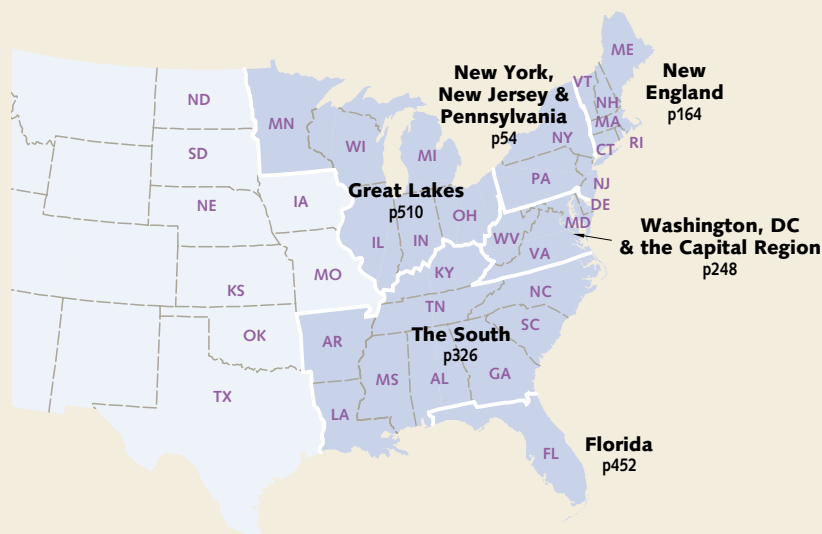




Eastern USA



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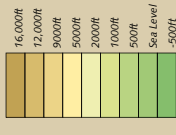
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Eastern USA



ELEVATION



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Blue Ridge Parkway

Sublime drive through
the Appalachians (p334)

Great Smoky Mountains

Misty, forested,
most-visited park (p345)

Walt Disney World

The world's
greatest theme park (p502)

Everglades National Park

Seek alligators
in the swamp (p472)

Florida Keys

Coral reefs and
a helluva party (p475)

Miami

Chic, sexy,
Latin-spiced culture (p457)

New Orleans

Sazerac-soaked
Cajun banquet (p428)

Itineraries



2
WEEKS

Best of the Northeast

The great dynamo of art, fashion and culture, **New York City** is America at her most urbane. Spend three days blending touristy must-dos – Top of the Rock viewpoint, Upper East Side art museums, Central Park rambling – with vibrant nightlife and dining adventures, perhaps in the East Village. After big-city culture, catch your breath at the pretty beaches and enticing charms of the **Hamptons** 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. Rent a car and drive to **Cape Cod**, with its idyllic dunes, forests and pretty shores. Leave time for **Provincetown**, the Cape's liveliest settlement. Then set off for 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**, Vermont; and **Portsmouth**, New Hampshire. If time allows, head onward to Maine for lobster feasts amid beautifully rugged coastline – **Portland** is a fine place to start.



