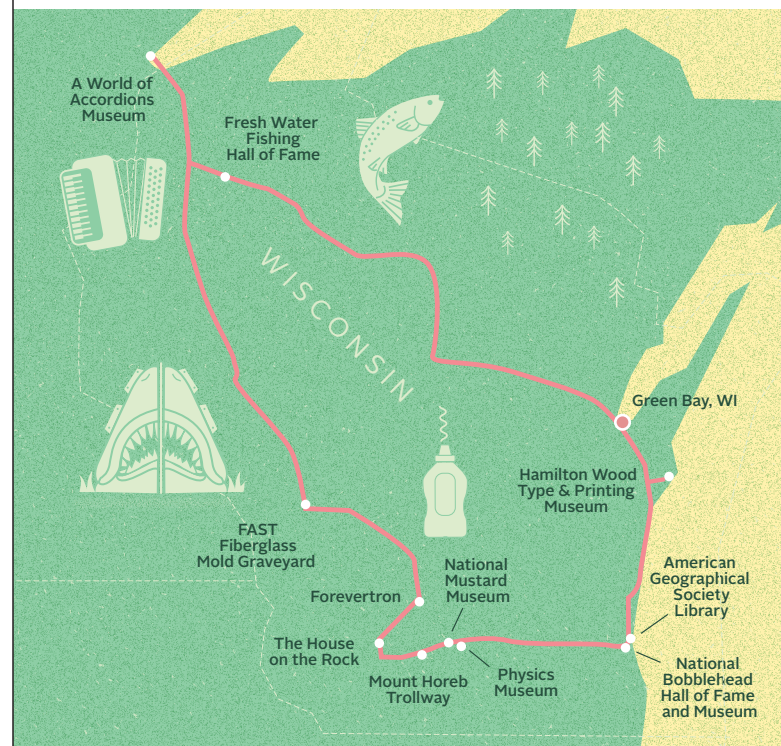
The House on the Rock

Forevertron

FAST Fiberglass Mold Graveyard

A World of Accordions Museum

Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame





# Art in the Great Wide Open

**START**  
Minneapolis, MN  
**END**  
Minneapolis, MN  
**DISTANCE**  
1,900 miles

**Massive art pieces take over Midwestern acres.**

The Midwest is known for its friendly people, cold winters, and wide open spaces. With endless fields and nary a mountain in sight, what better place to drop some ridiculously large objet d'art? With room to spare and folks too polite to object to the big blue cock (we're talking a male chicken) next door, the Midwest has become a bastion for large-scale artwork. On this scenic loop from Minneapolis, Minnesota, through Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, and Iowa, road trippers will see some of the most iconic, outstanding, and simply enormous works of art the heartland has to offer.

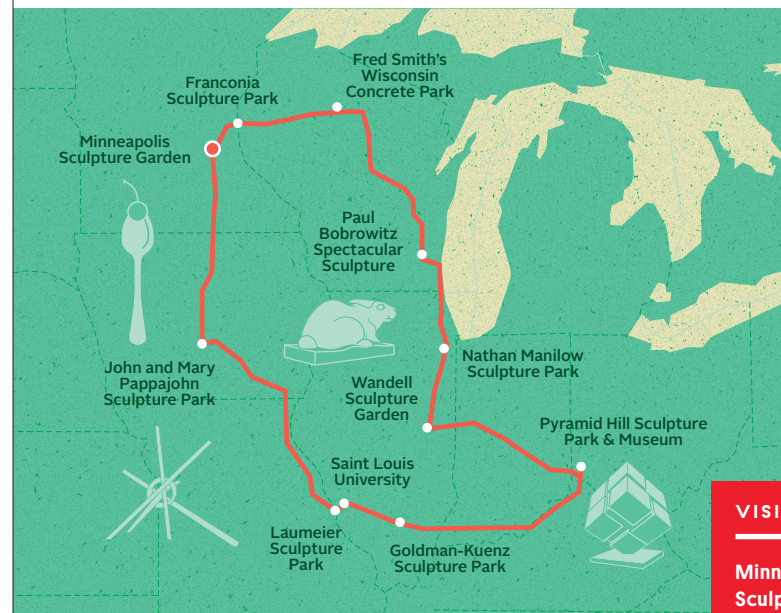
We'll start at Claes Oldenburg's giant, fifty-two-foot-long spoon holding a cherry in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The iconic *Spoonbridge and Cherry* fountain is at the heart of the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden at Walker Art Center, also home to *Hahn/Cock*, the aforementioned "big blue cockerel," by German artist Katharina Fritsch. As we swing out of town, we'll hit the smaller, but massively charming, Franconia Sculpture Park for the yearly Hot Metal Pour, where you can help baby sculptures be born.

From there we head 125 miles east into the Badger State to Fred Smith's Wisconsin Concrete Park, a collection of 237 concrete creatures built by a retired lumberjack, and

then drop by Bobrowitz Spectacular Sculpture for a magnificent metal menagerie. Those craving a more restrained approach should head south past Chicago to the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park. There they can gaze on John Henry's *Illinois Landscape No. 5*, a bright tangle of massive yellow beams. Down in Champaign, the free, public Wandell Sculpture Garden is filled with playful pieces including a larger-than-life rabbit waiting for a child-sized rider.

Leaving Illinois for the state Ohioans call "the heart of it all," we make a three-and-a-half-hour journey to the Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park & Museum in Hamilton, where it's highly recommended that you rent an "Art Cart" (a fancy name for a golf cart) to take in the rolling hills and outdoor art pieces.

Starting back west on our loop, we'll hit the Goldman-Kuenz Sculpture Park in Mount Vernon, Illinois, and stand beneath *Big Bang*, a towering nine-ton sculpture made of Redwood trees. Next we head to Saint Louis, Missouri, and drop by Saint Louis University to see the small, cute children's sculpture garden there before heading to the Laumeier Sculpture Park. If you're looking for an eyeful, you came to the right place. The park is home to *Eye*, an enormous, thirty-seven-foot-circumference fiberglass eyeball by Tony Tasset. As you stare at it, it stares back at you.



Finally it's back up north with a stop at the Pappajohn Sculpture Park in Des Moines, Iowa, where you can see Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama's polka-dotted pumpkin, *Pumpkin (L)*—L for "large"—one of the most iconic modern sculptures in the world. And after nearly two thousand miles of staring at (and being stared at by) sculpture, it's time to head back to Minneapolis, where the big blue cockerel awaits your return.



## VISITING

Minneapolis Sculpture Garden	Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park & Museum
Franconia Sculpture Park	Goldman-Kuenz Sculpture Park
Fred Smith's Wisconsin Concrete Park	Saint Louis University
Paul Bobrowitz Spectacular Sculpture	Laumeier Sculpture Park
Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park	John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park
Wandell Sculpture Garden	



**Southwest**



# Permission to Take the Low Road

**You can choose to take the High Road or the Low Road to Taos, but why not both?**

For breathtaking views, ancient traditions, and green-chili cheeseburgers, it's hard to top this hour-and-a-half drive though the Land of Enchantment.

Starting out on the High Road from Santa Fe, your first stop is the tiny Pueblo village of Chimayó, located in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. It's home to El Santuario de Chimayó, a two-hundred-year-old church considered the most important pilgrimage site in the United States. The Santuario draws more than three hundred thousand visitors a year to its chapels and *el pocito*, a small pit of "holy dirt" reported to have miraculous healing powers.

Chimayó is also known for its weaving shops, run by families who've been weaving for generations. Another popular destination is Rancho de Chimayó, serving up *carne adovada* and stuffed *sopaipillas* for fifty-five years.

Head north, leaving time to check out the woodcarving, pottery, and other artisan galleries in the small towns along the way: Cordova, Truchas (where Robert Redford filmed *The Milagro Beanfield War*), Ojo Sarco, and Trampas, home to San José de Gracia de Las Trampas, an eighteenth-century landmark church that's one of New Mexico's best-preserved examples of Spanish Colonial architecture. You'll also want to refuel at Sugar Nymphs Bistro in Peñasco, a brightly colored restaurant known for delicious green-chili cheeseburgers, a more modern tradition in New Mexico.

You'll pass through Carson National Forest as you descend for a day, night, or weekend in Taos, famous for its historic adobe buildings,

**START**  
Santa Fe, NM

**END**  
Santa Fe, NM

**DISTANCE**  
110 miles

## VISITING

Santa Fe, NM  
Santuario de Chimayó  
Rancho de Chimayó  
Cordova, NM  
Truchas, NM  
Ojo Sarco, NM  
San José de Gracia de Las Trampas  
Sugar Nymphs Bistro  
Taos, NM  
Classical Gas Museum



artist colonies, and ski resorts. Take the shorter Low Road back to Santa Fe for incredible views along the Rio Grande River. One recommended pit stop is the Classical Gas Museum in Embudo, a collection of old gas pumps, signs, oil cans, and other gas station memorabilia.





# Seeking Truth on the Loneliest Road

**“We warn all motorists not to drive there unless they’re confident of their survival skills.”**

If a road trip is a way to get away from it all, that’s taken pretty literally on this stretch of blacktop. US Route 50 runs from the Atlantic shore in Maryland to West Sacramento, California, but most people tend to fixate on the Nevada section known as “The Loneliest Road in America.”

It’s just 375 miles or about six hours of road time, but to drive the distance between Baker (just over the Utah border, population sixty-eight) and Mound House is to traverse one of the most desolate stretches of highway known to American drivers.

But there isn’t *nothing* out there. Between these two towns you’ll find opportunities for historic railroading (East Ely Railroad Depot Museum), millennia-old petroglyph viewing (Hickison Petroglyph Recreation Area and Grimes Point Archeological Area), hot springs bathing (Spencer Hot Springs), and bird-watching (Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge). There’s even Stokes Castle—more of a tower, really—built as a summer home by a silver miner in the late 1800s in tiny Austin (population 192).

Austin is also the midpoint of your journey, and it falls in a particularly desolate stretch—the next town in either direction is about an hour away. Beyond that, it’s dirt, pavement, mountains, and sky. If six hours of that sounds good, then pack a lunch, top off your tank, and hit the road. If not, heed the advice offered by *Life* magazine when it named Route 50 the nation’s loneliest road: “We don’t recommend it.”

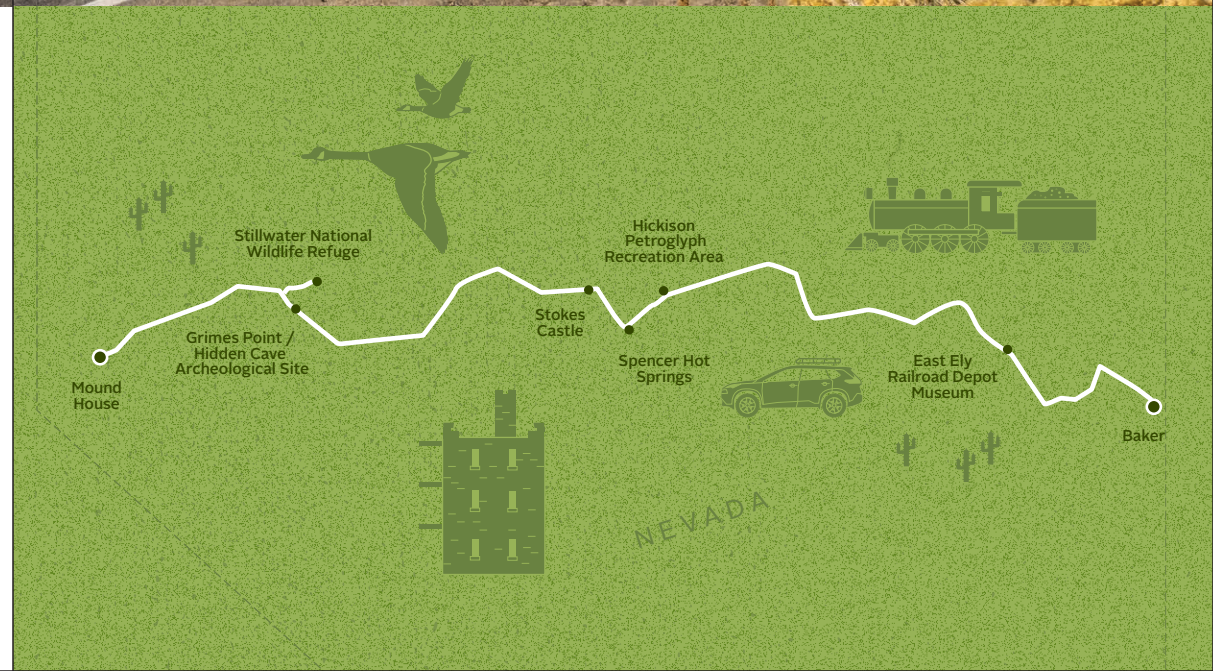
**START**  
Baker, NV

**END**  
Mound House, NV

**DISTANCE**  
410 miles

## VISITING

Baker, NV  
East Ely Railroad Depot Museum  
Hickison Petroglyph Recreation Area  
Spencer Hot Springs  
Stokes Castle  
Grimes Point / Hidden Cave Archeological Site  
Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge  
Mound House, NV





# The Truth Is Out There

**Witness close encounters and government secrets in New Mexico's desert landscape.**

If you're drawn to strange lights and off-limits sites, this route is for you. New Mexico is known for alien sightings—you know what happened at Roswell—and it's also home to real government secrets, revealed in hidden cities and scientific experiments deep in the remote desert landscape. See for yourself.

Start in Los Alamos, a once-secret city that changed the world. During World War II, the government took control of a private boys' school and surrounding areas to create a hidden campus to develop the atomic bomb—also known as the Manhattan Project. Dozens of scientists, including Richard Feynman, Enrico Fermi, and Robert Oppenheimer, were picked up each day at an unassuming building at 109 East Palace in Santa Fe and ferried up to the top-secret labs of Los Alamos. Today, the secret portal is marked with a plaque in an alleyway.

Head south to further your investigations, starting in Albuquerque. The National Museum of Nuclear Science & History will teach you all about the Manhattan Project and the Atomic Age. See and hear the stories of the scientists and military servicepeople, and explore the nine-acre outdoor exhibit complete with planes, rockets, missiles, cannons, and a restored nuclear submarine sail.

You'll also be near the Starfire Optical Range at Kirtland Air Force Base, which has the dual mission of pursuing cutting-edge astronomical research and developing anti-satellite laser weapons. The pride of Starfire is an eleven-foot "weapon-class" telescope that can peer far into the heavens—or be used to direct powerful laser beams. Kirtland isn't normally open to the public, but watch the skies and you might just see something strange.

