

DESTINATIONS IN YOUR STATE

Alabama

For your ultimate Alabama road trip, we chose two of the top destinations in the state where visitors can find everything from fun-filled recreation to laid-back relaxation. Depending on your start location, drive until you reach Alabama's Gulf Shores and Orange Beach. With miles of sandy beaches, fresh seafood restaurants, golf courses and historic landscapes, there's something for everyone to enjoy. As night rolls in, you have the option of driving back home or staying at one of the various accommodations ranging from hotels to beach house rentals. Our second recommendation would be Little River Canyon National Preserve. At this U.S. national park, you can go hiking, kayaking, climbing, or drive up to the top of Lookout Mountain. So, pack your swimsuit and sneakers because no matter where you're heading, you'll want to have them both!

Alaska

Stretching 127 miles from Anchorage to Seward, the Seward Highway was named one of the top ten scenic road trips by MSNBC and is our recommendation for your Alaskan road trip getaway. Escape to hours of scenic overlooks, jaw-dropping landscapes, and stunning wildlife as you drive from city to city. Whether you take this road trip to enjoy the drive or to take advantage of excellent recreational opportunities, we encourage at least one thing—bring your camera!

Arizona

Ranked #1 on USA Weekend Magazine's 10 Most Beautiful Places in America, Red Rock Country in Sedona is our destination of choice for Arizona. Known primarily for its breathtaking natural beauty, Sedona also has a variety of indoor and outdoor activities to keep you and your family entertained. Amidst the immense red rocks and rising sandstone towers, visitors find themselves enjoying guided tours, hiking trails, recreation areas, shopping, golf, and more. While you're there, don't forget to take a drive down State Route 179, named one of America's top 10 scenic road trips by MSNBC. Just 7.5 miles long, the Red Rock Scenic Byway is worth the short drive because of its remarkable outlooks and edgy landscape.

Arkansas

This year make Hot Springs National Park home of America's first resort, your Arkansas road trip destination. We chose Hot Springs National Park because of its broad range of activities. From hiking Ouachita Mountain trails to strolling the historic Bathhouse Row area, you will be able to enjoy a vacation for one, two or the whole family. Make sure to visit the world-renowned natural hot springs to unwind and relax after a day of exhilarating outdoor activities.

California

With so many things to do and places to see in California, it was difficult to narrow our list down to one destination. So, we chose two — Highway 1 (State Route 1) to please the nature-buffs and Venice Beach to reach the people-watchers. Amidst 72 miles of a coastline on Highway 1, road trippers will catch sight of everything from beautiful jagged shores and cliffs, Redwood forests and crystal-clear swimming coves. Spend a day driving with your windows down enjoying the warm sea breeze and impressive views or making stops at the various state parks, forests and beaches along the road. If you decide to head to Venice Beach, you're in for a real treat. Take your time heading down Ocean Front Walk, where street performers of all types entertain onlookers with their various talents. Venice Beach is also a great place for eclectic restaurants, people-watching, and, of course, hanging out on the beach.

Colorado

After the snow has melted and the flowers start blooming, the months ahead are perfect for Colorado road trip. Drive down the Million Dollar Highway, dubbed one of the top 10 scenic road trips by MSNBC, through western Colorado (Montrose to Durango) and catch sight of striking mountains, gorgeous rivers and historic mining towns. For a more adventurous excursion accompanied by spectacular landscapes, head out to the Rocky Mountain National Park, where visitors can take advantage of great camping, nature trails, vibrant flowers, wildlife and breathtaking waterfalls.

Connecticut

When planning your road trip in Connecticut, we suggest visiting Mystic Seaport — Museum of America and the Sea. For \$20 or less per person, you can travel through history at the nation's leading maritime museum. Venture through their 19th century coastal village, take a ride on one of their historic vessels and travel around their luscious outdoor gardens in order to get the full nautical experience. If you enjoy the outdoors, make your way to the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor, where visitors can enjoy bird watching, hiking, biking and backpacking.

