

Drive The USA

DRIVING GUIDE



...driving since 1988

Welcome

THE SELF-DRIVE SPECIALISTS

Welcome!

Thank you for downloading our USA self-drive Guide. As you're likely to be in the planning stage for your next holiday, with the help of our Tourism Partners, we've put together a selection of driving itineraries, along with suggested key attractions to visit along the way.

Here at DriveAway Holidays, we believe that there's no better way to experience freedom than by taking a self-drive holiday. As the leading specialist in Australia offering worldwide car hire, motorhome rentals and European leasing, find the best deals from world-leading suppliers with the expertise and knowledge of our team; and take the road to freedom on your next self-drive holiday!

Drive Safely,
The DriveAway Holidays Team

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AMERICAN DISCOVERY



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Why Self-Drive

IN THE USA



The United States of America is one of the world's largest and diverse countries. Consisting of fifty states, it is a vast country to explore. The best way to travel from 'sea to shining sea' is by road, taking advantage of the extensive network of highways which criss-cross through the States. This guide is aimed at the traveller who wants to experience freedom and flexibility in their travels. Find out more about taking a self-drive holiday in the US including car hire, motorhome and motorcycle information, along with some ideas for touring the different and unique regions of this fascinating country.



Renting A Car

IN THE USA



When selecting a rental vehicle, take into consideration where you will be travelling, how many people will be travelling in the vehicle, luggage size and the kind of driving you intend to do. DriveAway Holidays offers a vast range of vehicles from small economy sizes to larger full-sized cars, 4WDs, convertibles and luxury vehicles. The ACRISS system below will help you find a car that suits your needs. This is internationally recognised code which will ensure you get the same standard of vehicle wherever you rent.

Collecting at an Airport in the USA

At most American airports you will find your rental company has a desk in the arrivals hall, with the rental cars being located within walking distance. However, at smaller airports you may be required to collect your vehicle from a downtown depot. A courtesy transfer will be provided from the airport to the depot in this instance. DriveAway Holidays offer all-inclusive prices which generally include any location / airport fees and charges that may otherwise apply. Remember to check at time of booking to ensure your rental will include all airport fees.

USA Fleet Guide

Below are just some examples of the many cars you will find our suppliers' fleets. As we use a number of suppliers in each destination, the below models cannot be guaranteed and may not be available at the specific location you are planning to collect from. Visit us online at www.driveaway.com.au or call us on 1300 363 500 and for more information and assistance.

MOST POPULAR			
Compact Kia Forte	Standard Nissan Altima	SUV Ford Escape	Full Size Chevrolet Malibu
			
5 people, 1 luggage, 1 suitcase	5 people, 2 luggage, 2 suitcase	5 people, 2 luggage, 3 suitcase	5 people, 2 luggage, 3 suitcase
Motorcycle Harley Davidson [™] Heritage Soft Tail	Convertible Ford Mustang	Full Size SUV Chevrolet Traverse	Minivan Dodge Grand Caravan
			
2 people, 0 luggage, 2 suitcase	4 people, 0 luggage, 2 suitcase	7 people, 2 luggage, 3 suitcase	7 people, 1 luggage, 2 suitcase

Renting A Car

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Do I need a credit card?

All suppliers in the USA will require a credit card imprint at the time of collection and some suppliers will freeze an amount from US\$100. Cash and debit card deposits are on request with some car rental companies, but credit cards are preferred. Check with DriveAway Holidays to verify the relevant deposit requirements.

Can I choose between Automatic and Manual Transmissions?

Most rental companies only hire automatic cars, so you will have a huge selection of automatics to choose from at the time of booking.

Can I collect my rental car in one city and drop it off in another city?

Yes, but you may incur a one-way drop off fee, which depends on the mileage between cities and may often have restrictions on the number of days for the hire, however travelling between some states may not incur a one-way fee, e.g. generally there's no drop off fee for travel between California and Nevada. Make sure you are advised of these additional fees with DriveAway Holidays before you travel.

Can I travel into Canada?

Yes - make sure that you advise DriveAway at the time of booking as an additional insurance is sometimes required, depending on the pick up depot and the supplier. Please note that a one-way rental between US and Canada will incur a one-way drop off fee and restrictions apply.

Can I travel into Mexico?

Some car rental vehicles may be driven into Mexico, and travel is usually only permitted into the Free Trade zone, about 13-25 miles into Mexico. Restrictions and additional insurances will apply. Please check with DriveAway..

Can I travel to Alaska?

Most suppliers will permit travel into Alaska but restrictions will sometimes apply. Please contact us for further information.



Insurance

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW...

American law requires all vehicles to have compulsory third party (CTP) injury insurance, although your car rental supplier should already have comprehensive insurance covering their cars. In the case of an accident it must be reported to the insurance provider immediately. No excess will apply on all USA rentals booked with DriveAway.

Car Rental Companies in the USA will normally include:

- > **Third Party Insurance:** Compulsory insurance will be included in your car hire price. This covers you for other people's injury and damage to their vehicle.
- > **Collision Damage Waiver (CDW):** This limits your financial liability for damage to the rented vehicle and is normally included in prepaid car hire prices. Standard rentals are normally subject to zero excess in the US.
- > **Theft and Loss Cover:** This limits your financial liability for the loss or theft of the rented vehicle and is generally included in the prepaid car rental price.
- > **Fire and Liability:** Limits your financial liability for bodily injury or death and is normally included in the prepaid car hire price.
- > **Personal Accident Insurance:** This covers the driver for personal injuries and is generally not included in your car rental rate. It is considered an optional extra that you can take out upon collection of the car.



Driving

IN THE USA



- When you collect your car rental, familiarise yourself with the car and its controls.
- Cars drive on the right hand side of the road, and you drive from the left hand side of the car.
- Always wear a seat belt and use child safety seats where necessary.
- Be aware of the driving laws where you're driving – laws will vary from state to state.
- Research the road signs before you travel for better understanding.
- Get a good map or a GPS with the appropriate SD card.
- Carry your licence with you at all times when you are driving.
- Avoid driving in major cities (e.g. New York) where traffic can be heavy and parking hard to find.
- Some inner city areas can be tourist crime traps, so be aware of these areas to avoid.
- Most petrol or gasoline stations require you to pay before you fill up. You may also be required to give a local postcode when you pay by credit card, if so you will need to speak to the station attendant before you pay – make sure to check all options before filling up.

Driving Laws in the USA

Although most of the road rules are the same, each state in the USA has its own set of driving laws. When you collect your car rental, make sure you check with the depot if there are specific rules that you need to observe. Here are some of the basic rules that will apply across the country:

- The max speed limit on interstate highways in most states is now 65mph (110 km/hr), 25mph on cities and towns and 15mph in school zones.
- It is illegal to pass a school bus that has stopped to unload passengers; all vehicles must wait for the bus to move back into the flow of traffic.
- Almost all states require drivers and front seat passengers to wear a seat belt, whilst most states require children to wear seat belts no matter where they are seated in the car.
- Motorcyclists are required to wear helmets in the majority of states.
- Don't litter: If you throw rubbish from the window of your vehicle you can be fined up to US\$1000.
- As a general rule, on major roadways in the US, the leftmost lanes are considered to be the fast lanes, while the right lanes are considered to be slow lanes.

Licence Requirements

A full driving licence is required to drive in the USA. All drivers must have held a full valid driving licence for a minimum of one year. Australian residents are not required by law to have an international drivers licence, although it is recommended since an international licence holds more credibility with the local traffic police than your home driving licence. Contact your local motoring association for further information.

Driving

IN THE USA



Parking

Parking in most cities and towns in the USA isn't usually a problem. In some towns there'll be restrictions on street parking that will be clearly signposted and other illegal parking spots such as across entrances, in front of fire or ambulance stations, or within 3m of a fire hydrant.

Parking metres are common in most towns and cities, and are monitored by city police and private companies, so make sure you do park legally or take the risk of a fine, wheel clamping or even being towed. If in doubt, park your car in private or municipal car parks that are provided in most towns.

Min & Max Age Requirements

Min Driving Age: Usually 21; however with some suppliers the minimum age is 25.

Young Driver's Surcharge: Drivers aged 21-25 years may be charged from USD15+tax per day.

Max Driving Age: The majority of locations in the USA do not have a maximum driving age, however there may be restrictions for drivers aged 70-75 in some regions. In some cases, aged drivers may be required to hold a letter from their GP stating they are healthy and fit to drive. Check with the supplier for further details.

Child Safety

Child Car Safety Seat Laws vary from state to state, but here are some of the CSS laws in popular states:

- **California:** Children must be in an appropriate child seat or restraint until they are at least 6 years old or weigh at least 60lbs. If the child weighs more than 40lbs they can use a seat belt in the rear of the car without a booster seat. For children 60lbs and over must wear a seat belt.
- **New York:** Children 3 years and younger must be seated in an approved child restraint. 4 to 15 year olds must be restrained with either a child or an adult seat belt.
- **Florida:** Children 3 years and younger must be seated in an approved child restraint. 4 to 5 year olds can be restrained in an adult seat belt if a child restraint is not available. Children aged 6 and over must wear a seatbelt.
- **Hawaii:** Children aged 3 and younger must be in a child restraint. Children aged 4-17 must wear a seatbelt.
- **Alaska:** Children 3 years and younger must be seated in an approved child restraint. 4 to 5 year olds must be restrained with either a child or an adult seat belt. Children aged 6 and over must wear a seatbelt when travelling in the front seat. Contact DriveAway Holidays for exact details of the Child Safety Seat laws that apply to the states in which you will be driving in.

Road Tolls & E-Tags

A toll road is a privately built road, often known as a tollway or turnpike. As with most things in the USA, the toll system varies across the country from state to state. There are more tollways in the eastern half of the US than in the western half, however its best to use a good map or GPS, where most of the tollways are marked with a distinct green stripe. The cost of tolls varies, so when travelling in states where toll roads are prevalent carry some spare change or ask your car hire supplier for information on electronic toll collection.

Driving

IN THE USA



USA Driving Distances

From:	To:	Approx Distance (km)	Approx Travel Time (hr)
Anaheim	Los Angeles	41	0.5
Anaheim	Las Vegas	417	4
Boston	New York	346	4
Boston	New Hampshire	110	1.25
Dallas	Fort Worth	55	0.75
Dallas	Austin	315	3
Denver	Aspen	262	3.75
Denver	Colorado Springs	11	1.5
Honolulu	Pearl Harbour	42	0.75
Las Vegas	The Grand Canyon	436	5.5
Las Vegas	Los Angeles	426	4
Los Angeles	San Francisco	613	6
Los Angeles	San Diego	193	2
Miami	Orlando	381	3.75
Miami	Daytona Beach	414	4
New York	Boston	346	4
New York	Niagara Falls	661	7
San Francisco	Napa	74	1
San Francisco	Yosemite	292	4.5
Seattle	Portland (Oregon)	283	3
Washington DC	Baltimore	62	1
Washington DC	Boston	705	7.5
Washington DC	New York	360	4.25

Distance Between Airport & City

Airport	City	Approx Distance (km)	Approx Travel Time (mins)
Baltimore-Washington	Washington D.C.	50	60
Dallas Fort Worth	Dallas, TX	35	30
Denver Intl	Denver, CO	45	40
Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood	Fort Lauderdale, FL	10	10
Honolulu Intl	Honolulu, HI	10	15
Hartsfield - Jackson	Atlanta, GA	20	20
John F Kennedy Intl (JFK)	New York, NY	25	60
LaGuardia (Queens)	New York, NY	20	40
Logan Intl	Boston, MA	10	15
Los Angeles Intl (LAX)	Los Angeles, CA	30	40
McCarran Intl	Las Vegas, NV	15	15
Miami Intl	Miami, FL	10	15
Minneapolis-St Paul	Minneapolis, MN	20	20
Newark Liberty Intl (NJ)	New York, NY	20	30
O'hare International	Chicago, IL	30	40
Orlando Intl	Orlando, FL	20	25
Phoenix Sky Harbour	Phoenix, AZ	5	10
Portland Intl	Portland, OR	20	25
Ronald Reagan National	Washington D.C.	10	20
Salt Lake City Intl	Salt Lake City, UT	15	20
San Francisco Intl	San Francisco, CA	20	25
Seattle-Tacoma Intl	Seattle, WA	25	20
Washington Dulles Intl	Washington D.C.	45	40

Motorhome Rentals

YOU ONLY NEED TO UNPACK ONCE!



Arguably one of the best self drive destinations, the USA is the perfect country to hire a motorhome. With so many states to explore, you won't ever be left with nothing to do. Easily drive between big cities and small towns thanks to the US' great roads and highways. With motorhomes USA, forget the worries of trying to find accommodation, giving you more time to see more of this vast continent.

Depots are located in major cities including Los Angeles, San Francisco, Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Miami, New York, Orlando, Salt Lake City, Seattle and Washington DC so there is bound to be a convenient location near you. Motorhomes are available primarily automatic and can sleep up to 7 people in comfort.