Travel down through the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge toward Socorro, New Mexico, and the Very Large Array, consisting of twenty-seven radio antennas in a Y-shaped configuration. Constructed in the late seventies, the Very Large Array conducts research on supernovae, black holes, dark energy, and SETI, the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence. See what you can pick up on a walking tour of sundials, whisper dishes, and telescopes before landing at the base of one of the 230-ton working antennas on the array.

Then you're off to do more research in Roswell, a mecca for ufologists and alien enthusiasts. The town is of course best known for the Roswell incident in 1947, when a UFO allegedly crashed at a nearby ranch and was allegedly covered up by the government.

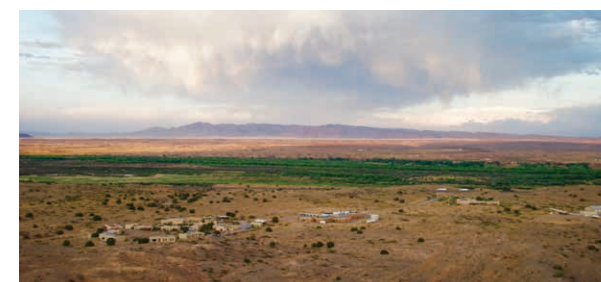
**START**  
Los Alamos, NM  
**END**  
Alamogordo, NM  
**DISTANCE**  
780 miles



## VISITING

Fuller Lodge  
109 East Palace  
The National Museum of Nuclear Science & History  
Starfire Optical Range  
The Very Large Array

International UFO Museum and Research Center  
Roswell McDonald's  
Trinity Atomic Bomb Site  
Alamogordo Landfill



Whether the story is fact or fiction, the town fully embraced the incident, now boasting the International UFO Museum and Research Center and the world's only McDonald's shaped like a flying saucer.

If you time your trip right, plan to visit Trinity Site, where the world's first atomic bomb was detonated in 1945, marking the culmination of the Manhattan Project. Normally off-limits to civilians, the test site at White Sands Missile Range is open once or twice a year at the discretion of the US Army.

Close your case with a visit to an iconic extraterrestrial. The Alamogordo Landfill is said to hold millions of unopened copies of the 1980s video game *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, widely ridiculed by critics for its crude graphics and silly storyline. The video game company, the story goes, buried the copies in the remote landfill and covered them with cement. In 2014 a documentarian excavated the site but was only able to recover thirteen hundred copies. Take a look for yourself—the truth may still be out there.



# The Outsiders

**Witness tributes to the rogue artistic spirit from New Mexico to Nebraska, where outsider artists have built wonders out of everything from beer cans to old cars.**

If you believe art is everywhere, this route is a trip.

Start at Meow Wolf's House of Eternal Return, a seventy-room grown-up play-house / slightly haunted house in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The twenty-thousand-square-foot interactive art installation centers around a full-size Victorian-style house—with a secret. The house was once inhabited by the Selig family, the story goes, until "something happened" that led to the family's disappearance and apparently warped the nature of time and space. Plot twist: the whole thing is a former bowling alley purchased for the Meow Wolf art collective by George R. R. Martin, author of *Game of Thrones*.

Travel north into Colorado to Cano's Castle, comprising four glimmering towers covered in beer cans, hubcaps, and other bits of shiny scrap metal. It's the creation of Donald "Cano" Espinoza, a Native American Vietnam vet who continues to construct the castle in thanks to Jesus for sparing his life during the war.

Take a jog east on Highway 160 then south on I-25 and look for a giant red gorilla (Joerilla, to be specific) who holds a yellow car in his hands and signals that you've made it to the Art Cartopia Museum, a collection of more than twenty-five cars covered in sculpture, dragons, giant eyeballs—you name it. And

once a year, the museum hosts the ArtoCade, a parade of crazy cars that draws art car lovers from all over to downtown Trinidad, Colorado.

Then head to the mountains to behold another castle built by one man, Jim Bishop. For sixty years, he's been building Bishop Castle, which is—so far—sixteen stories tall and includes a ballroom, towers, bridges, and a fire-breathing dragon. A plus for road trippers: Bishop Castle is always open and free of charge. Drive north to see the dinosaurs and mummies of the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Make sure to visit the Wildlife Halls, where you may spy tiny camouflaged elves hidden in the many dioramas painted by artist Kent Pendleton.

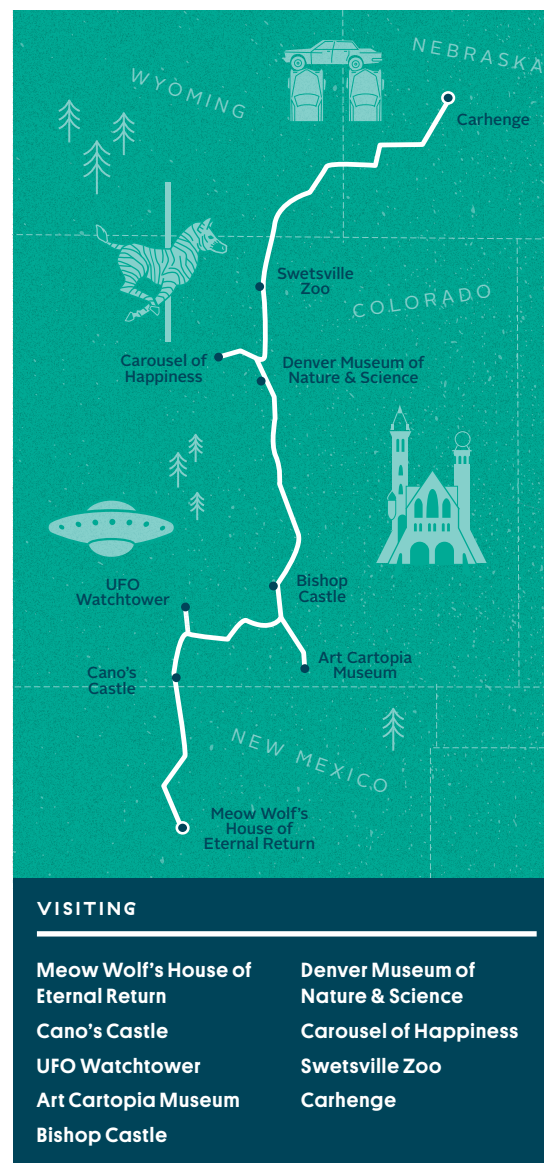
About an hour west of Denver, between Tungsten Mountain and Hurricane Hill, is a jewel of an attraction known as the Carousel of Happiness. As a young Marine in the Vietnam War, Nederland native Scott Harrison found peace in a tiny music box that played Chopin's "Tristesse." He envisioned a carousel in a mountain meadow, and after he returned home he set about bringing it to life. Thing is, he'd never carved before. But starting with the rabbit that's on the sign out front, Harrison managed to create more than fifty carousel animals, thirty-five of which can be ridden.

Next stop, animals of a different sort: Swetsville Zoo in Fort Collins has more than

**START**  
Santa Fe, NM

**END**  
Carhenge in Nebraska

**DISTANCE**  
810 miles



## VISITING

Meow Wolf's House of  
Eternal Return

Cano's Castle

UFO Watchtower

Art Cartopia Museum

Bishop Castle

Denver Museum of  
Nature & Science

Carousel of Happiness

Swetsville Zoo

Carhenge



180 creatures and creations made of scrap metal, spare parts, old farm equipment, and more. Think massive metal spiders built from cars and castles built from concrete. A footnote, dear traveler: the future of craftsman Bill Swets's thirty-five-year-old zoo is unknown, so catch it while you can.

Your final stop is a fitting road-trip finish: Carhenge in Alliance, Nebraska. Experimental

artist Jim Reinders was so enthralled by the beauty of Stonehenge in England that he had to recreate it—in cars. Thirty-eight automobiles, including a pickup truck and an ambulance, accurately and proportionately mirror the rocks that make up the original Stonehenge. The locals initially thought Carhenge was an eyesore, but over time they've grown to appreciate the structure that put Alliance on the map.



# Clear Eyes, Dark Skies

**START**  
Phoenix, AZ

**END**  
Phoenix, AZ

**DISTANCE**  
1,860 miles

**Gaze into the heavens at dark sky sites from New Mexico to California.**

It wasn't until cars—and the streetlights that came with them—that a dark sky site would even be somewhere to drive to. Before our illuminated world, the Milky Way was as normal a part of the sky as the moon and the sun. Now, it's a rarely glimpsed wonder, as are many of the stars and planets within it.

A trip through the already lunar landscape of the American Southwest gives you a chance to reconnect with this version of the night sky via observatories and dark sky sites—and to ponder what else might be out there with a few steps at extraterrestrial attractions.

Start your trip in Phoenix, where you're in striking distance of several of the best sky-watching sites. The Large Binocular Telescope Observatory offers you an assisted view into the night sky before you hop across the border into New Mexico's Cosmic Campground International Dark Sky Sanctuary to see what you can with the naked eye. Moving south will take you to the Arizona Sky Village—a town so remote it could only attract astronomy lovers seeking total darkness. Here, the sky watching is so good that the Milky Way is said to look three-dimensional, making it an international star-gazing destination in the true middle of nowhere.

Return to the world of telescopes on Mount Hopkins, which offers hiking trails

and smaller observatories, and it's a great warm-up for Kitt Peak National Observatory, the world's largest collection of research telescopes. Here, you can pick up the basics of star spotting at nightly viewings, or take a class on something more specialized, like astrophotography to capture the cosmic views. Daytime visitors can still peer into the firmament with the McMath-Pierce Solar Telescope, the largest sun-viewing telescope.

It's a long drive to the next telescope, but it's worth it to reach Caltech's own Palomar Observatory outside of San Diego, where you can peer through the world-famous two-hundred-inch Hale Telescope.

If all that has you wondering who else is out there, a drive back east to Joshua Tree, California, will offer some answers of questionable veracity. Here, Giant Rock—a boulder sacred to Indigenous people—looms at the center of many a UFO conspiracy. If you find yourself looking to commune, the Integratron, a parabolic structure in the middle of the desert, offers sound baths said to open your mind to cosmic frequencies. Otherwise, stay firmly rooted in science with a trip to Joshua Tree Astronomy Arts Theater and Sky's the Limit Observatory in nearby Twentynine Palms before completing your journey back to Phoenix.



## VISITING

Large Binocular  
Telescope  
Observatory

Cosmic Campground  
International Dark Sky  
Sanctuary

Arizona Sky Village  
Mount Hopkins  
Kitt Peak National  
Observatory  
McMath-Pierce Solar  
Telescope

Palomar Observatory  
Giant Rock  
Integratron  
Joshua Tree  
Astronomy Arts  
Theater

Sky's the Limit  
Observatory and  
Nature Center



# Earth Works

**Drive through spectacular desert landscapes to visit art built from the earth itself.**

The southwestern United States is full of wide open spaces, and these sparsely populated desert states became the ideal blank canvas for the land-art movement of the 1970s. Land art is site-specific artwork that uses nature—earth, air, light, water—as the medium. Born of a weariness of New York gallery and museum spaces, the land-art movement sought to explode art outside of four walls and a roof and to discover what artists could create without physical boundaries.

Contemporary arts organization Dia Art Foundation, along with other museums and wealthy patrons, furnished artists with millions of dollars of grant money to construct giant, landscape-altering works in remote locations. *Spiral Jetty*, for example, is a curl of land that juts into the Great Salt Lake in Utah, created by Robert Smithson, who, along with Michael Heizer, pioneered the land-art movement. While some of these works were ephemeral and have since been swallowed up by time and erosion, many of them are not only still visible but still evolving. Some of these ambitious works of art took decades to complete, and some may never be completed.

Today, several of these site-specific works of art are open to the public and well worth a trip, although some of them require a guide (and sometimes an ATV) to access. Here is a road-tripping route to seven of the most interesting land-art works in the American Southwest.

**START**  
Salt Lake City, UT

**END**  
Salt Lake City, UT

**DISTANCE**  
2,230 miles

## VISITING

**Spiral Jetty**  
**Sun Tunnels**  
**Complex City**  
**Double Negative**  
**Roden Crater**  
**The Lightning Field**  
**Dwan Light Sanctuary**







# South



# Black History along Louisiana's River Road

**START**  
Port Allen, LA

**END**  
New Orleans, LA

**DISTANCE**  
120 miles

**Sites along the Mississippi River tell the stories of the enslaved people who were forced to live and work there.**

On this trip through Louisiana, travelers go deep into the history and stories of enslaved people, driving a route that explores part of African-American history and the creation of the United States of America.

Start at the West Baton Rouge Museum, which highlights the history and cultural heritage of southern Louisiana. The museum campus includes three plantation cabins that once housed enslaved people and are now used to chronicle Black history from slavery to Civil Rights. Head south to the River Road African American Museum in Donaldsonville to learn more about the contributions of Africans and African Americans who were forced to live and work under brutal conditions on the sugar-cane and rice plantations in the region.

Continue along River Road toward the antebellum plantation homes lined with centuries-old live oaks. One of the most powerful experiences is at Whitney Plantation, a slavery museum on the grounds of a historical sugar, rice, and indigo plantation established in 1752.

Self-guided tours take you through the main house, outbuildings, and original cabins of enslaved people as well as memorials honoring over one hundred thousand people who were held in slavery in Louisiana. Then go a mile down the road to Evergreen Plantation, the most intact plantation complex in the South, with thirty-seven buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, including twenty-two cabins once home to enslaved people.

From there, cross the Mississippi River to Destrehan Plantation, a key site in the German Coast Uprising of 1811, one of the largest slave revolts in United States history.

Head into New Orleans toward Tremé, America's oldest Black neighborhood. It's rich with cultural must-sees, including the New Orleans African American Museum and Congo Square, an open-air market where enslaved and free Black people would gather on Sundays to trade and play music.





# Haunted Alabama

Seek out Gothic scares among the Southern forests.

A nighttime drive between Alabama's Bankhead and Talladega national forests can be unnerving on its own. But if you're up for it, these extra-spooky stops are downright frightening—starting with the Dead Children's Playground in Maple Hill, Huntsville's largest and oldest cemetery.

Maple Hill is home to late governors, senators, and members of Congress, but its small playground intended for bored (living) children attracts ghost hunters and supernatural associations. As the believers tell it, the swings can often be found to sway by themselves, spheres of cold ghost light can be seen floating around, and even the specters of children have been spotted well past their bedtimes.

Head south to Birmingham, the state's largest city and home to many a scary story. The historic Redmont Hotel is known for paranormal phenomena and ghost sightings, most notably the ghost of Hank Williams, who spent his last night there in 1952. Nearby Sloss Furnaces, once the world's largest manufacturer of pig iron, is where forty-seven workers lost their lives under a notoriously brutal foreman—who eventually lost his footing and fell into a pool of melted iron ore.

