

staycations

Budget Vacations in Your State



introduction

Everyone's wallet feels a bit thinner these days, but don't let a cash shortage ruin your holiday plans. Save money by taking a drive within your own state. For those with larger families, this will be a big money saver. Every state has a lot of inexpensive things to do, but Clearpoint's credit counselors have identified several in each state to spark your imagination.

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- ▶ Washington
- ▶ Wisconsin
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- ▶ Wyoming



alabama



◀ **END OF THE ROAD** – Alabama’s location at the southern end of the Appalachian Mountain chain (and the trail of the same name) gives visitors the unique chance to hike in some of the most diverse and beautiful woodlands in the southern United States. A birders’ paradise, Alabama is home to over 400 species. Tall pines line more than 30 miles of trails at Lake Guntersville State Park, where a lucky visitor may see a bald eagle. Detailed hiking trail information and maps are available from the [Alabama Hiking Trail Society](#).

THE OTHER SIDE – Walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, the famed landmark of the civil rights

movement, which became a symbol of the momentous changes taking place in Alabama, America, and the world in the 1960s. It was here that voting rights marchers were violently confronted by law enforcement on March 7, 1965. The day became known as Bloody Sunday. Located on Highway 41 in Selma, AL.

TOES IN THE SAND – A Gulf State Park, Romar Beach, near the town of Orange Beach, has free parking and is easy to get to. It’s perfect for a quick beach stroll or an impromptu picnic (located 6.8 miles east of Highway 59).

alaska



◀ **REST IN PEACE** – Just a few miles outside of downtown Skagway, the Gold Rush Cemetery is a peaceful spot surrounded by a white picket fence and tall evergreens. Its most famous residents are Jefferson “Soapy” Smith and Frank Reid, who killed each other in a gunfight in 1898 when Reid and other citizens confronted Smith, who had made himself town boss.

ABANDONED BUS – Visit the place where Chris McCandless spent 112 days foraging for food in the Alaskan wilderness. His life (and tragic death

in the bus) were chronicled in the 1996 book *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer, and a 2007 movie of the same name by Sean Penn. [Location off the Stampede Trail](#) is 63°51_36.13_N, 149°24_50.62_W. You really have to want to see this bus as it requires a 3-day hike. More for the single adventurer than the whole family.

IN THE CAN – Tour the [Alaska Seafood Company](#) to learn how salmon is smoked and packaged. Located at 5731 Concrete Way, Juneau, AK 99801 (800.451.1400).

arizona



◀ **HIT THE ROAD** – Enjoy any number of the state’s scenic drives and watch the sun go down. Plan your trip at www.arizonascenicroads.com.

SUCH A FINE SIGHT TO SEE – Relive a moment in rock and roll history and stand on a corner in Winslow, Arizona, immortalized by the Eagles in “Take It Easy.” In fact, the town has a marker at the intersection. If a girl in a flatbed Ford doesn’t come by, you can always walk down the street and check out the [Old Trails Museum](#), 212 N. Kinsley Ave.

SCENIC CINEMA – Pack a picnic and enjoy family-friendly [Movies Under the Stars](#) at 7501 Civic Circle, Prescott Valley, Arizona 86314.

GET OUT AND WALK – Arizona is home to hundreds of hiking trails to match any level of experience. Find one at www.arizonahikingtrails.com.

arkansas



DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY – Free folk musicals and dancing on the Stone County Courthouse Square in Mountain View have been a local tradition since 1963. Professionals and amateurs join together in impromptu band performances every Friday and Saturday night during warmer months. Call 1.888.679.2859.

NATURAL RESOURCES – Learn about Arkansas’s oil and brine industries and the 1920s oil boom at the [Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources](#) in Smackover. The museum’s Oil Field Park has genuine derricks and oil field equipment. Call 870.725.2877.

◀ **INDOOR/OUTDOOR ARCHITECTURE** – [Thorncrown Chapel](#) in Eureka Springs was named among the top four buildings of the 20th century by the American Institute of Architects. The chapel uses 425 large panels of glass to showcase the natural beauty of the Ozarks. Designed by world-renowned Arkansas architect, the late E. Fay Jones, the non-denominational chapel

is open from March through December. Call 479.253.7401.

california

FOR THE DOGS – Volunteer to care for farmed animals at the [Animal Acres Sanctuary](#), located 45 minutes north of Los Angeles at 5200 Escondido Canyon Road, Acton, CA 93510 (661.269.0986).

SLIDE DOWN A POLE – Visit the [Los Angeles Fire Department African-American Firefighters Museum](#), housed at the restored Old Fire Station 30, built in 1913. Check out the vintage fire engines at 1401 South Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90021 (213.744.1730).



DRY SAILING – Every Sunday, climb aboard a replica of the [brig Pilgrim at Dana Point](#). Featured in the film Steven Spielberg's *Amistad*, the sailing ship was used in the California hide trade during the early 19th century. The Pilgrim was immortalized by one of her sailors, Richard Henry Dana, Jr., who wrote the classic account *Two Years Before the Mast* about its 1834 voyage between Boston and California. Located at Capistrano Bay in Dana Point, CA.

◀ **AMONG THE ELEPHANTS** – Just north of San Simeon, look for [Point Piedras Blancas](#), where hundreds of elephant seals routinely sun themselves on the beach within 100 yards of the overlook. These giants of the ocean can weigh two tons or more, yet when two males decide to face off on the beach, they move scary fast.

colorado



IN THE CITY – Not many city parks can boast a view of the Rocky Mountains. Denver can make that claim, as well as having the most public parks per square mile. Cheesman Park and Confluence Park are two of the best for walking, biking, or picnicking.

AFTER HOURS – Children will love to jam on outdoor instruments at [Harmony Park](#) in Montrose. Open after school, and all day on holidays and in the summer. Located at Cottonwood Elementary School, 3500 Woodgate Road, Montrose, CO 81401 (970.249.2539).

◀ **MYTHICAL EXPERIENCE** – Since 1969, [Jim Bishop has been building a castle of rock and iron](#), stained glass and wood in the forested Wet Mountains. The structure rises into the skies, with turrets more than 100 feet tall, iron walkways arching dramatically between the towers, parapets winding around the exterior, a flame-spewing dragon head, a bell tower, and spiral staircases of stone

and iron. Located at 12705 Hwy 165, San Isabel, CO 81069 (719.485.3040).

connecticut

UNDER COVER – **Comstock Covered Bridge** in East Hampton, one of Connecticut's last remaining covered bridges, crosses the Salmon River and is limited to pedestrian traffic. The bridge is located within the Salmon River State Forest, which covers over 6,000 acres in Hebron, Colchester, East Hampton, and Marlborough.