View some of the fleet below and visit www.driveaway.com.au/motorhomes for the full fleet and specifications:



Cruise America: C19
3 Berth: Sleeps 3
Automatic
Shower/Toilet



Britz USA: Class C
4 Berth: Sleeps 4
Automatic
Shower/Toilet



Apollo: Sunrise Escape
5 Berth: Sleeps 5
Automatic
Shower/Toilet



Road Bear: Type P
4 + 2 Berth: Sleeps 5
Automatic
Shower/Toilet



Apollo: US Wanderer
6 Berth: Sleeps 6
Automatic
Shower/Toilet



Cruise America: C30
7 Berth: Sleeps 7
Automatic
Shower/Toilet

Motorcycle Rentals

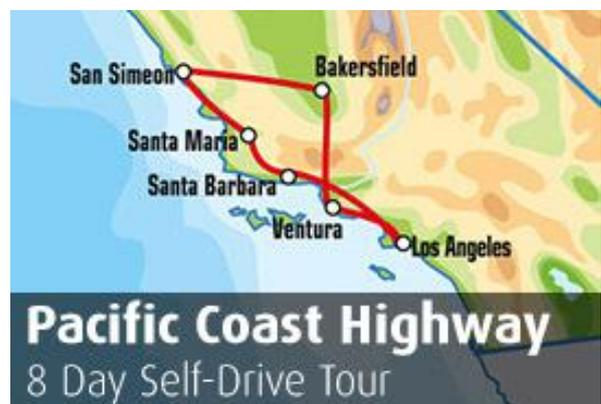
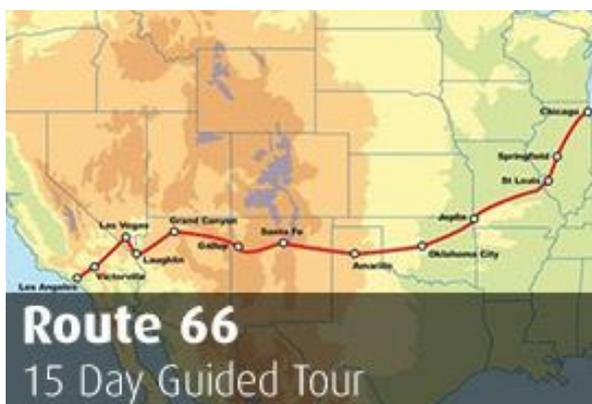
FEEL THE WIND IN YOUR HAIR



When it comes to your motorcycle dream, we have you covered. A Harley Davidson on Route 66, riding a Indian on the Pacific Coast Highway or cruising the Australian Great Ocean Road on a Royal Enfield. If you are looking to travel in a tour with a guide and in a group a guided tour is the perfect option for you. If you want to have some more freedom maybe a self-drive tour is for you, the work is done for you - you just follow the itinerary. Even a rental if you have your own plans is possible with EagleRider and DriveAway Holidays.

The three options to choose from for your motorcycle adventure:

- 1) Rental: Choose your favourite motorcycle and travel where you like when you like.
- 2) Guided Tour: Join a tour group on a guided tour including all your accommodation and extras.
- 3) Self-Drive Tour: Enjoy the inclusions of a guided tour, but follow the itinerary on your own.



Examples of Motorcycles



Harley Davidson[®]
Road King[®]



Indian Motorcycle[®]
Chieftain[®]



Honda[®]
Goldwing GL 1800[®]

WESTERN USA

MUCH MORE THAN JUST CALIFORNIA

CONTENTS:

THE PACIFIC COAST STATES

THE NORTH WEST

THE SOUTH WEST

THE GREAT PLANES

REAL AMERICA



The Pacific Coast

GOLDEN SUNSHINE STATES...



The Pacific Coast States sit on the west coast of the USA and include California, Oregon and Washington State. Their closer proximity to Australia and New Zealand often appeals to the first time visitor, offering a wide range of attractions and activities for all ages.

Los Angeles is the gateway for many visitors, home to the film and TV industry. Spend a few days exploring Hollywood, Santa Monica and Malibu Beach. For the young at heart, Disneyland and Universal Studios will have you on your feet from early morning until midnight with street parades, rides to thrill and non-stop entertainment. San Francisco is everyone's favourite US city. Easy to get around, it offers a wide variety of attractions and activities from shopping to dining, nightlife and live music.

Events

JANUARY - FEBRUARY

Chef's Holidays - Some of the best chefs in the country gather to create signature dishes.

APRIL

Coachella Valley Arts & Music Festival - an annual music and arts festival held in the Colorado Desert.

MAY

Cinco De Mayo Fiesta - A celebration of Mexican heritage and pride.

JUNE

The L.A Film Festival - showcases more than 100 feature films. The event attracts almost 100,000 people to its festivities and includes talks from film-industry members as well as concerts.

JULY

4th of July - Celebrations across each state.



ESCAPE FOR
A WHILE

AVIS

Self-Drive Tours Around The West Coast

The Pacific Coast Highway

Day 1: Los Angeles

Also referred to as The City of Angels, Los Angeles is famed for its film and TV industry. With so much to see and do, spend your first day exploring some of the city's many attractions.

Day 2: Los Angeles to Santa Monica (16mi/25km)

Make the short drive west to the beach-front city of Santa Monica and spend the day at its famous Pier built in 1909. Explore the Aquarium and unwind at the beach. If time permits, take a short drive down the coast to Venice Beach, a renowned hangout for the creative and artistic.

Day 3: Santa Monica to Santa Barbara (90mi/145km)

Visit Santa Barbara's most popular beach, East Beach which stretches of white powdery sand, tropical palm trees and crystal blue water. Try surfing for the day, eagle paragliding, kayaking, golfing, hiking or even go whale watching. Enjoy this coastal town for a few nights if you wish.

Day 4: Santa Barbara to Morro Bay (105mi/165km)

Enjoy a fun filled day of water activities. Go surfing or deep sea fishing, kayak around the south part of the bay or have a picnic by the sand pit. Keep an eye out for any otters, seal lions or fish at the Embarcadero on the east side of the bay. Whilst there, try out one of the Mexican restaurants for some authentic Mexican cuisine.

Day 5: Morro Bay to Big Sur (95mi/150km)

Continue along Pacific 1 highway until you reach Big Sur. When visiting make sure you soak up the high cliffs and open sea around you. Ride a horse along the beach, stroll through the state parks and art galleries, or simply watch the whales, otters and dolphins swimming along the mountain base. You can spend more than a day in Big Sur but as it is such a popular destination visitors are usually charged premium prices.

Day 6: Big Sur to Santa Cruz (70mi/110km)

It will be easy to relax and unwind in Santa Cruz with its bohemian, youthful atmosphere. Head to the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk to feel like a kid again and play video games in the arcade or try your luck at mini golf, hockey, ping pong, laser tag, bowling, karaoke and more.

Day 7: Santa Cruz to San Francisco (73mi/115km)

End your journey in the heat of the bay area, San Francisco.

Take advantage of the many sightseeing opportunities like the guided tours of Alcatraz or a leisurely walk across the Gold Gate Bridge.



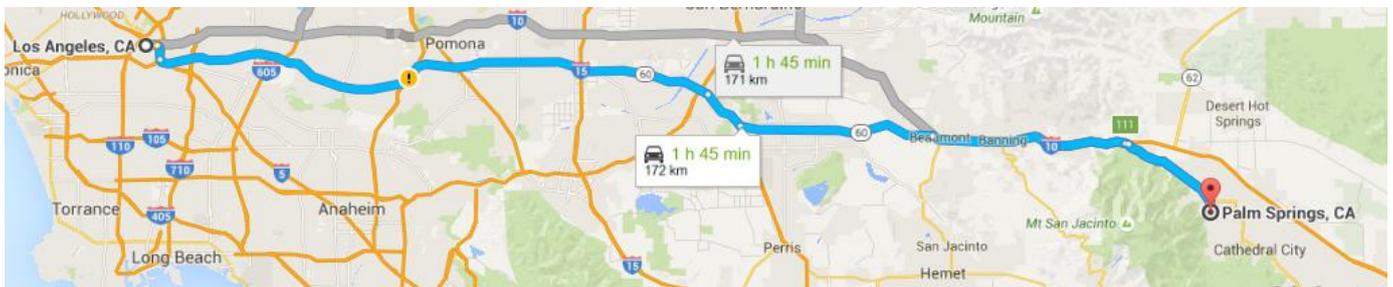
**CALIFORNIA
ATTRACTIONS**

- » The Hollywood Sign
- » Disneyland, Anaheim
- » Universal Studios Hollywood
- » Rodeo Drive
- » Grauman's Chinese Theatre
- » Santa Monica Pier

Self-Drive Tours California

Los Angeles to Palm Springs

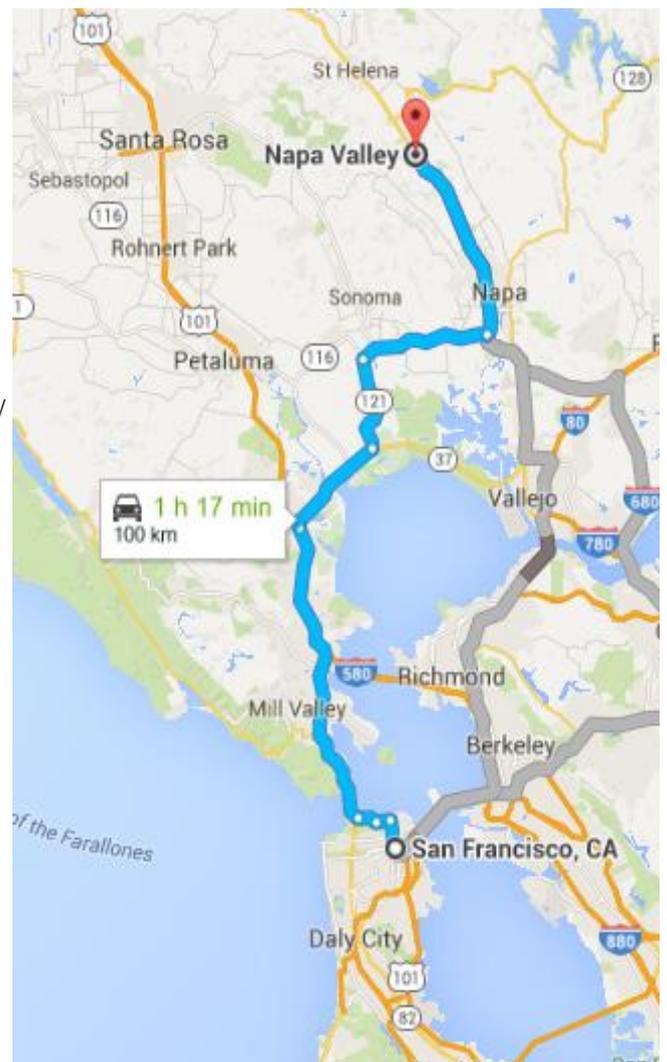
Palm Springs is a glamorous resort style oasis in the California desert that offers hiking, modern architecture, spectacular natural beauty and a host of outdoor activities. For the ultimate weekend getaway take the Interstate 10 East, towards Phoenix then take the exits for Highway 11 or Indian Canyon Drive. Once you notice the lavish homes, golf courses and palm trees you can be sure you have arrived in Palm Springs. The trip is approximately 190km east of Los Angeles and is located towards the top of the Colorado Desert. From most Southern California destinations, Palm Springs is about a two hour drive, depending on traffic.



San Francisco to Napa Valley

What better way to spend the day than living the life of luxury in the Napa Valley! From San Francisco the drive is approximately 90 minutes, however if you are planning to travel during rush hour, perhaps allow an extra hour.

