**MONO LAKE**
A unique and fragile ecosystem that nurtures vast populations of migratory birds, its mirrored surface reflects stark Sierra peaks. Paddle around the eerie tufa formations or hike the shores of this massive alkaline lake.

**BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK**
The Wild West lives on in this sprawling high-altitude ghost town, where hundreds of decaying wooden buildings bring to life a lawless 19th-century mining boomtown.

**MAMMOTH LAKES**
A four-season recreation hot spot, this town is catnip for the outdoorsy set. Shred fresh powder at the Mammoth Mountain resort, soak in natural hot springs and ramble along its phenomenal hiking trails.

**MERCEDE RIVER**
Bounce and splash through white-water rapids in the spectacular Merced River Canyon. When the Sierra snowmelt courses from the mountains, springtime rafting reaches its frothy apex.

**ALABAMA HILLS**
There are dozens of weird and wonderful shapes to look out for while exploring these otherworldly rock formations.

**MT WHITNEY**
West of Lone Pine, the jagged incisors of the Sierra surge skyward in all their raw and fierce glory, topping off at the highest summit in the contiguous US.