THE AFRICAN QUEEN – Pay tribute to Hollywood film star Katharine Hepburn, immortalized in over 70 silver screen appearances in 70 years. Hepburn holds the record for the most number of Best Actress Oscar wins with four. She was buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery after her death in 2003; 453 Fairfield Avenue, Hartford, CT (860.956.3311).

◀ **VIEW FROM THE TOP** – Walk a mile through the woods to visit Heublein Tower, which sits atop Talcott Mountain at **Talcott Mountain State Park** in Bloomfield. Enjoy the

view from a thousand feet, including Mount Monadnock in New Hampshire, the Berkshires of western Massachusetts, and Long Island Sound to the south. Hikers and birdwatchers delight. Route 185, Bloomfield, CT (860.242.1158).

delaware



BREAK AWAY – **New Castle Court House** is the oldest surviving government building in Delaware. Visit this historic structure, located in the heart of old New Castle, and learn how New Castle, Kent, and Sussex Counties declared their independence from Pennsylvania and England, creating the Delaware State. Located at 211 Delaware Street, New Castle, DE 19720.

GET PUMPED – Take a hands-on journey through the amazing heart! It's fun, educational and free! **The Heart Education**

Center is full of information for all ages, from the young to the young-at-heart. Located at 1096 Old Churchmans Road, Newark, DE (302.633.0200).

GO DUTCH – The eye-popping — and tongue-tying — **Zwaanendael Museum** in Lewes is a replica of a town hall in Holland. Lewes is the first European settlement in Delaware, founded by the Dutch in 1631 as, you guessed it, Zwaanendael. For some reason they changed the name later. The museum is chock-full of exhibits on Delaware history, especially maritime. Find it at 102 Kings Highway.

district of columbia



◀ **HISTORICALLY FREE** – While everyone has heard of the [Smithsonian Institute](#), did you know admission is free to all 19 of their world-class museums, most of them in Washington? And that includes the National Zoo. From art, to animals, to asteroids, you'll find it all along the Mall.

SPACED OUT – Visit the [Rock Creek Park Nature Center and Planetarium](#), open Wednesday through Sunday. They offer environmental education programs, nature walks and night sky viewing.

STAND ON GUARD – Watch the changing of the guard at [Arlington National Cemetery](#). The Tomb of the Unknowns, a white sarcophagus located at the top of a hill overlooking Washington, is guarded 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Watch the elaborate, unimaginably precise ritual of the changing of the guard every hour on the hour from October 1st to March 31st. From April 1st through September 30th, another change is added on the half hour and the cemetery closing time moves to 7 p.m.

florida

WHAT'S BREWING – [The Orlando Brewing Company](#) is Florida's only certified organic brewery. The brewery offers free tours daily at 4 pm and 6 pm, and hosts free live entertainment on weekends. If you need to stay connected during your visit, they even offer free Wi-Fi. It's at 1301 Atlanta Ave., Orlando.



BEAT THE DRUM – All the way to Sarasota and the Siesta Key Drum Circle. Watch the magnificent sunset and listen to the drummers on Siesta Key Public Beach Sunday evenings just before sunset, and going till the wee hours of the morning. Located just south of the main pavilion between lifeguard stands three and four on [Siesta Public Beach](#). Just use the nearby public parking and listen for the rhythmic sounds of the drums.

◀ **AT LOGGERHEADS** – Visit the [Loggerhead Marine Life Center](#) in Juno Beach. They have plenty of free programs about sea turtles, including loggerheads and leatherbacks, with activities for the whole family. You can find it at 14200 US Hwy. One, Juno Beach 33408, or check out [for details](#).



◀ **GEORGIA IS FOR THE BIRDS** – Really, it's true at the [Feathered Friends Forever Rescue Refuge](#) at, believe it or not, 612 Byrd Drive in the town of Harlem. This nonprofit organization provides an interactive birding experience in their large aviary, where you can surround yourself with a wide variety of local and exotic birds.

GET STUFFED – Check out the [Bud Jones Taxidermy Museum](#) in Tallapoosa. In addition to their extensive collection of exotic animal displays, they also have a very interesting collection of regional fossils. Go to 359 Hwy. 120 East, Tallapoosa 30176.

PARK IT – Visit Atlanta's [Centennial Olympic Park](#), where you can enjoy any number of free concerts, fireworks shows, and hundreds of all-season activities for the whole family. The park is host to "Music at Noon," "Wednesday WindDown" and "Fourth Saturday".

hawaii



◀ **TINY LITTLE BUBBLES** – Free hula or ukulele lessons are ongoing at the Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center in Honolulu. Take your pick (no pun intended) and make Don Ho proud! Check the activity schedule for times and dates for these and many other free activities at www.royalhawaiiancenter.com/files/event-calendar.pdf or call 808.922.2299.

GOT GAS – Take a free ride on the bus in Maui with service along route 23 (The Lahaina Villager), including stops at Lahaina Aquatics Center and Lahaina Civic Center. It's

loopy in a good way, continuously from 8 am to 11 pm daily. Other free routes include the Kahului Loop/Kahului Reverse Loop and the Wailuku Loop/Wailuku Reverse Loop. Say that three times fast. Visit www.co.maui.hi.us/bus for schedules and information.

SUNNY SIDE OF THE STREET – Do you find yourself wondering why the weather is always so nice in Kauai? Visit the exhibit about Pacific Weather Systems at the [Kokee Natural History Museum](#). Don't worry about your lack of knowledge about meteorology! The exhibit is educational and very informative. If you want to enjoy some of that nice weather after your visit to the exhibit, bring your walking shoes and set out on a journey through Kokee's 45-mile trail system.

GO NUTS – Visit Purdy's Natural Macadamia Nut Farm at Molokai. You know how tasty they are, now see how they are grown and processed. Free tours are available on their half-acre site. While you are there, enjoy free samples of roasted nuts, as well as other tropical specialties. For information about hours of operation, visit molokai-aloha.com/macnuts or call 808.567.6601.



◀ **HORSE AROUND** – Stop by the [Appaloosa Museum](#) in Moscow and see why a horse is a horse (more specifically the Appaloosa Horse). They offer activities, like free movies (featuring horses, of course) and horse raffles. You can take home a horse of your very own, so be sure to leave some room in the car. Gallop by at 2720 W. Pullman Road or check call 208.882.5578.

BACK TO BASICS – Nature in downtown Boise? You can have the best of both worlds

(apologies to Hannah from Montana) when you visit the [Morrison Knudsen Nature Center](#) at 600 S. Walnut St. Their unique “Stream Walk” gives you a fish-eye view of the world, and you don’t even have to know how to swim!