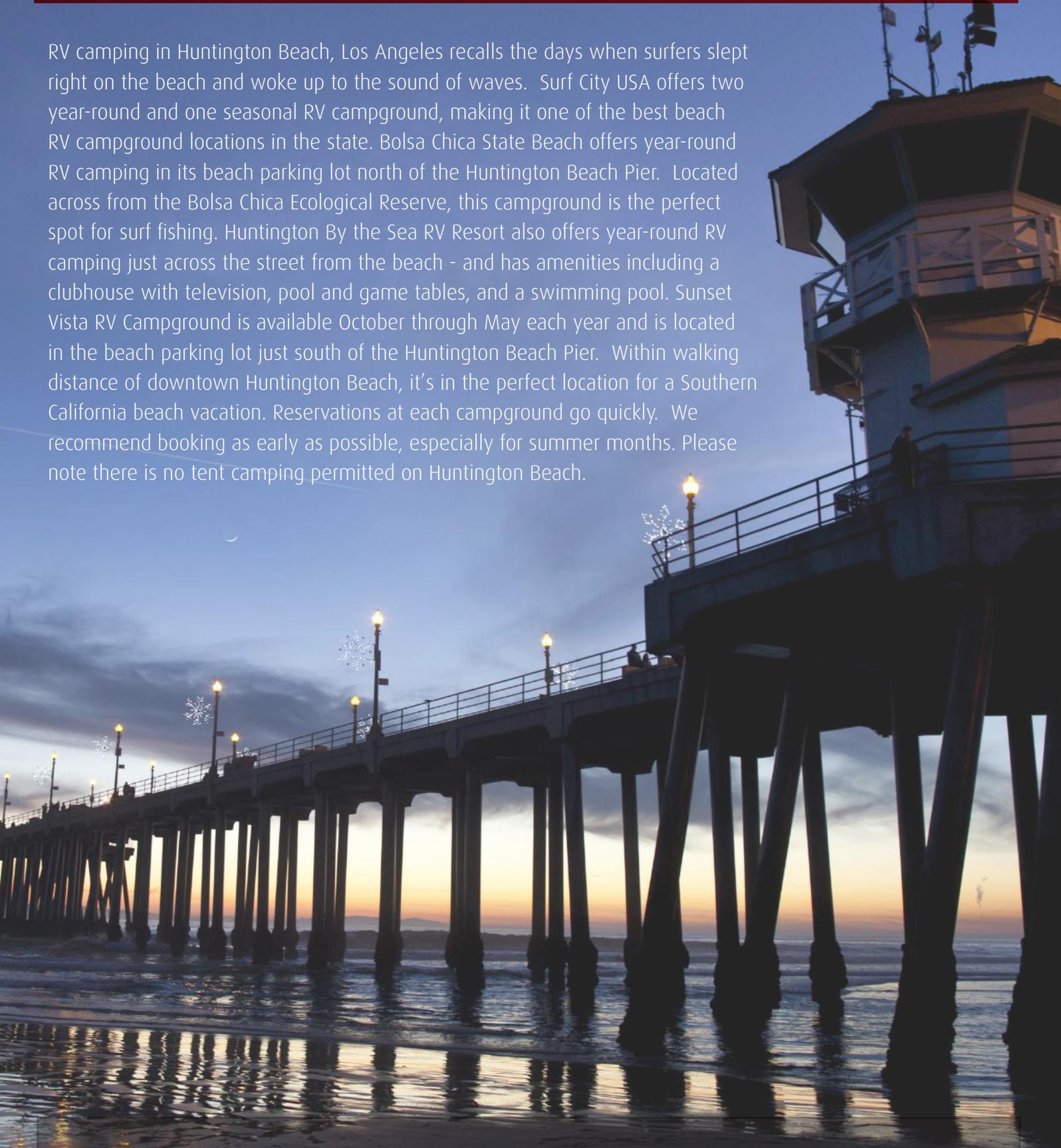
The most scenic route to take is via the famous Golden Gate Bridge, north bound and the picturesque surroundings you will detour are reminiscent of a drive through European countryside. Stay on Highway 101 for about 40 miles until you reach Petaluma in southern Sonoma. Take the highway 116 turnoff and merge left on Frates Road. Continue to follow the signs for approximately 23 miles until you reach the Napa Valley.



Huntington Beach

CAMP BY THE BEACH IN LOS ANGELES

RV camping in Huntington Beach, Los Angeles recalls the days when surfers slept right on the beach and woke up to the sound of waves. Surf City USA offers two year-round and one seasonal RV campground, making it one of the best beach RV campground locations in the state. Bolsa Chica State Beach offers year-round RV camping in its beach parking lot north of the Huntington Beach Pier. Located across from the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, this campground is the perfect spot for surf fishing. Huntington By the Sea RV Resort also offers year-round RV camping just across the street from the beach - and has amenities including a clubhouse with television, pool and game tables, and a swimming pool. Sunset Vista RV Campground is available October through May each year and is located in the beach parking lot just south of the Huntington Beach Pier. Within walking distance of downtown Huntington Beach, it's in the perfect location for a Southern California beach vacation. Reservations at each campground go quickly. We recommend booking as early as possible, especially for summer months. Please note there is no tent camping permitted on Huntington Beach.



The North West

ROCKY MOUNTAIN STATES...



Located in the north western region of the USA, the Rocky Mountain States include Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. The diverse mountainous landscapes are perfect for exploration. For plenty of glitz, glamour and entertainment, head to the magical city of Las Vegas for an adults playground, beyond your wildest dreams. There's plenty to do in the west, so why not discover the freedom of travelling in your own hire car with DriveAway.

The high elevation of the Mountain States creates a perfect place for various activities. Enjoy activities such as skiing in the winter and camping, hiking, fishing, and horse riding in the summer. There are many national parks in the region, including Yellowstone and Glacier. Yellowstone is the nation's oldest national park. It is made up of an entire ecosystem with many different habitats. Animals like the buffalo were almost extinct but are now protected in the park. Yellowstone is also famous for its geysers. See the hot springs and bubbling mud pots, a truly spectacular sight!

Events

JANUARY

The Sundance Film Festival, Utah - Held in Park City each January, is considered the premier showcase for American and international independent film.

APRIL

Viva Las Vegas, Nevada - The biggest rockabilly party in the world.

JUNE

Greeley Stampede, Colorado - One of Colorado's largest summer festivals and rodeos, dating back to the 1800s.

JULY

Teton Valley Summer Festival, Idaho - Four days of hot air balloon rides and the 30 hot air balloon races.

OCTOBER

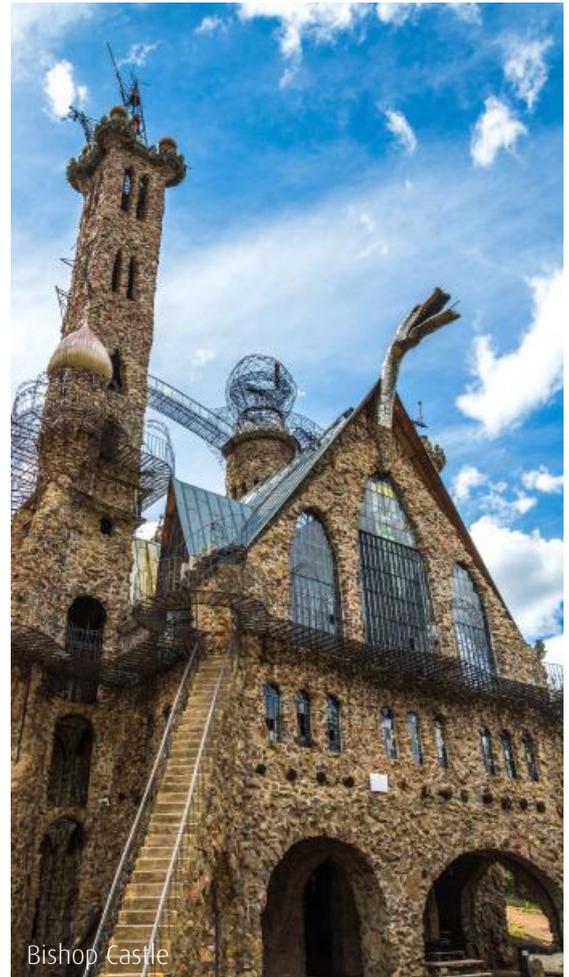
Las Vegas Bikefest, Nevada - 4-day Las Vegas Bikefest attracts more than 30,000 motorcycle enthusiasts from all over the world.

Self-Drive Tours in The North West

Frontier Pathways Old West

Discover America's true Old West. On this route you can visit museums, restored nineteenth century buildings, magnificent national parks and historic ghost towns. Begin the tour at Pueblo in Colorado, where you can visit the El Pueblo Museum and learn of American Indian, Mexican and American cultures. Travel on to Wetmore to visit the site of early settlement built over 150 years ago by French traders and poor American farmers.

Further on you'll discover the ghost town of Rosita in the currently named Silver Cliff, which was a boom town in 1875. Enjoy the views of the Crista Mountains along the way. Visit the town of Rye, and the home of Bishop Castle, which was built by hand by one man, a wheel barrow and a shovel. Finish your drive on the shores of Lake Isabel, where you can go boating and fishing.



Beartooth Highway



ATTRACTIONS

- » The Royal Gorge Bridge, Colorado
- » Grand Junction, Colorado
- » Denver Zoo
- » Southwest Rink at Skyline Park
- » Mount Elbert
- » Devils Tower, Wyoming

This is one of northern USA's most spectacular roads, winding its way through the rugged, magnificent country of Montana and Wyoming. Start your drive at the border of the Custer National Forest in Montana, and head through Custer, Shoshone and Gallatin National Forests to the entrance of the Yellowstone National Park.

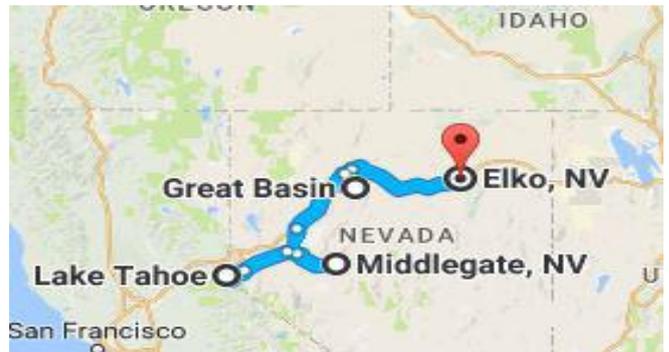
Along the way, enjoy the wonderful glaciers, alpine meadows and spectacular mountain ranges. In summer you can hike across the Rocky Mountains, go horse riding, fish in pristine streams, and in winter enjoy cross country or downhill skiing and snowboarding in the slopes of Red Lodge, Montana.

Self-Drive Tours in The North West

The Loneliest Road Cowboy Country

Day 1: Lake Tahoe to Highway 50

After Life Magazine dubbed Nevada's portion of Highway 50 as the Loneliest Road in America, travellers near and far have flocked to the Silver State to experience this epic road trip. Check out this legendary stretch of road, but only if you're up for some incredible hot springing excursions at Spencer's, monumental lodging like the Hotel Nevada, the biggest burger challenge you'll ever face in Middlegate and the best kept National Park's secret at Great Basin.



Day 2: Victory Highway to Elko

Head north into Cowboy Country, along the celebrated Victory Highway to Elko where you can spend the day digging into Nevada's mining, ranching and native culture. Stop at the Western Folklife Center, home of the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, drive to the glacier-carved Lamoille Canyon in the Ruby Mountains and try one of Elko's Basque restaurants.



ATTRACTIONS

- » The Valley of Fire
- » The Fremont Street Experience
- » The Grand Canyon
- » Lake Tahoe
- » Cowboy Country
- » Mountain Falls Golf Club

Fossils & Geology

Day 1: Salt Lake City to Moab (234mi/376km)

Start this drive in SLC by visiting the Natural History Museum of Utah and see exhibits of prehistoric fossils. Take a short drive to Thanksgiving Point and the Museum of Ancient Life, which is the world's largest Dinosaur museum. Continue onto Moab.

Day 2: Moab, Utah

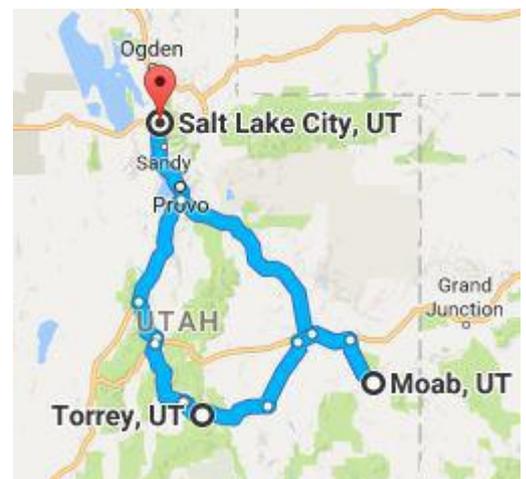
Explore Arches National Park, hiking to Delicate Arch and discover over 2,000 ecological arches. Continue onto the Negro Bill Canyon Trailhead and walk to Morning Glory Arch, one of the longest arches in the world. If time permits experience rafting on the Colorado River.

Day 3: Moab - Torrey, Utah (156mi/251km)

Drive to Goblin Valley State Park, one of the most unique sights in the west, comprising of oddly shaped rock formations that at some points look like an army of goblins. Then continue to Capitol Reef National Park - a 100 mile fold in the earth's crust that created the Colorado Plateau. Erosion has since carved the spectacular cliffs and rock formations of Capitol Reef. Spend the afternoon exploring before driving onto Torrey.

Day 4: Torrey - Salt Lake City, Utah (213mi/342km)

Before concluding this ecology drive, continue to U-Dig Fossils - a quarry west of Delta. Enjoy a day of digging for Trilobites where you are guaranteed to unearth your own 250 million year old fossils which you can take home. Continue back to Salt Lake City.



The South West

WILD WEST FRONTIER...



The Southwestern desert states of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Nevada stretch from Texas to California, across a unique landscape ranging from towering red sandstone blocks to snowcapped mountains, on a high desert plateau, filled with deep canyons. This vast contrast of scenery is complemented by the ever present Native American cultures and America's historical Wild West legacy.

Each of the four Southwestern states contains unique characteristics, New Mexico still contains traces of Native American settlements and Spanish colonial towns. More than a third of Arizona belongs to Native American tribes and most live in the red-rock lands and canyon country, home to the spectacular Grand Canyon. Utah is covered in national parks and monuments including Zion and Bryce canyons, and Nevada is a desolate desert home to the infamous glitz and glamour of Las Vegas.

Events

MARCH

Cowboy Days, New Mexico – 2-day event in Las Cruces featuring a host of cowboy related activities.

FEBRUARY

Parada del Sol, Arizona – The world's largest horse drawn parade featuring more than 150 entries on an exciting march.

Art Fest, New Mexico – A weekend of art, food, wine, fashion and homes benefiting the art programs in local schools.

APRIL

Scottsdale Culinary Festival, Arizona - Attracts nearly 50,000 visitors each year with a wide selection of gourmet food, fine wines and boutique brews, celebrity chefs, and plenty of fun and unusual activities and festivities.