Next stop is Tuscaloosa's Drish House, once the center of a 450-acre plantation and

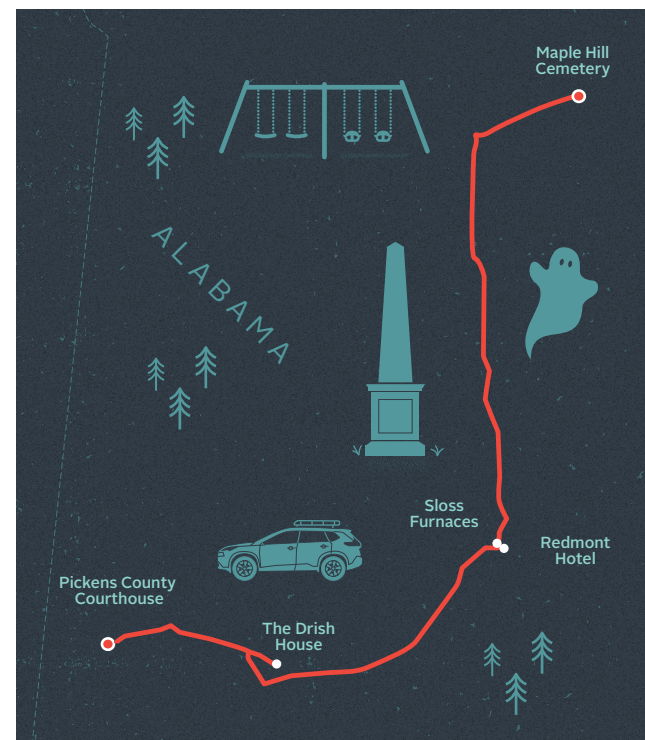
considered one of the most haunted locations in the state. Owner Dr. John R. Drish died after falling from atop a stairwell in 1867, and his wife, Sarah, is said to haunt the house in search of his funeral candles. Many have reported seeing a fire in the house's third-story tower—perhaps Sarah searching for the candles—though no evidence of fire has been found.

One last paranormal stop exposes the legacy of lynching that plagues American history: Henry Wells's lightning portrait at the Pickens County Courthouse in Carrollton. The townspeople were convinced that Wells, a formerly enslaved freeman, had burned down the old courthouse. He was unjustly arrested and held prisoner in the new courthouse, while he looked out at a growing lynch mob outside. During a storm, a single bolt of lightning is said to have imprinted his terror-stricken face on the lower right-hand pane of the courthouse's garret window—a curse left by Wells to make others remember his horrific fate long after his death. Sometimes horror stories expose real horror. That pane remains the only one in the entire courthouse that has survived more than a century without being destroyed.

**START**  
Maple Hill Cemetery  
in Huntsville

**END**  
Pickens County  
Courthouse in Carrollton

**DISTANCE**  
200 miles



## VISITING

Maple Hill Cemetery  
Redmont Hotel  
Sloss Furnaces  
The Drish House  
Pickens County Courthouse



# The Hills Have Pies

**Texas Hill Country has more to offer than just scenery—it also has some of the country's finest pie shops.**

The state of Texas is known for so many famous foods that pie might not even make the top five—which is a shame, because the Hill Country of central Texas, stretching out from north of Austin nearly to San Antonio, is home to some of the nation's best pies, from the classic to the imaginative.

Trying a classic from a classic will set the bar appropriately high for a journey through some of Texas's best pie spots, so start in Georgetown, TX at Monument Café, a chrome-sided diner famous for its self-titled chocolate pie.

Next head south to Austin's Tiny Pies. True to the name, it slings single-serving pies of all styles, including savory pot pies and the Texas Two Step—a sweet pecan pie made sweeter with a chocolate brownie baked on top. Another Austin option is Pieous, offering a similar combo of sweet and savory with pizza pies joining banana cream pies and cheese-cakes on the menu. A short hop south to Kyle, Texas, brings you to the Texas Pie Company, which offers up a motto for the entire trip: "Life is short. Eat more pie!"

Next, head west past San Antonio to Utopia, where Lost Maples Café delivers on

the town name with a slice of the quintessentially Southern buttermilk pie. It's one of a few so-called "desperation" pies, named for the cheap staples they're made from: Lost Maples Café turns humble ingredients into something transcendent.

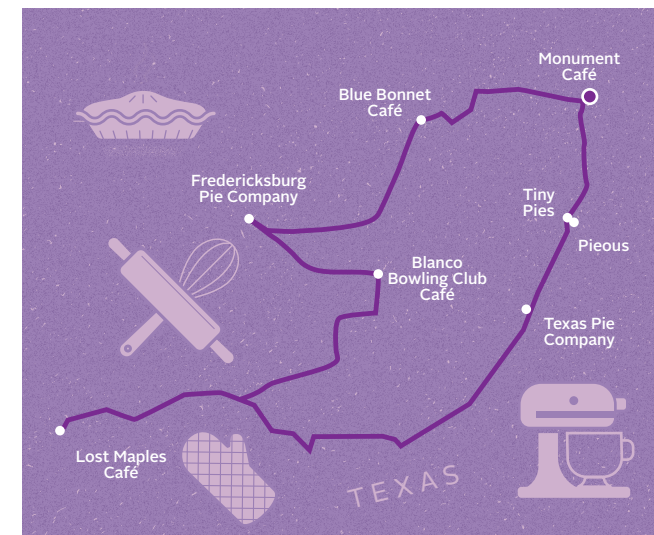
Your next stop is Blanco Bowling Club Café, where you'll have an opportunity to work off some of its pies with nine-pin bowling, and then you can swing back west toward the Fredericksburg Pie Company, offering a classic menu of more than twenty cream, pecan, and fruit pies for sale, plus some home-made quilts for good measure.

Finally, stop in Marble Falls to visit the Blue Bonnet Café. Open since 1929, the Blue Bonnet offers more than a dozen types of pie to choose from, including both a chocolate cream and a chocolate meringue to taste test against the Monument Café version that kicked off your journey. As classic as the state flower that gives it its name, the Blue Bonnet Café is the perfect place to bring your Hill Country pie odyssey full circle.

**START**  
Georgetown, TX

**END**  
Georgetown, TX

**DISTANCE**  
410 miles



## VISITING

Monument Café  
Tiny Pies  
Pieous  
Texas Pie Company  
Lost Maples Café

Blanco Bowling Club Café  
Fredericksburg Pie Company  
Blue Bonnet Café



# Batroads of Texas

**Start your bat-watching adventure at the world's largest known bat colony, right here in Texas Hill Country.**

When it comes to bats, Texas is where it's at. Not only does the Lone Star State have the most bat species in the country, it's also home to the world's largest bat colony, with more than twenty million Mexican free-tailed bats hanging out near San Antonio.

That's right. Texas is the battiest state in the USA.

Bats have a somewhat sinister reputation that scientists say is unfounded. Yes, vampire bats exist, but only three of the more than fourteen hundred bat species drink blood, and none of them is in the United States. Most bats don't have rabies, according to Bat Conservation International, but still: do not touch or handle a bat. One more clarification from the organization: you can't get COVID-19 from bats, only from other humans.

Bats are critical to global ecosystems, and many species are threatened or endangered by habitat destruction and other stresses. They're incredible pest controllers, seed carriers, and pollinators. Some even drink nectar from plants like hummingbirds do.

Now that that's cleared up, go see some bats! Start at Bat Conservation International's Bracken Cave Reserve, the largest bat colony in the world. Witness literally millions of Mexican free-tailed bats flying out of the cave at dusk in search of insects—at record speeds of up to one hundred miles per hour. Fun fact: bats, not cheetahs, are the fastest mammals in the world.

Then head northwest to begin your tour of other bat caves in Texas Hill Country, including the 350-foot-deep Devil's Sinkhole near Rocksprings. The best time to bat-watch is mid to late summer, after the mother bats have given birth in June to just one pup each.

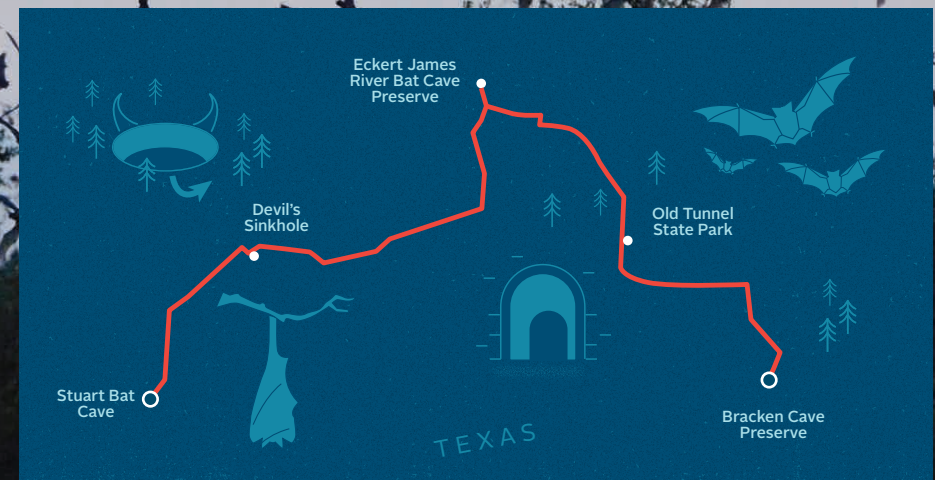
**START**  
San Antonio, TX

**END**  
Brackettville, TX

**DISTANCE**  
430 miles

## VISITING

Bracken Cave Preserve  
Old Tunnel State Park  
Eckert James River Bat Cave Preserve  
Devil's Sinkhole State Natural Area  
Stuart Bat Cave in Kickapoo Cavern State Park







# Southeast



# Blue Ridge Parkway in Bloom

Experience the world's largest natural rhododendron gardens along one of America's most scenic drives.

Though many mountainsides can grow thick pine forests, parts of the Southern Appalachians simply can't do it. Instead, they produce another showstopper: millions of magenta flowers blanketing the treeless areas—called “balds”—in late spring. The shock of color is breathtaking against the mountains' green foliage and hazy blue skies, and is best experienced via the legendary Blue Ridge Parkway, also known as America's Favorite Drive.

The magenta flowers belong to the native Catawba rhododendrons growing contentedly in the cool temperatures, acidic soil, and sloped drainage of the mountain balds. (As any gardener will tell you, making rhodies happy isn't always this easy.)

The shrubs can grow to heights of ten feet or more, and there's no better place to witness their greatness than Craggy Gardens, an exquisite stretch of the parkway near Asheville, North Carolina. There, gnarled thickets of tall Catawba rhododendrons twist

and bend into natural tunnels arching over winding trails. The effect is like something out of a fairy tale. The floral canopies dot the popular Craggy Pinnacle Trail along its short path to the summit, where the scenery and views only get more spectacular.

Then wind up the parkway to Grandfather Mountain, towering 5,946 feet above north-west North Carolina. The three-hundred-million-year-old mountain is known for its rugged hiking, Mile High Swinging Bridge, and Remarkable Rhododendron Ramble in June. Four species of rhododendron grow wild on the mountain slopes, with the Catawba the star of the show.

Your last stop is Roan Mountain, a jog west off the parkway into Tennessee and a must-see for any wildflower enthusiast. The five-mile ridgetop is home to the largest natural display of rhododendrons in the world. The plump, round shrubs look manicured by hand, but in reality they get a serious haircut from Mother Nature every winter.

**START**  
Craggy Gardens in  
North Carolina

**END**  
Roan Mountain in  
Tennessee

**DISTANCE**  
90 miles



## VISITING

Craggy Gardens  
Grandfather Mountain  
Roan Mountain





# Island Hopping

These keys unlock a series of island paradises.

Drive as far south as you can and you'll wind up on island time—a state of tropical relaxation and recreation that the Florida Keys are known for.

The 125-mile-long chain of islands begins just south of Miami and is connected by the forty-two bridges of the Overseas Highway. There are hundreds of islands in the Keys, though only thirty are inhabited. Running the length of your trip is the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, home to the only living coral barrier reef in the continental United States. Needless to say, snorkeling and scuba diving are the center of any visit.

Near Key Largo, the Keys' northernmost and longest island, you'll find Christ of the Abyss, a nine-foot-tall bronze statue lowered twenty-five feet into the water in 1965. The top of the statue sits around eight to ten feet below the surface, making it visible to snorkelers. But scuba divers get the best views (and the best selfies). Key Largo is also home to the African Queen, the iconic vessel made famous in the 1951 movie starring Humphrey Bogart and Katherine Hepburn. The famous steamboat is available for daily and dinner cruises in the beautiful Port Largo Canal.

Next up is the Islamorada region, known as the Sport Fishing Capital of the World—which is one reason why it lured the late baseball

great Ted Williams, who bought a house there in 1960 to pursue his other passion, fishing. Islamorada is also home to the History of Diving Museum as well as Betsy, a forty-foot spiny lobster statue at the gateway to the Rain Barrel artisan village. She's eerily lifelike and terrifyingly Instagrammable.

The Keys may be carefree, but they take hurricanes very seriously. The Florida Keys Memorial in Islamorada remembers the World War I veterans and civilians who died when a record hurricane decimated the islands in 1935. The simple and striking monument is carved from blocks of native Keys limestone (keystone). An eighteen-foot obelisk stands above a dais, which is carved with a tidal wave and palms bending in the wind. A crypt made into the upper level contains the remains of more than three hundred people who perished in the storm.

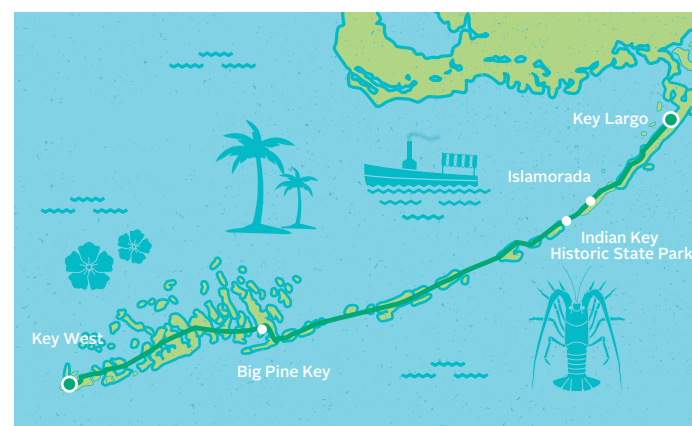
Park your vehicle and take a boat to Indian Key Historic State Park, a tiny, uninhabited island that once was the site of a lucrative shipwreck salvage business. All that remains is a lush ghost town of stone ruins and wild vegetation.