HOME ON THE RANGE – If you happen to be 48 miles east of Kooskia on Highway 12, you might want to stop in on the historic [Lochsa Ranger Station](#). You can find out what life was like at remote ranger stations back in the days when Highway 12 was just a twinkle in the eye of the highway department. There is also a public fishing pond and a walking tour. Call 208.926.4274 for additional information. There is much more to do along Highway 12, which is considered a National Scenic Highway.



◀ **ROCK ON** – [Starved Rock State Park](#) has 13 miles of hiking trails and 18 canyons. The park, with its St. Peter’s sandstone overlooks, is located along the south side of the Illinois River, one mile south of Utica. It is midway between the towns of LaSalle-Peru and Ottawa. Visitors can enjoy the park’s many activities, including boating, fishing, camping, horseback riding, picnicking, and winter sports. For more information, call 815.667.4726.

BA-HELLO – Illinois is home to one of only seven [Baha’i temples](#) in the world. This unique

structure is said to symbolize unity and invites prayer to God. Tenets of the Baha’i faith are defined as: the oneness of God, the oneness of humanity and the oneness of religion. Like all Baha’i Houses of Worship, this temple has nine sides and a dome and is surrounded by exquisite gardens and fountains. Located at 100 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, IL 60091 (847.853.2300).

GO WILD – The [Lincoln Park Zoo](#) is the wildest spot in Chicago, where you can visit lions and gorillas living next to skyscrapers. It is open every day and is always free. Take a ride on the carousel or children’s train. Located at 2200 North Cannon Drive, Chicago, IL (312.742.2000).

indiana



◀ **HOLY SEE** – Take a one-mile walking excursion around Ferdinand's oldest and most interesting structures, beginning at [St. Ferdinand Church](#) and ending at the Monastery of the Immaculate Conception. St. Ferdinand Parish is located at 341 East 10th Street, Ferdinand, IN (812.367.1212).

BREAK OUT – Greentown is the home to the Indiana Tumbler and Goblet Company, which operated from 1894 to June 13, 1903. In town, check out the [Greentown Glass Museum](#). If vintage glass is an area of interest, once a year,

the Greentown Glass Association holds an annual convention and auction.

BRIDGE TO THE PAST – History and scenery make Parke County's 31 [covered bridges](#) a must see. Drive through the covered bridge capital of the world in Parke County, Rockville, IN 47872 (765.569.5226).

THERE'S A PLACE CALLED KOKOMO – We're not sure why the Beach Boys mentioned Kokomo is their classic song, but maybe it was because Kokomo is home to the [Elwood Haynes Museum](#). In the former residence of the inventor of America's first car in 1894, you'll see a collection of his inventions, possessions and automobiles.

iowa



◀ **WADE RIGHT IN** – [Des Moines Water Works Park](#) covers nearly 1,500 acres of open wooded areas. Biking, jogging, picnicking, fishing, and hiking are a few of the activities that park patrons enjoy. Picnic areas, complete with tables and grills, are located in several areas of the park, and there are large, open areas available for team sports. Located at 408 Fleur Drive, Des Moines, IA 50321.

STEP BACK IN TIME – [The Amana Colonies](#) have been a landmark on the Iowa prairie for over 150 years. Walk or bike the beautiful nature trails between the clusters

of historical buildings dating to the mid-1850's. German settlers seeking religious freedom built this community using wood, sandstone, locally fired brick and limestone, blending traditional German craftsmanship and the straight lines and details of Colonial America.

DIG DEEPER – [The Mines of Spain Recreation Area](#)-Julien Dubuque's Mines includes hundreds of archaeological sites, providing a rich history of American Indian settlement, lead mining, fur trading, lumbering and farm life. Enjoy 14 miles of trails, river overlooks, prairie and an interpretive center located at 8991 Bellevue Heights, Dubuque, IA (563.556.0620).

kansas



◀ **SADDLE UP** – Tour an original cowboy mall on the [Ellsworth Historical Plaza](#) Walking Tour. Seventeen interpretive silhouettes and signs guide you through the original plaza of this Kansas cattle town known as “End of the Trail,” giving you a glimpse into daily life in the wild west. Visitors are certain to enjoy this walk in Ellsworth’s history. 104 SW Main, Ellsworth, KS 67439 (785.472.3059).

GET STONED – Kansas is a treasure trove of prehistoric skeletons. See some for free at the

[Fick Fossil and History Museum](#) at 700 West Third, Oakley, KS 67748 (785.672.4839).

SHOOT THE MOON – A stop at the [Moon Marble Company](#) in Bonner Springs, Kansas is a must. Monday through Saturday, during limited hours, you can see glass blowing demonstrations, hand- and machine-made marbles and a lot of collectible vintage toys. Don’t miss the Moon Marble Museum, Museum Bathroom or the Gem and Foundtain Room. Call 913.441.1432 to check the demonstration schedule.

EARLY RISER – Wake up early and drive a short distance into the country to watch the sun come up over the prairie. Enjoy panoramic sky views of night and morning sky from the hood of your car.

kentucky



◀ **HONEST ABE** – Did you know that the great Union chief, the country’s 16th president, was a Southerner? Abraham Lincoln was born in Kentucky. Visit his humble boyhood home at Knob Creek Farm, located at [Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site](#), 2995 Lincoln Farm Road, Hodgenville, KY 42748.

WHISKEY JACK – Kentucky is the home of bourbon. Wet your whistle on the bourbon trail, and take a free tour of a

number of distilleries, including [Maker’s Mark](#), 3350 Burks Spring Road, Loretto, KY 40037.

DANIEL BOONE – The frontiersman almost single-handedly opened Kentucky for settlement, but he was also a soldier, a businessman, and a Virginia legislator. Visit his gravesite at [Frankfort Cemetery](#), 215 East Main Street, Frankfort, KY 40601 (502.227.2403).

louisiana

PARLEZ-VOUS – Enjoy the sweet taste of Creole at this historic sugar cane farm, **Laura Plantation**. Roam the gardens and admire the architecture. Located at 2247 Highway 18, Vacherie, LA, USA, 70090.



they cost \$1 to board, the return trip is gratis. They are available at numerous locations along the Mississippi River.

FOR THE BIRDS – Louisiana boasts the longest stretch of coastal wetlands in the country, and is a birder's paradise. America's Wetland Birding Trail along the Great Gulf Coast includes 115 sites where you can take in all manner of land and seascapes, and hundreds of species of birds.

◀ **FREE LOAD** – There is no more iconic a symbol of Louisiana than a Mississippi paddleboat. Today they operate as both car and pedestrian ferries, and many have been in operation since the early 1800s. While

maine

LIFE IS A BEACH – **Popham Beach State Park** is truly one of Maine's rare geologic landforms and features a long stretch of sand beach. Fox and Wood islands are visible from shore, and visitors can walk to Fox Island (watch the tide to avoid getting marooned). Located at 10 Perkins Farm Lane, Phippsburg, ME, 207.389.1335. Tide and Parking Hotline: 207.389.9125.