Delaware

Nemours Mansion & Gardens, a 2008 USA TODAY pick for Delaware summer destinations, and Lums Pond State Park are two places we recommend for a memorable road trip. Nemours, Alfred duPont's 300-acre country estate was built in the early 1900s imitating a Louis XVI French-style, complete with seventy rooms spanning five floors. Take a guided tour to see its exquisite gardens, rare 18th century French furniture and world-class works of art. Visitors to Nemours must be more than 12 years of age. For a trip that can accommodate younger children, we suggest heading to Lums Pond State Park. The park offers a variety of activities such as hiking trails, boat rentals, fishing and sports fields for a fun-filled family vacation.

Florida

Listed as one of USA Weekend's 10 most beautiful places in America, the 120-mile drive from Key Largo to Key West is our suggestion for your travel plans this year. Not only do you have the pleasure of enjoying the magnificent blue waters of the Atlantic on one side of the road and the Gulf on the other, but you also breeze by some of Florida's most vibrant vegetation and colorful island décor. Extend your trip by staying at any one of the Keys, *New York Times* suggests Bahia Honda Key, where snorkeling, kayaking, scuba diving and laying on the beach are just a handful of ways to spend your vacation in paradise. Oh, and don't drive off without having a piece authentic key lime pie!

Georgia

Our pick for your Georgia journey is the Unicoi State Park in Helen. As one of the most popular parks in the state, you will find something for everyone. Some of the activities

include hiking, biking, fishing, boating or swimming and relaxing on their sandy beach. If you decide to extend your stay, the park's lodge provides wireless internet and an on-site restaurant. If you would like a more rustic environment, try one of the park's 80 single camping sites or a mountain cottage that allows your family pet to stay. If you feel like just driving through, be sure to check out the Anna Ruby Falls Scenic Area. Created by two creeks dropping off, The Curtis Creek Falls drops an amazing 153 ft. and the York Creek Falls which drops an equally impressive 50 ft. Both can be viewed with a half mile paved hike to observation decks that overlook the falls. Whether it is a day or a weekend, enjoy the Peach state as nature intended it.

Hawaii

This year take a road trip winding down the Hana Highway and venturing out to the Pipiwai Trail at the Haleakala National Park. The 52-mile-long Hana Highway, named one of MSNBC's top 10 scenic road trips, is lined with beautiful views around every turn. From cascading waterfalls to incredible outlooks on the Pacific, you won't be disappointed. For a more adventurous experience, stop at the Haleakala National Park and have a 4-mile hike through the Pipiwai Trail. Here you can find soaring cliffs, jungle scenery and breathtaking views of the Makahiku Falls.

Idaho

Head north from Boise for approximately an hour and you'll end up at our recommendation for this year's road trip destination spot in Idaho. Located along the Wildlife Canyon Scenic Byway, Garden Valley is home to snow-topped mountains, green valleys and beautiful wildlife. In addition to the incredible sights throughout Garden Valley, there are also a variety of activities that will make your trip all the more exciting. From shopping and eating in the historic town of Crouch to enjoying the thrill of whitewater rafting on the Payette River, Garden Valley has something for everyone.

Illinois

Get ready for a "super" adventure in your own state! Head to Southern Illinois to see everyone's favorite super hero Superman, and find more adventure along the way. Our recommendation leads you to Metropolis, home of the Super Museum, which is filled with a \$2.5 billion dollar collection and details the life and times of the great super hero. While in Metropolis visit Superman Square and have your photo taken with a 15-foot

statue that honors this American icon. After leaving the museum, venture down to Rosiclair and board the Shawnee Queen River Taxi for a majestic cruise along the Ohio River. From the river, you will view wildlife, plant life, caves, and private estates as well as natural and man-made wonders.

Indiana

When you think of beaches, it's tempting to head to the east coast. But this year, why not explore your own state? Visit the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, the state's only national park. Spanning 15 miles of beautiful beaches on Lake Michigan, this destination will please both the naturists and the beach lovers. This national state park boasts hiking trails, camping sites, stunning lake views, over 1,135 native plant species and abundant wildlife.

Iowa

Take a trip back in time with a visit to the Amana Colonies. Founded in 1855 by early German immigrants, this national landmark is one of Iowa's top tourists' attractions. The seven villages within the colonies give a historical account of day-to-day life complete with artifacts and guided tours. See how German culture and crafts have been preserved through the years with on-site demonstrations and exhibits. Local artisans and craftspeople shops offer many opportunities for gallery hopping, wine tasting and window-shopping. Adults and children alike, there is something for everyone on this adventure!