Continue on US Route 1 across the Seven Mile Bridge to Big Pine Key, home of the white sand beaches at Bahia Honda State Park and the National Key Deer Refuge. There you'll

**START**  
Key Largo, FL

**END**  
Key West, FL

**DISTANCE**  
100 miles



## VISITING

Key Largo, FL  
Islamorada, FL  
Indian Key Historic State Park  
Big Pine Key, FL  
Key West, FL

find the miniature Key deer, an endangered subspecies of the white-tailed deer found only in the Keys.

Your next and final stop is wild Key West, the southernmost stop in the continental United States (only Hawaii hangs lower). The Key West lifestyle is legendary, drawing literary greats like Tennessee Williams and Ernest Hemingway, both of whom have museums on the two-by-four-mile island. The Hemingway Home and Museum is nearly as famous for the six-toed cats who live there now as it is for

being the place where *A Farewell to Arms* was written.

And that's just the start of Key West's quirkiness. Find more at the aboveground Key West Cemetery, with unusual gravestones that say things like, "I told you I was sick" and "I Always Dreamed of Owning a Small Place in Key West," as well as the Fort East Martello Museum, home to Robert the Doll, a forty-inch-tall doll in a sailor suit known to cause mischief and curse anyone who takes his photo without asking permission.



# Slow Rolling through the Great Smokies

**START**  
Clingmans Dome  
in North Carolina

**END**  
Cades Cove in  
Tennessee

**DISTANCE**  
140 miles

**Make a leisurely, winding day trip of one of America's iconic drives.**

Park your Rogue and take the spiraling concrete walkway 375 feet to the Clingmans Dome Observation Tower, the highest point in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. On the walk up, you may notice many stark-white Fraser fir snags, ghosts of once-regal firs that were decimated by the invasive balsam woolly adelgid insect. The views from Clingmans Dome are spectacular—you can see for more than one hundred miles on a rare clear day.

Jump back in your vehicle and head down to a nineteenth-century farm frozen in time at the Mountain Farm Museum, about an hour and a half away in the Oconaluftee Valley. Walk down a dirt path to the farm, which consists of original structures from throughout the Smokies relocated to the museum site in the 1950s.

Take a slightly longer route toward your next destination via Highway 129—the Tail of the Dragon, a thrilling, winding mountain road of 318 curves that's a must for driving enthusiasts. Centuries ago, the eleven-mile route was worn in by herds of buffalo. Today,

the highway is so popular with modern travelers that several companies run photo services along the route. Simply drive the road on any summer day and your photo will be taken numerous times and made available to purchase online.

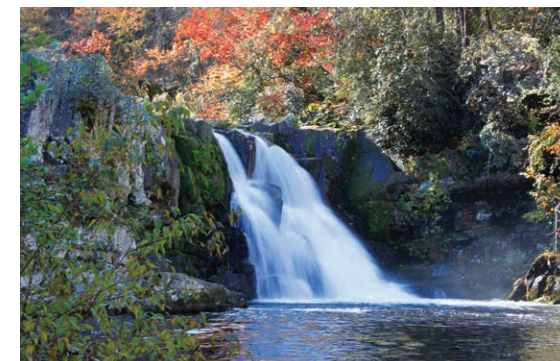
Enjoy breathtaking views of the Smokies as you wind around toward Abrams Falls. It may seem underwhelming at just twenty feet high, but the volume and force of water rushing over the falls make up for its short stature. It's a great place for a hike, but be mindful that there are black bears in the area.

Your final stop is one of the most popular in the park: Cades Cove, a green valley surrounded by mountains and teeming with white-tailed deer and other wildlife (including the aforementioned black bears, so be prepared). Cades Cove also has the widest variety of historic buildings in the Smokies, with churches, a grist mill, log houses, and barns waiting to be discovered during your day trip.



## VISITING

Clingmans Dome  
Mountain Farm Museum  
The Tail of the Dragon  
Abrams Falls  
Cades Cove







# Northeast



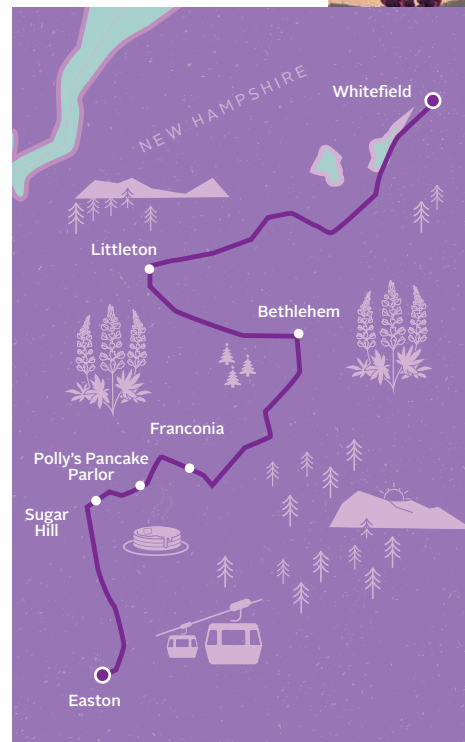
# Purple Mountain Majesties

**Take in the purple fields of tall lupine wildflowers against a breathtaking backdrop of New Hampshire's White Mountains.**

New Hampshire's White Mountains are well known to hikers in search of rugged, challenging routes. But they also offer some spectacular, peaceful attractions—fields of tall purple lupines running wild along the roadside. These photogenic flowers, which grow several feet in height, aren't native to New Hampshire but are very much embraced by the locals. The best lupine spotting happens on the west side of the mountains, around Franconia Notch State Park and among the charming small towns that host the Celebration of Lupines Festival in June. The spiky purple fields, occasionally dotted with pink, white, and yellow, are camera-ready and easy to view just steps from your vehicle.

Because it's Mother Nature who really makes this map, you're encouraged to explore the back roads and find your own fields. But one stop not to miss is on State Route 117 in the town of Sugar Hill: Polly's Pancake Parlor, serving stacks topped with local maple syrup since 1938.

**START**  
Whitefield, NH  
**END**  
Easton, NH  
**DISTANCE**  
30 miles



## VISITING

Whitefield, NH	Polly's Pancake Parlor
Littleton, NH	Sugar Hill, NH
Bethlehem, NH	Easton, NH
Franconia, NH	





# Diner's Club

Visit the greatest diners in New Jersey, the state where diners were born.

Pair the roadside diner with the classic road trip, and you have about as pure an experience of Americana as possible. Do it in New Jersey, birthplace of the diner, with a little Bruce Springsteen streaming out of your car stereo to really push it over the edge.

The key to the roadside diner road trip is to pace your drive to your hunger—not easy to do when you're dealing with diner portions. With more than six hundred diners scattered across New Jersey, the most of any state, you can pick from the best of the best and still not have enough driving distance to fully digest between destinations.

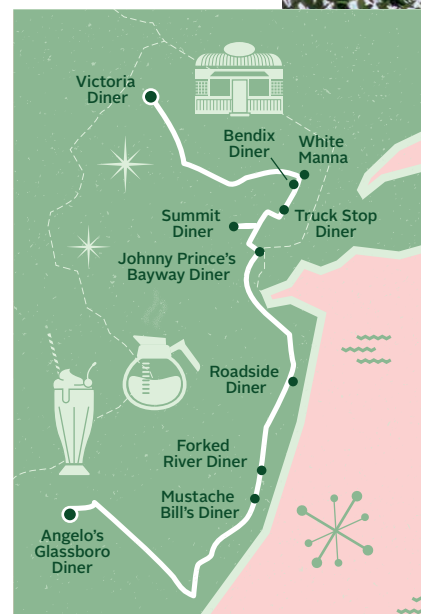
But you can try. To that end, start at Angelo's Glassboro Diner, south of Philadelphia. Founded in 1946 by Angelo Tubertini and still run today by his daughter, the red neon sign and red vinyl booths perfectly set the tone for the trip. It'll also give your stomach an hour and a half to settle before you reach Mustache Bill's Diner in Barnegat Light. Clad in chrome and situated near the lighthouse on Long Beach Island, Mustache Bill's sticks to the theme of fifties nostalgia.

From here, it's a choose-your-own-adventure up the eastern coast of New Jersey. You'll pass the Forked River Diner, the Roadside Diner, Johnny Prince's Bayway Diner, the Summit Diner, Truck Stop Diner, Bendix Diner, and White Manna as you drive north. With opportunities for omelets, corned beef, pancakes, and even that Pennsylvania standard, scrapple—a blend of pork parts and flour, looking a bit like artisanal Spam—you'll stay well fed, though you may end up wanting to walk some of the journey just to burn off a side of potatoes or three. If you're still not sated, end your trip by tacking back west to Victoria Diner in Branchville. A vintage train-car diner that was resurrected in 2011, it's proof that the classic diner is not done yet.

**START**  
Angelo's Glassboro Diner

**END**  
Victoria Diner in Branchville

**DISTANCE**  
260 miles



## VISITING

Angelo's Glassboro Diner	Johnny Prince's Bayway Diner
Mustache Bill's Diner	Summit Diner
Forked River Diner	Truck Stop Diner
Roadside Diner	Bendix Diner
	White Manna
	Victoria Diner





# The Left-Hand Path

**Double, double, boil and bubble your way up the East Coast on this witchy journey through New England's occult locations.**

Witches, ghosts, crumbling ruins, the occult: they are as much a part of New England as maple syrup and leaf peepers. With its long, dark history, its revolutionary spiritual movements, and its derelict mansions, it should be no surprise that New England has produced the likes of Stephen King and H. P. Lovecraft. "Yankeeland" exudes a sense of ominous foreboding like no other region in America, so take this trip along the "left-hand path" and experience what lurks below New England's quaint exterior.

We'll start with an American classic: Sleepy Hollow, New York. Two hundred years ago, Washington Irving published "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," introducing audiences to one of the country's most enduring boogie-men, the Headless Horseman. Clearly the tale hit a nerve: the story hasn't been out of print once in the last two centuries. So what better place to begin your journey than in the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, where the "Headless Hessian of the Hollow" is said to be buried.

The Horseman is often shown with a jack-o'-lantern head, so our next stop, just eight miles to the north, is right on topic. Each year from September to November, the town of Croton-on-Hudson, New York, puts on the

"Great Jack-o'-Lantern Blaze," a mind-boggling display of more than seven thousand hand-carved, illuminated jack-o'-lanterns.

From these charming Halloween haunts, we head east to New England proper for some spookier sites in New Haven, Connecticut. First it's a stop at the Center Church on the Green and a descent into its crypt, an ancient cemetery in the basement with graves dating from 1687 to 1812, including that of one of the founders of Yale University, which is our very next stop, just across town. They say Yale students are brainy, but that's not the half of it. Instead of graves, the basement of Yale's Cushing/Whitney Medical Library is full of brains: a collection of four hundred brains in jars in the Cushing Brain Tumor Registry. Come for the hippocampus, stay for the medulla oblongata.

Head forty minutes up to Waterbury for a different kind of eerie environment at Holy Land USA, an abandoned religious theme park with derelict replicas of catacombs and other religious sites. From there take a little breather at the Witch's Dungeon Classic Movie Museum, home to classic movie monsters like Frankenstein, Dracula, and the Mummy, before heading to the real-life horror

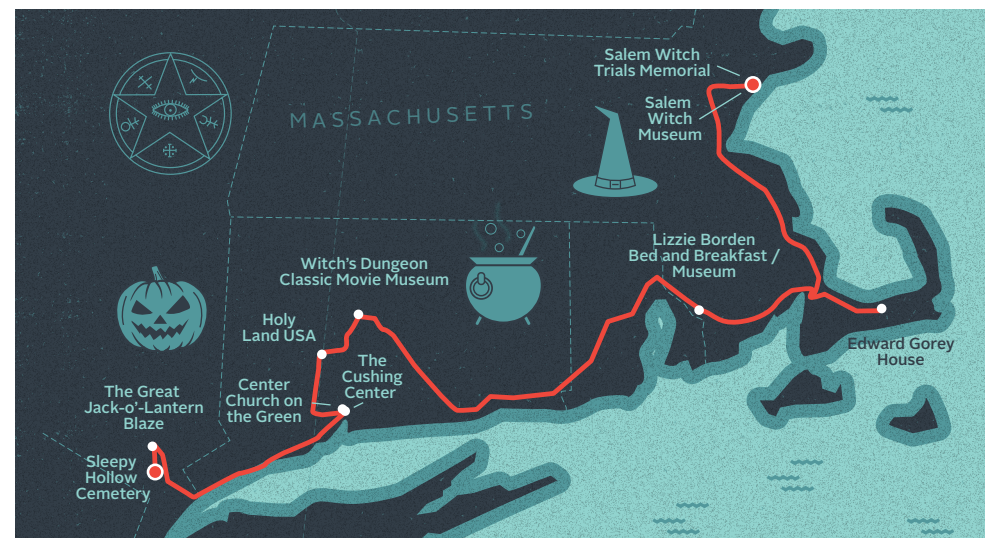
**START**  
Sleepy Hollow, NY

**END**  
Salem, MA

**DISTANCE**  
420 miles

## VISITING

Sleepy Hollow Cemetery  
The Great Jack-o'-Lantern Blaze  
Center Church on the Green  
The Cushing Center  
Holy Land USA  
Witch's Dungeon Classic Movie Museum  
Lizzie Borden Bed and Breakfast / Museum  
Edward Gorey House  
Salem Witch Trials Memorial  
Salem Witch Museum



of the Lizzie Borden Bed and Breakfast, for the least restful night's sleep of your life.

Speaking of creepy children, keep heading east to honor the master of the sinister sketch at the Edward Gorey House on Cape Cod. Afterwards, it's north to the best-known witch's haunt in the country, Salem, Massachusetts. Once the site of the persecution of innocent women, the modern Salem has become a celebration of the witch, with

many witch-themed activities, restaurants, and sites to choose from. We suggest a stop at the Salem Witch Trials Memorial to pay your respects to the women killed at the witch trials before ending your trip at the Salem Witch Museum.

An eight hour, four-hundred-mile path to evil? Maybe. Is there a better spooky tour of New York and New England? Not a ghost of a chance.



# For the Love of Winter

Take a trip through some of the most magical frozen water in America.

If you've ever wondered what it would be like to live in a snow globe, this tour of the Northeast in the off-season is for you. Bonus: you'll practically have the whole place to yourself. Lots of these spectacular sites are best experienced with a short hike, so grab your winter gear and be sure to exercise extra caution.

Mark the start of your tour with a very big rock—the twenty-foot-high glacial erratic at Rockefeller State Park Preserve, a bucolic setting pieced together from the former estates of oil magnates and Rockefellers in Westchester County, New York. A glacial erratic is a rock that has been transported by a glacier, and this six-hundred-million-year-old blue and gray behemoth was dragged down from the peaks of the Hudson Highlands by the southward flow of the Wisconsin continental glacier.