BACK PEDAL – From the mountains to the sea, Maine has a bike tour for everyone, no matter what your level of ability. Find maps and information at http://www.exploremaine.org/bike/bike_tours.html.

◀ **CROSS OVER** – **Maine's Artist's Covered Bridge** in Newry is one of ten that have been preserved, restored or reconstructed. Built in 1872, it is named the Artist's Bridge because it is the most photographed and painted of the venerable covered bridges in Maine. The bridge, an 87-foot Paddleford truss, was closed

to traffic in 1958 when a new bridge was built downstream. It is located about four miles northwest of North Bethel.

maryland

FREE STATE – Visit the place where thousands of immigrants stepped off ships onto American soil. [Baltimore's Inner Harbor](#) is rich in history, and free entertainment by street performers is plentiful. You can often climb aboard a docked ship for a gratis look around.

TREES WITH KNEES – The 100-acre [Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary](#) is one of the last remaining sites where the bald cypress tree occurs naturally. Traverse the 1,700-foot boardwalk trail through the coastal plain swamp and take note of these amazing specimens as much as four feet wide and 100 feet tall.



SWIM MOVE – Drive past [Towson High School](#), alma mater of all-time greatest Olympian Michael Phelps, who won an unprecedented eight gold medals in Beijing, 2008.

◀ **SAFE SHARK ENCOUNTERS** – Find an ancient shark's tooth, a bone, or just a beautiful shell at [Calvert Cliffs State Park](#), near Lusby on the shore of the Chesapeake Bay. There's an excellent two-mile hike to the beach where fossil hunting is permitted.

massachusetts



ROCK ON – [Pilgrim Memorial State Park](#) is “first” among tourist sites in the United States because it is home to the legendary Plymouth rock, the simple glacial erratic boulder on the shores of Plymouth Harbor that became a world famous symbol of the courage and faith of the men and women who founded the first New England colony. Located in southeastern Massachusetts.

ANY VELVET ELVISES? – Tired of nodding seriously in the real art museums? Then check out the [Museum of Bad Art](#) (MOBA, to those in the know) at 580 High Street in the Jamaica Plain neighborhood of Boston, which proudly calls its exhibits “the worst paintings of all time.” The drawings on your refrigerator will look positively inspired after this.

◀ **UNDER SAIL** – Watch your head as you go belowdecks on the [USS Constitution](#), “[Old Ironsides](#),” permanently anchored in Charlestown. The frigate earned her nickname during the War of 1812 when British cannonballs bounced off her stout timbers.

Peer out through the gunports and imagine you're waiting for the command “Fire!”

michigan

PARK IT – [Campus Martius Park](#), in downtown Detroit near the Detroit River, is one of the most vibrant urban parks in the country. Its “sitting gardens,” with vibrant displays of color amid the bustle of the metropolis, quietly complement the centerpiece Woodward Fountain, where jets of water shoot 100 feet into the air, sometimes coordinated to music and light shows.



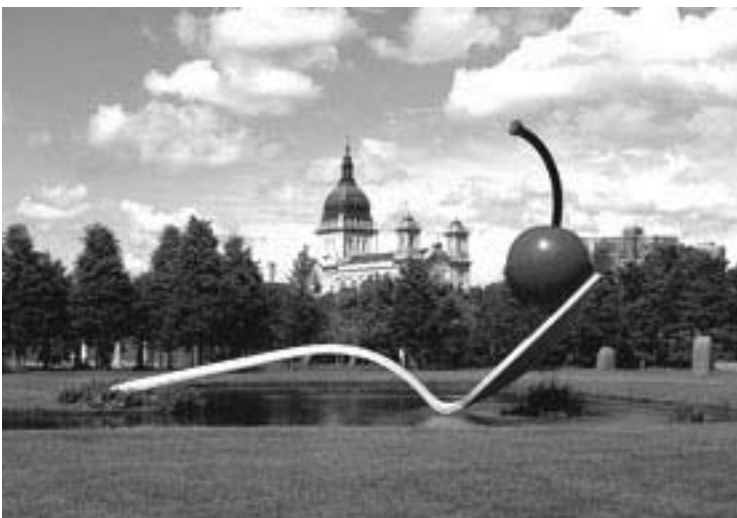
IN THE PINES – Walk through woods undisturbed since before America was founded. [Hartwick Pines State Park](#), near Gaylord, features one of the last and largest stands of old-growth, never-logged forest. The Old Growth Forest Foot Trail leads, ironically, to the Logging Museum beyond.

◀ **AND BABE, TOO** – Give the kids something to do (and learn some American folklore at the same time) by counting Paul Bunyans. The massive statues of the mythical logger and his blue ox, Babe, are spread across the country but are mostly grouped in the

northern states. Here’s a hint to get you started: There’s one in [Castle Rock](#).

minnesota

AND PEAS ON THE SIDE – If the kids won’t eat their vegetables, try taking them to Le Sueur, where a gigantic Jolly Green Giant and Sprout welcome visitors to the area. More green peas, you say? [The Le Sueur Museum](#), at 301 N. Second Street, tells the history of the big green guy and his creators.



◀ **WAIT ‘TIL YOU SEE THE FORK** – No visit to Minneapolis would be complete without setting eyes on the whimsical “Spoonbridge and Cherry” sculpture in the [Minneapolis Sculpture Garden](#). The wildly disproportionate artwork – actually created in a New England shipyard – is only the most recognizable piece in this charming 11-acre garden.

GET SMART – From the Mississippi River Gallery, the Human Body Gallery, the Collections Gallery, or the Dinosaur & Fossil Gallery, whole families can learn while also

having fun at St. Paul’s [Science Museum of Minnesota](#). Built in the bluffs over the Mississippi River, the museum boasts high caliber special exhibitions such as mummies and the artifacts of King Tut.

mississippi



◀ **HOW ABOUT THE PIANO?** – Find the intersection of state highways 8 and 1 along Main Street in Rosedale. This is the “**Devil’s Crossroads**” of blues fame, where legend says master bluesman Robert Johnson sold his soul to become the best guitar player around. You may not become any more musically inclined, but look around, and you might begin to understand where Johnson – and the blues – started.

CONTROL OF NATURE – Climb up the earthen levees in **Greenville**, away from the beautiful downtown, and gaze upon “Old Man River,” the Mississippi itself, once home to Mark Twain and Abraham Lincoln, as it rolls south. Levees like this one, all up and down the river’s course, attempt to keep the powerful waterway in check, but sometimes they fail.