MAY

Tucson Folk Festival, Arizona – Attracts more than 10,000 folk music lovers and showcases more than 20 hours of free, live music on five stages, as well as dance and other entertainment in downtown Tucson.

SEPTEMBER

Santa Fe Wine & Chile Fiesta – A celebration of New Mexican food and wine featuring the finest 80 Santa Fe restaurants have to offer and wines from 100 vineyards around New Mexico.

Self-Drive Tours Around The South West

Route 66 - Chicago to Santa Monica

One of the most famous highways in the US, Route 66 stretches from Chicago to Los Angeles. Built in 1926, it became the main route for migrants seeking a better life in California. The historical route has now been replaced with modern highways but the townships have preserved the heritage of historical Route 66.

After exploring the windy city of Chicago and Lake Michigan, begin your journey through the farmland of Illinois and onto St Louis, Missouri. From the Mississippi River, Route 66 will take you through Oklahoma City, where the migrant convoys in the 1930's, once began. Stop off at Oklahoma Museum which tells the story of this historical journey.

Travel through the region of the Cheyenne and Arapao Indians, where they once hunted bison; and onto Amarillo Texas, home to cowboys and oil fields. Stop off at the infamous Cadillac Ranch where you will find 10 tail-finned cadillacs buried nose first into the sand! Continue to New Mexico through the hunting lands of the Comanche Indians and onto Albuquerque.

At Albuquerque, take a ride on the aerial tramway to the top of the Sandian Mountains. The city is world famous for its hot air balloon festival in October. Travelling onto Santa Fe, taking the famous Tortoise Trail through the small artist-mountain communities.

ROUTE 66 ATTRACTIONS

- » Cars On The Route, Galena
- » Route 66 Drive In, Carthage
- » Route 66 Museum, Atlanta
- » Petrified Forest National Park
- » Roy's, Amboy
- » Santa Monica Pier



At Albuquerque, take a ride on the aerial tramway to the top of the Sandian Mountains. The city is world famous for its hot air balloon festival in October. Travelling onto Santa Fe, taking the famous Tortoise Trail through the small artist-mountain communities. Built in 1610, visit the oldest government building in the US, Palace of the Governors.

Drive onto Holbrook, the Petrified Forest National Park, then through Navajo Indian Country toward the Grand Canyon National Park where you can take a helicopter flight or a hike and experience its vast majestic scenery. Stop off at Flagstaff and try your hand star-gazing at the Lowell Observatory.

Journey onto Las Vegas, otherwise known as Sin City - the entertainment capital of the world! Highlights include the Skywalk, shopping and, of course, the nightlife Vegas is renowned for.

From Las Vegas, head west through the Mojave Desert, stopping at the ghost town of Calico. Finally, Route 66 concludes at Santa Monica, Los Angeles - The City of Angels, where you can take a leisurely stroll along the boardwalk and marvel at the alternative culture along Venice Beach!



The Great Plains

MOUNTAINS AND WIDE OPEN SPACES...



From the mountainous region of Colorado through to the wide open plains of Texas this region is located in America's mid south-west. Colorado is famed for its outdoor activities such as skiing and white water rafting. But there is much more waiting to be discovered along the states 25 scenic byways, including wildlife, gold rush history and wineries.

Think of Nebraska and agriculture springs to mind. This state offers a variety of scenic byways through historical trails, cowboy country and wild prairies. Venture into the heartland of the Great Plains, Kansas State and learn about some of America's Native Indian tribes. Visit tall grass prairies in a covered wagon and see bison in the wild, and indulge in a local barbeque.

Continue south into the state of Texas, famed for its cowboys and rodeos. Attractions include the Sixth Floor Museum and the Bishop's Art District. Dine at one of the 8,000 restaurants, enjoy a sports game – Dallas Cowboys, Texas Ranges, Dallas Mavericks and take the River-walk in San Antonio and visit the famous Southfork Ranch.

The South West offers tourists an amalgamation of different experiences that is sure to leave you wanting more. The best way to discover it all is with your own hire car, as many of the most fascinating corners of the region are inaccessible with public transport.

Events

FEBRUARY

Winter Carnival, Colorado – Provides a number of events including an outdoor adventure film festival, ski jumping, dual slalom bicycle race, snow boarding, tubing party, pancake breakfast and chariot racing.

MARCH

Denver St Patrick's Day Parade - One of the largest parades west of the Mississippi River, and Denver's biggest.

JUNE

"Texas" Outdoor Musical Drama – is nicknamed the most spectacular outdoor musical drama in the world. Set in the 1800s, the show brings to life the stories, struggles and triumphs of the settlers of the Texas Panhandle

NOVEMBER

Formula One World Championship, Texas – The nation's first Grand Prix-purposed track and event complex, located southeast of Austin. This prestigious racing venue is the first purpose-built Grand Prix facility in the USA.

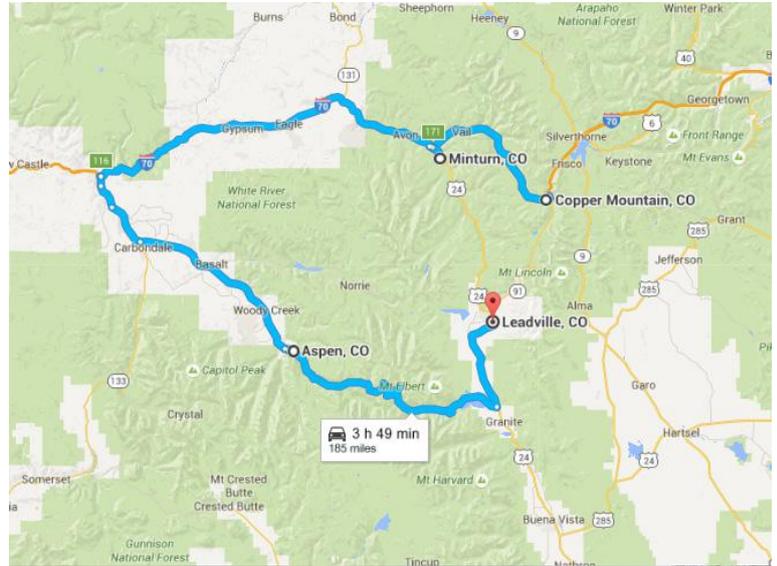
Self-Drive Tours in The Great Plains

Top of the Rockies

Day Drive: Copper Mountain to Mintur (115mi/185km)

This incredibly scenic drive brings access to a vast network of trails and recreational activities including hiking, climbing, wildlife viewing, mountain biking and horseback riding. The numerous lakes and streams offer some of the finest trout fishing in the country, kayaking, canoeing or just relaxing by the shores.

Start the drive from Copper Mountain on Highway 91; from Leadville at the juncture of Highways 91 and 24, from Minturn on Highway 24 or from Aspen on Highway 82. The Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Commission has adopted the Columbine, the Colorado state flower, as its logo. As you tour the byway, the Columbine signs will identify your route. As you travel along the route look out for big-horn sheep, prong horn antelope, red-tail foxes, deer, elk, pica, mountain goat and marmot!



Urban Cowboy Adventure

Day 1-2: DFW Airport to Fort Worth (25mi/40km)

A modern day Cowtown, the streets of The Historic Fort Worth Stockyards will transform you to the old western movies of John Wayne. A newly constructed walkable plaza in Sundance Square along with a vibrant art scene, is a great place to begin your introduction to the Texas culture.

Day 3-4: Wildcatter Ranch (190mi/144km)

Escape to this 1,500 acre working Texas cattle ranch. Set in incredible scenery enjoy activities led by a team of local Texas cowboys such as horseback-riding, feeding longhorn Cattle and Skeet Shooting. Finish the day off with a hand-cut Mesquit grilled Texas steak with a dip in the pool and hot tub.

Day 5-6: Wildcatter Ranch to Dallas (120mi/193km)

Dallas is the urban contrast to your western experience in Fort Worth and the ranch. The city is made up of several districts centered around a vibrant downtown. Plan to explore the largest arts district in the USA, trendy nightlife in Uptown or the music scene of Deep Ellum. Save time for shopping as Dallas offers a vast variety of choice from outlets to luxury shops, all with the added bonus of the tax-free program.

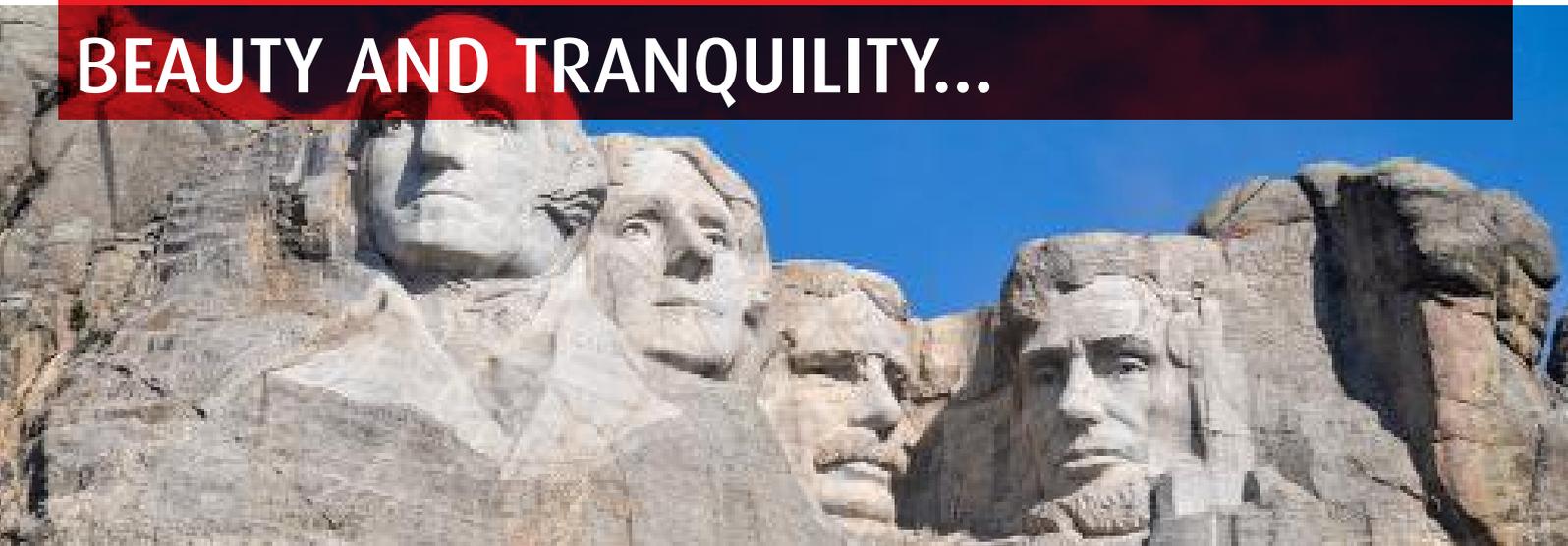
ATTRACTIONS

- » Cattle Drive in Stockyards
- » Fort Worth's Cultural District
- » Dallas Zoo & Aquarium
- » Dallas 6th Floor Museum
- » Reunion Tower
- » Fort Worth's Sundance Square



Real America

BEAUTY AND TRANQUILITY...



Comprising the Rocky Mountain States of North Dakota, Montana, South Dakota and Wyoming, this region is located in America's north mid-west. From the Black Hills of South Dakota to the Theodore Roosevelt National Park of North Dakota and Montana's Glacier National Park to the expanses of Wyoming's Yellowstone National Park, the Real America is an unspoilt region perfect for road trip exploration.

Travel at your own pace in a motorhome or RV rental, discovering Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Grand Teton National Park, Badlands National Park, Medora, Crazy Horse Memorial, Fargo, Jackson Hole, Devils Tower and Buffalo Bill's Cody Country to name but a few.

This region is a haven for outdoor activities such as hiking, whitewater rafting, skiing, snowboarding, boating, biking, horse riding, fly fishing and golfing. For a taste of the Real America visit a rodeo, experience the Wild West and learn about America's frontier heritage.

Events

JANUARY

Black Hills Stock Show and Rodeo, South Dakota – includes rodeos, cattle shows, team events, a ranch horse competition, North American Sheepdog trials, a banquet and ball, and free family entertainment.

FEBRUARY

Wild West Winterfest, Montana – attracts thousands of visitors each year with a variety of displays and activities. Includes cooking demonstrations, horse sales, hockey tournaments, dog keg pulling contests and a petting zoo.

MAY

Jackson Hole Old West Days, Wyoming - A popular 4-day event for more than 31 years, the Jackson Hole Old West Days affair celebrates the region's reputation as "The Last of the Old West".

JULY

North Dakota State Fair – Various stages, rodeo, auto events, big name entertainment, a carnival, over 46,000 competitive exhibits, 600 commercial vendors, livestock shows and special contests.

NOVEMBER

Yellowstone Ski Festival, Montana – Celebrating the beginning of the winter ski season, the Yellowstone Ski Festival attracts cross country skiers from all over the world to begin their ski season and to enjoy a variety of special events.

