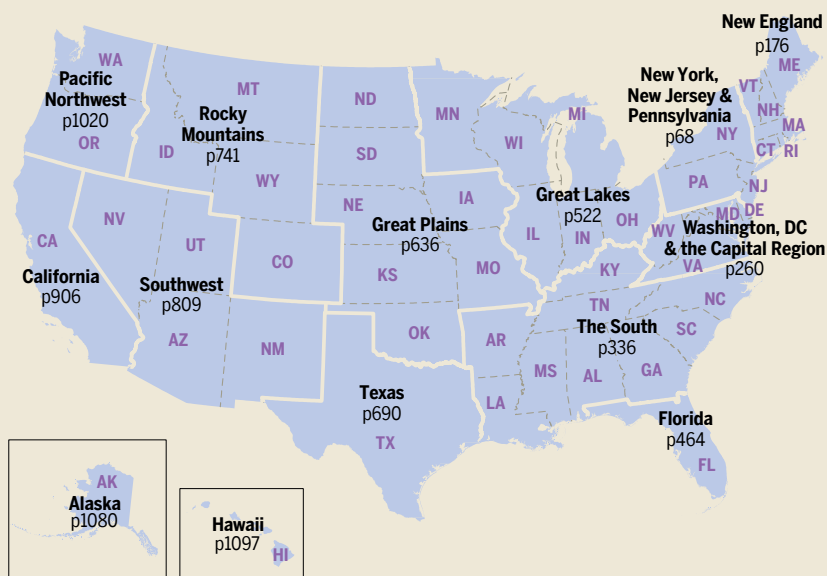




USA



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Itineraries



2-3
WEEKS

East Coasting

The great dynamo of art, fashion and culture, **New York City** is America at her most urbane. Spend four days exploring the metropolis, visiting memorable people-watching 'hoods such as the West and East Villages, the Lower East Side, Soho, Nolita and the Upper West Side, with a museum-hop down the Upper East Side. Have a ramble in Central Park, stroll the High Line and take detours to Brooklyn and Queens. After big-city culture, catch your breath at the pretty beaches and seaside eateries of **Greenport** and **Montauk** on Long Island. Back in NYC, catch the train to **Boston** for two days visiting historic sights, dining in the North End and pub-hopping in Cambridge. Strike out for **Cape Cod**, with its idyllic dunes, forests and pretty shores. Leave time for **Provincetown**, the Cape's liveliest settlement. Back in Boston, hire a car and take a three-day jaunt taking in New England's back roads, covered bridges, picturesque towns and beautiful scenery, staying at heritage B&Bs en route. Highlights include **Salem** and **Concord** in Massachusetts; **Bennington**, VT; and **Portsmouth**, NH. If time allows, head all the way up to **Maine** for lobster feasts amid beautifully rugged coastline. **Portland** is a great place to start.

3
WEEKS

Northern Exposure

For a different take on the transcontinental journey, plan a route through the north. From **New York City**, head southwest to historic **Philadelphia**, then continue west to the idyllic backroads of Pennsylvania Dutch Country. Next is **Pittsburgh**, a surprising town of picturesque bridges and green spaces, cutting-edge museums and lively neighborhoods. Enter Ohio by interstate, but quickly step back in time on a drive through old-fashioned Amish Country. Big-hearted **Chicago** is the Midwest's greatest metropolis. Stroll or bike the lakefront, marvel at famous artwork and grand architecture, and check out the celebrated restaurant scene. Head north to **Madison**, a youthful green-loving university town.

Detour north to the land of 10,000 lakes (aka Minnesota) for a stop in friendly, arty **Minneapolis**, followed by a visit to its quieter historic twin, St Paul, across the river. Return to I-90 and activate cruise control, admiring the corn (and the **Corn Palace**) and the flat, flat South Dakota plains. Hit the brakes for the **Badlands National Park** and plunge into the Wild West. In the **Black Hills**, contemplate the nation's complex history at the massive monuments of Mt Rushmore and Crazy Horse, then make a northern detour to watch mythic gunfights in **Deadwood**.