Kansas

This year take a one-of-a-kind road trip. Start with a journey to the Underground Salt Museum in Hutchinson. Located a whopping 650 ft. below ground, this museum boasts exhibits that won't be seen anywhere else in the country. Just down the road in Wichita, learn the ways of the west at the Old Cowtown Museum, a nationally accredited living history site. This living history museum shows visitors "the ways of the west" with costumed living history re-enactors and 40 furnished buildings complete with artifacts from that time. If you get thirsty, stop in to the town Saloon where you are sure to meet some cow folk and enjoy a nice sarsaparilla.

Kentucky

Located in Mammoth Cave, KY, the Mammoth Cave National Park is our pick for your Kentucky road trip destination this year. As the world's longest cave system, Mammoth Cave offers an extensive list of tours to choose from that can last as little as an hour to over six hours. While caving, try to catch a glimpse of one of 130 animal species living in their natural habitat. The national park also has 105 camping sites, and recreational activities such as boating, hiking and kayaking for visitors to enjoy during their stay. Ultimately, it is the magnificent views in the underground caves, the winding rivers and scenic nature trails that will make your adventure in Mammoth Cave National Park one to remember.

Louisiana

Located in the heart of the Southwest region of Louisiana, the city of Lake Charles is our pick for a Louisiana road trip destination because of all it has to offer to its visitors. As part of Louisiana's Cajun Country, it's rich in Cajun culture, history, cuisine, and architecture. Immerse yourself in the culture with a trip to the Mardi Gras Museum of Imperial Calcasieu and learn about the history of Mardi Gras and see the largest display of costumes in the world. While in the area, visit the Dequincy Railroad Museum & City Park, where you can get an up close look at a steam engine, passenger car and caboose. A trip like this wouldn't be complete without sampling the food, so don't forget to enjoy some of the best Cajun cuisine around!

Maine

The beach is one of the most popular vacation destinations, and the beaches in Maine can't be an exception to this rule. In particular, we suggest taking a trip to the town of Ogunquit where the city is known for its artistic tradition and the beach is known for its pristine white sand. A popular spot in the city is the Ogunquit Playhouse where visitors often enjoy live theatre and musical performances, especially during the summer months. Catch a trolley ride in town and take in some window shopping or indulge in ocean front dining with feasting of the catch of the day. While out near the beach, make sure to walk down the Marginal Way Trail. Only 1.5 miles long, the trail is an easy, safe walk with one-of-a-kind, breath taking views of Maine's coastline.

Maryland

For our road trip recommendation, pack up the car and head down to Maryland's Eastern Shore. Stop in Assateague State Park named one of National Geographic Travelers magazine's 10 best U.S. State Parks. This gem is two miles of striking beaches, hidden coves and home to the famous wild ponies. Activities abound including, fishing, kayaking, hiking, biking and nature cruises. If you like being one with nature, primitive camping is allowed with reservations on both the bayside and ocean sides of the island. Otherwise, more modern accommodations can be found just off the island.

Massachusetts

Named on the list of Forbes Traveler's "America's 25 Most Visited Tourist Sites," Cape Cod is a great destination for your family road trip adventure. Aside from spending time relaxing on the quaint beaches, there are plenty of activities to do along the water including snorkeling, kayaking and sailing. Off the beach, try a visit to Plimoth Plantation, a 17th century living history museum. Stroll through an English village, board the Mayflower II or walk around the Wampanoag Homesite complete with role-playing actors that take you back in time by sharing the history and culture of the people who inhabited this land for more than 10,000 years. Stroll over to the museum's craft center where you can view recreations of crafts early settlers and Native people used. In addition to these suggestions, Cape Cod offers plenty of historic landmarks, tours and trails for your family to enjoy. So pack up the car and get started!

