

# GETTING THE MOST OUT OF A SINGLE WEEKEND: EVENT-, FOOD- AND ACTION-PACKED TRIPS TO SHAKE UP YOUR CAMPING ROUTINE



Generations of family fun.

## **Ex**·plore

/ik splôr/ verb

To travel through an unfamiliar location for the purpose of discovery of, to learn about or familiarize oneself with an area.

## Wan-der-lust

/ wänd r l st/
noun
An irresistible desire to travel.

## So-cial

/ s SH I/

adjective

Relating to activities where people come together for pleasure.

It's true that cabin fever can come about in winter, spring, summer and fall. Sometimes it just takes a quick multi-day trip to recharge the soul—because we all know the best cure for apathy can be to just pack your bags and go.

Next time opportunity strikes, gather your crew, pack your bags, crank some tunes and get away from home. You're an Insta Tripper—it's what you do.

Every corner of the United States is defined by foodand event-centric activities unique to a specific locale. Shake up your camping routine—and your social feeds—with a few of these travel destinations from around North America.

## **SOUTHWEST**

Head south—and bank west—for the desert.



## The place where music, film and technology come to play: South by Southwest® (SXSW®) Conferences & Festivals

This multi-week fest is sure to satisfy your inner innovator, music lover, tech-geek pioneer or art connoisseur—or all of the above—that is waiting to break free. The 30,000 attendees and artists that flocked to Austin, Texas for original music performances, independent film screenings and technology showcases in 2016 validate SXSW's rapidly emerging reputation. Head to the Lone Star State in March for the opportunity to hear and share ideas at a number of keynotes and panels, discover new music and film and generate buzzworthy content for your social streams. You'll find plenty of places to settle into your campground and around the booming state capital that's become known for its amazingly unique blend of outdoor activities, art, innovation and music.

### A geographic masterpiece: Canyonlands National Park

Schedule a weekend drive along U.S. Route 191—the long stretch of highway that spans Arizona, Utah, Wyoming and Montana—and bask in the freedom to dictate your own adventure. A trip to this corner of the country provides visitors with the somewhat eerie feeling of true isolation, just the kind of extreme escape the Insta Tripper craves. Experience a level of freedom akin to the way wind rushes through a wild horse's mane as it gallops through the abandoned stretches of red-rock desert that form the American Southwest. Choose from some of the country's most breathtaking sites, like the Grand Canyon, The Narrows, Zion National Park and Bryce Canyon as stops along the way.

Or set up a campground in Canyonlands National Park, occupied by the breathtaking canyons, mesas, pinnacles, cliffs and spires that stretch more than 527 square miles of space. Drive, walk or mountain bike through Canyonlands, abutted by Arches National Park—and do your best to find a campsite with a view of the spectacular sunset. You'll head home after your trip with dirt under your fingernails that you just might not want to wash away.



## **NORTHWEST**

The region where wild salmon run free.

## Discovering wine country: St. Helena Highway

Schedule a trip through a stretch of Napa County wineries along State Route 29. Set up camp in one of the many parks or campgrounds and you won't have to venture far to the region's many famed wineries like the Robert Mondavi Winery, St. Clement Vineyards or Charles Krug Winery—to name a few. Turn off of the highway to visit the Reserve Tasting Bar in the Rhine House at one of the oldest wineries in Napa Valley: Beringer Vineyards. Take a daytrip up to Mt. St. Helena Trail Head in Robert Louis Stevenson State Park, a 25-minute drive up St. Helena Highway from Beringer Vineyards, and make time for the five-mile hike to the summit of Mt. St. Helena.

### Slip into the Geothermal at the Terwilliger Hot Springs

Schedule a weekend to lose track of time at the Terwilliger Hot Springs, also known as the Cougar Hot Springs in the Willamette National Forest in northwestern Oregon. It's the kind of wooded, stream-strewn setting campers dream of. After walking a half-mile through the forest, you'll approach the blissful pools that are open year-round. Pack a towel and enough water to spend the day soaking in the healing pools.

### Garibaldi Provincial Park: British Columbia, Canada

Pack your hiking boots, get your online permit and reserve your spot at <a href="the-Garibaldi Lake">the Garibaldi Lake</a> campsite settled in <a href="Garibaldi Provincial Park">Garibaldi Provincial Park</a>. The year-round lakeside, wilderness hiking oasis is chock-full of trails and picturesque landscapes like Mount Garibaldi, the Panorama Ridge, the Black Tusk and Elfin Lakes. Pack a camera to snap pictures of turquoise blue shores abutted by snowcapped mountains. Plan in advance if you can—the lakeside campsite tends to fill up quickly on summer weekends.



## **MIDWEST**

Where cheese reigns king.

