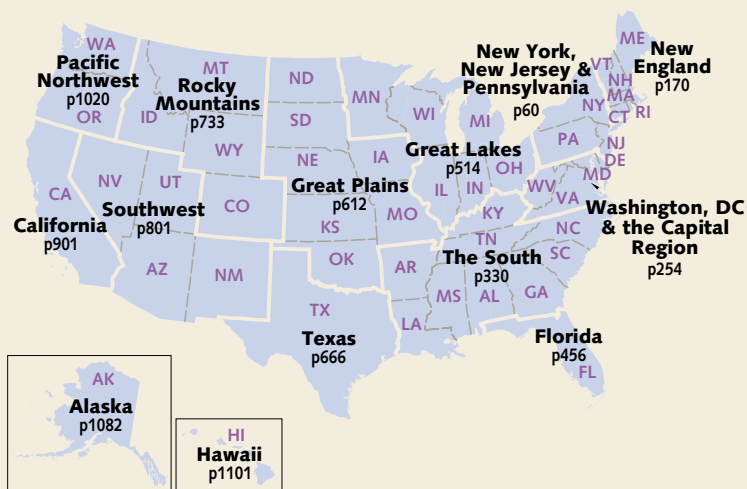




# USA



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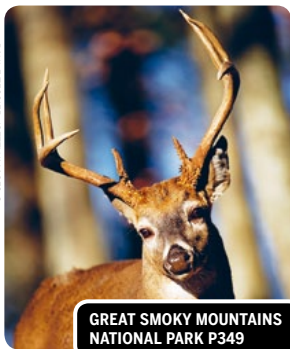
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# USA





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**New York City**  
Famed metropolis and cultural capital (p64)

**Boston**  
Follow the cobblestones into history (p175)

**National Mall**  
Iconic monuments on America's front lawn (p263)

**Blue Ridge Parkway**  
Drive among the scenic Appalachian Mountains (p323)

**New Orleans**  
Cajun cookin', hot jazz and Mardi Gras (p432)

**Austin**  
Creative and indie-loving music capital (p671)

**Miami**  
Cuban food, art deco and sultry beaches (p461)

# On the Road





# Itineraries



## 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 a detour to Brooklyn. 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 of 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 stay for a few days.

3  
WEEKS

## Northern Expedition

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 **Pittsburg**, 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 city. Stroll or bike the lakefront, marvel at famous artwork, and take a culinary journey amid 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**, home to geysers, alpine lakes, waterfalls and abundant wildlife. Next, detour south for hikes past jewel-like lakes and soaring peaks in **Grand Teton National Park**. Drive back north, and continue west through rural Montana. The outdoorsy towns of **Bozeman** and **Missoula** make fun stops. Hit the boutique and cafe scene, enjoy a meal, then head off again into the alpine beauty of **Glacier National Park** followed by a trek through the **Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex**.

After a few days in the wild, **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, eco-minded 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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Above: Rio Grande, Big Bend National Park (p708)

Right: Weisman Art Museum (p597; architect: Frank Gehry), Minneapolis



PAUL SOUDERS / GETTY IMAGES ©



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 (crab feasts, global fare) and revelry, after the museums close. Continue south through Virginia, taking a detour to visit the fantastic 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**, two of the south's most captivating destinations. 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**. Afterwards, eat your way through barbecue-loving Hill Country, then walk it off in 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 Ancestral Puebloan 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, world-class dining and bohemian-loving nightlife. 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-scooting 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 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, pub-style 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 back-track 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 four-and-a-half-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 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 towards Appalachia (start in **Floyd**, Virginia) for an authentic music scene – a frenzy of fiddles, banjos and boot-stompin' – in the idyllic scenery 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.





**Brendan Sainsbury**

**Pacific Northwest** An expat Brit from Hampshire, England, now living near Vancouver, Canada, Brendan is a Nirvana-loving, craft-beer-appreciating, outdoors-embracing, art-admiring, bus-utilizing coffee addict who had no problem finding like-minded souls in Seattle. He's been writing Lonely Planet guides for the last nine years and collecting notes on Seattle since 2009. He is the author of Lonely Planet's current guide to Seattle, and has contributed to the last three editions of this book.



**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](http://lonelyplanet.com/members/carolinesieg)



**Adam Skolnick**

**The South** Adam writes about travel, culture, health, and politics for Lonely Planet, *Outside*, *Men's Health*, and *Travel & Leisure*. He has coauthored over 20 Lonely Planet guidebooks to destinations in Europe, the US, Central America and Asia. He drove 5990 miles during his research trip for this guide, and will from here on blame the state of Kentucky for his growing bourbon dependency. Read more of his work at [www.adamskolnick.com](http://www.adamskolnick.com). Find him on Twitter and Instagram (@adamskolnick).



**Ryan Ver Berkmoes**

**Great Plains** Ryan first drove across the Great Plains with his family in the 1960s. Among his treasured memories are a pair of Wild West six-shooters he got at Wall Drugs in South Dakota and which he still has (in a box someplace, not under his pillow). Through the years he has never passed up a chance to wander the backroads of America's heartland, finding beauty and intrigue where you'd least expect it. Find more at [www.ryanverberkmoes.com](http://www.ryanverberkmoes.com); @ryanvb.