Michigan

Taking a road trip to what *Condé Nast Traveler* magazine named one of the top 10 islands in the world is easier than you may think. All it takes is a drive north to the boating dock, and after a less than twenty minute ride on a ferry, you will arrive at Michigan's beautiful Mackinac Island. Once you set foot on this captivating island, catch a glimpse of the United States' beginnings from the Revolutionary War era by visiting Fort Mackinac, or stroll through the plentiful historic sites of the island's downtown area. There are also ample opportunities to enjoy outdoor activities, especially at Mackinac Island State Park, which boasts more than 1,800 acres of scenic trails for hiking and biking. All the while, you are constantly surrounded by spectacular wildlife and pristine coastlines that the whole family can enjoy.

Minnesota

With plenty of activities to do and places to visit, we suggest planning a road trip to Duluth, Minnesota. One of the main attractions in Duluth is beautiful Lake Superior, the largest freshwater lake in the world, where you and your family can enjoy sailboat rides, kayaking, canoeing, nature cruises and much more. In addition to enjoying water activities, walk around the Lake Superior Zoo, take in a movie at the OMNIMAX theatre or check out the Duluth Children's Museum. If that's not enough incentive, one more reason to visit Duluth is that it was ranked one of the top ten "America's Greatest Outside Towns" by Outside Magazine.

Mississippi

For a combination of white sandy beaches, wildlife, nature trails and history, take a road trip to the Gulf Island National Seashore. Located in both Mississippi and Florida, the Gulf Island National Seashore has plenty for visitors to enjoy including snorkeling, swimming, boating, fishing, hiking, and camping. In addition to these outdoor activities, historical forts that served as a coastal defense during the Civil War are open for exploration! And as night rolls in, don't miss the beautiful sunset as you peer across the beach and out over the peaceful water.

Missouri

A magical road trip experience awaits you at the Walt Disney Hometown Museum, located in the Santa Fe Depot in Marceline. For a small admission fee, you and your family can learn the story of Walt Disney's fascinating childhood. View a one-of-a-kind collection of personal letters, family photos, and other Disney family artifacts. After touring the museum, visit Walt's "Dreaming Tree" where he got most of his inspiration as a child. Next, stop by Walt's "Happy Place," a barn on his family's where he played and performed his first show business production. On your way out of Marceline, you'll feel like you got to know the person behind the creative legend.

Montana

For an ultimate scenic road trip, head out to Montana's Glacier National Park and drive along the Going-to-the-Sun Road. This scenic drive was named one of MSNBC's top ten scenic road trips, and after your visit, you'll understand why. As you navigate through the mountains, you will experience stunning views of river gorges, colorful

wilderness, snow-topped mountains, gleaming lakes, and incredible glaciers. When the snow is melting, the Garden Wall section of Glacier National Park has magnificent waterfalls at several lookout points. For the best views, try to travel on a day with little fog. The park has a variety of activities including hiking, fishing, and boating, and it also has lodging if you want to stay for the night.

Nebraska

Although not literally on the coast, we suggest taking a road trip to one of Midwest Living magazine's favorite beach vacation spots — Lake McConaughy. As Nebraska's largest reservoir with over 100 miles of shoreline, the lake has excellent swimming, scuba diving, boating, windsurfing, skiing and its prime fishing that has given it its nickname "Big Mac". On the upper end of the lake, we suggest a visit to Ash Hollow State Historical Park, where bones of prehistoric rhinoceros, mammoths and mastodons have been unearthed. If you find yourself enchanted with the area and wanting to extend your trip, accommodations can be found on the lake or just a few miles down the road in the city of Ogallala.

Nevada

The Valley of Fire State Park is a great place to visit for a road trip because of its stunning natural beauty in the sun. A drive through the park consists of 10.5 miles of all brilliantly colored rock formations designed by nature over millions of years. The rocks vary wildly in color from subtle whites and tans to bold reds, deepening into purples. Named for the brilliant colors best noted at dawn and dusk, the rocks regularly change colors depending on the angle of the sun. Bordering the state park is the Lake Mead National Recreation Area where you can take a break from the desert sun and go swimming, fishing or boating. Beautiful sightseeing is also worth noting at Lake Mead because of the wildlife, vibrant plants and glistening water against the Mojave Desert background.