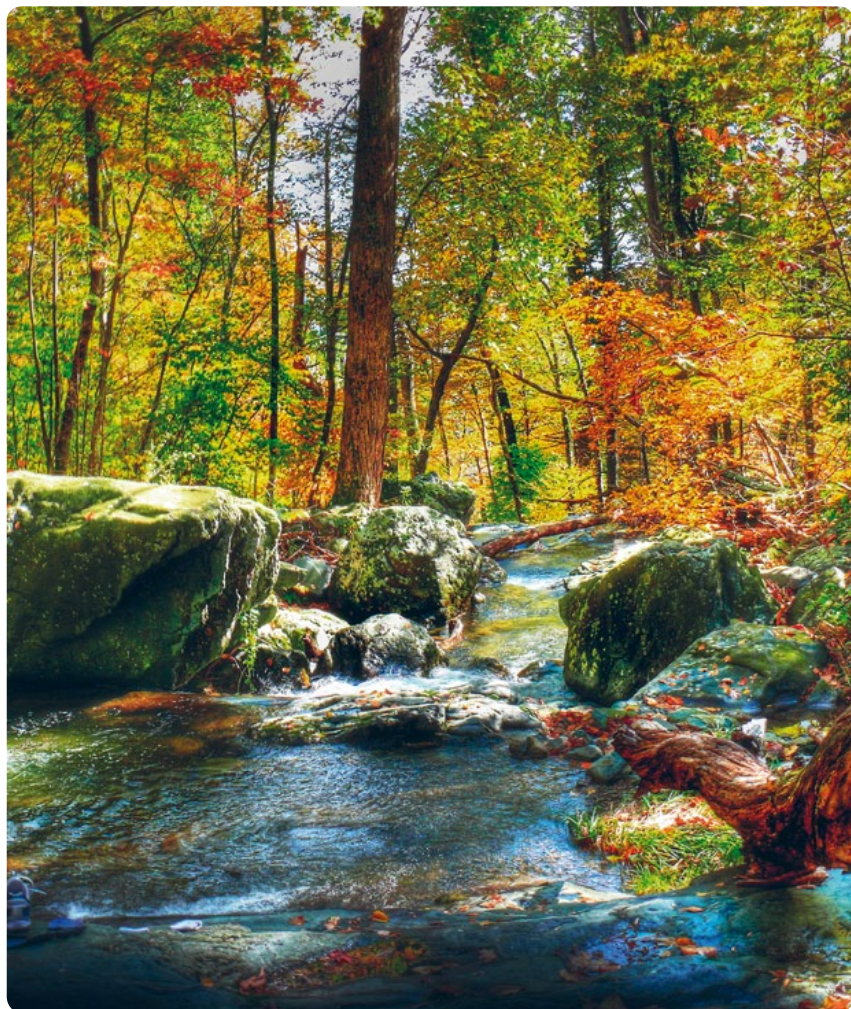
Eastern Grand Tour

This road trip loops around the East through towns big and small. Start in **New York City** (but hire a car cheaper in New Jersey) and hit the road for week one. Head west toward **Lancaster** to explore the idyllic back roads of Pennsylvania Dutch Country. Next is **Pittsburgh**, a surprising town of picturesque bridges and cutting-edge museums. Enter Ohio by interstate, but quickly step back in time amid the horses, buggies and byways of **Amish Country**. See the skyscrapers rising on the horizon? That's big-shouldered **Chicago**. Hang out for a few days to marvel at famous artworks and steely architecture, and chow through the city's celebrated restaurant scene.

For week two, motor south from Chicago on old Route 66, at least for a few time-warped, pie-filled miles. **Memphis** is the next destination, a mecca for Elvis fans, barbecue connoisseurs, civil-rights students and blues-music buffs alike. Follow the Great River Road south from here through juke-jointed **Clarksdale**, the Civil War battlegrounds of **Vicksburg** and the antebellum mansions of **Natchez**. It's not far now to **New Orleans**, where – Hurricane Katrina be damned – you can still hear live jazz, consult with a voodoo priestess or even ride a steamboat on the Mississippi River.

Begin journeying back east for week three. Wheel along the Gulf Coast to the azalea-lined boulevards of **Mobile**, then inland to **Montgomery**, where museums honor civil-rights pioneers like Rosa Parks, who refused to give up her seat to a white man on a city bus. Fall under the spell of **Savannah's** live oaks and **Charleston's** pastel architecture and decadent food. Take your pick of **Durham** or **Chapel Hill**, side-by-side university towns offering groovy nightlife.

Begin week four brushing up on your history in Virginia. Visit **Jamestown**, where Pocahontas helped the New World's first English settlement survive, then wander through the 18th century at nearby **Williamsburg**. A pair of big cities completes the route: **Washington, DC**, is a museum free-for-all, while **Philadelphia** fires up the Liberty Bell, Ben Franklin and the mighty, meaty cheesesteak. Finally, it's back to the neon lights of NYC.