RESTORED – **Beauvoir**, the plantation of Confederate president Jefferson Davis in Biloxi, was partly wrecked by Hurricane Katrina. It has since been restored and re-opened, although work continues on some of the associated buildings. Take a few minutes for the cemetery of old Confederates who passed their last years at Beauvoir while it was an old soldiers’ home. Find it at 2244 Beach Blvd., Biloxi.

missouri

HIP HOPS – For Homer Simpson, it would be heaven. The world’s largest brewery, the **Anheuser-Busch Brewery** at 12th and Lynch Streets in St. Louis, provides tours of its historic downtown facility, including a glimpse of the Clydesdales, some sips of their famous lager, and more history than you can soak up with a bar towel.



A PIECE OF AMERICANA – Drive down Main Street, appropriately, to **Joplin City Hall**, and take a look at “Joplin at the Turn of the Century,” the last large mural done by the quintessentially American artist Thomas Hart Benton. The 5-by-14-foot painting fully displays Benton’s flowing, vivid lines and deeply-felt appreciation of everyday life.

◀ **SHE CAUGHT THE KATY** – See what train travel was like in another era at the **Katy Depot Railroad Heritage Site** (the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad was nicknamed “the Katy”) in Sedalia. Originally one of the

largest depots in the central U.S., the building was abandoned by the railway in 1983 and renovated as a heritage site. It now takes visitors through the life and times of the great railroads and the people who worked for them.

montana

GET YOUR GOAT – Don't leave Montana without seeing the nimble mountain goat, one of the state's iconic mammals. One low-key area to look for these shaggy climbers is [Rattlesnake Creek National Recreation Area](#) near Missoula. You may spot bighorn sheep and black bears while you're at it.



Custer's scouts (who was not at the Little Big Horn) was buried here after he was killed doing his job as a deputy sheriff in Billings.

HOME TO HEROES – At Missoula, visit the [Smokejumper Center](#), the largest training facility in the country for firefighters who parachute into forest fires. Check out the 1930s-era lookout tower and the "Loft," the smokejumpers' home base when they're not fighting fires.

◀ **WITH THEIR BOOTS ON** – Walk through a vintage bit of the West at the [Boothill Cemetery](#) in Billings. As the memorial says, "In boots and spurs they lie," often killed in gunfights, frequently nameless. One of Gen. George

nebraska

NOT JUST FOR THE BIRDS – One of the largest displays of the art of John James Audubon can be found at the [Museum of Nebraska Art](#) in Kearney. The museum explores both the fine arts and social history of Nebraska, including the lives of farmers and Native Americans. You can find it at 2401 Central Ave., Kearney.



HIT THE TRAIL – Get a feel for what the pioneers experienced at [Scotts Bluff Visitors Center](#). Scotts Bluff is a massive rock formation that served as one of the first landmarks on the Oregon Trail. If your Conestoga wagon is in for repairs, climb or drive up the bluff for a magnificent view of the trail and surrounding prairie.

◀ **IT'S CLOSER, ANYWAY** – Can't get to Stonehenge? How about [Carhenge](#)? In Alliance, an artist constructed an exact replica of the famous prehistoric monument, but using cars,

instead. "Must be seen to be believed," the guidebooks say. At least you'll see things a little differently – as you drive away.

nevada



◀ **WHO'S AFRAID?** – Just west of Beatty, kick up some dust in the ghost town of **Rhyolite**. No staged gunfights here or costumed interpreters, just a dead-quiet old mining town, complete with a train station, a bank, and an odd old house made of whiskey bottles. Oh, and just outside Rhyolite you'll find a just-as-spooky assemblage of modern sculptures dubbed the Goldwell Open Air Museum.

DO-IT-YOURSELF KIT – Before you leave home, download a free audio guide for your

iPod of the Kit Carson Trail, a **walking tour of historic Carson City**. It features many 19th-century homes, the original Governor's Mansion, and locales used in a John Wayne movie, "The Shootist." (But not Kit Carson's home – the famed frontiersman never lived here.)

STREET THEATER – The light-up-the-night signage of Las Vegas is part of the fun, and the Fremont Street Experience, sometimes called "**old Las Vegas**," has taken it to the extreme. The length of the street is arched over by "Viva Vision," a hightech video screen and light show said to be the largest of its kind in the world.

new hampshire



◀ **TAKEN FOR GRANITE** – Take a short walk through part of **Franconia Notch State Park** to "The Basin," where a massive chunk of granite has been carved into a large granite bowl by a waterfall, which generates a cool spray over the basin. The easy hiking trail includes plenty of picturesque spots for a picnic.

THE CALL OF SERVICE – The Civilian Conservation Corps Museum in Allenstown tells the history of the CCC, which employed hundreds of thousands of young men during the 1930s to plant trees and build roads,

campgrounds, and hiking trails. Many of their solidly-constructed buildings remain, here and across the country. Learn more at www.nhstateparks.com/bearbrook.html.

DON'T FREE WILLY – The star of the **Science and Nature Center in Seabrook** is Chilly Willy, a rare blue lobster (the pigmentation occurs only once in every two million lobsters). The center also features a marine touch tank and the mile-long Owascoag Nature Trail, which winds through the nearby salt marsh. Call 800.338.7482 for information.

new jersey



There are hands-on activities for the kids as well as picnic tables with gorgeous views of Cape May Harbor.

DO NOT PASS “GO” – Take the Boardwalk, instead, a four-mile stretch of food, oceanfront and kitschy entertainment in Atlantic City unlike anything else. The home of the Miss America pageant for decades (until a few years ago), it also was the site of one of the first feminist protests in 1968.

new mexico

INTO THE CLOUDS – Outside Ruidoso, drive up Sierra Blanca, a 12,000-foot peak with commanding views of Texas, Mexico, and **White Sands National Monument**. If you’re feeling up to it, hike three miles to the peak for a breathtaking 360-degree panorama from the wildflower meadows at the summit.

BULLY! – The “other” Las Vegas features the Rough Rider Memorial Collection in the City of **Las Vegas Museum**, with extensive exhibits on Theodore Roosevelt’s famous brigade from the Spanish-American War. The museum also provides a superb history lesson on the Santa Fe Trail and early New Mexico history.



WHAT A KID – **Silver City’s** favorite (?) son is the outlaw Billy the Kid. Walk around town and you’ll find out where he was born, where he went to school – briefly – and, most important, where he first broke out of jail. Awww, how sweet. Billy wouldn’t know the town today, but you’ll enjoy its thriving artists’ community and its natural beauty.