New Hampshire

New Hampshire is ideal for a road trip, especially because you have the option of heading out to the beach or up to the mountains. This year, we suggest a coastal vacation to Hampton Beach, where the white sand meets the vast Atlantic. Summer months are full of festivals, free concerts, and fireworks. Also, the nearby city of

Portsmouth has rich history, exquisite dining, and great shopping for your enjoyment. If you decide against an ocean-side vacation, we suggest taking a scenic road trip to the White Mountains National Forest where you can spend a beautiful day hiking or swimming near one of the forest's natural waterfalls.

New Jersey

For a road trip in New Jersey off the mainland, we suggest visiting Cape May. Separated from New Jersey by a canal, Cape May is an island known for its Victorian architecture, with a small town feeling and big time excitement. Aside from relaxing beaches, the island offers nature trails, eco-tours, museums, golfing, and fishing. Finally, essential to your Cape May visit is a tour of its famous and historic lighthouse and World War II Lookout Tower.

New Mexico

In 2008 *The New York Times* placed Jemez Springs, New Mexico on their list of thirty-one great summer vacation spots, and this year we are suggesting making it your 2009 road trip destination. For a scenic drive, take the Jemez Mountain Trail and witness beautiful landscapes that spread across New Mexico's terrain. Once in Jemez Springs, a popular stop is the Bath House where you can relax in a mineral bath unique to the region. Famous for its hot springs, there are multiple locations for the entire family to enjoy this unique feature of the area. Nearby you can go fishing, hiking, and camping in Valles Caldera National Preserve. While there you will have a chance to see elk, coyotes, wild turkeys eagles and prairie dogs, in addition to over 60 species of birds.

New York

Nestled in the northern most part of New York State, the Adirondack Region is unlike any other place in the Northeastern United States. This area, much larger than many of New York's neighboring states, is actually a mix of small, quaint villages surrounded by immense forest, gorgeous lakes, sparkling ponds and never-ending rivers and streams. The captivating Adirondack Mountains are renowned for their scenic hiking and walking trails as well as bodies of water that can accommodate all types of water sports. From anywhere in your state, you are only a drive away from a fun-filled adventure that allows you to experience nature just as it was intended.

North Carolina

For a memorable road trip experience, head to the beautiful Outer Banks of North Carolina. Family friendly beaches aside, this destination has plenty of activities to keep you busy for days. Off the beach, try a visit to Jockey's Ridge State Park where you can watch hang gliding and kite flying or hike on one of two self-guided trails. The trip wouldn't be complete without visiting the tallest brick lighthouse in the nation Cape Hatteras. Make sure to pay a visit to the famous Wright Brothers Memorial and learn about the brothers that invented flying. In addition, the area offers great restaurants, beautiful gardens and many other cultural sites to explore.

North Dakota

Take an adventure to the western part of your state with a road trip to Theodore Roosevelt National Park (better known as the Badlands), North Dakota's number one tourist attraction. Named in honor of the former President, this 70,446 acre park offers enchanting views of untamed wilderness, horseback riding, nature hiking at its finest, and camping. Be sure to capture photos of vibrant canyons, sandstone formations or wildlife such as buffalo, coyotes, bald eagles, elk, antelope or wild horses, just to name a few. Get a taste of the old west, and visit nearby Medora an old mining town and take in a western themed musical or tour a mansion built 1884.

Ohio

Take a trip to Southwest Ohio where you'll find Dayton home of the internationally acclaimed National Museum of the United States Air Force. The museum has over 400 aircrafts including nine presidential crafts all with their own stories to tell. Walking through the 17 acre museum you'll learn about the history of flight and how it has made an impact on our lives. The best part of this adventure is that the museum is open daily and admission is free! While in the area, you may consider staying the night and paying a visit to SunWatch Indian Village/Archaeological Park, this national landmark will take you back 800 years to learn about Native American life in the 13th century.

Oklahoma

We recommend a bit of an out of the ordinary road trip with a visit to Arbuckle Wilderness. This exotic animal park includes over 400 species of rare, wild animals in their own habitats, complete with a petting zoo. As you leave the park, we recommend

visiting Turner Falls, a popular geological highlight in Oklahoma, featuring a 77 ft waterfall that forms a natural swimming hole. Families who plan to stay for more than a day will enjoy staying in the affordable Turner Falls cabins or any of the campgrounds in the region.