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Above: Shenandoah National Park (p315)

Left: City skyline, Boston (p169)



3
WEEKS

Bright Lights, Big Cities

For big, brawny, bold metropolises, the East is your place. Begin with a few days in history-rich **Boston**. Walk the Freedom Trail past Paul Revere's house. Hang out in Harvard Sq's cafes and bookshops, and chow down in North End trattorias and oyster houses. Then catch the train to **New York City**. With four days, you can indulge in iconic Manhattan and beyond. Stroll Central Park, walk the canyons of Wall St, go bohemian in Greenwich Village and catch a ferry to the Statue of Liberty. For a more local scene, join residents on the High Line, in NoLita's stylish shops and in Brooklyn's cool cafes.

Next hop a train to **Philadelphia**, which is practically down the block from NYC. Philly was the birthplace of American independence, and has the Liberty Bell and Declaration of Independence artifacts to prove it. Spend a few days touring the historic sites and indulging in foodie neighborhoods like Manayunk. Don't leave the northeast without spending a few days in **Washington, DC**, a quick trip by bus or train. Beyond the staggering number of free museums and monuments – the Air and Space Museum and Lincoln Memorial among them – the US capital has rich dining and drinking scenes in Georgetown, Dupont Circle and along U St. Who knows what politico might be swirling a Scotch next to you?

It's a long haul to **Miami** (flying is the easy way to go), so allocate four days to get your money's worth exploring the exotic museums and galleries, the art-deco district, Little Havana and sexy, sultry South Beach. For a change of pace, day-trip to the **Everglades** and commune with alligators. Keep the Southern thing going in jazz-loving **New Orleans**, with a soundtrack of smokin'-hot funk/brass bands and the sizzle of Cajun and Creole food. Three days of heavy eating with locals in Uptown, the Central Business District, Faubourg Marigny and the Bywater should do it.

Last, but not least, **Chicago** leaps up; the *City of New Orleans* train is a scenic way to arrive. Bike to the beach, see mod art in Millennium Park and plug into the blues. Chicago rocks, like the rest of the East's big cities.



The Great Outdoors

This trip is for those who like their nature ancient and wild. **Shenandoah National Park** rolls out the welcome mat: this sliver of gorgeousness straddles the Blue Ridge Mountains, so-named for their color when glimpsed in the hazy cerulean distance. Besides scenic drives, hiking is the big to-do here. Five hundred miles of paths – including 100 miles of the Appalachian Trail – wind by spring wildflowers, summer waterfalls and fiery autumn leaves. More activities await a few hours west at **Monongahela National Forest**, where you can strap on ropes for Seneca Rocks or a bicycle helmet for the Greenbrier River Trail. Adventure-sports enthusiasts will find their wet-and-wild bliss nearby at **New River Gorge National River**. Outfitters provide white-water rafting gear for the infamous Class V rapids.

Next up: **Great Smoky Mountains National Park**. Though it's the USA's most popular patch of parkland, you can leave most of the crowds behind if you're willing to hike or paddle (studies have shown that 95% of tourists here never venture more than 100 yards from their cars!). After a day spent in the wilderness surrounded by lush, heather-colored peaks, there's nothing quite like arriving in **Gatlinburg**, the park's kitschy base. Prepare for fudge shops, *Ripley's Believe It or Not* oddities and moonshine distilleries.

So goes the first week. Now it's time to fuel up for the twisty drive through the mountains and across to the coast, where the **Outer Banks** pay off big. Laid-back beach towns full of locally owned ice-cream shops and mom-and-pop motels dot the windswept barrier islands. Check out **Cape Hatteras**, with its unspoiled dunes, marshes and woodlands, or catch the ferry to remote **Ocracoke Island**, where the wild ponies run. Speaking of which: more wild horses roam **Assateague Island**, which floats to the north between Virginia and Maryland. It too offers brilliant, secluded beaches and a landscape ripe for birding, kayaking, crabbing and fishing.

Still craving surf and sand? Family-friendly, gay-friendly **Rehoboth Beach** bestows traditional gingerbread houses, kiddie amusements and a big ol' boardwalk along the oceanfront.

**Michael Grosberg**

New York, New Jersey & Pennsylvania Thanks to an uncle and aunt's house upstate on the Delaware River in the southern Catskills, Michael has had a base to explore the region for two decades – when not home in Brooklyn, NYC, that is. No matter his love for the city, getaways are necessary and he has taken every opportunity to range far and wide in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, from cross-country skiing in the Adirondacks or pitching a tent on an island in the St Lawrence to chowing down on ballpark food at a Pirates game in Pittsburgh and finding a classic diner in Jersey's Pine Barrens.