Then head north to the many waterfalls of the Northeast, starting with Awosting Falls in Minnewaska State Park. A quick hike just off the road will take you to the popular sixty-five-foot drop. An hour's drive on Interstate 87 takes you to Kaaterskill Falls, whose 260-foot, two-tiered drop inspired artists like Thomas Cole, Winslow Homer, and Washington Irving, who set "Rip Van Winkle" here.

Travel up through Vermont, stopping by Lye Brook Falls, one of the highest in the state, on your way to Freedley Quarry near Dorset. This abandoned marble mine is a deep, arch-shaped cavern dug directly into the east slope of Mount Aeolus. The cave features mysterious passageways and a large pond that freezes solid in winter, making it a unique place for ice skating.

**START**  
Glacial Erratic in New York

**END**  
Ice Castles in New Hampshire

**DISTANCE**  
470 miles





# Concrete and Joy

**Soft spot for hard edges? Explore the most arresting examples of Brutalist architecture along the Northeast Corridor.**

It's fair to say Brutalism has its haters, but this one's for the fans.

The northeastern megalopolis, stretching from Boston to Washington, is packed with hefty Brutalist buildings—too many to fit here, in fact. Many Brutalist structures are institutional buildings (universities, libraries, government offices), so it's no wonder the world's largest economic megaregion is heavy on form following function.

A strong place to start: Cambridge, Massachusetts, home of the only building on the continent designed by Le Corbusier, the father of Brutalism. Completed in 1963, Harvard's Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts is five stories of concrete with rounded sides, angled windows, and a curving ramp.

Then it's a quick drive across the Charles River to Boston City Hall, one of the most recognizable—and polarizing—examples of Brutalism in America. The city recently began a multiyear project to upgrade and green up the plaza around the 1968 behemoth, which is sure to make City Hall stand out (in a good way). One more quick stop before heading out of Boston: Christian Science Plaza, three Brutalist structures and a reflecting pool designed by legendary Chinese-American architect I. M. Pei.

**START**  
Carpenter Center  
for the Visual Arts in  
Massachusetts

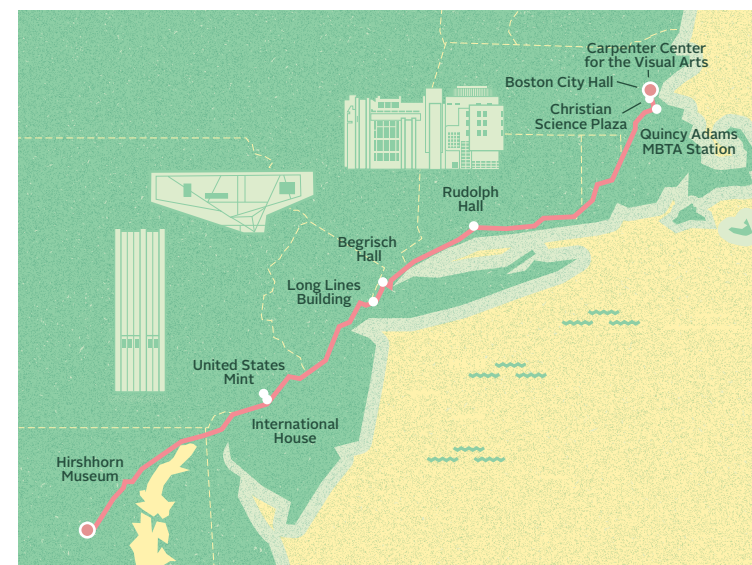
**END**  
Hirshhorn Museum  
in Washington, DC

**DISTANCE**  
490 miles

Head past the sprawling Brutalist parking structure at the Quincy Adams MBTA Station (love it or not, it's a lot of parking) toward Fall River, Massachusetts. Keep an eye out for Government Center, a six-story concrete cube that sits somewhat unusually over the highway.

Take Interstate 95 down to the Yale School of Architecture building, considered one of the most important works of Paul Rudolph, chair of the department when the building opened in 1963. The nine-story, hammered-concrete structure later underwent harsh renovations that deeply upset Rudolph. In 2008, more than a decade after the architect's death, the building was restored according to his plans and renamed Paul Rudolph Hall.

Continue down I-95 to Bronx Community College, home to several significant buildings by famed architect and furniture designer Marcel Breuer. (If you don't know his buildings, you definitely know his chairs.) Be sure to catch the small but mighty Begrish Hall, which looks like a piece of trapezoid-shaped sculpture sitting on short legs. Then it's roughly a half hour's drive into Manhattan to see 33 Thomas Street, also known as the windowless, terrifying "Long Lines Building," a likely NSA surveillance site.



## VISITING

Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts  
Boston City Hall  
Christian Science Plaza  
Quincy Adams MBTA Station  
Fall River Government Center  
Rudolph Hall  
Begrish Hall  
33 Thomas Street, the "Long Lines Building"  
United States Mint  
International House  
Philadelphia  
Hirshhorn Museum

Travel down to Philadelphia, where a lack of windows seems less scary when it's the US Mint. The block-long building was designed by hometown architect Vincent G. Kling. A Brutalist building undergoing a transition is the former International House, a fourteen-story concrete dorm built for the University of Pennsylvania. The building, with its internal street under a glass atrium, is slated to be turned into apartments.

The last destination on your East Coast Brutalism tour is the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington. Affectionately nicknamed the "Brutalist Donut," the concrete, drum-shaped contemporary art museum is easy to spot among the classical buildings of the National Mall. And yes, there is a hole in the middle—and a plaza with a circular fountain. Brutal on the outside, peaceful on the inside: just like you after this grand tour of concrete creativity.



# Crustacean Nation

Eat your way up the East Coast at some of the country's most iconic seafood spots.

Pro tip: Bring your own bib and wet wipes for this over-the-top onslaught of oysters, crab legs, lobster, and . . . ice cream? (We'll get there.) And don't forget your appetite, either.

Start in DC at the Municipal Fish Market at the Wharf, also known as the Fish Market, the oldest continuously operating open-air fish market in the United States. Locals have been snapping up blue crab, shucked oysters, clams, shrimp, and freshly caught fish there since 1805. Take yours to go, or check out the dining options at the Wharf, DC's mile-long mixed-use complex along the Potomac River.

Head up to Maryland for—what else?—crab. Locust Point Steamers is a family-owned crab shack serving up its famous crab cakes and hot steamed crabs year-round. Be sure to get a side of fries sprinkled with Old Bay Seasoning, another Baltimore favorite.

In Philadelphia, you'll find several outposts of local legend Chickie's & Pete's, known for its signature Crabfries, crinkle-cut french fries sprinkled with spices and served with a white cheese sauce for dipping.

For the full seafood experience, don't miss Bahrs Landing, a Jersey shore staple since 1917. Drive up, or dock your boat at the marina, and dive into clam chowder (red and white), lobster, and crab. Then it's off to the Bronx to check out the Original Crab Shanty,

serving up crab and Italian food in a circa-1900 building.

Head to New Haven, Connecticut, for fresh clam pizza at the original Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana, baking tomato pies with a crispy charred crust since 1925.

Oyster lovers must stop for the beautiful views and super-fresh oysters at Matunuck Oyster Bar in South Kingstown, Rhode Island. For the full pond-to-plate experience, sign up for a tour of the Matunuck Oyster Farm. And no oyster hunt is complete without a visit to the Union Oyster House in Boston, the oldest continuously operated restaurant in America.

Your final destination is, of course, Maine. So bountiful are the incredible Maine lobster shacks, we would hardly dare recommend just one. But we will suggest one sweet surprise: lobster ice cream at Ben & Bill's Chocolate Emporium in Bar Harbor. The seaside institution has been serving vanilla scoops churned with real lobster meat since 1988. According to company lore, the proprietors invented the flavor either to prove to a patron that their ice cream was truly homemade, or in response to a customer quipping that the ice cream parlor's menu offered every flavor but lobster. Either way, plenty of people still pass the cartoonish lobster statue at the emporium's door on their way in to order the infamous flavor.

## START

The Municipal Fish Market at the Wharf in Washington, DC

## END

Ben and Bill's Chocolate Emporium in Maine

## DISTANCE

820 miles



## VISITING

The Municipal Fish Market at the Wharf  
Locust Point Steamers  
Chickie's & Pete's

Bahrs Landing  
The Original Crab Shanty  
Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana

Matunuck Oyster Bar  
Union Oyster House  
Ben & Bill's Chocolate Emporium





# East Coast Garden Party

**Make your way from Maine to Florida via tree tunnels, flower rivers, and botanical gardens.**

Start at the 295-acre Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens in Boothbay, the largest botanic garden in New England. The maritime location makes the garden slightly warmer than its surroundings and lets it show off a range of native Maine and coastal plants.

Travel south along Interstate 95 through Boston to the Bulb River on the grounds of Heritage Museums and Gardens in Sandwich, Massachusetts. The “river,” typically at its peak around Mother’s Day, is made up of thirty-five thousand bright purplish-blue grape hyacinths edged by yellow daffodils. The hundred acres of the gardens also feature thousands of Dexter rhododendrons, which bloom in late spring.

Then it’s off to 250 blooming acres in the Bronx, at the 130-year-old New York Botanical Garden—the largest in any city in the United States. A million different plants grow in fifty specialty gardens and collections, including more than 650 varieties of roses, meticulously trained Japanese chrysanthemums, and an old-growth forest that’s the largest uncut expanse of New York’s original wooded landscape.

Next stop is Longwood Gardens near Philadelphia, an astounding eleven hundred acres of formal gardens, children’s gardens,

meadow land, and towering fountains. Highlights here include an extremely rare offset from the original Wood’s Cycad—the loneliest plant in the world—and the largest pipe organ ever constructed in a residential setting.

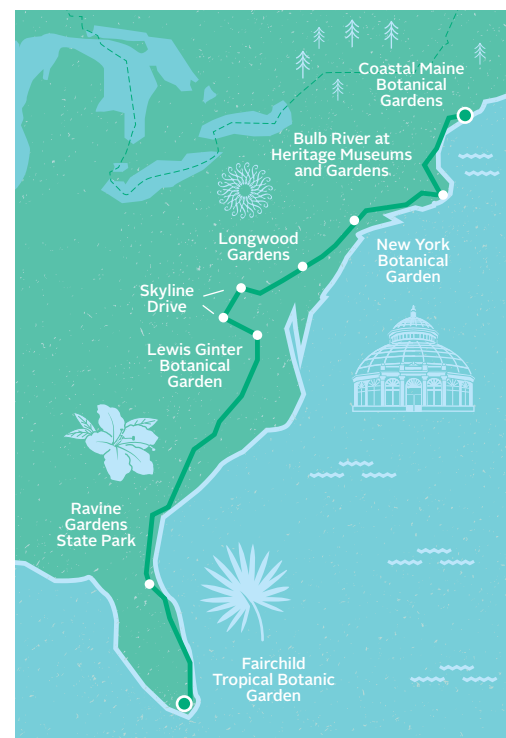
Continue your East Coast exploration to the fifty-acre Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond, Virginia, known for its classical domed conservatory, rose garden, and cherry trees. Then head to decidedly warm weather at Wormsloe State Historic Site in Savannah, Georgia, home of an impressive and popular tree tunnel. Nearly four hundred live oaks dripping in Spanish moss lead to the ruins of Wormsloe Plantation, the oldest standing structure in Savannah.

Then travel to Ravine Gardens State Park in Palatka, Florida, where ancient ravines have been transformed into a rustic tropical garden. Of particular interest is the rolling azalea season, when tens of thousands of azaleas flower from late December to early March. Your last stop may be the most lush—Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden near Miami. It’s home to the largest collection of tropical bamboo in the world and is also the headquarters of the American Orchid Society.

**START**  
Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens

**END**  
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Florida

**DISTANCE**  
1,780 miles



## VISITING

Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens	Skyline Drive
Bulb River at Heritage Museums and Gardens	Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
New York Botanical Garden	Ravine Gardens State Park
Longwood Gardens	Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden





# Our Better Angels

**Victorians loved having picnics in beautiful cemeteries, and it's high time we revived the practice. Travel down the East Coast through the most spectacular garden cemeteries in America.**

Cemeteries were the original public parks—acres upon acres of sculptures and greenery, once popular for picnics and recreation. So pack a lunch and set your sights on some of the country's most renowned Victorian-era resting places.

Start at Mount Hope Cemetery in Rochester, New York, known for 196 acres of rolling hills and more than three hundred fifty thousand residents. Here you'll find the eternal homes of Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass, among many other American heroes.

Head east to Forest Hills Cemetery inside Boston's "Emerald Necklace" connection of parks and waterways. Interred among Forest Hills's 275 acres are poets e. e. cummings and Anne Sexton, playwright Eugene O'Neill, and several Massachusetts governors. Beautiful sculptures and mausoleums dot the hillsides, along with an unexpected display: a miniature village made up of replicas of the homes of people buried there. Nearby in Cambridge is Mount Auburn, the first American "rural" garden-style cemetery in a city and home to painter Winslow Homer, poets Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

and Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr., and Fannie Farmer of cookbook fame.

Travel south to Sleepy Hollow, where essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson gave an address at the cemetery's dedication in 1855. He was later interred there, along with other literary icons including Louisa May Alcott, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Henry David Thoreau. Then head down to Brooklyn to Green-Wood Cemetery, recognizable by the 1860s Gothic Revival arches at its main entrance, designed by renowned architects Richard Upjohn and his son Richard M. Upjohn, the latter of whom is buried there. Inside you'll find 478 spectacular acres of hills, valleys, glacial ponds and paths, and one of the largest outdoor collections of nineteenth- and twentieth-century statuary and mausoleums. Green-Wood is home to five hundred sixty thousand permanent residents, including composer Leonard Bernstein and artists Jean-Michel Basquiat and Louis Comfort Tiffany.

You'll make a few more stops on the East Coast before heading west to the 296-acre Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville, the resting place of prominent citizens like Muhammad

**START**  
Mount Hope Cemetery  
in New York

**END**  
Saint Louis Cemetery  
No. 1 in Louisiana

**DISTANCE**  
2,800 miles



## VISITING

Mount Hope Cemetery  
Forest Hills Cemetery  
Mount Auburn Cemetery  
Sleepy Hollow Cemetery  
Green-Wood Cemetery  
Laurel Hill Cemetery  
Oak Hill Cemetery  
Cave Hill Cemetery  
Bonaventure Cemetery  
Saint Louis Cemetery No. 1



Ali and Colonel Harland Sanders, founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Bonaventure Cemetery in Savannah, Georgia, became particularly famous for its role in the book and movie *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, including its live oaks, spooky Spanish moss, and *Bird Girl* statue. Nicknamed "Little Wendy," the statue was so popular that it had to be moved from a family's plot for safety. She currently resides at nearby Telfair Academy.