### Cheese curd crawl: Madison, Wisc.

Foodies—assemble! Cheese connoisseurs should head to places like <u>Graze</u>, <u>The Old Fashioned</u> and <u>The Tipsy Cow</u> to gather around baskets of artisan cheese curds. Try one—or sample them all—and spend time with your crew. Head to the <u>Dane County Farmers' Market</u> on Madison's Capitol Square for fresh produce, meats, cheeses, flowers and more between April and November. Reserve your campsite just north of town in Wisconsin's biggest state park: <u>Devil's Lake State Park</u> in Baraboo, Wisc. There you can hike a 6.7-mile trail covering 500-foot quartzite bluffs and a 360-acre lake that's a one-hour drive from Madison and open between July and November.

If you have some extra days, pack your bags for a camping trip to Bayfield. Immerse yourself in picturesque beaches, cliffs and lighthouses in the Apostle Islands, situated at the northern tip of Wisconsin and on the bluest-colored shores of Lake Superior. Novice or experienced golfers should head to the <u>Madeline Island Golf Club</u>, located on the largest of the Apostle's 23 islands, for an 18-hole course that won't disappoint.

## Protected geology: Badlands National Park

Hike and camp around the <u>Badlands National Park</u> in South Dakota to experience one of the world's richest fossil beds packed into a massive 244,000-acre space. Take the weekend to spot animals like bison, bighorn sheep and prairie dogs that roam the protected park grounds.



## **EAST COAST**

The stretch of states home to the country's best oysters.

## Fall in love with fall along the Kancamagus Scenic Byway

Settled in the White Mountains, the Kancamagus Scenic Byway spans a 34.5-mile segment of Route 112 in New Hampshire. Plan a trip to experience history, culture and nature at the Sabbaday Falls, Lower Falls or Rocky Gorge. Immerse yourself in a densely populated forest of trees—and try to drive down during fall, when the trees are peppered with orange, red and yellow hues; just imagine camping under autumn's finest canopy. You may even forget the fact that the weather is fading away from summer. Choose from one of six surrounding local campgrounds to turn the drive into a weekend trip.

A trip to the East Coast in fall puts you in that part of the country at the heat of oyster season. Experts recommend eating oysters when it's colder—from September through April. Yogis traveling to the East Coast in fall should pack their mats for a number of yoga festivals in the area. Head to the <a href="Hamptons Yoga Fest">Hamptons Yoga Fest</a> in mid-September, the <a href="Floyd Yoga Jam">Floyd Yoga Jam</a> in early September or the <a href="Wanderlust 108">Wanderlust 108</a> in mid-to-late September—with multiple locations in Brooklyn and Washington, D.C.

## When pure joy is in bloom: Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C.

Schedule a camping trip in spring and head to <u>Cherry Hill Park</u>, a campground nestled a short drive from Washington, D.C. Then drive, or catch public transportation, back to the city for a festival that you won't forget. A symbol of friendship sent to the United States from Japan in 1912, Washington, D.C.'s cherry blossom trees bloom around the last week of March through the beginning of April. The festival marks the few precious days in spring when soft pink buds appear on once barren brown cherry tree branches along the shores of the Potomac. A trip to see the iconic cherry blossoms requires a bit of specific planning. Experts schedule a "peak bloom" date when they expect 70 percent of the flowers to be visible. While the festival lands on just one day, locals will tell you the cherry blossom blooming period can be enjoyed for a week or two in spring.





## THE SOUTH

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Where you don't need boots, a horse or cattle to feel like a cowboy.

### A weekend in Nashville

Nestled in the Cumberland River watershed, lush rolling hills and a pleasant climate (except for the occasional summer heatwave) make for great camping without ever being too far from the food, cocktails, music and lights this southern gem has to offer. After you set up your campsite at <a href="Loretta Lynn's Ranch">Loretta Lynn's Ranch</a> located outside of Davidson County, head to the <a href="Nashville Farmers">Nashville Farmers</a> Market—a citywide must-see since the early 1800s—and stock up on local goods from farmers, flea merchants and artisans year-round.

Settle in, with a napkin on your lap and a tall glass of ice-cold sweet tea next to your plate, for southern lifeblood: hot chicken.

### **New Orleans syncopated sound**

Head to New Orleans West KOA, open year round, to settle into a campground that's located close to the French Quarter. The New Orleans campgrounds, on the shores of the Mississippi River, are just a short drive away from live entertainment—for everyone. Artists representing genres like jazz, hip-hop, pop, blues, rock, indie and more all congregate in The Big Easy for two weekends packed with entertainment that anyone will enjoy. Head to New Orleans in mid- to late-April to nom on local favorites like gumbo, crawfish and beignets and take in the city's zesty cuisine and never-ending nightlife that complement its dynamic music scene.



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