Real America Self-Drive Tours

Going-To-The-Sun Road

Day Drive: Glacier National Park (50mi/80km)

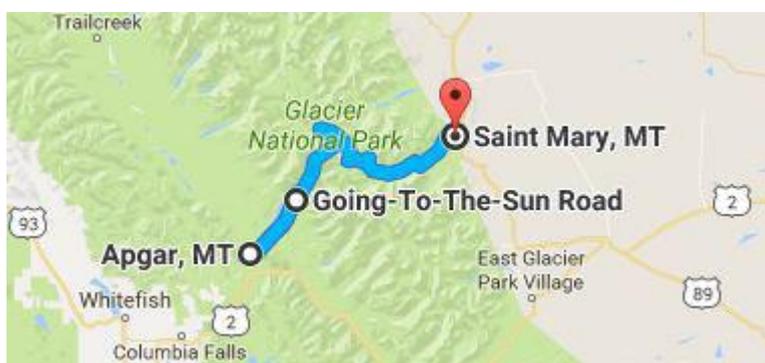
The name itself conjures a vision of something very special, and indeed it is. This road is a spectacular feat of engineering, running east to west through the Glacier National Park with breathtaking scenery ranging from alpine tundra to cedar forests, incredible glacial lakes to mountains that look as if they have exploded out of the earth.

Major highlights include the Jackson Glacier, the “Weeping Wall” and Logan Pass, where you can hike up to a hidden look-out. It is likely that you will see some of the local wildlife near Logan Pass, including moose, mountain goats and bighorn sheep.

Montana is known for its food, microbreweries and farmers’ markets – don’t forget to try some of the local Huckleberry Pie! It’s not often you get a chance to enjoy countryside as pristine as what you’ll find in this northern American state. Please note that the Sun Road is only accessible from June to mid-late October depending on the snow fall.

ATTRACTIONS

- » Glacier National Park
- » Helena
- » Missoula
- » Bannack Ghost Town
- » Crow Fair Pow Wow
- » Little Bighorn Monument



Peter Norbeck National Scenic Byway

Day Drive: Black Hills (70mi/112km)

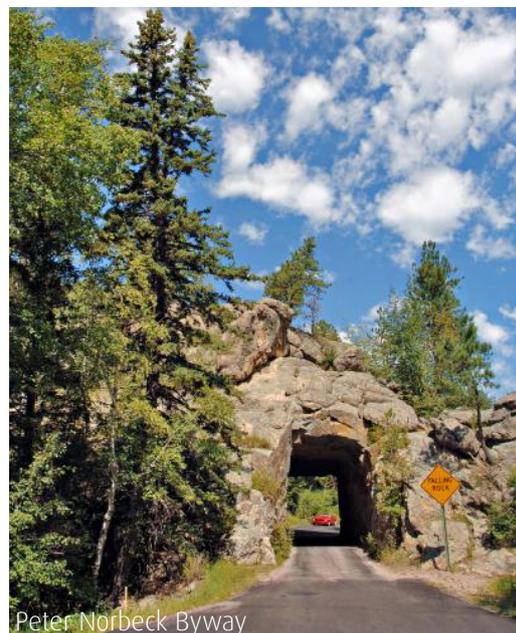
Peter Norbeck was a visionary Senator and Governor for South Dakota. He personally chose the layout of the Iron Mountain Road in the 1930s and persisted in building when told it couldn’t be done.

This masterpiece of artistic engineering includes spiraling bridges, hairpin curves, granite tunnels and awe-inspiring views and was named one of the 10 most outstanding byways in America.

Roughly a figure-eight route, the route travels through portions of Custer State Park, Norbeck Wildlife Preserve, Mount Rushmore National Memorial and the Black Elk National Wilderness Area. Highways 16A, 244, 89 and 87 combine to create this amazing route with mountain lakes and rocky terrain about every turn. Shaggy white mountain goats, deer and chipmunks are commonly seen along the way.

ATTRACTIONS

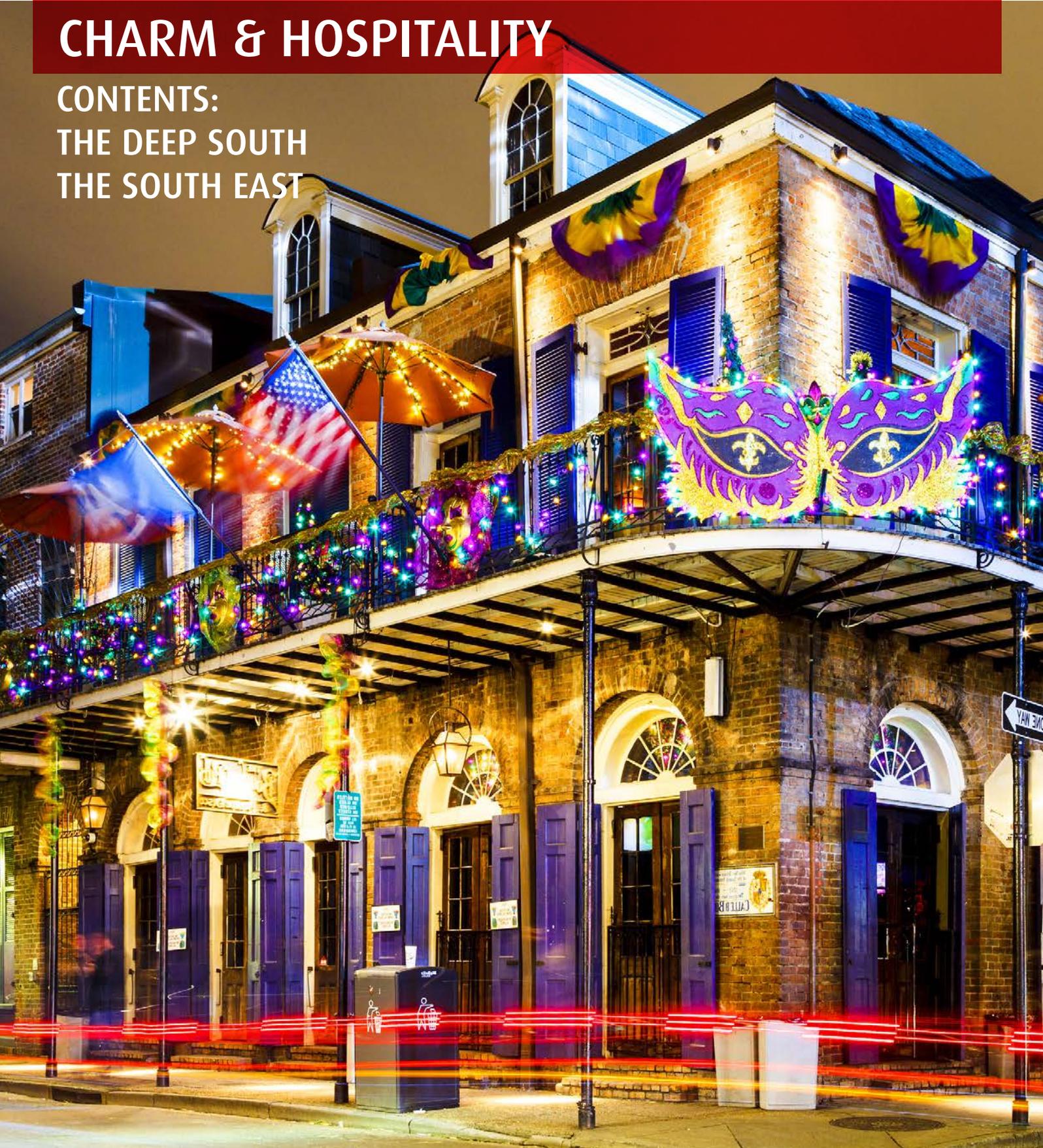
- » Mount Rushmore
- » Black Hills
- » Custer Buffalo Round-up
- » Sand Lake Refuge
- » Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary
- » Rapid City



SOUTHERN USA

CHARM & HOSPITALITY

CONTENTS:
THE DEEP SOUTH
THE SOUTH EAST



The Deep South

HEART AND SOUL...



This region covers the southern most part of America and includes the states of Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama. Rich in antebellum history, a visit to the Deep South will leave you deeply moved. From the hardship of the cotton fields, the heart and soul of Gospel music was born and later influenced Rock 'n' Roll and evolved into Rhythm & Blues.

Follow the mighty Mississippi, one of the world's most famous rivers through the Deep South exploring some of the rural heartland and delightful small towns and cities to which the river gave birth. Experience traditional blues music with a mix of gospel and soul. Great musicians emerge and thrive in the cities from where their music first caught the world's imagination.

Events

JANUARY

New Orleans Mardi Gras, Louisiana – attracts hundreds of thousands of bead-draped Louisianians and their guests from all over the world hitting the streets of New Orleans for days of fun and frivolity at what is commonly referred to as “the biggest free party on earth”.

MARCH

Kansas City St Patrick's Day Parade, Missouri – One of the largest St Patrick's Day parades in the USA celebrating all things Irish.

MAY

Riverfest, Arkansas - A huge music and arts festival boasting five stages and a weekend full of music, food and fun.

The Kentucky Derby and Derby Festival - Each year, more than 1.5 million people enjoy the 70 special events of this annual civic celebration including concerts, races and just plain fun.

JUNE

CMA Music Festival, Tennessee - A four day event featuring more than 70 hours of live music and autograph signing by over 400 country music artists and celebrities. It is the largest country music party in the world

OCTOBER

Cruisin' the Coast, Mississippi - over 5,000 antique, classic, hot rods, and custom vehicles for a week of rock 'n' roll, drag races, sock hops, swap meets, entertainment and fun.

Self-Drive Tours in The Deep South

Ol' Man River

Day 1: Chicago

Explore this magnificent city built around Lake Michigan and take the curving Lakeside Drive see stunning views of the skyline, dominated by the John Hancock Center buildings. The view from the top of the building offers a breathtaking panorama over the city and the lake beyond. Stroll the grounds of Millennium Park and take a look at the reflective Cloud Gate Sculpture or cross the Chicago River and head into downtown. With a thriving centre of boutiques, cafés, restaurants and specialist shops, Chicago is lively by day and night.

Day 2: Chicago to St Louis (296mi/476km)

Depart Chicago and head towards St Louis. En route stop at the Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum, home to thousands of artefacts and memorabilia related to Route 66 - The Mother Road. Stop for lunch at Springfield, Illinois before arriving at St Louis.

Day 3: St Louis

Head to Gateway Arch for a magnificent view of St. Louis. Visit the Odyssey Theatre for a larger than life glimpse of Lewis and Clark's Great Journey West along with the Museum of Westward Expansion which preserves rare artifacts from the days of Lewis and Clark. The museum also houses exhibits of early day pioneers who helped shape the history of the American West. Enjoy lunch at the Missouri Botanical Garden before boarding the garden's tram for a narrated tour through the beautiful grounds. Founded in 1859 the Missouri Botanical Garden contains 79 acres of scenic landscaping and sculptures. Highlights include: the Climatron® tropical rain forest, Linnean House, Japanese Garden and the Grigg Nanjing Friendship Chinese Garden. Next, tour the Anheuser-Busch Brewery. Visit the historic stable home to the Budweiser Clydesdales and see first hand how the beer is crafted in the Brew House and packaged in the Bevo Packaging Plant. After the tour sample the different brews and relax in the Hospitality Room or browse the gift shop. Dine at one of St. Louis great restaurants before taking in some authentic St. Louis blues music.

Day 4: St Louis to Memphis

Before heading off, see one of the largest mosaic collections in the world as you tour the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis. Take a 4.5 hour drive to Memphis, the heartland of gospel and birthplace of Rock 'n' Roll and enjoy some Memphis barbecue.

ATTRACTIONS

- » French Quarter
- » Bourbon Street
- » Creole & Cajun cuisine
- » Mardi Gras
- » Garden District
- » Voodoo Cemetery



Self-Drive Tours in The Deep South

Ol' Man River continued...

Day 5: Memphis

Explore Memphis before a visit to Graceland, home of all things Elvis Presley. Explore the mansion and grounds of his 14-acre estate, along with Elvis Presley's Automobile Museum, the Lisa Marie Jet and Hound Dog II Jetstar planes. After lunch make a visit to the famous Sun Studio where Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash and B.B. King first recorded. Continue to Mud Island River Park and the Swiss-made monorail which offer great views of downtown Memphis, the Mississippi River and Mud Island River Park. This evening take the opportunity to experience the nightlife of Beale Street.

Day 6: Memphis to Natchez (300mi/482km)

Continue to follow the Ol' Man River to Natchez. Along the way make a stop at Clarksdale and the Delta Blues Museum, to give yourself the chance to explore the history and heritage of the unique American musical art form of the blues.

Day 7: Natchez

Founded in 1716 by the French and named after the Indians who dwelt there, this unique town is recognized as the oldest settlement on the Mississippi River. Visit the Frogmore Plantation, a cotton plantation of the early 1800s which still produces cotton and gin today. Learn of the early Natchez planters and their slaves, following their evolution from the wilderness to the thriving 1850s cotton plantation, beyond the 'War Between the States' to a struggling new way of life. Examples of authentically furnished slave quarters can be seen. Later this afternoon head over to the Antebellum Homes of Natchez and this evening and enjoy some authentic blues alley entertainment.