No trip to New Orleans is complete without a visit to Saint Louis Cemetery No. 1, accessible only with a tour guide because of vandalism. Established in 1789, the oldest cemetery in New Orleans is a jam-packed must-see for its aboveground vaults (including, allegedly, that of voodoo priestess Marie Laveau) and the peculiar nine-foot-tall pyramid-shaped tomb purchased in advance by actor Nicolas Cage.





# Trans- continental



# Motel Magic along Route 66

Take in the vintage sights and neon lights of the Mother Road's decidedly American motor lodges.

Nothing says road trip quite like the classic American motels along Route 66.

Your epic twenty-two-hundred-mile, seven-state adventure begins in Chicago, where the Mother Road officially starts near the world-renowned Art Institute. Travel downstate through the capital city of Springfield, past Saint Louis, and on toward a pocket of vintage motels in the Missouri Ozarks. Your first motel—a portmanteau of “motor” and “hotel”—is the Wagon Wheel in Cuba, Missouri, whose 1935 stone cabins constitute the oldest continuously operated motel along Route 66. Then head toward the vintage cars and signature neon at the Munger Moss Motel, and the Streamline Moderne style of the Boots Court.

Travel across Oklahoma to the appropriately named Midpoint Café in Adrian, Texas—you're halfway there. Stop in Tucumcari, New Mexico, where you'll have your choice of throwback accommodations: the Blue Swallow Motel, known for restored neons and vintage decor, or the 1960s vibe of the Roadrunner Lodge. Take a long desert drive through Albuquerque toward the hundred-foot-high neon tower sign of the El Trovatore Motel in Kingman, Arizona.

**START**  
Chicago, IL

**END**  
Santa Monica, CA

**DISTANCE**  
2,170 miles

Established in the late 1930s, El Trovatore claims iconic guests like Clark Gable, Marilyn Monroe, and James Dean.

Then it's off to San Bernardino, where you can't miss the landmark Wigwam Motel—nineteen tepee-shaped guest houses rising thirty-two feet into the California sky. While in the neighborhood, cruise by the site of the original McDonald's, now an unofficial museum packed with toys, signs, old playground equipment, and fiberglass statues as well as Route 66 memorabilia.

Then roll up to the Lincoln Park Motel in Los Angeles. This circa-1930 motel has been around long enough to make some TV and film appearances, most notably in 2001's *Pearl Harbor*. You're less than a half-hour from the End of the Trail, marked with a popular photo-op sign on the Santa Monica Pier.

## VISITING

Historic Route 66  
Begin Sign

Wagon Wheel  
Cabins

Munger Moss Motel

Boots Court

Midpoint Café

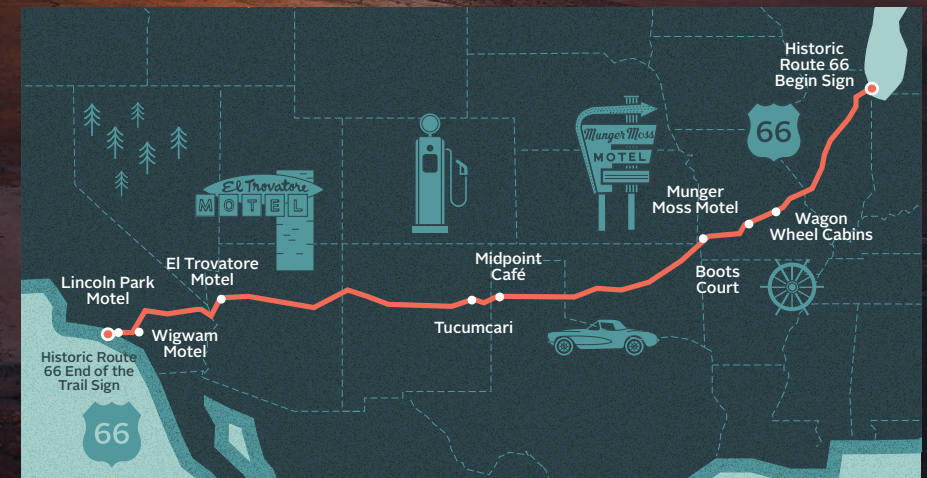
Tucumcari, NM

El Trovatore Motel

Wigwam Motel

Lincoln Park Motel

Historic Route 66  
End of the Trail Sign





# Roughing It with the Moralist of the Main

Follow in the footsteps of one of America's greatest rogue humorists.

America's preeminent humorist, Mark Twain, decided to sidestep the Civil War with a train and stagecoach trip from his native Missouri out to the furthest reaches of the American West with some mining and prospecting thrown in for good measure. The trip is recounted in his book *Roughing It*, largely culled from his brother's diary entries. Sadly, we can't get you all the way to the trip's terminus in Hawaii by car, but we can at least get you to the Bay Area.

The trip starts appropriately enough in the Gateway to the West, Saint Louis. Head out from under the soaring, stately arch toward pioneer-era landmarks like the Big Blue River north of Manhattan, Kansas, across seas of grain and along the Great Platte River Road to Fort Kearney in central Nebraska, and through the red deserts and sand dunes of Wyoming to the famed Devil's Gate.

From there, sail your land vessel to Salt Lake City and recreate the old Central Overland Stagecoach Route to Carson City, Nevada—this was the route used before the Transcontinental Railroad existed. From there, stop in at Twain's beloved Lake Tahoe (what "must surely be the fairest picture the whole earth affords," he wrote) and then across California to San Francisco, where Twain lived through a major earthquake in 1865.

Twain's trip took him six years; this route is thirty-five hours nonstop.

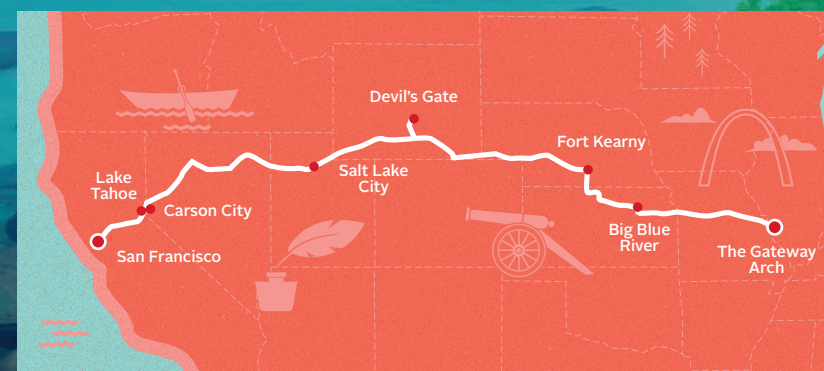
**START**  
Saint Louis, MO

**END**  
San Francisco, CA

**DISTANCE**  
2,250 miles

## VISITING

The Gateway Arch  
Big Blue River  
Fort Kearney  
Devil's Gate  
Salt Lake City, UT  
Carson City, NV  
Lake Tahoe, CA  
San Francisco, CA





# Follow the Southern Buffalo

**From Kentucky to Arizona, you don't have to go to Yellowstone to see buffalo.**

With their nearly mythological position in the American identity, bison aren't something you expect to happen upon. And given their enormous frames and shaggy pelts, you would expect even less to find them in the heat of Arizona, Kentucky, or Los Angeles.

And yet, herds of American buffalo can take you by surprise as you cross the United States.

As far east as Golden Pond, Kentucky, on a spit of land between two narrow lakes two hours northwest of Nashville, Tennessee, the Elk and Bison Prairie will give you your first peek at the massive beasts that used to blanket the flatlands.

Head straight north to the Nachusa Grasslands one hundred miles west of Chicago and you can catch them again, if you're lucky. Here they have as close to free rein as possible, save for an annual vet visit, and the herd of thirty introduced by the Nature Conservancy in 2014 has swelled to one hundred regular residents. Visitors are restricted to designated roads and footpaths throughout the habitat, making patience and commitment necessities for a successful spotting.

Moving west, the Buffalo Herd Nature Preserve in Colorado provides another nearly urban opportunity to view bison, this time just twenty miles outside of Denver. The bison roam two pastures on either side of I-70, with an overlook exit for those hoping for a less fleeting view.

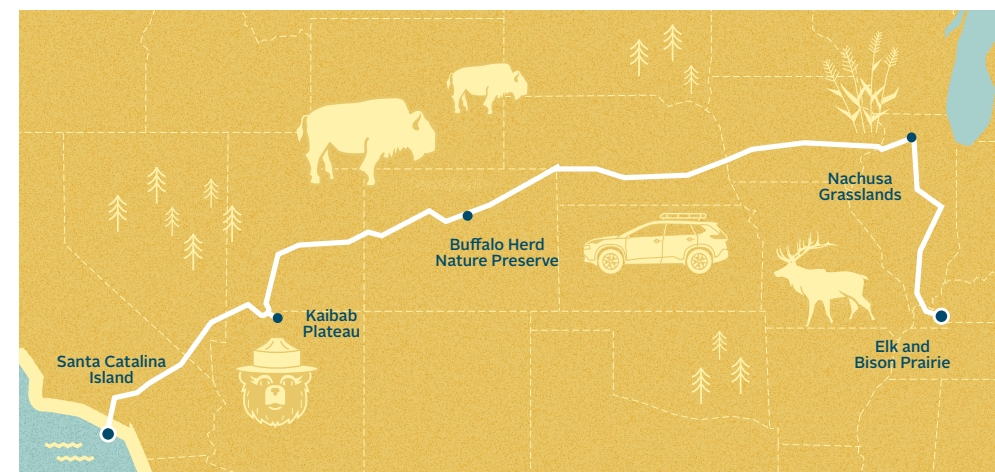
Colorado and Illinois are somewhat logical locations to spy bison; Arizona, less so. The bison on the Kaibab Plateau, just outside of the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, were brought to the area by Charles "Buffalo" Jones in the early 1900s as part of a scheme to cross-breed the animals with cattle. That dream died quickly, but the bison did not, breaking free into the surrounding area and adapting to the high altitude and scarce water of the Grand Canyon's northern edge.

After multiple sightings in improbable places as you've made your way west, it may feel perfectly natural to find the westernmost herd of Great Plains bison thriving on Santa Catalina Island, an hour's boat ride into the Pacific Ocean from Los Angeles. Much like the Kaibab Plateau bison, these animals arrived

**START**  
Elk and Bison Prairie in Kentucky

**END**  
Santa Catalina Island in California

**DISTANCE**  
3,000 miles



via a mix of human ambition and negligence. Brought to Catalina as extras for the western *The Vanishing American* in 1924, the bison were soon abandoned when the filmmakers ran out of money to return them to the mainland. Today, the herd is so successful that hundreds of bison have been returned to their natural habitat.

## VISITING

Elk and Bison Prairie  
Nachusa Grasslands  
Buffalo Herd Nature Preserve

Kaibab Plateau  
Santa Catalina Island



# Space Race on the Interstate

**START**  
Cape Canaveral, FL

**END**  
Hawthorne, CA

**DISTANCE**  
3,060 miles

**From Florida launch sites to “Houston, we have a problem” to California’s SpaceX, traverse the American South on this quest toward the skies.**

Start in central Florida at the Kennedy Space Center on Cape Canaveral, where guests can study the history of the space shuttle and stroll through the Rocket Garden, boasting real rockets that took astronauts into space. Time it right and you can even observe launches taking place.

Head north to “Rocket City”—Huntsville, Alabama—home to the US Space & Rocket Center. This is the world’s largest space museum, where guests can participate in underwater astronaut trainings and shuttle simulations and see the nation’s very first satellite. It’s also home to Space Camp, which has taught nearly a million “trainees” science, math, technology, and engineering skills.

Continuing west, you can’t have a NASA-centric trip without a visit to Houston’s Johnson Space Center. Exhibits include capsules from the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo missions, and it’s also the only place where guests can tour a shuttle replica as well as its attached shuttle carrier aircraft. Tours also take you behind the scenes to Mission Control and astronaut training facilities.

Then head through the deserts to the Very Large Array in New Mexico, where you can stretch your legs on a self-guided walking tour around a series of massive telescopes most recognizable from the movie *Contact* (and the visitor center includes a documentary narrated by Jodie Foster).

Finish the drive with a long haul up to the present day as you pull onto Rocket Road to park in front of SpaceX in Hawthorne, California. You won’t be able to take a tour here—it’s off-limits, unless, say, you’ve got the money to pay for your own launch—but at least you can put your toes on the ground where today’s quest for space is taking place.

This drive is a long one, clocking in at forty-seven hours and more than three thousand miles—but it’s still shorter than a trip to the moon. Or you could just take a look at your nearest highway overpass for a little bit of space-race history: after Sputnik was launched, the Department of Defense mandated higher vertical clearances on America’s freeways . . . just to make sure Atlas missiles could get through if needed.



## VISITING

Kennedy Space Center  
US Space & Rocket Center  
Johnson Space Center  
Very Large Array  
SpaceX



# Mermaids by Land

**These land-locked tropical stops might cement your belief in these beautiful sea creatures.**

Where there's water, there's bound to be mermaids—and that includes pools.

Start at the Wreck Bar in Fort Lauderdale, where through windows in the dining room, you can watch MeduSirena and her pod of Aquaticats swim and dance in the hotel pool. Head north to one of Florida's oldest roadside attractions: Weeki Wachee Springs State Park, putting on mermaid shows since 1947. Here, the half-fish, half-human performers swim twenty feet below the surface of one of the deepest naturally formed springs in North America.

Inspired to unleash your inner merperson? Head to Mermaid of Hilton Head in South Carolina for a mermaid makeover and tail fitting ahead of your mermaid photo shoot (popular with kids, grown-ups, and bachelorette parties). You can also partake in a Mermaid Encounter Boat Tour, where you'll journey through the waters around Hilton Head to find Mermaid Nina.

Then it's just a few hours to Ripley's Aquarium of Myrtle Beach, where you'd better believe there are mermaids. Kids of all ages will enjoy watching mermaids frolic among stingrays and sharks.

Head northwest to Nashville's Aquarium Restaurant, where the Mystic Mermaids swim with sharks, rays, and eels in the dining room aquarium tank. From there, head to Branson, Missouri, and book the Ozark Mountain Mermaids for your party. Just add water.

Your last stop may be the last place you'd expect to find mermaids: Montana. Merfolk swim up to the large windows behind the bar at the legendary Sip 'n Dip Tiki Lounge, which shares a wall with the O'Haire Motor Inn swimming pool. The South Seas atmosphere is quite as it was when the lounge opened in 1962, thanks in large part to the longtime in-house musician, "Piano Pat" Spoonheim, still jazzy in her eighties.