◀ GET YOUR KICKS – New Mexico includes long stretches of the original Route 66, the “Mother Road,” used both by freewheeling vacationers and Oklahomans fleeing the Dust Bowl (see “Grapes of Wrath”). Cruise through picturesque small towns and motel hells alike, preferably in a convertible

with the top down. Start first at www.historic66.com for maps and information.

new york

AFTER THE HONEYMOON – If you’ve done Niagara Falls, turn north to **Fort Niagara State Park** with its wide-open views of Lake Ontario and a 280-year-old “castle.” Or, if you’re feeling slightly adventurous (and you’re carrying a passport), hop across the Canadian border to Niagara-on-the-Lake, an extremely pretty Victorian town.



OUT OF DOORS – In that most citified of all cities, New York, head for one of the world’s great public green spaces, **Central Park** (did you know it’s twice as large as Monaco?). Walk or sail toy boats on the reservoir, watch artists paint, go rock climbing, or look for its many species of birds, including hawks. Remember, a coyote even showed up there a few years ago. Along its edges you’ll find countless vendors, artists, and booksellers.

◀ **IN THE SPRING** – While **Saratoga Springs** is best known today for its famous horseracing track, its name comes from the many mineral springs which still dot the area today. Several are accessible to the public, and visitors routinely fill bottles with the naturally carbonated water that has been considered to have health-giving properties for centuries.

north carolina



◀ **ISLAND LIFE** – There’s a certain feel to **beachfront towns**, and the barrier islands from Kitty Hawk to Cape Hatteras certainly have it. From the tall, narrow oceanfront homes to the extremely relaxed atmosphere, the Outer Banks is a special place. Check out the largest sand dune, equal to 6 million dump truck loads of sand, on the East Coast at Jockey’s Ridge, cruise past the spot where the Wright brothers first flew (with the winds here, you could probably fly an anvil), and peer out from Cape Hatteras National Seashore at the “Graveyard of the Atlantic.”

CONCENTRATED HISTORY – The center of **Beaufort** offers a cluster of well-preserved historic buildings, including the 1850s Apothecary Shop and the Old Jail, that lead inevitably to the Old Burying Ground. The Hammock House supposedly was owned by fearsome Blackbeard the pirate, who lost his head not that far from here.

QUAINT, ANYONE? – The **Oakwood neighborhood** in Raleigh features one of the best collections of Victorian homes in the country. Take an afternoon to walk the tree-lined streets past hundreds of well-restored houses (you’ll notice many of the generous front porches have blue ceilings; it’s said to keep insects away), then go downtown – for tea, of course.

north dakota



EXPLORE IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS – The Lewis and Clark Expedition spent an entire winter in North Dakota, more time than in any other state. Follow their footsteps at numerous locales throughout the state, including [Knife River National Historic Site](#), where they first met Sacagawea, near present-day Stanton. There are reconstructed Native American lodges here, an archaeological site, and a 1 -mile self-guided walking tour.

◀ **ACROSS THE PLAINS** – North Dakota is a good place to get a feel for the Great Plains, which stretch from here

south and west. Vast stretches of the plains, with elk, antelope, coyotes and, of course, prairie dogs, cover many parts of the state, but especially the area between Dickinson and Little Missouri in the west. You may even see some bison, which some groups are actively trying to re-introduce to the plains.

ZERO HOUR – It's not your typical tourist attraction, but the [Oscar Zero Missile Site](#) near Cooperstown, and many others like it across the West, is pretty significant for baby boomers who lived through the Cold War. Since the U.S. and Russia scaled back their nuclear arsenals, many missile sites have been dismantled. This one was turned into a historic site, where you can tour the underground launch facilities.

ohio



◀ **TAKE WING** – Draw inspiration from the small bicycle shop Orville and Wilbur Wright operated in Dayton, where they created the first Wright Flyer airplane. The shop is now part of an interpretive history center about the Wrights' achievement and powered flight. Learn more at www.nps.gov/daav/index.htm.

WHOOAA THERE – Get a glimpse of Amish life and farming in Sugarcreek and Berlin. The McDonald's in Sugarcreek not only is decorated in Swiss chalet style, it has a buggy hitching post outside that's often

occupied. Quilts and Swiss cheese are the specialties to look for in these parts.

HIS WORLD – Knock around the house humorist James Thurber grew up in. Sit on the chairs, play the piano, it's OK! It's a "living museum" in Columbus. Oh, and keep an eye out for the ghosts visitors have described, some of which Thurber himself told stories about. Find out more at www.thurberhouse.org.

HIGH ART – Sitting on a hill above the city, the [Dayton Art Institute](#) looks like a transplanted piece of Europe, and that's not far off. Modeled after Italian Renaissance villas, the museum is worth seeing for its own sake. The DAI is known for both its contemporary American art and its collection of ancient art and artifacts.

oklahoma



◀ **CLOSE SHAVE** – For 40 years before the interstate highways were built, Burma-Shave signs dotted the roadsides with such witticisms as “Riot at / Drug store / Calling all cars / 100 customers / 99 jars / Burma-Shave.” They’re gone, but you can see a modern set outside Davenport: “Cruising along / My Honey and me / On Route 66 / That’s the place to be / OK / Davenport OK.”

SOLDIERING ON – The history of the African-American “Buffalo Soldiers” of the U.S. Cavalry is a proud one, and you can learn some of it at [Fort Reno](#), just west of El Reno. Soldiers from here fought with Native Americans and supervised the great Oklahoma Land Rush of 1889. The fort later held German POW’s from World War II.

ALL ABOARD! – Train enthusiasts, and the kids in all of us, will get a kick out of the RS & K Railroad Museum in Sayre. More than 100 trains are on display, and at least a dozen are running through their elaborate sets at any one time. With the whistles and the toots and the cabooses, you’ll be ready to ride the rails. Call 580.928.3525.

COWBOY HUMOR – Will Rogers, who never met a man he didn’t like, is the favorite son of Oklahoma. Near Claremore, you can meet him, at least in memory, either at the [Will Rogers Museum](#) or the [Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch](#).

oregon



◀ **LIGHT UP THE NIGHT** – The Oregon coastline is dotted with lofty lighthouses on various points of land. One of the better ones is the Cape Meares Lighthouse, near Tillamook, which features an interpretive center and offers a good look through binoculars at a massive colony of seabirds nearby. Be sure to see the Octopus Tree, a Sitka spruce shaped into a rough candelabra by what Native Americans say were early burial practices, in the old-growth forest nearby.

TO MARKET, TO MARKET – One of the country’s largest and best arts and crafts markets is the [Portland Saturday Market](#). Everything sold there is handmade and new vendors must pass muster for quality with the market’s judges before they can set up shop. The market, founded more than 30 years ago, continues to expand, and will feature entertainment at a new stage in 2009.