**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.havetwinswilltravel.com](http://www.havetwinswilltravel.com).



**Karla Zimmerman**

**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, heard the curds squeak in Wisconsin 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.



### **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.



### **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 weekendending 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, Texas** This is Mariella's fourth go-round with the USA guide, but her first time taking on two whole states. Having written both the Florida and Texas chapters, she now considers herself an expert on places with panhandles. 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.



### **Carolyn McCarthy**

**Rocky Mountains** 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.



### **Christopher Pitts**

**Rocky Mountains** Chris first drove west on a family road trip across the US and instantly fell in love with Colorado's star-studded nights. After four years at Colorado College, he decided to move up to Boulder for grad school – but only after mastering Chinese. Fifteen years, several continents and two kids later, he finally made it to the end of what is normally a 90-minute drive. Chris currently divides his time between writing, dad-dom and exploring Colorado's wilder corners. Visit

him online at [www.christopherpitts.net](http://www.christopherpitts.net).



### **Greg Benckwick**

**Rocky Mountains** A Colorado native, Greg's been all over the Centennial State. He has 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.

Read more about Greg at:  
[lonelyplanet.com/members/gbenckwick](http://lonelyplanet.com/members/gbenckwick)



### **Sara Benson**

**California, Hawaii** After graduating from college in Chicago, Sara jumped on a plane to San Francisco with just one suitcase and \$100 in her pocket. She has bounced around California ever since, in between stints living in Asia and Hawaii and working as a national park ranger. The author of 55 travel and nonfiction books, Sara summited Sierra Nevada peaks, uncovered the Lost Coast and survived Death Valley while researching this guide. Follow

her adventures online at [www.indietraveler.blogspot.com](http://www.indietraveler.blogspot.com) and @indie\_traveler on Twitter. Sara also wrote the USA's National Parks chapter.

Read more about Sara at:  
[lonelyplanet.com/members/sara\\_benson](http://lonelyplanet.com/members/sara_benson)



### **Alison Bing**

**California** During over 15 years in San Francisco, Alison has done everything you're supposed to do in the city and many things you're not, including falling in love on the Haight St bus and quitting a Silicon Valley day job to write 43 Lonely Planet guidebooks and commentary for magazines, mobile guides and other media. Join further adventures as they unfold on Twitter @AlisonBing.



### **Catherine Bodry**

**Alaska** Catherine has spent the bulk of her life escaping her suburban upbringing and after 13 years considers Alaska home. She loves mountains and road trips, and spends a lot of time running the trails in the Chugach Range. Catherine has contributed to several Lonely Planet guides including *Alaska, Thailand, Canada and Pacific Northwest's Best Trips*.



### **Celeste Brash**

**Pacific Northwest** Locals have a hard time believing it, but the beauty of the Pacific Northwest is what coaxed Celeste back to the US after 15 years in Tahiti. She was thrilled to explore and imbibe the treasures of her new backyard for this book, hike snowy peaks, look for orcas and get in touch with her cowboy and Indian roots. Find out more about Celeste and her award-winning writing at [www.celestebrash.com](http://www.celestebrash.com).



### **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.



### **Lisa Dunford**

**Southwest** As one of Brigham Young's (possibly thousands of) great-great-granddaughters, Lisa was first drawn to Utah by ancestry. But it's the incredible red rocks that have kept her coming back for 10 years. She feels at home hiking through pinkish sand around Zion or Arches until her shoes are permanently stained, rounding a bend and being accosted by purple-crimson- and rose-colored cliffs, or witnessing brilliant wildflowers among

the hardened dunes of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM). Lisa coauthored Lonely Planet's *Zion & Bryce Canyon National Parks*.





## 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



### Regis St Louis

**Coordinating Author** A Hoosier by birth, Regis grew up in a sleepy riverside town where he dreamed of big-city intrigue. In 2001 he settled in New York, which had all that and more. He has also lived in San Francisco and Los Angeles. Regis has crossed the country by train, bus and car, while visiting its remote corners. Favorite memories from his most recent trip include village hopping and fruit picking in eastern Long Island, mountainside rambles in the Catskills and crab

feasting on the Chesapeake Bay. Regis has contributed to more than 40 Lonely Planet titles, including *New York City* and *Washington, DC*. For this guide, Regis wrote the Plan Your Trip and Understand sections.



### Amy C Balfour

**The South, Southwest** 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. In Arizona she enjoyed a return trip to Phantom Ranch, hiking down the South Kaibab Trail and up the Bright Angel. 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*.



### Sandra Bao

**Pacific Northwest** Sandra has lived in Buenos Aires, New York and California, but Oregon has become her final stop. Researching the Beaver state has been a highlight of Sandra's 14-year-long authoring career with Lonely Planet, which has covered four continents and dozens of guidebooks. She's come to appreciate the wondrous beauty of her home state, how much it has to offer both travelers and locals and how friendly people can be in tiny towns in the middle of nowhere.



### Michael Benanav

**Southwest** Michael came to New Mexico in 1992, fell under its spell, and moved to a village in the Sangre de Cristo foothills, where he still lives. Since then he's spent years exploring the state's mountains, deserts and rivers as a wilderness instructor. Aside from his work for Lonely Planet, he's authored two nonfiction books and writes and photographs for magazines and newspapers. Check out his work at [www.michaelbenanav.com](http://www.michaelbenanav.com).

OVER MORE  
PAGE WRITERS

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