**START**  
Fort Lauderdale, FL

**END**  
Great Falls, MT

**DISTANCE**  
3,330 miles

## VISITING

The Wreck Bar  
Weeki Wachee Springs State Park  
Mermaid of Hilton Head  
Ripley's Aquarium of Myrtle Beach  
Aquarium Restaurant  
Branson, MO  
Sip 'n Dip Tiki Lounge





# Neon Heartland

Small cities can have the brightest lights.

You don't have to go to Las Vegas to take in the neon lights—though any illuminated road trip is bound to end up there. All the way east in Scranton, Pennsylvania, the town known for its fictional paper company also has the nickname Electric City, given to celebrate the city's position as the first in the United States with a commercially viable electric streetcar line.

The massive "Scranton: The Electric City" sign went atop the Scranton Electric Building, the city's first skyscraper, around 1923 and burned brightly until the early seventies, when Scranton fell on hard times. The sign came back to life in 2004, but many of its thirteen hundred white bulbs kept burning out until recent efforts were made to bring it back to its multicolored glory.

Moving into the heartland brings you to the must-see American Sign Museum in Cincinnati, dedicated to the art and history of commercial signs and sign making. Don't forget to check out Neonworks of Cincinnati, the full-time neon workshop located inside the museum, where you can see tube benders working their craft for sign companies today.

If you fancy a bite to eat while you bask in the neon glow, the Superdawg Drive-In on Chicago's Far North Side is your next stop. Two twelve-foot hot dog icons, named Maurie and Flaurie, blink and beckon hungry passersby from atop the restaurant. For a

**START**  
Scranton Electric City Sign  
in Pennsylvania

**END**  
Neon Boneyard in Nevada

**DISTANCE**  
3,740 miles

sit-down meal, keep going west to the suburb of Wheaton and its Seven Dwarfs Restaurant neon sign, welcoming guests since the fifties.

Dessert is in Milwaukee at Leon's Frozen Custard, "Home of the World's Finest Frozen Custard," according to the drive-in's signature sign, erected in 1955. Legend holds that Leon's may have inspired the look of Arnold's Drive-In of *Happy Days*. Then take Route 66 to El Rancho Grande Mexican Restaurant in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where you'll find a historic neon sign (and cheese enchiladas) drawing diners from near and far since 1953.

Your next stop is the legendary Stinker Station convenience store sign in Twin Falls, Idaho. Featuring the boxing-gloves-wearing Stinker Skunk, the sign was part of a popular cheeky advertising campaign by the founder of the Boise-based chain Stinker Stores, who was labeled a "stinker" for undercutting the gas prices of big oil companies.

Ending your trip in Nevada gives you your choice of spectacular neon views. Head to Elko and visit the Holiday Motel, Commercial Casino, and Centre Motel, and then continue to Ely for the El Rancho and Deser-est motels. From there, it's straight to Las Vegas, where Fremont Street and the Neon Boneyard make up the epicenter of a neon glow that spreads across the entire country.



## VISITING

Scranton Electric Building	Stinker Station
American Sign Museum	Holiday Motel
Superdawg Drive-In	Commercial Casino
Seven Dwarfs Restaurant	Centre Motel
Leon's Frozen Custard	El Rancho Motel
El Rancho Grande Mexican Food	Deser-est Motel
	Fremont Street
	Neon Boneyard



# Search and Destroy

Take a cross-country trip through the venues that made punk rock.

American punk rock started in New York City at CBGB, the anything-goes venue in Manhattan's Bowery, home to the early sounds of the Ramones, the Dead Boys, Patti Smith, and the Talking Heads. The anti-authoritarian sound, look, and attitude quickly manifested in population hubs across the country, with each region developing its own sound and style.

The trail of the American underground spreads out from the hard New York City street-kid turf of the Cro-Mags, who would play the later incarnations of CBGB and City Gardens in New Jersey, to collectively run volunteer spaces with a more political slant, like ABC No Rio, 924 Gilman, the Ché Café, and the Mr. Roboto Project. Wild cards like the Fireside Bowl in Chicago were known to hold shows that ranged from second-wave ska to pummeling grindcore, sometimes on the same bill.

Some of these venues are still up and running, while others have fallen victim to redevelopment. Stops aside, the amount of time you'll spend on the road soaking up all the music fostered by these venues is worth the trip.

## VISITING

924 Gilman

The Masque

The Ché Café

Wax Trax

Triple Rock Social Club

Fireside Bowl

The Mr. Roboto Project

9:30 Club

City Gardens

CBGB

ABC No Rio

**START**  
924 Gilman in California

**END**  
ABC No Rio in New York

**DISTANCE**  
3,830 miles





# Pinball Wizard

This cross-country route runs through the greatest pinball arcades in the United States.

Flashing lights, the *thwump* of the steel ball bouncing off the flippers, the infuriating, frustrating, intensely addictive experience of trying to control chaos—that is the essence of pinball. The game was once declared illegal in New York, and it wasn't until 1976 that Roger Sharpe, a young writer and pinball champion, played a masterful game at a city council meeting and convinced lawmakers that pinball was not a form of gambling.

Nearly extinct in the 1990s, pinball has seen a major comeback in recent decades. Around the country, pinball museums and private collections of hundreds of machines have been made public. The International Flipper Pinball Association now counts more than thirty thousand ranked players.

This route takes you on a countrywide tour of the United States via a few of its greatest pinball parlors. Starting at the Silverball Museum in Asbury Park, New Jersey, and traveling through the Pinball Hall of Fame in Las Vegas, which donates all its profits to charity, this trip offers up hours of mechanical amazement at every stop.

Don't forget to bring quarters.

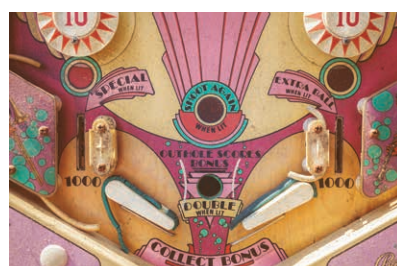
**START**  
Silverball Museum in  
New Jersey

**END**  
Pins and Needles in  
California

**DISTANCE**  
4,090 miles

## VISITING

Silverball Museum  
Roanoke Pinball  
Museum  
Asheville Pinball  
Museum  
Replay Museum  
The Original Pinballz  
Arcade  
D&D Pinball  
Pinball Hall of Fame  
Museum of Pinball  
Pins and Needles





# Area Codes

**Journey through music history via the most name-checked cities in hip-hop.**

**START**  
Chicago, IL  
**END**  
Los Angeles, CA  
**DISTANCE**  
4,150 miles

LBC, H-Town, Chi-City, Shaolin—if you know, you know. Rappers ride hard for their hometowns, as you’ll see on this cross-country tour of the most name-checked cities in hip-hop.

Start in Chicago, where influences from all directions have been chewed and spit furiously into chopper-style hip-hop and, more recently, drill. While there, visit the Avalon Regal Theater, an extraordinary Moorish-style movie palace built in 1927, which once hosted hip-hop legends like Kanye, Jay-Z, Da Brat, Tupac, and the Notorious B.I.G.

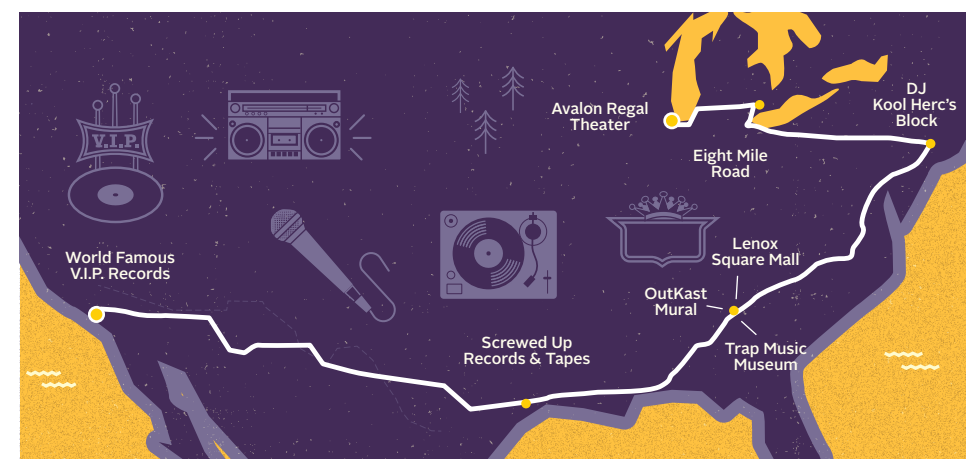
Next head east to Detroit, a.k.a. the D. The 313’s role in hip-hop history is driven by raw, battle-worthy rhymes and the dark themes of horrorcore—as seen in the style of home-grown superstar Eminem, the best-selling rapper of all time. True stans will want to look out for Eight Mile Road, the hardscrabble highway between Detroit and its affluent suburbs, and the inspiration behind *8 Mile*, the 2002 film loosely based on Eminem’s life.

Then it’s off to New York, birthplace of East Coast style and hip-hop itself. First stop appears to be a standard-issue apartment building at 1520 Sedgwick Avenue in the Bronx. But at a party in the rec room in 1973, young DJ Kool Herc used two turntables to scratch and repeat the drum breaks in funk and soul records, giving shout-outs over top. And so the DJ breakbeat, and hip-hop, was born.

Head south to Atlanta—the ATL—and its shopping malls. When Andre 3000 and Big Boi ran into each other at Lenox Square Mall in the Buckhead neighborhood, it changed music history. (There’s a massive mural of the duo in the Little Five Points neighborhood where they grew up.) Nowadays Atlanta may be best known for the aggressive lyrics and lifestyle of trap music—now with its own museum curated by rapper T.I.

From Atlanta it’s off to Houston, the birthplace of the slowed-down chopped and screwed style, pioneered in the early nineties by the late DJ Screw. When Screw’s mixtape business outgrew his house, he opened his own store: Screwed Up Records & Tapes, which sells neither but is still open today. From there, it’s a twenty-minute drive downtown to the Houston Hip Hop Research Collection, housing DJ Screw’s personal collection of more than fifteen hundred records.

Next make your way cross-country to Los Angeles, by all accounts the second-most-name-checked city in hip-hop, and the first, if you include Long Beach, Compton, and Inglewood. Kick off at the site of World Famous V.I.P. Records, where West Coast gangsta-funk legends Snoop Dogg, Warren G, and Nate Dogg—then collectively known as 213—recorded their demo. The strip-mall record store was shuttered a while back, but at last check, its famous sign—seen in



Snoop’s 1993 breakout “Who Am I (What’s My Name)?” video—still stands.

This barely scratches the surface. Philadelphia, Oakland, New Orleans, Miami, and many other cities have all contributed unique sounds to the hip-hop landscape. So if you’re feeling the bounce, once you finish this route, flip the record and head back out for the B sides.

## VISITING

Avalon Regal Theater	Screwed Up Records & Tapes
Eight Mile Road	Houston Hip Hop Research Collection
DJ Kool Herc’s Block	World Famous V.I.P. Records
Lenox Square Mall	
OutKast Mural	
Trap Music Museum	



# Live to Ride

**Strap on your bike rack because with six wheels and the entire United States at our disposal, we're taking a trip to the most beautiful bike routes in America.**

As much as we love being behind the wheel of our Rogues, sometimes you need to stretch your legs on a two-wheel vehicle. This is why we've put together a coast-to-coast list of some of the country's best bike trails, with your Rogue as a great support vehicle (don't forget to grab your Rogue's Yakima bike rack for this ride).

After you pedal your way around the seventy-mile waterfront Back Cove Trail in Portland, Maine, head southeast along the nation's northern border for a five-hundred-mile ride along the Seaway Trail. From here head down to the thirty-seven-mile Gauley Headwaters Trail in West Virginia for some true mountain biking. From there, the Natchez Trace Parkway awaits, starting in Nashville and pedaling nearly 450 miles down to Natchez, Mississippi.

Then it's a quick fifteen-mile cruise along the Missouri River and the Kansas City Riverfront Heritage Trail (a great way to see KC) to get ready for a North Platte, Nebraska, rendezvous with the hundred-mile trail system known as Potter's Pasture. From here it's a quick trip up to the Black Hills of South Dakota for a 111-mile trek on the Centennial Trail, where you'll pedal alongside prairie dogs and bison. Don't miss the famous Slickrock Bike Trail near Moab, Utah, where riders can traverse ten miles of ancient sandstone to an epic view of the Colorado River.

Before we close out our transcontinental pedal trek, we're probably just about ready for the Flume Trail along the shores of Lake Tahoe: fourteen miles featuring a thousand-foot elevation change early on. Finally, we get to the West Coast—well, close to it—and Sacramento's Jedediah Smith Memorial Trail. The thirty-two-mile paved parkway makes a nice final ride along the suspension bridges and waterways of the American River. A drive to all of these locations will add about forty-seven hundred miles to your odometer, not to mention the nearly fourteen hundred miles that you'll pound out under your pedals.