LITTLE FRISCO – The oldest U.S. city west of the Rockies, [Astoria](#) happens to resemble San Francisco in miniature, with rolling hills, Victorian homes, and frequent fog. It’s less crowded than its California cousin, but be forewarned (or delighted): in winter ferocious storms come in off the Pacific. Climb the 164 steps of Astoria Column for a spectacular view of the city founded by the nation’s first multimillionaire, John Jacob Astor (yes, the Astoria on the other coast, in New York City, is named for him, too).

pennsylvania



◀ **CHARGE!** – Return to the site of one of the most significant battles of the Civil War, in Gettysburg. Check out the newly restored [Museum and Visitor Center](#) first to brush up on your knowledge of this three-day clash between Union and Confederate armies in 1863. Then walk the wellpreserved battlefield and see how it looked to the ordinary soldier.

RENEW YOUR CITIZENSHIP – Get back to the beginning, of the United States, that is, at [Independence Hall](#) in Philadelphia, where the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were drafted. The period furniture includes Washington's original chair. It was hot that July and the delegates argued for hours, but what a result; come out feeling invigorated. (While the hall is, appropriately, free, you will need to get an entry time from the visitor center nearby.)

WASHINGTON SLEPT HERE – No, really! George Washington used the [Peter Wentz Farmstead](#) as his headquarters and home in 1777, and it has been restored to its appearance in

that period. The 90-acre farm northwest of Philadelphia includes orchards and farm animals typical of the Pennsylvania German families which owned the farm for 200 years. Phone 610.584.5104.

rhode island



◀ **VIVA ITALIA** – Get a sense of what the old Italian neighborhood was like as you stroll through historic [Federal Hill](#) in Providence, with its welcoming arch and open-air piazza. Drop in on one of the very few live poultry vendors you're likely to see anywhere, visit the wonderful deli, Venda Ravioli, or toss a coin into the fountain.

GET BACK – Tree-lined and narrow, very few streets in the U.S. can summon up the Colonial and Federal eras as readily as Benefit Street in Providence. Pioneers in industrial, literary and

religious history lived in these buildings or visited them. One was featured in an H.P. Lovecraft story and is still reputed to be haunted. Amble down Benefit, then jump back into this century on nearby Thayer Street, a classic college district.

OVER THE CLIFF – Meander along the 3.5- mile [Cliff Walk](#) in Newport, RI, and imagine yourself a robber baron of the Gilded Age, out for a stroll behind your oceanfront mansion. Enjoy spectacular views of Narragansett Bay from the 30- to 50-foot cliffs, or, on the other side, the man-made beauty of the Breakers, Beechwood, Rosecliff, and other “cottages” of the Astors and Vanderbilts.

south carolina



◀ **BATTERY INCLUDED** – In Charleston, walk the length of the Battery, a waterfront promenade along the Ashley and Cooper Rivers. On the land side, you can view the spectacular, unmistakably Southern pastel-hued houses of Rainbow Row; to sea, find Fort Sumter in the distance, the Union fort bombarded by Confederates in April 1861 to begin the Civil War.

VROOOM! – Put the pedal to the metal, figuratively, at **BMW Zentrum**, a futuristic-looking BMW plant and museum

just west of Spartanburg. The plant has exhibits about BMW sports cars old and new, including one of James Bond's cars, one painted by Andy Warhol, and the most advanced hybrids.

BUY LOCAL – Sniff the peaches and squeeze the tomatoes, gently, at the **state farmers' market in Columbia**. With more than 500 vendors, several restaurants, and even its own post office, the market is one of the largest in the nation. You can't get any fresher, or cheaper.

south dakota



GOT ANY BUTTER? – There is nothing, but nothing, quite like the **Corn Palace** in Mitchell. First opened in 1892, this towering edifice is clad entirely in thousands of bushels of corn and various grains, arranged into designs and murals you would not have thought possible using raw agricultural products. Every year the building is stripped down and a new design goes up. No nibbling!

FIRST AMERICANS – Get another perspective on U.S. history at the **Akta Lakota Museum** in Chamberlain, which

celebrates the culture, art and stories of the Lakota Sioux tribe of Native Americans. Festivals and powwows are held at the museum throughout the year.

IMAGINE IF YOU HAD TO MOW IT – See what the pioneers saw, seemingly an ocean of grass, in the Black Hills at the **Buffalo Gap National Grassland** near Kadoka. It's easy to feel you're the only person on earth when you're standing in 500,000 acres, much of it grass, with no roads, cars, airplanes or (probably) ringing cell phones.

tennessee



SPLASH! – Run through geysers shooting more than 20 feet in the air in the **Fountains at World's Fair Park** in Knoxville – if you don't mind getting soaked! The fountains are just one feature of this beautiful, family-friendly park built for the 1982 World's Fair.

EXPOSE YOURSELF TO ART – Gatlinburg, best known as the gateway to the Smoky Mountains, is home to the **Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts** (556 Parkway, 865.436.5860), where you can peruse oil paintings, wood carvings and sculpture in three galleries, or watch artists at work from a catwalk running above the studios.

QUACK! – The **lobby of the Peabody Hotel** in Memphis is a must-see. This gorgeous hotel, 80-plus years old, is a landmark in the region, full of musical and personal history. Best of all, don't miss the Peabody's "Duck March" at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., when its resident mallards sashay through the lobby on a red carpet to and from the gorgeous fountain.

Find it downtown at 149 Union Ave., 901.529.4000.

texas



◀ **RIVER TOWN** – Few cities have taken advantage of their natural geology as well as San Antonio, where the **Riverwalk** winds along the course of the San Antonio River below street level. Shop, eat, and watch artisans at work. Most of all, stroll as if life were one long siesta.

GO BATTY – Join the crowds one evening around dusk to see the nightly flight of a million or more Mexican free-tail bats from beneath the **Congress Avenue** bridge in Austin. When the bridge was rebuilt in 1980, engineers unintentionally created

perfect bat-sized spaces underneath, and the bats promptly moved in. It's estimated that they eat 3,000 pounds of insects every night. Call the "bat hotline" at 512.416.5700 for more information.

MELTING POT – The town of **Castroville** was founded and populated in the 1800s by immigrants from the Alsace region of France, and it shows in the architecture and restaurants. At the Chamber of Commerce, pick up the map for a self-guided walking tour of the town's unusual architecture, cottages built by the residents in the style of the European villages they left behind.