Day 8: Natchez to New Orleans (170mi/273km)

Drive to Oak Alley Plantation, a protected National Historic Landmark. It is named after its distinguishing feature, an alley or canopied path created by a double row of live oaks about 800 feet long planted in the early 18th century, long before the present house was built. The alley runs between the house and the Mississippi River. Continue to New Orleans, otherwise know as Big Easy and the city that never sleeps.



Graceland



New Orleans



Memphis

Roadtrip is calling

Budget®

A promotional advertisement for Budget car rental. The background is a solid orange color. At the top, the text "Roadtrip is calling" is written in white. Below the text is a silver Chevrolet Cruze car shown from a front-three-quarter view. At the bottom right, the Budget logo is displayed, consisting of a stylized orange and yellow triangle followed by the word "Budget" in blue.

The South East

ENDLESS SUMMER...



America's South East covers the states of North & South Carolina, along with Florida and Georgia. Florida has endless stretches of white sandy beaches and sunshine - well, 825 miles! Popular with families, it is home to Disney World, Sea World Universal Studios. Miami is the gateway to the Caribbean with many cruise departures from the port. Take a boardwalk along Miami Beach, surf at Fort Lauderdale and swim at Daytona Beach.

North Carolina is a great place for relaxing whether it be in the mountains or by the coast. Great for outdoor activities, off for some biking, white water rafting or kayaking on your road trip. Discover an abundance of waterfalls, forests and natural beauty in South Carolina. Take a drive through the Devils Fork State Park and explore the Jocassee Georges on the Lake of Jocassee. This state is full of natural beauty and tranquility...

A journey through the Deep South would not be complete without experiencing a southern barbeque, iced tea and some great southern hospitality!

Events

JANUARY

Gasparilla Pirate Fest, Florida – Pirate themed festival attracting more than half a million visitors each year.

FEBRUARY

North Carolina Jazz Festival – offers a wide range of the greatest traditional jazz musicians from around the globe.

MARCH

South Beach Comedy Festival, Miami - Considered to be one of the top comedy festivals in the USA.

MAY

Southern 500, South Carolina – Known by many as NASCAR's greatest annual challenge, takes place at the Darlington Raceway, NASCAR's original superspeedway.

OCTOBER

Georgia National Fair – offers a huge selection of entertainment, home and fine arts competitions, major live music concerts, agricultural, livestock and horse shows, and nightly fireworks.

DECEMBER

Winterfest Boat Parade, Florida – features more than a 100 brilliantly illuminated boats (a whole variety of different sized and different types of boats) sailing from Fort Lauderdale to Pompano Beach.

Self-Drive Tours in the South East

Florida Keys Overseas Highway

Day Trip: Key Largo to Key West (127mi/204km)

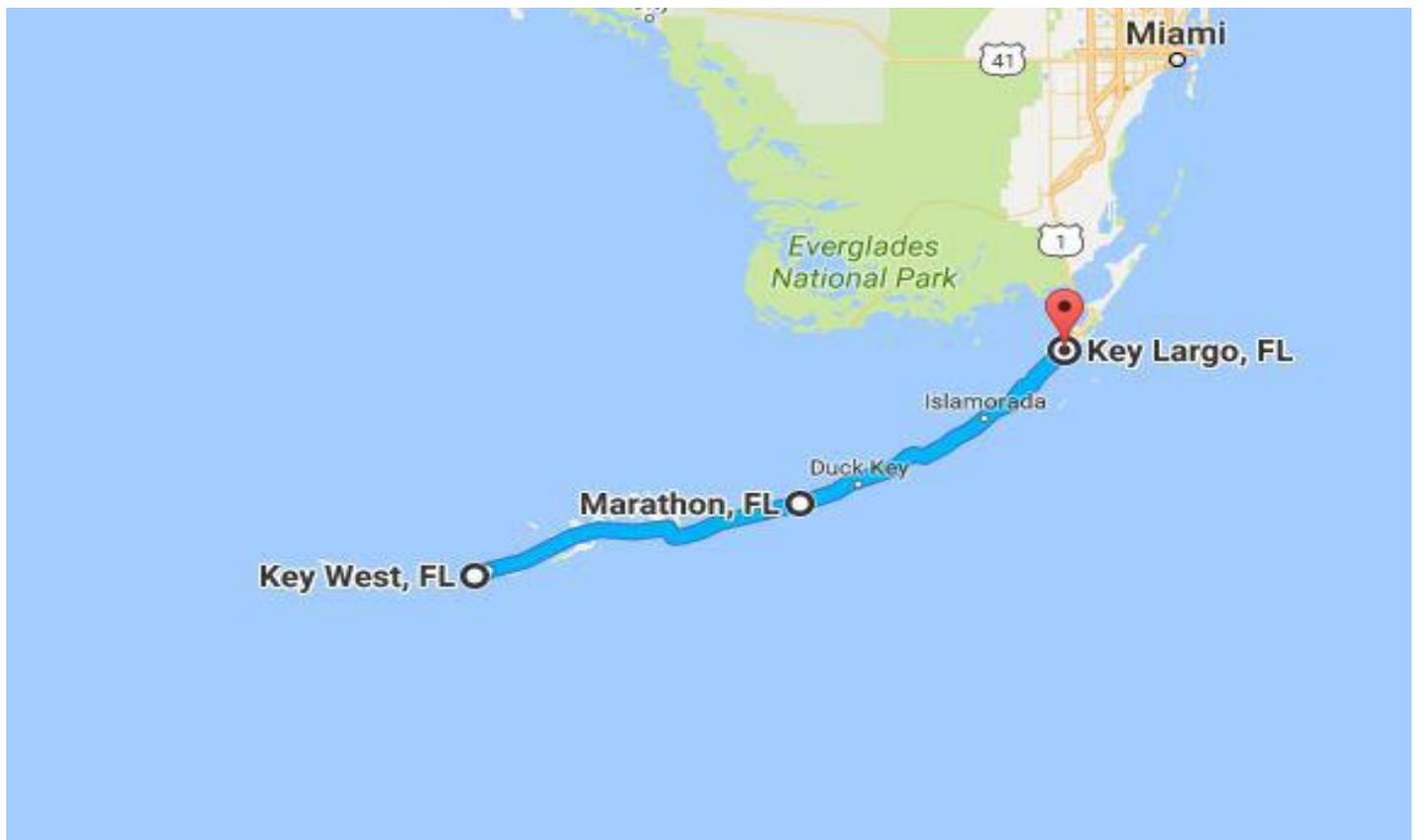
The Overseas Highway, also known as U.S. Highway 1, connects the Florida Keys with the mainland. The Florida Keys are over 120 mile long chain of islands around the base of the Florida peninsula, and are connected to the mainland by a series of bridges.

The most spectacular bridge, the Seven Mile Bridge in the Lower Keys, has been featured in movies such as True Lies and 2 Fast 2 Furious. The Overseas Highway runs from Key Largo, Islamorada, Marathon, Lower Keys and finally to Key West, the most distant and most famous of the Florida Keys. In addition to spectacular beaches, diving and snorkeling, the Florida Keys offer botanical gardens, museums, along with attractions such as the Theater of the Sea and several state and national parks where you can enjoy a wide variety of outdoor recreation and wildlife viewing.



Seven Mile Bridge

- ### ATTRACTIONS
- » Sea World
 - » Universal Studios
 - » Daytona Beach
 - » Kennedy Space Centre
 - » Florida Keys
 - » Everglades



Self-Drive Tours in the South East

Southern Atlantic Coast

Day 1-3: Orlando

America's family fun capital Orlando is home to Walt Disney World, Sea World and other famous mega-theme parks including Discovery Cove and Universal Studios. Once you've had your fill of the theme parks, enjoy outstanding golf courses, a family-friendly science centre and the entertainment in the fine art museum.

Day 4: Orlando to St. Augustine (107mi/172km)

Departing Orlando, begin your drive and just two hours away stop in St. Augustine, Florida. The oldest city in America, St Augustine is rich in history and set in a tranquil natural setting. Absorb centuries of colorful adventure from the coquina stone walls of the Castillo to the lush grounds of Fort Mose and reveal the city's story.

Day 5: St. Augustine to Georgia's Golden Isles (100mi/160km)

Head North from St. Augustine on I-95 to St. Simons Island for shopping, food and sand. Christ Church and Fort Frederica are just a couple of the excellent attractions that await you on this island. The Georgia Sea Turtle Center, on Jekyll Island, is one of the Golden Isles newest attractions. Dedicated to education about and rehabilitation of turtles on the East Coast, the Center has displays, turtle tanks and a surgery suite designed so that visitors can watch procedures live.

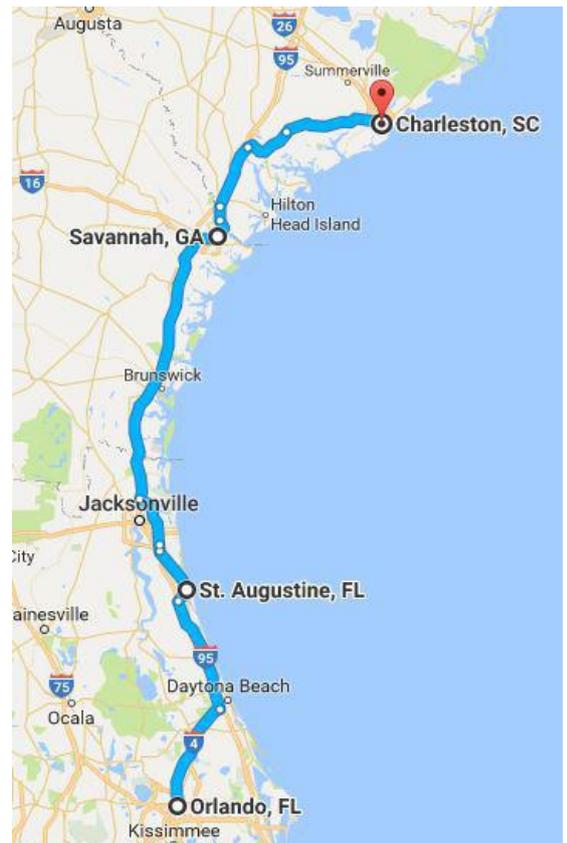
If you are looking for the freshest seafood possible don't miss a ride on the Lady Jane. A working shrimp boat, the Lady Jane will drop her nets and bring aboard a catch, educate and fill your stomach.

Day 6: Georgia's Golden Isles to Savannah (75mi/120km)

Drive onto Savannah and head to its City Market and River Street. Explore some of Savannah's magnificent architecture and 22 squares. Savannah's 250 year old history creates many opportunities to explore various eras of history. Discover antiques, architecture, Black heritage, Civil War history, cemeteries, ghosts or gardens.

Day 7: Savannah to Charleston (107mi/172km)

Just two hours north of Savannah is Charleston, the second largest city in South Carolina. Brimming with history and tradition it offers Southern charm with its prominent art, music, food and fashion scenes. Established over 300 years ago, the historic areas of the city remain intact and are beautiful and picturesque. Hosting many cultural events and fairs, Charleston has now been recognised as one of the top ten cities for theatre, as well as one of the top 25 art destinations in America.



ATTRACTIONS

- » Walt Disney World
- » Potter's Wax Museum
- » Castillo de San Marcos
- » Forsyth Park
- » Savannah Historic District
- » Middleton Place