Halfway across Wyoming, cruise into **Cody** to catch a summer rodeo. Then take in the wonders of **Yellowstone National Park**. Next, detour south for hikes past jewel-like lakes and soaring peaks in **Grand Teton National Park**. Drive back up north, and continue west through rural Montana. The outdoorsy towns of **Bozeman** and **Missoula** make fun stops either side of exploring the alpine beauty of **Glacier National Park** and trekking through the **Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex**.

After a few days out in the wild, surprising **Spokane** is a great place to recharge, with a pleasant riverfront and historic district sprinkled with enticing eating and drinking spots. For more cosmopolitan flavor, keep heading west to **Seattle**, a forward-thinking, ecominded city with cafe culture, abundant nightlife and speedy island escapes on Puget Sound. If you still have time, the region has some great places to explore, including **Mt Rainier**, **Olympic National Park** and the **San Juan Islands**.



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IAN DIGNALL / ALAMY ©

Above: Philadelphia
Left: Motown Museum,
Detroit



4 WEEKS Coast to Coast

The Great American road trip: it's been mythologized hundreds of ways. Now live the dream, driving the length and breadth of the USA. Start in **New York City** (but hire a car in cheaper New Jersey) and hit the road. First stop: **Philadelphia**, a historic city with a burgeoning food, art and music scene. Continue on to **Washington, DC**. The nation's capital has a dizzying array of sights, plus great dining and revelry after the museums close. Continue south through Virginia, taking a detour to visit the historic settlement of colonial **Williamsburg**. Stick to the coast as you drive south, visiting **Cape Hatteras** with its pristine dunes, marshes and woodlands. Catch the ferry to remote **Ocracoke Island**, where the wild ponies run. Further down, take in the antebellum allure of **Charleston** and **Savannah**. Afterward stop in **Splinter Hill Bog** in Alabama, a fantastic site for exploring the biodiversity of the coast. Next, it's on to jazz-loving **New Orleans**, with a soundtrack of smokin' hot funk brass bands, and succulent Cajun and Creole food.

The big open skies of Texas are next. Hit the beach at **Galveston** outside Houston. Follow the Mission Trail and stroll the tree-lined riverwalk in thriving **San Antonio**, then revel in the great music and drinking scene in **Austin**. Afterward, eat your way through scenic Hill Country, stop for art and star-filled nights at **Marfa**, and then hike through jaw-dropping **Big Bend National Park**. Head north to New Mexico, following the Turquoise Trail up to artsy **Santa Fe** and far-out **Taos**. Roll up through Colorado and into mountain-beauty **Durango**, continuing to the Amerindian cliff-top marvel of **Mesa Verde** and the curious four-state intersection of the **Four Corners**. The awe-inspiring **Grand Canyon** is next. Stay in the area to maximize time near this great wonder. Try your luck amid the bright lights of (luck be a lady tonight?) **Las Vegas**, then take in the stunning desert landscapes at **Death Valley** on your ride into California. From there, head up into the majestic forests of the **Eastern Sierra**, followed by hiking and wildlife-watching in **Yosemite**, California's most revered national park. The last stop is in hilly **San Francisco**, an enchanting city spread between ocean and bay with beautiful vistas, fascinating neighborhoods to explore and seemingly endless cultural attractions. If there's time, tack on a grand finale, enjoying the vineyards and gourmet produce of **Napa Valley**.



2
WEEKS

Off the Beaten Path

Underdog cities, lakeside islands and boot-scootin' mountain music are just a few of the things you'll encounter on this off-the-beaten-path ramble around the central US. Start off in **Detroit**, which isn't quite the apocalyptic landscape it's sometimes made it out to be. Stroll the riverwalk, explore recent history (Motown, automobiles) and take in the River City's underground nightlife scene. Next head to nearby **Ann Arbor**, with its easy-going college-town charm (coffee shops, farmers markets, pubby bars), before continuing west to Lake Michigan. Drive up through waterfront towns (stopping perhaps in **Saugatuck** for gallery-hopping) and continue all the way to **Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore**, with its dramatic sandscapes, scenic drives and wilderness-covered islands.