COMIN' DOWN – The drive from Carlsbad, N.M., to El Paso, Texas, is spectacular, especially if you time it to arrive at El Paso in the evening. As you come through the Guadalupe Pass, the city lights of El Paso and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, are laid out below like a carpet, in sharp contrast to the high desert and mountain scenery you're leaving behind.

utah



◀ **HAPPY TRAILS** – Utah is home to some of the best bike trails on the planet. In fact, many mountain bikers call Moab the Mecca of the mountain bike world. But there's more to **biking in Utah** than Moab. With terrain ranging from easy to extreme, there are scenic rides in every area of the state accessible to riders of every age and ability.

CLIMB YOUR TREE – Visit the home base of a worldwide network of 4,500 Family History Centers located in Salt Lake City, UT. Administered by The Church of Jesus Christ

of Latter-day Saints, these libraries and resource centers offer access to the largest genealogical data pools in the world. Visit them at the FHC Support Unit, 50 E North Temple St., Salt Lake City, UT, or go to www.familysearch.org (800.346.6044).

LIFE'S SWEET – The North Pole isn't the only place candy canes are made! Visit **Kencraft** and the Peppermint Place. The confectionery wonderland offers a free behind-the-scenes look at the candy-crafting process in its entire sticky splendor. Located at 119 E. 200 N., Alpine, UT 84004 (800.377.4368).

vermont



◀ **ON THE FLY** – For much of the year, the **Fly Rod Shop** in Stowe offers free fly-fishing lessons in its pond. There's no lack of lakes and rivers in the vicinity to try your hand, either with flies or a worm on an old bamboo pole.

WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE – Find a drop to drink the old-fashioned way at the **American Society of Dowsers** headquarters in Danville. Behind the building, walk through the labyrinth, which dowsers believe can clear your mind and prepare you for finding underground sources of water with a pendulum or a forked stick.

LOOK OUT FOR CHAMP – One of the most picturesque towns in the country is Burlington, which sits on the shores of Lake Champlain and features views of the Green Mountains and the Adirondacks. Aside from walking around its charming downtown, there's the Ethan Allen Homestead nearby, honoring the Revolutionary War hero, and just sitting by the lakeside, hoping the creature of Lake Champlain, "Champ," will make an appearance.

virginia



◀ LISTEN TO THE MUSIC –

Richmond music lovers can enjoy free concerts during the summer months on Belle Isle. For more information about the Friday Cheers concert series call 804.360.1700.

DANVILLE BIG SCREEN – Enjoy family friendly “Movies in the Park” throughout the summer months in Danville’s Ballou Park. For more information call Danville Outdoor Recreation Division at 434.799.5215.

FREE FITNESS – The Virginia Beach Department of Parks and Recreation offers free use of all fitness facilities to any city resident. Enjoy swimming, basketball, weight lifting, and free aerobics classes. The facilities are open year-round. For more information, call 757.385.1100.

washington

END OF THE TRAIL – The Lewis and Clark Expedition reached its goal, the Pacific Ocean, in the vicinity of what’s now [Cape Disappointment State Park](#) (no, they weren’t disappointed; it was named by an English ship’s captain who tried and failed to sail into the Columbia River). You’ll find it easier to get here than any of those explorers, and less disappointing: The park offers marvelous views of the Pacific, and lots of little beaches for your own exploring.



BACK IN TIME – A little town just east of the Cascades, [Winthrop](#) manages to pack a lot in. You’ll think you’ve stumbled into the Old West when you enter town, and they try not to disappoint you. Nearly every weekend features some kind of event, many of them Western-themed. Town Hall is the old Duck Brand saloon, and Shafer Historical Museum does a pretty good job of depicting life in these parts in the 1800s.

◀ **THE EASY WAY TO CATCH FISH** – OK, it’s been photographed and televised more

than Paris Hilton, but the [Pike Place Market](#) in Seattle is still very cool. What seems like miles of fresh produce and seafood is complemented by street performers of every stripe and, naturally, the salmoncatchin’ fishmongers. Hook yourself a big one.



◀ **KICK IT OFF** – No football fan can resist Green Bay, the only town in the U.S. with a community-owned professional sports team – of course, the Packers. “Titletown” takes its team spirit very seriously. Soak up the green-and-gold, knock back a few Leinies (or the excellent local root beer, Sno-Cap), and take a gander at the legendary Lambeau Field.

BIG LITTLE HOUSE – Pepin is the birthplace of author Laura Ingalls Wilder. Children – and grown-up children – can learn about her life and the pioneer era at the [Laura Ingalls](#)

[Wilder Historical Museum](#), as well as the re-created “Little House on the Prairie” just north of town. Some of the characters from her books are actually buried in the town cemetery.

CALL THEIR BLUFF – The roads along the Mississippi River have been collectively identified as the Great River Road, beginning at the north end in Prescott with Highway 35. It’s a great drive, full of scenic pull-offs and state parks along the river bluffs. Don’t miss Maiden Rock, with its tragic, romantic Native American legend. Get maps and other information at www.experiencemississippiriver.com/minnesota.cfm.

west virginia



GET CRAFTY – West Virginia has kindly concentrated its considerable artisanal talents in Tamarack, an attractive one-stop tour of the state’s local artists. There’s plenty of shopping, but if you’re shopped out, you can just watch a blacksmith, potter, woodcarver, or textile artist work. Tamarack is right off I-77/I-64 in Beckley.

◀ **GORGE-OUS** – The New River (actually, one of the oldest rivers in the world) cuts its way through the Appalachians to form the New River Gorge, near Lansing. In any season, but especially fall,

views from the top of the gorge near the New River Bridge are breathtaking. Learn more about this underappreciated natural wonder at www.nps.gov/neri/index.htm.

ON THE MOUND – Prehistoric Native Americans created massive burial mounds more than 2,000 years ago, generally found in the East and Midwest. One of the largest of these, the football-field-sized Grave Creek Mound, is in – surprise! – Moundsville, south of Wheeling. An associated museum tells what’s known about the people who created the mounds. Get started at www.wvculture.org/sites/gravecreek.html.

DO TIME – Visit the [Wyoming Frontier Prison Museum](#), which operated from 1901 until 1981. The “Old Pen” was the site chosen for filming of the 1988 movie “Prison” and has been selected as the permanent location of the [Wyoming Peace Officers Association Museum](#). Located at 500 West Walnut Street in Rawlins, Wyoming (307.324.4422).



DIG DEEPER – [The Vore Buffalo Jump](#) is one of the most important archaeological sites of the Late-Prehistoric Plains Indians. Discovered during the construction of Highway I-90 in the early 1970s, the Vore site is a natural sinkhole that was used as a bison trap from about 1500 to 1800 A.D. Native Americans hunted buffalo by driving them over the edge. Help University of Wyoming students dig for arrowheads!

◀ **POWWOW** – Festive Native American gatherings go on throughout the year in every corner of the state. Find an event date near you at [events.wyomingtourism.org](#).



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