



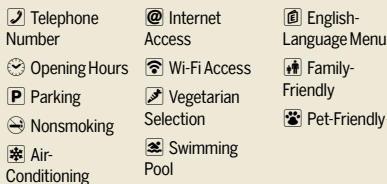
SOUTHWEST USA'S
BEST TRIPS
32 AMAZING
ROAD TRIPS

A large blue diamond-shaped graphic with a white border and a white double-line border. The text is centered within the diamond. "SOUTHWEST USA'S" and "BEST TRIPS" are in white, uppercase, sans-serif font. "32" is in a large, bold, yellow font. "AMAZING ROAD TRIPS" is in a smaller, white, uppercase, sans-serif font. Two horizontal dashed yellow lines separate the top text from the bottom text.

This edition written and researched by

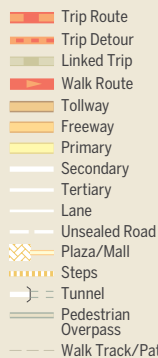
Amy C Balfour,
Michael Benanav, Greg Benchwick,
Ryan Ver Berkmoes, Lisa Dunford,
Mariella Krause, Carolyn McCarthy

SYMBOLS IN THIS BOOK



MAP LEGEND

Routes



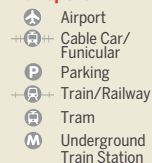
Boundaries



Population



Transport



Trips



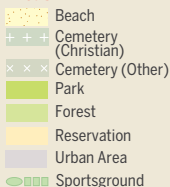
Highway Route Markers



Hydrography



Areas



PLAN YOUR TRIP

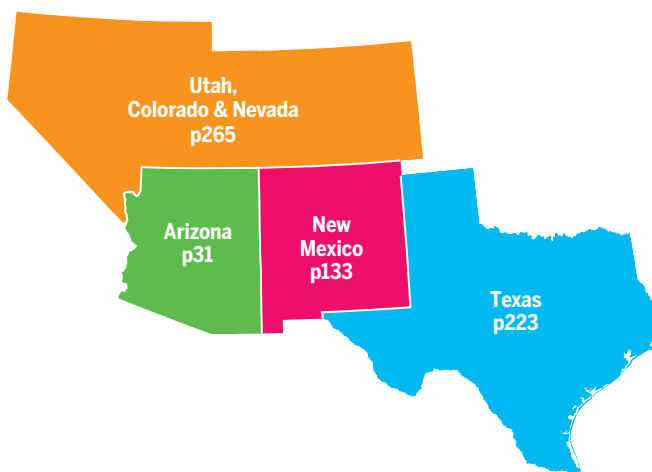
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Ryan Ver Berkmoes Ryan grew up in Santa Cruz, California, the sort of goofball beachtown place that made him immediately love Port Aransas. An inveterate wanderer, he was most at home on the hundreds of miles of Texas backroads he traversed for this book. Whether it was discovering a forgotten town on Texas Hwy 70 or driving to the literal end of the road to (happily!) check out still another empty Gulf Coast beach, he relished every click on the odometer.

My Favorite Trip **24** **Heart of Texas** for the wide open spaces that are iconic of the American Southwest. Tumbleweeds, unbroken horizons and ribbons of lonely asphalt.

Read more about Ryan at:
www.lonelyplanet.com/members/ryanvb



Greg Benchwick A Colorado native, Greg's been all over the Centennial State. Greg taught skiing in Vail, walked through fire-pits in campsites across the state and attended journalism school in Boulder. He calls Denver's Highlands home.

My Favorite Trip **31** **Colorado's High Country Byways** takes me over Independence Pass from Aspen to Leadville, past towering alpenglow peaks and quaking trees and shimmering lakes.

Read more about Greg at:
www.lonelyplanet.com/members/gbenchwick



Lisa Dunford Moving every two years put Lisa on the road at a young age – and she's been traveling ever since. From the first time she saw the incredible red rocks of Utah nearly 10 years ago, she's been returning over and over again.

My Favorite Trip **25** **Zion & Bryce National Parks** for amazing Zion hiking and the perfect park town of Springdale.

Read more about Lisa at:
www.lonelyplanet.com/members/lisa_dunford



Mariella Krause Mariella first fell in love with Austin when she checked out the UT campus during her junior year of high school. After college, she intended to live 'everywhere,' but felt so at home in Austin that she accidentally stayed for 15 years. Mariella will always consider Texas home, and she still sprinkles her language with Texanisms whenever possible, much to the amusement of those who don't consider 'y'all' a legitimate pronoun.

My Favorite Trip **22** **Big Bend Area Scenic Loop** because there's so much to see, including far-away constellations, funky art installations, mysterious ghost lights, and even bears.



Carolyn McCarthy Carolyn fell for the Rockies as an undergraduate at Colorado College, where she spent her first break camping in a blizzard in the Sangre de Cristo Range. For this title she sampled the craft beers of four states, tracked wolves and heard even more Old West ghost stories. Carolyn has contributed to over 20 Lonely Planet titles, specializing in the American West and Latin America, and has written for *National Geographic*, *Outside*, *Lonely Planet Magazine* and other publications.

My Favorite Trip **30** **San Juan Skyway & Million Dollar Highway** – nothing beats southern Colorado in summer!

Read more about Carolyn at:
www.lonelyplanet.com/members/carolynmcc

OUR WRITERS



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end –

broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

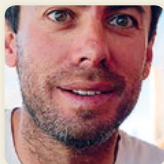
Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Melbourne, London and Oakland, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.



Amy C Balfour, Co-ordinating Author Amy has hiked, biked, skied and gambled her way across the Southwest. In Nevada, her favorite meal was a burger at Middlegate Station on the Loneliest Road. At Grand Canyon National Park she enjoyed a return trip to Phantom Ranch, hiking down the South Kaibab Trail from the South Rim and up the Bright Angel. Amy has authored or co-authored more than 15 books for Lonely Planet and has written for *Backpacker*, *Every Day* with Rachael Ray, *Redbook*, *Southern Living* and *Women's Health*.

My Favorite Trip 32 **Hwy 50: The Loneliest Road** for Pony Express history, offbeat attractions and the Middlegate burger.

Read more about Amy at:
www.lonelyplanet.com/members/amycbalfour



Michael Benav Michael came to New Mexico in 1992, fell under its spell, and ended up moving to a village in the Sangre de Cristo foothills where he still lives. He's spent years exploring the mountains, deserts and rivers here as a wilderness instructor – and has driven all over state, on all kinds of roads, to reach them. Aside from his work for Lonely Planet, he's authored two non-fiction books and writes and photographs for magazines and newspapers.

My Favorite Trip 13 **Georgia O'Keeffe Country** for the colors, and the joy of the drive itself.

Read more about Michael at:
www.lonelyplanet.com/members/mbenav



MORE WRITERS

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SOUTHWEST
USA

Classic Trips





5

What is a Classic Trip

All the trips in this book show you the best of Southwest USA, but we've chosen seven as our all-time favorites. These are our Classic Trips – the ones that lead you to the best of the iconic sights, the top activities and the unique Southwest experiences. Turn the page to see the map, and look out for the Classic Trip stamp throughout the book.

2 **Route 66: The Southwest** 'Get your kitsch' on this iconic drive.

5 **Fantastic Canyon Voyage** The Colorado River winds through the awesome canyon it carved over millennia.

31 **San Juan Skyway & Million Dollar Highway** Golden aspens colour the San Juan Mountains in fall.



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