From there backtrack to **Ludington** and take the ferry across Lake Michigan to **Manitowoc** in Wisconsin. Continue south to **Milwaukee**, one of the best little cities in America, with great art and architecture, abundant microbreweries, summer festivals and memorable riverfront cycling. From there, it's a 4½-hour drive south to **Springfield**, where you can delve into the fascinating past of hometown hero (and America's favorite president) Abraham Lincoln. Two hours' drive south is **St Louis**, with walkable neighborhoods and green spaces (including a park that dwarfs Central Park), plus blues, barbecue and bumping music joints. Speaking of music, up next is **Nashville**, a mecca for lovers of country and blues. Head toward Appalachia (start in **Floyd, VA**) for an authentic music scene – a frenzy of fiddles, banjos and boot-stompin' – amid the rolling hills of southeastern Virginia. Continue north to **Fayetteville** in West Virginia, gateway to the breathtaking **New River Gorge**, which has superb hiking, climbing, mountain biking and whitewater rafting.

A five-hour drive takes you to the epicenter of America's largest Amish community in **Amish Country** near Kidron in Ohio. Step back in time at antique shops, old-fashioned farms and bakeries, and quaint 19th-century inns. Afterwards, fast-forward into **Cleveland**, a city on the cusp of reinvention with up-and-coming gastropubs, newly expanded art museums, green markets and the massive Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. It's less than three hours back to Detroit.

Map Legend

Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Body surfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkeling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- BART station
- Border crossing
- Boston T station
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro/Muni station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- Subway/SkyTrain station
- Taxi
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



Mara Vorhees

New England Born and raised in St Clair Shores, Michigan, Mara traveled the world (if not the universe) before finally settling in the Hub. She spent several years pushing papers and tapping keys at Harvard University, but she has since embraced the life of a full-time travel writer, covering destinations as diverse as Russia and Belize. She lives in a pink house in Somerville, Massachusetts with her husband, two kiddies and two kitties. She is often seen eating doughnuts in Union Square and pedaling her bike

along the Charles River. Mara is the author of Lonely Planet's guides to New England and *New England's Best Trips*, among other titles. Follow her adventures online at www.havetwinstilltravel.com.

Read more about Mara at:

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Greg Ward

Southwest Greg Ward has been exploring the deserts of the Southwest for more than twenty years and has written several guidebooks to the region. He also writes extensively about history, music and European destinations. He lives in London, and his website is gregward.info.



Karla Zimmerman

Washington, DC & the Capital Region, Great Lakes As a life-long Midwesterner, Karla is well versed in the region's beaches, ballparks, breweries and pie shops. When she's not home in Chicago watching the Cubs, and writing for magazines, websites and books, she's out exploring. For this gig, she curled in Minnesota, caught a wave in Michigan, heard the curds squeak in Wisconsin and drank an embarrassing number of milkshakes in Ohio. She also covers DC, where she

never fails to shake hands with Racing Abe Lincoln at Nationals Park. Karla has written for several Lonely Planet guides to the USA, Canada, Caribbean and Europe.

**Adam Karlin**

The South, Florida Adam has written around 50 guidebooks for Lonely Planet and he always enjoys exploring his native stomping grounds: the US. On this trip, he stumbled into Key West secret gardens, discovered Miami speakeasies, took shots with Birmingham bartenders, weathered tornado watches in Mississippi cotton shacks, found pizza on Arkansas mountain tops, listened to music in dozens of Louisiana bars, paddled through clear Florida mangrove channels and ate

a lot of barbeque. He wants you to know that there is a lot of good light in the world, but the way it attaches to a late spring day in the South is something else.

**Becky Ohlsen**

Rocky Mountains Becky Ohlsen grew up in the Rockies and seizes every chance she gets to explore the region. She has a huge crush on the Tetons, believes that jackalopes are real and likes to watch a storm roll in across a far-away horizon.