OREGON

We can't think of a better way to spend a road trip than heading down Oregon's scenic Highway 101 on the coast. With over 360 miles of beautiful beaches and changing scenery, this is a trip you won't want to miss. Along the way, you will see rugged cliffs, shady forests, historic lighthouses, breath-taking mountains, small fishing towns, and huge caves which sea lions call their home. As you descend down the coast, we recommend a stop in Bandon, for a visit to the West Coast Game Park Safari, a walk through safari, where you can get up-close, pet, film and walk around with free roaming wildlife. All along the coast, there is a multitude of one-of-a-kind attractions, state parks, museums, great restaurants and numerous recreational activities for the whole family to enjoy.

Pennsylvania

You'll find much more than spectacular views on the road trip we'd like to recommend! Travel anywhere along Route 6, which spans more than 400 miles across the state, to experience what *National Geographic Magazine* named "one of America's most scenic drives." If you are up for the challenge, whitewater rafting, hiking and biking are a few things that await you along your way, no matter which direction you are heading. Stop by Riverside Park in Tunkhannock for particularly stunning views of the Susquehanna River, where you can relax and enjoy the river's beauty as well as fish, boat or canoe. From the pristine waters of Lake Erie to the Pocono Mountains, Route 6 has many breathtaking places to visit and plenty of activities the whole family can enjoy.

Rhode Island

Rhode Island is known as the Ocean State and for good reason--you're never more than 45 minutes from the beach! For that reason we recommend a road trip that combines sun and indoor fun in Bristol. Besides enjoying the beach, spend some time indoors at the Audubon Environmental Education Center. This state-of-the-art natural history museum and aquarium is sure to excite the whole family. Learn all about marine life and

take a stroll outside on one of the center's walking trails through salt water and fresh water marshes. For some more outdoor adventure, head over to Colt State Park. With over 464 acres boarding the shore of Narragansett Bay, this park has a little something for everyone from scenic hiking and biking to lush gardens, this park will be lots of fun.

South Carolina

Located just below the Blue Ridge Mountains in South Carolina's upcountry, Table Rock State Park makes for an excellent road trip destination. This park possesses hiking trails that will take you past vibrant streams, beautiful waterfalls and even to the top of the mountain. The park boasts a multitude of activities including boating, fishing, swimming, canoeing, bird watching, paddle boats and picnicking. Boat rentals complete with equipment are available on site. If you decide to extend your trip, fully furnished cabins or camp sites are located inside the park.

South Dakota

We recommend an underground adventure as part of your road trip this year. Jewel Cave National Monument is where your adventure will begin. Stretching over 145 miles, Jewel Cave is the second longest cave in the world. Guided tours will unfold a world of beautiful rock formations, crystals and animal life like you have never seen. Be sure to pack a light jacket and sneakers or boots for your cave visit. Just down the road, is Mount Rushmore one of the most popular attractions in the state, where you can see the faces of four U.S. presidents carved into the mountain. Take a walk on one of the trails or take a guided tour and learn about the history and culture of the area.

Tennessee

Family fun can be found around every corner in Gatlinburg. There are so many things to do in this mountain town, it's hard to choose just a few. You'll find unique museums, crafts shops, live entertainment, horseback riding, art galleries, specialty candy shops and much more in this action-packed town. Nearby, take a ride into the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, with over 800 miles of maintained scenic trails, wildlife viewing, picnicking and fishing. With so many choices for entertainment and adventure, you may decide stay over in one of the many accommodations in the region and extend your fun in the Gatlinburg area.

Texas

Our favorite location for a road trip is South Padre Island. The beaches may be the main reason to go, but the unique attractions will make you want to stay. One of your first stops should be Sea Turtle Inc., where you can get up-close and learn all about the endangered species. For a closer view of the natural surroundings and wildlife, take a walk on the Laguna Madre Nature Trail. If that doesn't suit you, take a pirate ship cruise, daily cruises include a crew of pirates, storytelling, face painting, treasure hunts, water pistol battles and much more — all on an authentic reproduction of a 17th century pirate ship. Whether you are looking for a relaxing beach trip or a walk on the plank, enjoy all that South Padre has to offer!