St. Augustine

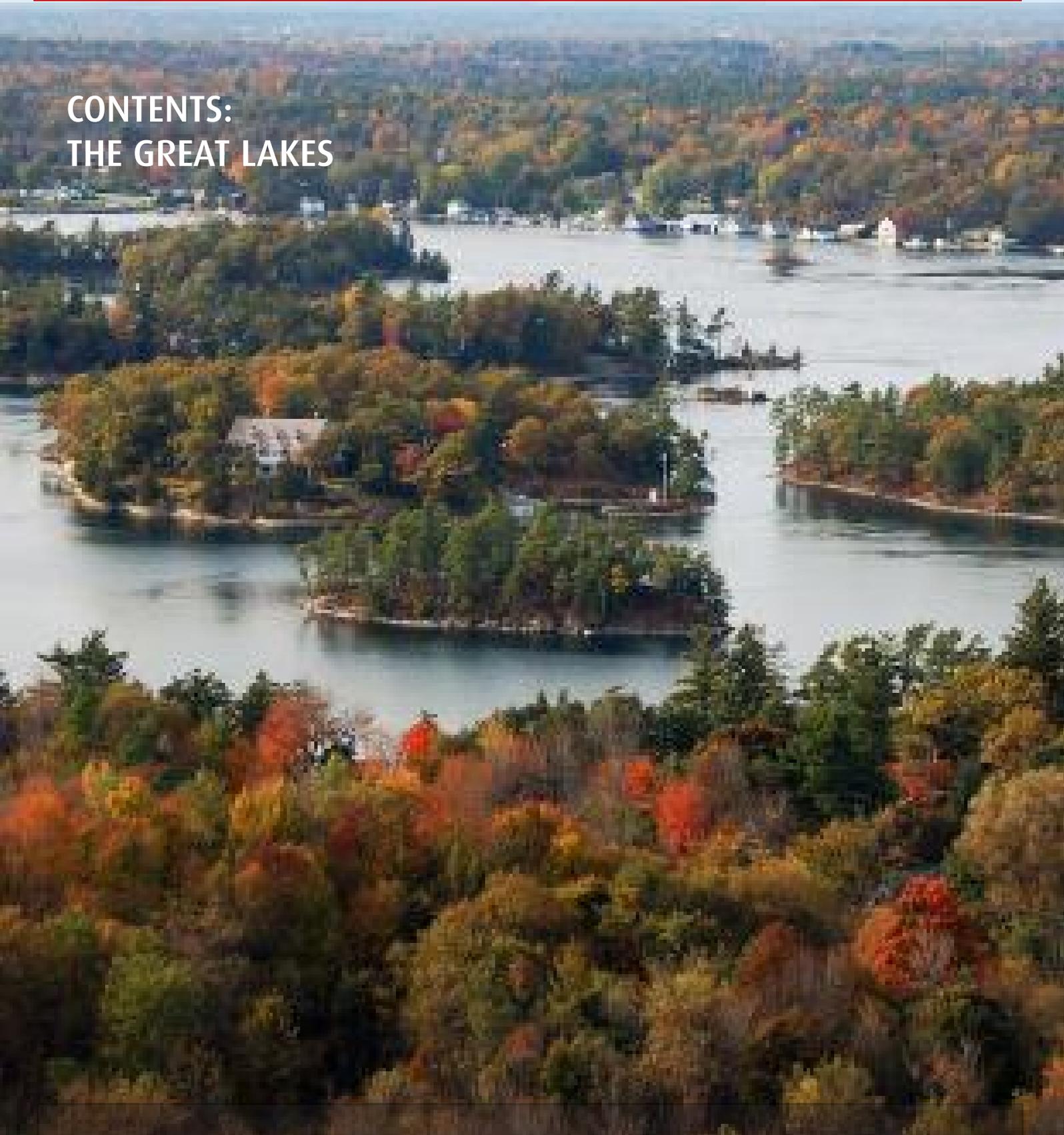


Walt Disney World Orlando

CENTRAL USA

EXPLORE THESE VAST LANDS

CONTENTS:
THE GREAT LAKES



The Great Lakes

IMPRESSIVE NATURAL CONTRASTS...



A diverse region, the Great Lakes comprise of 5 interconnecting lakes in the central north-east and include the states of Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio. The region shares a mix of natural beauty and industrial settlements.

There's no better way to discover the Great Lakes than by taking a road-trip exploring Lakes Erie, Michigan and Huron. Visit the city of Detroit with its many attractions and bustling street including the Detroit Institute of Arts (the 6th largest fine arts museum in America) and stroll around Mackinac Island State Park.

Chicago is one of America's largest cities with towering skyscrapers including the iconic John Hancock Centre, Willis Tower and neo-Gothic Tower. Attractions include Millennium Park, Navy Pier, Grant Park, the Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum, The Field Museum, The Shedd Aquarium and the Art Institute of Chicago.

For all road trip lovers, Chicago is highly renowned for the start of America's best known road trip, Route 66!

Events

JANUARY

Saint Paul Winter Carnival, Minnesota – The nation's oldest winter festival providing indoor and outdoor fun.

JUNE

Milwaukee Summerfest – Milwaukee's cornerstone summer celebration, hosting an average of 900,000 patrons annually on the beautiful shore of Lake Michigan.

JULY

Cedar Rapids Freedom Festival – A variety of attractions including classic rock concert nights and a patriotic pops concert night, balloon events and all sorts of foods, concluding with the Celebration of Freedom Fireworks on July 4th.

AUGUST

Lollapalooza, Chicago – Music festival featuring over 130 bands on 8 stages, with a diverse lineup of artists.

SEPTEMBER

International Route 66 Mother Road Festival, Illinois – A three-day celebration of cars, food, music and friends of the historic US Route 66

DECEMBER

America's Thanksgiving Parade, Michigan – One of the country's oldest and most celebrated parades.

Self-Drive Tours in The Great Lakes

The Big Apple to The Windy City

Day 1: New York City

Welcome to the Big Apple! Once the capital of the United States, now considered capital of the world, New York City is a wonderful place to visit. Check into your downtown hotel and collect your hire car before setting out to explore the city. From the Statue of Liberty to Ground Zero to Chinatown, New York City is full of things to do and see. Overnight in NYC.

Day 2: NYC to Newburgh

Head North of NYC towards Newburgh - the second largest historic district in New York State. Drive down Liberty Street, which is Washington's Headquarters, and bordered by quaint shops and cafes. Breathtaking Hudson River vistas can be seen from the Headquarters' spacious grounds, as well as along the City's main thoroughfare, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Boulevard.

Sample cuisines from around the world in adjacent neighborhoods, as Newburgh is an incredibly diverse city which is commemorated throughout the year with festivals, parades and celebrations. Overnight in Newburgh.

- » Central Park
- » Empire State Building
- » Statue of Liberty
- » Art Institute of Chicago
- » Willis Tower
- » Grant Park



After leaving Newburgh, head north-west towards Finger Lakes - a background of pristine lakes, forested hills, open farmland, and quaint small towns. Discover one of the highest waterfalls east of the Rocky Mountains - Taughannock Falls. Take a hike to explore this beautiful area on foot, rent a kayak or paddleboard, or just relax by the lake. Food and wine lovers will enjoy indulging in one of the local vineyards as Finger Lakes are known for their wine, particularly for the world renowned Rieslings crafted in this region of New York. Overnight in Finger Lakes.

Day 4: Finger Lakes to Niagara Falls

Today, an exciting adventure awaits as you travel from Finger Lakes to Niagara Falls. From Finger Lakes drive through Syracuse and Rochester along the Seaway Trail American Byway to Niagara Falls. Experience the rushing waters of the falls and be captivated by its powerful roar. Enjoy the famous Maid of the Mist Boat Tour and spend the day taking in the wonder, sights and sounds then return after dark to witness the Falls illuminated in a rainbow of colour! Overnight in Niagara Falls.



Day 5: Niagara Falls to Cleveland/Sandusky

From Niagara Falls, travel west to Cleveland, a city situated on the shores of Lake Erie. Tour the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, view a variety of art from around the world at The Cleveland Museum of Art or visit the Great Lakes Science Center for an interactive and educational experience. Continue on to Sandusky, noted for its beautifully landscaped parks, historical architecture and the Sandusky Bay Pathway. It is also home to plenty of amusement parks such as Cedar Point, Castaway Bay and Soak City. Overnight in Sandusky.

Day 6: Sandusky to Chicago

Say goodbye to the thrills and spills of Sandusky and head towards the Windy City. Stop for lunch in the Amish community of Shipshewana, before continuing on to Chicago. Walk along the river to Millennium Park, enjoy dazzling music, and stroll the boardwalk of the Navy Pier. Opt to ride to the top of the Willis (formerly Sears) Tower, then hit the town for a night out. This itinerary ends in Chicago.

THE NORTH EAST

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

CONTENTS:

THE MID ATLANTIC

NEW ENGLAND



The Mid Atlantic

BRIGHT LIGHTS & COUNTRY SIGHTS...



New York State, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Washington DC, Virginia and West Virginia are the states which make up the Mid Atlantic region which is located between New England and the South.

From the hustle and bustle of the Big Apple - New York - and the nation's capital city - Washington DC - to the shores of New Jersey and across the luscious plains of the Pennsylvania, the Mid Atlantic has something for everyone. Whether you are looking to live it up in the Hamptons for the weekend, visit the White House or take a road trip through Pennsylvania, the Mid Atlantic is a great destination for a self-drive trip.

Events

JANUARY

Dr Martin Luther King Jr Parade, Maryland – Celebrating the life of one of America's most influential civil rights, political and social icons.

FEBRUARY

Groundhog Day, Pennsylvania – On February 2, Phil the groundhog comes out of his burrow on Gobbler's Knob in front of thousands of followers from all over the world, to predict the weather for the rest of winter.

MARCH

Virginia International Tattoo – The largest show of its kind in the USA, featuring a presentation of marching bands, massed pipes and drums, drill teams, gymnasts, Scottish dancers, and choirs.

MAY

Dover Days Festival, Delaware – A 3-day celebration featuring a huge parade, maypole dancing by children dressed in colonial costumes, historical reenactments, a car show, free admission to museums, live music and entertainment.

JULY

Oswego Harborfest, New York State – A major regional event with national performance acts and a fireworks show.

AUGUST

Weird Week, New Jersey – Features a whole range of fun and unusual events for the whole family.

DECEMBER

National Christmas Tree Lighting, Washington DC – Witness nationally known entertainers and a military bands performing as well as the President himself who brings a message of peace to the nation and the world.

Self-Drive Tours in The Mid Atlantic

Back to Nature

Day 1: New York City

Immerse yourself with the hustle and bustle of the Big Apple, spending a few days exploring the iconic sites and drive across the Brooklyn Bridge.

Day 2: New York to New Jersey (70mi/112km)

New Jersey has a significant role in America's history and there are many museums and historical attractions to see whilst there. Support one of the many sporting teams including Giants and Jets Football teams, Red Bulls, Net Basketball and more. Visit the Pinelands National Reserve which cover 1.1 million acres in south New Jersey.

Day 3: NJ to Atlantic City (69mi/110km)

Atlantic City offers visitors many attractions. The Atlantic City Boardwalk is a great place to spend the day browsing the confectionery shops, strolling the arcade, visiting the casinos, hotels, eateries, rides and more. Try many activities whilst in Atlantic City such as para-sailing, sailing or surf school and relax at the day spas.

Day 4: Atlantic City to Philadelphia (62mi/100km)

Visit the following must see attractions whilst in Philadelphia like the Benjamin Franklin Museum, Liberty Bell, Adventure Aquarium, Philadelphia Museum of Art, LOVE Park at JFK Plaza and any other sites you desire.

Day 5: Philadelphia to Baltimore (100mi/160km)

The number one attraction in Baltimore is the National Aquarium. Make sure to check out the Maryland Science Centre, Baltimore Basilica and Railroad museum.

Day 6: Baltimore to Washington, D.C (39mi/60km)

The capital of the U.S. is overflowing with government buildings, sites and attractions. Visit the White House and Lincoln Memorial.

Day 7: Washington, D.C. to Pittsburgh (245mi/395km)

Spend a few days in Pittsburgh enjoying the family friendly activities like the Carnegie Museum of Art, Kennywood Park and the Pittsburgh Pirates at PNC Park.

Day 8: Pittsburgh to Niagara Falls (238mi/383km)

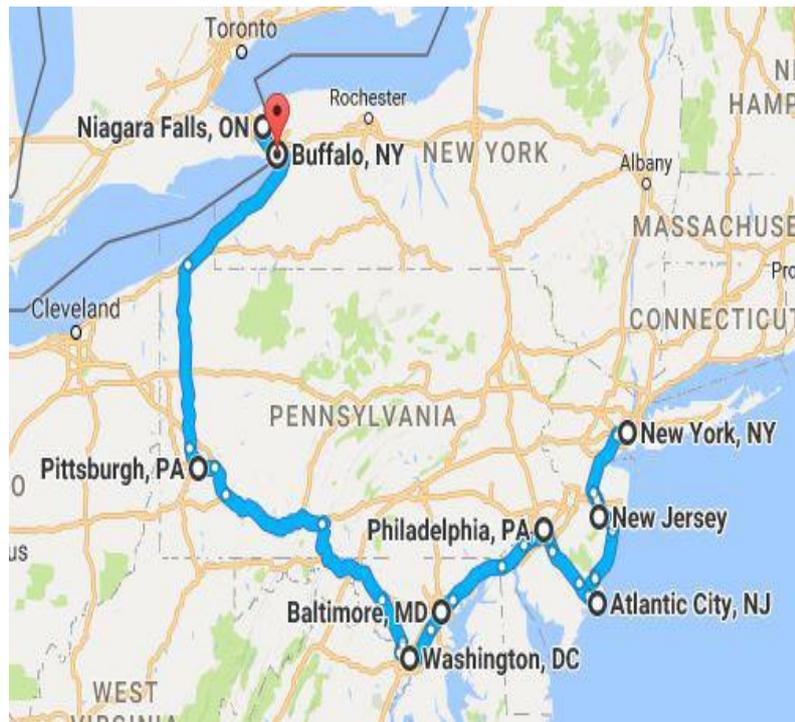
Experience the world famous Niagara Falls on your road trip. Walk through the park at your own leisure or take the Niagara Scenic Trolley ride. This natural beauty is not to be missed when driving near the Canadian border.

Day 9: Niagara Falls to Buffalo (20mi/32km)

Whilst in Buffalo visit the architectural sites designed by Frank Lloyd Wright as well as Shea's Performing Arts Centre, Botanical Gardens, Forest Lawn, Albright Knox Art Gallery, Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site, St Joseph's Cathedral and Liberty Building. This small town and more than enough to see and do.