**Zora O'Neill**

New York, New Jersey & Pennsylvania Zora O'Neill has lived in New York City since 1998 – far from her home state of New Mexico, but very close to where, as a kid and the daughter of a New Jersey native, she spent a week nearly every summer 'down the shore,' eating pizza and fried scallops. Zora has written guidebooks since 2002; for Lonely Planet, she has covered Amsterdam, southern Spain and Egypt. She is online at www.rovinggastronome.com.

Read more about Zora at:

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**Kevin Raub**

The South, Florida Kevin Raub grew up in Atlanta and started his career as a music journalist in New York, working for *Men's Journal* and *Rolling Stone* magazines. He ditched the rock 'n' roll lifestyle for travel writing and moved to Brazil. Living outside the country, it's fair to say he immensely enjoyed gorging on Nashville hot chicken, Memphis BBQ, craft beer out the wazoo and various other unmentionables on his voyage through the Southern US. This is Kevin's 34th Lonely Planet guide. Follow

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Read more about Kevin at:

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**Brendan Sainsbury**

Alaska An expat Brit from Hampshire, England, now living near Vancouver, Canada; Brendan has long relished the 'thrill' of masochistic endurance events in remote wilderness areas and thus jumped at the chance to cover Alaska for Lonely Planet. He particularly relished getting his hands numb in Nome, re-reading Jack London, and bussing it along the Top of the World Highway from Chicken to the Yukon. When not scribbling research notes for Lonely Planet in countries such as Cuba, Peru, Spain

and Canada, Brendan likes refining his cross-country skiing technique, strumming old Clash songs on the guitar and experiencing the pain and occasional pleasures of following Southampton Football Club.

**Ryan Ver Berkmoes**

Great Plains Ryan first drove across the Great Plains with his family in the 1960s. Among the treasured memories are marveling at the Jackalope at Wall Drugs in South Dakota and which he relived when he tried riding the big one out back this year. Through the years he never passes up a chance to wander the backroads of America's heartland finding beauty and intrigue where you least expect it. Find more at www.ryanverberkmoes.com; @ryanvb



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 Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



Regis St Louis

Coordinating Author; New York, New Jersey & Pennsylvania; Washington, DC & the Capital Region; Texas A Hoosier by birth, Regis grew up in a sleepy riverside town where he dreamed of big-city intrigue. He's lived all over the US (including New York City, San Francisco, Los Angeles and New Orleans), and has crossed the country by train, bus and car while visiting remote corners of America.

Favorite memories from his most recent trip include crab feasting on Maryland's eastern shore, hiking through striking state parks in west Texas, catching music jams in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia and going eye-to-eye with wild horses on Assateague Island. Regis has contributed to more than 50 Lonely Planet titles, including *New York City* and *Washington, DC*. Regis also wrote the Plan Your Trip, Understand and Survival Guide sections of this guide.



Amy Balfour

New England, The South Amy has hiked, biked and paddled her way across the US. Raised in the South, she's been visiting the Outer Banks since childhood and for this trip she backpacked along the Appalachian Trail in the Great Smokies. In New Hampshire she explored the White Mountains and tackled Mt Monadnock for the first time. She has authored 26 guidebooks for Lonely Planet and has written for *Backpacker*, *Redbook*, *Southern Living* and the *Washington Post*.



Sandra Bao

Pacific Northwest Sandra has lived in Buenos Aires, New York and California, but the glorious Pacific Northwest has become her final stop. Researching this region has been a highlight of Sandra's 15-year-long authoring career with Lonely Planet, which has covered four continents and dozens of guidebooks. She's come to appreciate the beauty of this region, how much it has to offer and how friendly people can be in those tiny towns in the middle of nowhere.



Sara Benson

California, Hawaii After graduating from college, Sara jumped on a plane to California with just one suitcase and \$100 in her pocket. After driving tens of thousands of miles to every corner of the state, she settled on the sunny side of San Francisco Bay in Oakland. The author of more than 65 travel and nonfiction books, Sara's latest adventures are online at www.indietraveler.blogspot.com, www.indietraveler.net, @indie_traveler on Twitter and indietraveler on Instagram.

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