**Paula Hardy**

New England The British half of an American-British couple, Paula spends a lot of time hopping across the pond, torn between the bright lights of London town and Boston, where weekend in the New England countryside is a near-weekly activity. Research for this book though took her way off the beaten path into Connecticut's dairy barns, lobster shacks (yum!) and wine-tasting rooms, and to Rhode Island's tiny East Bay villages and breezy

Block Island cycling trails, where lasting memories of Baggo defeats and Mudslide sundowners aren't easily forgotten.

**Adam Karlin**

Washington, DC & the Capital Region, The South Adam was born in Washington, DC, raised in rural Maryland and lives in New Orleans – a city he discovered on assignment for Lonely Planet. His love of travel stems from a love of place that was engendered by the tidal wetlands of the Mid-Atlantic. That need for wandering has pushed him overseas and across the world, and in the process he has written some 40 guidebooks for Lonely Planet, from the

Andaman Islands to the Zimbabwe border.

**Mariella Krause**

Florida As a fan of kitschy tourist attractions, amusement parks and states with panhandles, Mariella was excited to take to the highways of Florida to uncover its every eccentricity. Mariella is a freelance writer living in the San Francisco Bay Area and this is her 14th title for Lonely Planet. If you're curious, she can tell you the difference between an alligator and a crocodile.

**Caroline Sieg**

New England Caroline Sieg is a half-Swiss, half-American writer. Her relationship with New England began when she first lived in Boston and she began heading up to Maine for foodie treats and windswept coastal walks. She was delighted to return to the land of lobster and blueberry pies for Lonely Planet.

Read more about Caroline at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/carolinesieg

**Adam Skolnick**

The South Adam writes about travel, culture, health and politics for publications such as *Outside*, *Men's Health* and *Travel & Leisure*, and has coauthored over 20 Lonely Planet guidebooks. He drove 5990 miles during his research trip for this guide, and will from here on blame Kentucky for his growing bourbon dependency. Read more of his work at www.adamskolnick.com, or find him on Twitter and Instagram (@adamskolnick).

**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 now lives in a pink house in Somerville, MA, with her husband, two kiddies and two kitties. She is the author of Lonely Planet guides *New England* and *Boston*, among others. Follow her adventures online at www.havetwinswill-travel.com.



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'.

OUR WRITERS



Karla Zimmerman

Coordinating Author, Great Lakes 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 (or writing for magazines, websites and books), she's exploring. For this gig, she curled in Minnesota, caught a wave in Michigan and drank an embarrassing number of milkshakes in Ohio. Karla has written for several Lonely Planet guides to the USA, Canada, the Caribbean and Europe.



Amy C Balfour

The South A southerner of Scots-Irish descent, Amy has hiked, biked, paddled and gambled her way across the US. She's been visiting the Outer Banks since she was a child and never tires of running down Jockey's Ridge. Amy has authored or coauthored more than 15 books for Lonely Planet and has written for *Backpacker*, *Every Day with Rachael Ray*, *Redbook*, *Southern Living* and *Women's Health*.



Gregor Clark

New England Gregor fell in love with Vermont at age 16, while working as a summer conservation volunteer in the state's southwestern corner. He's made his home there since 1997, during which time he's explored the state from top to bottom. A lifelong polyglot with a degree in Romance languages, Gregor has written regularly for Lonely Planet since 2000, focusing on Europe and Latin America. He lives with his wife, two daughters, five cats and two chickens in Middlebury, VT.



Ned Friary

New England Ned's college days were spent in Amherst, and traveling around his old stomping grounds always feels like a homecoming of sorts. He now lives on Cape Cod and has explored the region from one end to the other, searching out the best lobster roll, canoeing the marshes, and hiking and cycling the trails. His favorite moment while researching this book was catching the sunset over the Connecticut River valley from the summit at Skinner State Park.

OVER MORE PAGE WRITERS

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