Utah

Get ready for a one-of-a-kind road trip! We recommend you visit Arches National Park, where Mother Nature has created the highest concentration of naturally formed stone arches in the world, in addition to other unusual rock formations. The park boasts over 2,000 arches amidst beautiful red desert back drop. Be prepared to see wildlife such as mule deer, coyotes, porcupines and jackrabbits. This stunning area is perfect for hiking, biking, climbing, camping and auto touring. Where ever you go in this national park the views are sure to be breathtaking.

Vermont

Ranked sixth of the 10 most beautiful places in America by USA WEEKEND, Grafton is our “can't miss” spot in Vermont. There are more than 50 historic buildings in the area, including a one-time stagecoach stop. Check out the award-winning Grafton Village Cheese Company, where you can sample some of the state's finest cheese. At the Nature Museum, try digging for fossils or watch live honeybees work. No matter what you choose to do in Grafton, you are sure to experience the pure beauty of Vermont, first hand.

Virginia

Relive history with a road trip to historic Williamsburg. Visit Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area, where you are whisked back in time 220 years to the American Revolution. Home to the nation's largest living history museum with over 500 homes, stores, taverns and building restored to their 18th century luster. Historic interpreters and

tradesman are on hand to help you relive the experience of the time. During the trip, stop off at Berkeley Plantation, the site of the first official Thanksgiving. Costumed guides will show you around this 1726 mansion, complete with five terraces and elegant gardens on the James River.

Washington

From the coastline of Seattle, past forests and farmlands and right up to central Washington's desert area, a road trip taken on the Mountains to Sound Greenway will give you the experience of both city life and nature at its best. While traveling along the picturesque greenway, the only interstate honored as a National Scenic Byway, visit the Issaquah Hatchery and you may even get to see native salmon swimming upstream to return to the place where they were born. Continue your journey across Interstate 90 to Lake Easton State Park, a perfect place for an outdoor adventure filled with spectacular hiking and biking trails, abundant access for water sports and peaceful campgrounds for sleeping restfully underneath the stars.

West Virginia

Take a scenic trip to Hawks Nest State Park. This park's unique amenities make it the perfect pick for a great trip. Once at the park, be sure to check out the River Nature Center, filled with interactive exhibits for kids of all ages and learn about river life. The main attraction of the park is the Aerial Tramway that will take you on a scenic ride from the Hawks Nest Lodge to the marina at the bottom of the New River Gorge. For a fun experience on the water, board a jetboat for a one hour scenic river tour. If you are up for a real adventure take a white water rafting trip down the New River. From nature hikes to rafting this park is sure to be a fun-filled experience for the whole family.

Wisconsin

For the ultimate combination of natural beauty and fun-filled adventure, we recommend traveling to Marshfield located in the middle of Wisconsin. The area boasts the Wildwood Park and Zoo, the fourth largest in the state, filled with more than 200 fascinating animals, such as bears, wolves, buffalo and exotic bird species housed in the aviary. Just down the road are the Foxfire Gardens, one of the first botanical gardens in the state. Across more than seven acres are magnificent varieties of both oriental and western greenery sure to captivate the eye. Be sure to visit nearby Jurustic Park to view

unique creatures such as dinosaurs, dragons, turtles and even dogs crafted out of metal. The whimsical designs are sure to be an entertaining treat for those of any age!

Wyoming

Nestled primarily in the northwest corner of Wyoming and spanning into Montana and Idaho, Yellowstone National Park boasts breathtaking views throughout its 3,472 square miles of mountains, canyons and abundant bodies of water. Here in the world's first national park you have a chance to observe wildlife in its natural habitat, including eagles, bison, wolves, bears, elk and deer. The spectacular terrain includes impressive geysers, such as the famous Old Faithful, and awe-inspiring spots such as the Yellowstone Caldera, the largest supervolcano in North America. For the adventure seekers, numerous trails abound for hiking and biking while Yellowstone Lake, the largest lake above 7,000 feet, provides extensive access for boating, fishing and water sports.