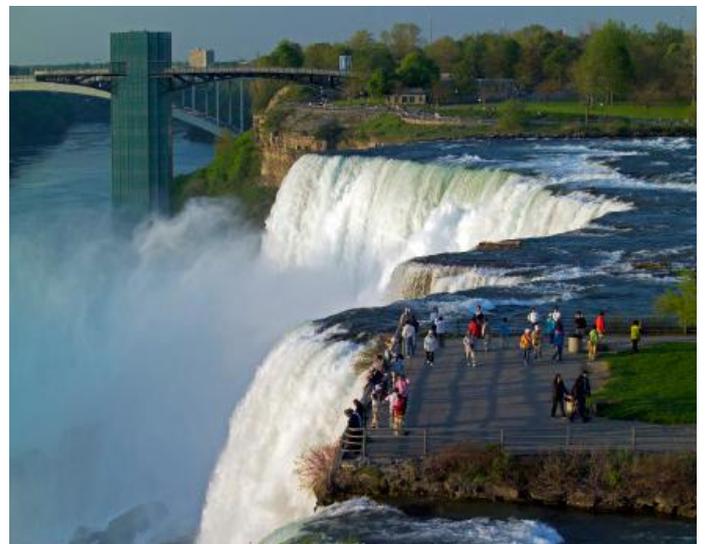
Day 10: Buffalo to New York (373mi/600km)

End your road trip back in New York and continue to explore this fascinating city!



ATTRACTIONS

- » Times Square
- » Central Park
- » Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island
- » The White House
- » International Spy Museum
- » The Lincoln Memorial



New England

FALL & FOLIAGE...



New England is located in the north eastern corner of the United States, comprising the modern states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. Bounded by the Atlantic Ocean, Canada and New York State, New England offers immense diversity.

Perfect for self-drive exploration, this region is best explored during autumn - mid September to mid October when the foliage changes from green to fiery oranges and reds before falling for winter. The mountainous terrains are ideal for hiking and skiing and home to quaint seaside villages, hotel resorts and spas to help you relax and unwind. Discover stretches of serene beaches, scenic byways and interesting cultural history.

Events

JANUARY

Stowe Winter Carnival, Vermont – Offering many activities for both young and old, from zany sports events, Ice Carving Competitions, movies, Kids Carnival Kaos to the infamous Village Night Block Party.

FEBRUARY

Newport Winter Festival, Rhode Island – With over 160 events, the sparkling Winter Festival offers a unique winter experience combining food, music, and entertainment for all ages.

MARCH

Boston St Patrick's Day Parade – One of the largest events in the USA, attracting more than 850,000 fans each year.

MAY

Moosemania, Maine – Dedicated to Greenville's popular moose, the month long Moosemania event in the area of the USA chosen as one of the Top 10 US Travel Destinations For 2013.

DECEMBER

Candlelight Stroll, New Hampshire – The quaint lanes of Strawberry Banke, New Hampshire's oldest waterfront neighborhood, are a-glow with hundreds of candles.

Self-Drive Tours in New England

A Taste of New England

Day 1: Boston to Maine (112mi/180km)

Steeped in history, Boston is one of America's oldest cities and the economic and cultural hub of New England. After spending time exploring head to Maine. The most scenic and historical route to Maine is through the Essex Heritage area. Along the way, visit the Saugus Ironworks established in 1646 and the old sailing ports of Gloucester and Marblehead. Salem was the site of the witch trials of 1694 and now also hosts the Peabody Museum. Along the route, visit the picturesque seaside town of Kennebunkport in York County. Its reputation as a superb community comes from the numerous large seaside estates along Ocean Avenue. The famous "Bush Compound" is located on Walker's Point, a peninsula visible from Ocean Avenue.

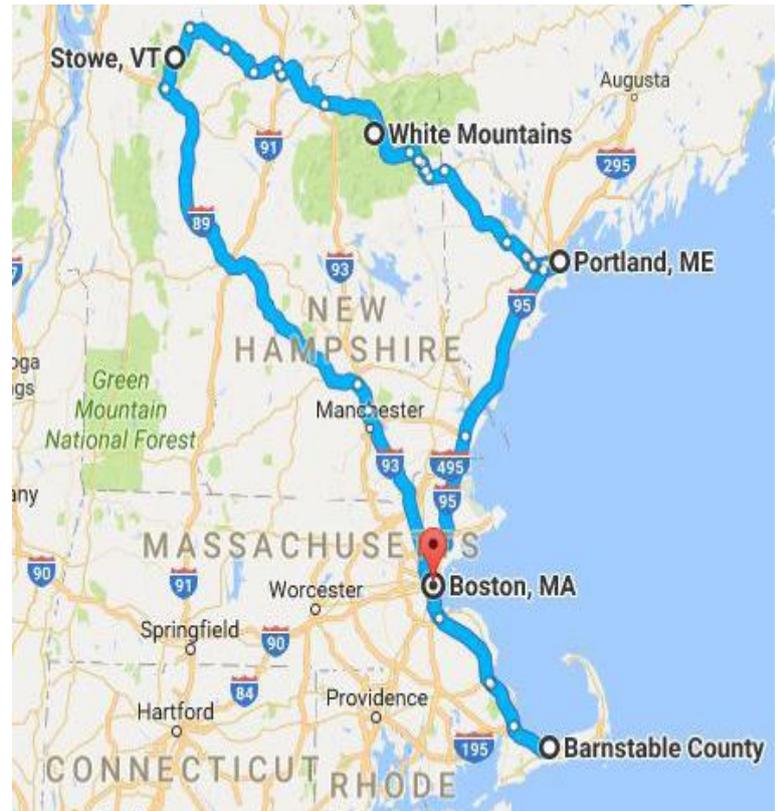
Day 2: Maine - White Mountains (107mi/172km)

Drive through stunning scenery from forests to fields, all interspersed with lakes and rivers. When you reach the White Mountains in New Hampshire there are two scenic byways you should drive.

The first is the White Mountains Trail National Scenic Byway, a 100 mile loop that winds through the White Mountains National Forest past many attractions. Further south, the second route is the Kancamangus National Scenic Byway, often referred to as the best fall foliage drive in America. The road offers splendid views and vivid colour, best of all between mid-September and mid-October.

Day 3: The White Mountains - Stowe, Northern Vermont (130mi/210km)

The Green Mountains in Vermont played a huge role in the creation of Vermont. The Green Mountain Byway runs on VT 100 through the towns of Waterbury and Stowe, between the spine of the northern Green Mountains to the west and the peaks of the Worcester Range to the east. As you drive the route, enjoy breathtaking views of meadows, farmlands and forests with spectacular mountain backdrops. The most prominent natural feature is Mount Mansfield, Vermont's highest peak.



Self-Drive Tours in The Great Lakes

A Taste of New England Continued...

Day 4: Stowe - Connecticut River Valley/Berkshires (174mi/280km)

Drive the Jacob's Ladder Trail Scenic Byway, an untouched rural roadway that runs through the Berkshires. Follow the route through forested hills, the rock-strewn Westfield River, open fields, small towns of 19th century architecture, wetlands and steep rock ledges. Take one of the three entries into Chester-Blandford State Forest and enjoy hiking, camping, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in Becket a National Historic Landmark, hosts dance companies from around the world. The outdoor stage has a beautiful view into the Berkshire Hills.

Further north in the Berkshires you'll find Mount Greylock, one of the highlights of the region. At 3,491 feet, it is the highest point in Massachusetts and southern New England, offering fantastic panoramic views into five states. Legend has it that Greylock's long, saddle-like shape inspired Herman Melville to write "Moby Dick".

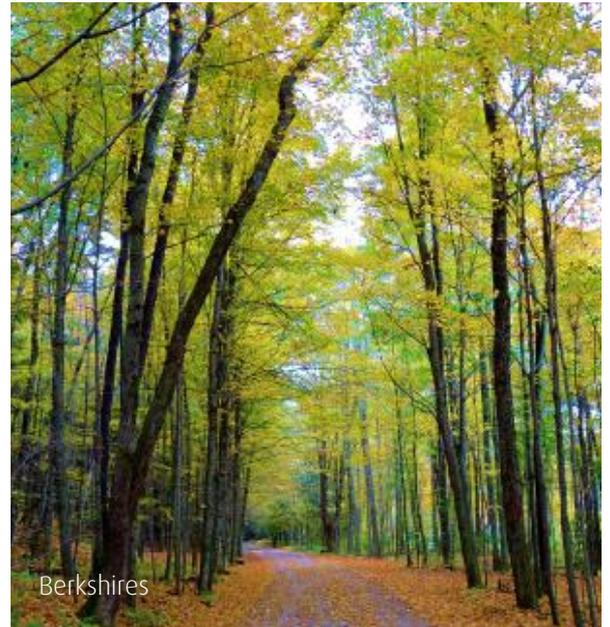
Day 5: The Berkshires - Cape Cod, Massachusetts (186mi/300km)

Cape Cod is larger than most people imagine. The Upper Cape closest to the Massachusetts mainland is home to Sandwich and Falmouth, the location of the famous Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Hyannis, of Kennedy fame, is located Mid-Cape. The narrow portion of land where it bends sharply north is considered the Lower Cape.

The Outer Cape includes the Cape Cod National Seashore, forty miles of pristine sandy beach, marshes, ponds and uplands. Lighthouses, cultural landscapes and wild cranberry bogs offer a glimpse of Cape Cod's past. Whale watching is a must at the right time of year.

Day 6: Cape Cod - Boston (75mi/120km)

En-route visit picturesque Sandwich, the Cape's oldest town, and the Plimoth Plantation at Plymouth - a living Museum of life in 1627 - before driving an hour and a half back to Boston.



Visiting The USA

GUIDE TO STAYING SAFE



Stay Safe

Despite a relatively high crime rate and occasional natural disasters, the USA remains a very safe place to travel. Most crime is concentrated in inner city neighbourhoods in areas that are not frequented by visitors, and is often gang or drug related.

In the US, petty theft would be the greatest concern to travellers. Don't make yourself a target by showing off expensive jewellery and cash in public. Keep your money and credit cards in a safe place. Try to avoid walking dark, deserted streets on your own. Withdraw money from ATMs during the day or in well-lit busy areas at night. Respect the local laws and customs. The same as travelling in any foreign country, your common sense is the most valuable possession you can have.

The USA is an enormous country with varied geography that can be affected by natural disasters. Hurricanes sometimes occur in the south from June through to November; tornadoes occur occasionally in the Great Plains region, earthquakes can occur in California and Alaska, and the extreme heat of midsummer in California has been known to produce wildfires. Keep in mind that these are very wide generalisations and are certainly not guaranteed to happen.

Stay Healthy

The American health system is one of the world's best in terms of quality, but can be very expensive for those without insurance. Most Americans generally have health insurance, otherwise they face expensive hospital bills or depend on the government subsidised health plans. Your comprehensive travel insurance should cover any medical costs including medical evacuation, so make sure that your insurance covers you for the whole time you'll be away and be clear on what is not included, otherwise you might face enormous hospital bills.

In the event of an emergency, call 911 for an ambulance that will take you to the hospital emergency room (ER). Alternatively, walk in to the ER if it is a less urgent situation. For routine medical care, head to a walk-in clinic, where you'll receive regular medical care. Pharmacies and drug stores carry most prescriptions, however, as with most other medical care in the USA it can be expensive, so it's best to have your scripts filled before you go, and carry these medicines along with a letter from your GP explaining your medical needs.

Visiting The USA

MONEY MATTERS



Currency

US Dollar (USD \$) = 100 cents (¢) Notes are in denominations of \$100, \$50, \$20, \$10, \$5, \$2 and \$1. Coins are in denominations of \$1 and 50 (half-dollar), 25 (quarter), 10 (dime), 5 (nickel) and 1 (penny) cents.

Currency Exchange

Available in airports, major banks and bureaux de change. Generally banks are open Mon-Fri 0830-1700.

ATMs

ATMs (automatic teller machines) are located in almost all towns and cities, especially in most banks and accept major credit and debit cards.

Credit & Debit Cards

Most credit and debit cards are accepted throughout the US, including Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Diners Club. It is a good idea to carry at least one major credit card while travelling in the US, since most hotels and car rental companies will require a credit card imprint. Contact your credit card company immediately if your credit card is lost or stolen.

Travellers Cheques

Travellers cheques are widely accepted in the USA, and in US Dollars. Cheques in other currency are generally not accepted. You will need a form of photo identification to use travellers cheques.

Tax

In the US, Sales Tax is added onto the price of goods and services that are purchased within the USA, and is displayed as a percentage of the sale price. Each state has its own rate of sales tax. Some states do not charge any state-wide sales tax, such as Alaska, Montana, Delaware, New Hampshire and Oregon; however local governments within these states may charge local taxes for things such as meals, room occupancies, car rentals and use of electricity.

Tipping

Tipping in the USA is standard practice and indeed often expected. There are different expectations for different industries, so use this as a rough guide:

- Restaurants with table service: tip 15% of the bill, and for exceptional service 15-25%.
- Buffet restaurants: 10-15% of the bill.
- Fast food outlets: tipping is not expected but if the service has been fantastic then tips are appropriate into the tip jar.
- Bar Staff: \$1-\$2 per drink or 15-20% of the total bill.
- Bellman/Porter: \$1-\$2 per bag.
- Concierge: tipping is not expected but for exceptional service tipping is appreciated.
- Taxi Driver: 10-15% of fare.
- Valet Parkers: \$2-\$5 when collecting your car.
- Hairdresser/Manicurist: 10-20%.
- Tour Guides: 15-20% depending on knowledge and friendliness.

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- Maxine, December 2016

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DriveAway Holidays hopes that you find the information in this guide helpful for your self-drive holiday in USA. The touring information has been created to be used as a guide only. All information shown is correct at the time of publication.

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