## START

Back Cove Trail in Maine

## END

Jedediah Smith Memorial Trail in California

## DISTANCE

4,740 miles

## VISITING

Back Cove Trail

Seaway Trail

Gauley Headwaters Trail

Natchez Trace Parkway

Riverfront Heritage Trail

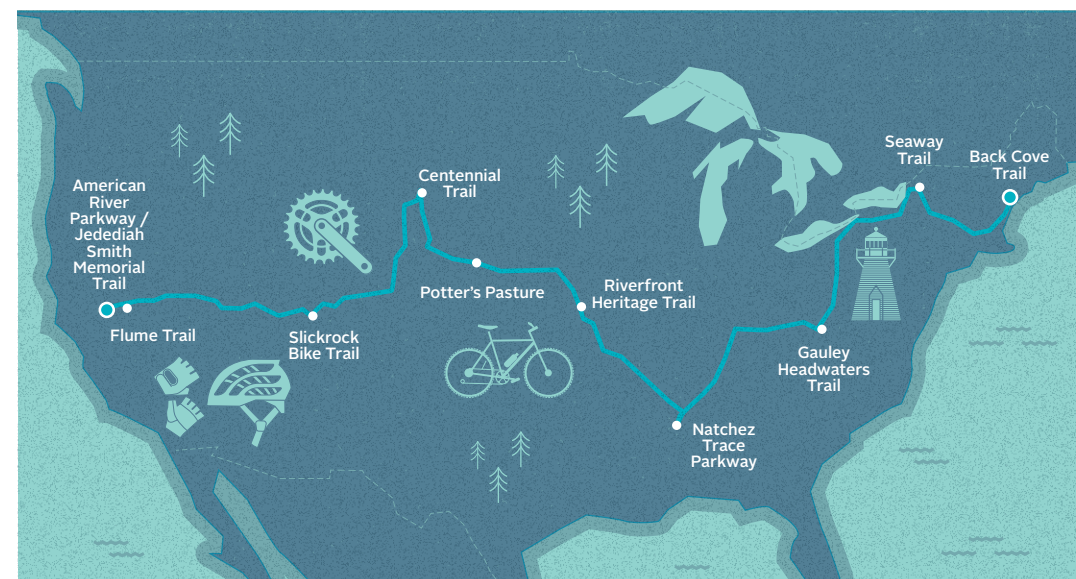
Potter's Pasture

Centennial Trail

Slickrock Bike Trail

Flume Trail

American River Parkway /  
Jedediah Smith Memorial  
Trail





# Coast to Coast, No Highways

**START**  
Eastern Virginia

**END**  
Oregon Coast

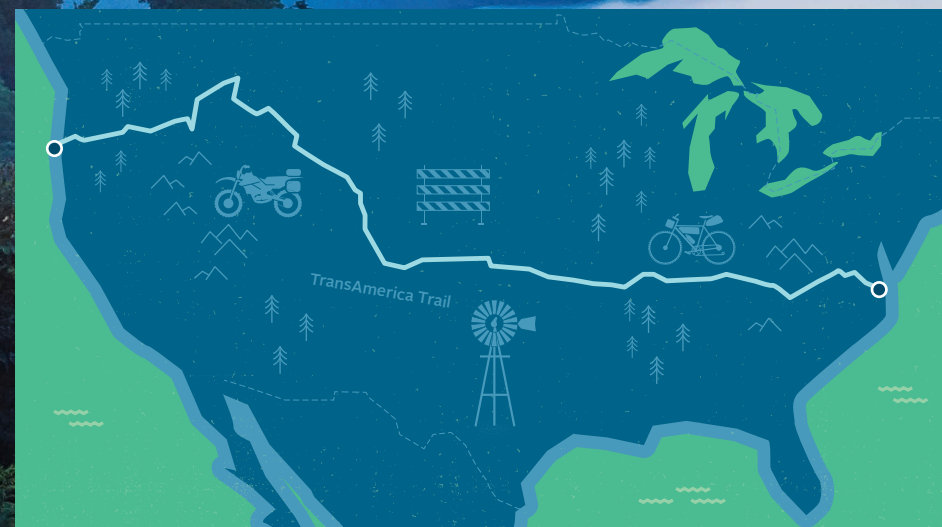
**DISTANCE**  
5,000 miles

## Trek five thousand miles along the TransAmerica Trail.

Five thousand miles. No freeways. Is it possible to drive cross-country and hardly touch a real road? Believe it or not, it is. With a good AWD vehicle (like your new Rogue) and a lot of vacation days, you can drive from eastern Virginia to coastal Oregon and barely hit any blacktop. The TransAmerica Trail, also known as the TAT, uses backcountry trails and remote public roads—some paved, most not. TAT experts estimate that you'll be able to knock out about two hundred miles per day . . . meaning your trek is probably going to take roughly a month (assuming you take a day off here or there).

The trail runs near, or even through, many well-known parks, including the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Canyonlands National Park (which hits our White Rim Road trek), and the Yellowstone and Grand Teton parks. Originally stitched together by motorcyclist Sam Correro, this trail is primarily ridden by bikers both powered and pedaled, but plenty of four-by-four drivers take the trip as well.

Looking for even more trail to ride? You can also tack on side trips that take you down through New Mexico and back through South Dakota's Badlands National Park.





# Suit Yourself

Take the scuba diver's ultimate dream trip along all three of America's ocean coastlines.

Usually we want to keep you above water while you're behind the wheel of your Rogue. But once you're out of the driver's seat, you might want to get below the surface. This route—tracing the nation's best scuba-diving destinations—is for those who have a wetsuit and aren't afraid to use it.

Start with a quick look back at the sport's history at the History of Diving Museum on Islamorada in the Florida Keys. You probably won't need a diving bell or an armored diving suit in your travels, but at least you can see them here. (Unfortunately, you can't drive to Dry Tortugas National Park, but take the ferry if you have time—the Gulf views are spectacular.)

Then head up to the Olympus Dive Center in North Carolina to hang with the sharks that surround a sunken Coast Guard cutter ship, then over to Tennessee for a quarry lake dive at the ten-acre scuba resort Loch Low-Minn, home to a variety of subsurface statues plus a very impressive array of paddlefish.

On to Missouri—yes, Missouri!—to dive at the flooded Bonne Terre Mine and swim through three miles of mine shafts. We find more scuba attractions in Arkansas's Beaver Lake, where divers can head to the depths of this humanmade Ozark lake to find the old foundations of abandoned area resorts and

an amphitheater. After that, travel south to Galveston, Texas, where about one hundred miles offshore you'll find the coral reefs of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

Head next to the West Coast, stopping just off Route 66 at another unexpected scuba destination: the New Mexico desert. Santa Rosa's Blue Hole is a tiny, sapphire-blue lake that has become a year-round diving destination thanks to its astonishing hundred-foot visibility. Born of a geological phenomenon called the Santa Rosa sink, the lake completely renews its water every six hours and is always sixty-two degrees.

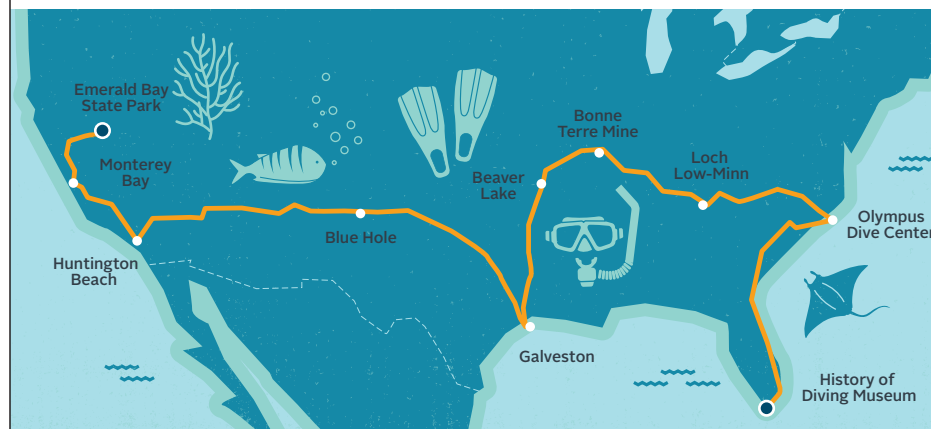
Finally, head over to California's popular scuba destinations like Huntington Beach in the south, Monterey Bay in the north, and further inland, the pristine waters of Lake Tahoe's Emerald Bay State Park. The whole route will take you more than five thousand miles, but the water will wash away all that road dust.



**START**  
History of Diving  
Museum in Florida

**END**  
Emerald Bay State  
Park in California

**DISTANCE**  
5,250 miles

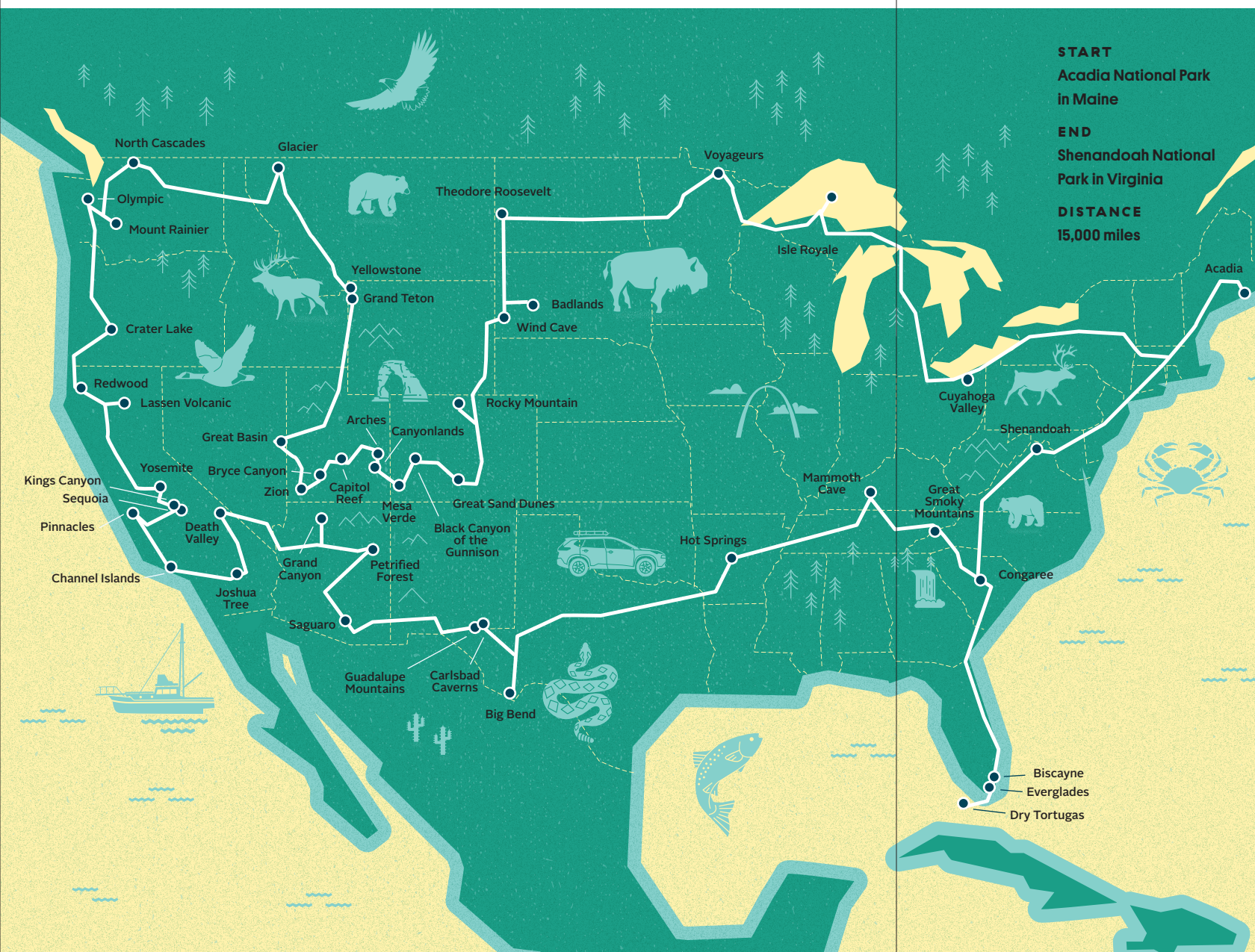


## VISITING

History of Diving Museum	Bonne Terre Mine	Huntington Beach
Olympus Dive Center	Beaver Lake	Monterey Bay
Loch Low-Minn Scuba Diving Resort	Galveston, TX	Emerald Bay State Park
	Blue Hole	







# Every. National. Park.

**One loop, fifteen thousand miles, and every single national park in the lower forty-eight.**

From the rocky beaches of Maine to the stunning redwoods of California, the National Park System—also known as America's Best Idea—offers endless natural beauty from sea to shining sea. But what if you wanted to see every single one of those parks? We've got the fifteen-thousand-mile route for you. Data scientist and road trip designer Randy Olson pulled together this trip to hit every park in the contiguous forty-eight states, and it'll only take you about two months to visit them all. Prepare to max out your PTO (and then some).

Sadly you're on your own if you want to tackle the parks in Alaska, Hawaii, and other territories like American Samoa, but the forty-seven parks on this list should cover you for a while. We hope you like spending time in Utah, Colorado, and California, as that's where the majority of the parks are located, but this trip also gets you to underappreciated destinations like the Hot Springs of Arkansas (the oldest area in the National Park System) and Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota (the only national park named for a single person).

Want some extra credit? This route was calculated before White Sands in New Mexico or the Indiana Dunes were added to the park system—so true national park completists should plan a couple of side trips to collect 'em all.





# Plan Your Journey

## Plan Your Road Trip by Time

DAY TRIP	TIME	PAGE
From Gnaw Bone to New Modernism	1 hour	38
Purple Mountain Majesties	1 hour	80
Meander through the Mesa via the White Rim Road	2 hours 10 mins	10
Island Hopping	2 hours 10 mins	74
Black History along Louisiana's River Road	2 hours 20 mins	62
Blue Ridge Parkway in Bloom	2 hours 20 mins	72
Permission to Take the Low Road	2 hours 40 mins	48
Haunted Alabama	3 hours 20 mins	64
Slow Rolling through the Great Smokies	3 hours 50 mins	76
Miners, Ghost Towns, and Mountains	6 hours	12
The Wildest Road in America	6 hours 20 mins	14

WEEKEND	TIME	PAGE
Diner's Club	5 hours 30 mins	82
Seeking Truth on the Loneliest Road	7 hours 10 mins	50
The Hills Have Pies	7 hours 40 mins	66
The Left-Hand Path	7 hours 50 mins	84
Midwest Motorsports	7 hours 50 mins	34
Batroads of Texas	8 hours 40 mins	68
Concrete and Joy	9 hours 20 mins	88
For the Love of Winter	10 hours 20 mins	86
In Search of Bigfoot	11 hours 20 mins	26
Over the Atigun Pass	11 hours 40 mins	24



LONG WEEKEND	TIME	PAGE
Rising from the Ruins	12 hours 30 mins	40
Frank Lloyd Wright's Midwestern Icons	12 hours 50 mins	36
The Outsiders	14 hours 10 mins	54
Crustacean Nation	14 hours 30 mins	90
The Truth Is Out There	15 hours	52
Stay Weird, Wisconsin	16 hours	42
A Natural Habitat	17 hours 50 mins	28

A WEEK AND BEYOND	TIME	PAGE
A Short Drive to Mars	26 hours	16
A Race to the Clouds	26 hours	18
East Coast Garden Party	28 hours	92
Tour of Ancient California	29 hours	20
Art in the Great Wide Open	30 hours 40 mins	44
Clear Eyes, Dark Skies	32 hours 20 mins	56
Motel Magic along Route 66	33 hours	98
Roughing It with the Moralistic of the Main	34 hours	100
Earth Works	39 hours	58
Follow the Southern Buffalo	39 hours	102
Rainforest Road	42 hours	30
Our Better Angels	44 hours	94
Space Race on the Interstate	47 hours	104
Mermaids by Land	52 hours	106
Neon Heartland	56 hours	108
Search and Destroy	58 hours	110
Area Codes	62 hours	114
Pinball Wizard	62 hours	112
Live to Ride	76 hours	116
Suit Yourself	83 hours	120
Every. National. Park.	234 hours	122
Coast to Coast, No Highways	275 hours	118

# Plan Your Road Trip by Theme

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## Nature

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 The Truth Is Out There 52  
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