



Advertisement

TRIPSAVVY > INSPIRATION

# The Best Staycation in Every State

Written by STAFF AUTHOR | Updated 02/08/21

SHARE

PIN

EMAIL

Advertisement



TripSavvy / Alison Czinkota

We know, we know: you're probably itching to travel. And while holing up in an all-inclusive resort in Mexico may seem tempting, we're strong believers that staying close to home right now is also the best way to stay safe. But that doesn't mean you can't venture out into your own backyard. Our beloved small businesses and cultural institutions need our support now more than ever, so we've rounded up 50 top staycation ideas—one for each state!—complete with where to stay, what to eat, and what to do, whether that's getting out on the trails for a socially-distanced hike, diving into American history and culture, or sipping a local brew on a breezy patio.

## 01 Montgomery, Alabama

of 50

[VIEW MAP](#)

**ADDRESS:**  
*Montgomery, AL,*  
*USA*

**WEB:** [Visit website](#)

Advertisement

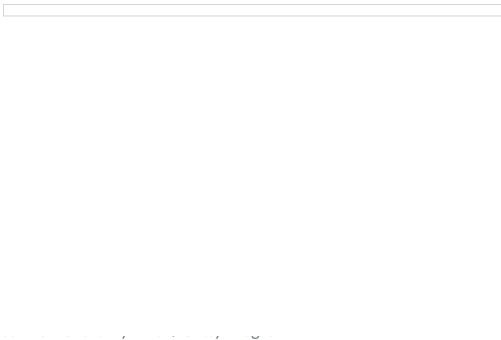
Alabama's capital city has a vital Civil Rights history, delicious food, and a surprising [literary past](#).

Montgomery has worked hard to honor its sometimes upsetting history, and the 2018 opening of the must-visit [Equal Justice Initiative Legacy Museum and National Memorial for Peace and Justice](#) has helped the city confront its past. Leave yourself ample time for the museum and the moving memorial. Also, visit the [Rosa Parks Museum](#) and the [Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church](#), where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was the pastor from 1954 to 1960. Stroll through the Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park, which is also home to the [Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts](#).

Get your fill of fried chicken, collard greens, fried okra, and banana pudding at [Martha's Place](#) for lunch and splurge on dinner at farm-to-table [Vintage Year](#), which also has a stellar takeout menu. Book lovers will want to sleep at the former home of F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald, which is an [Airbnb](#) and also houses the [F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald Museum](#), filled with original letters, manuscripts, artwork by Zelda, photographs, and other memorabilia. —*Devorah Lev-Tov*

## 02 Seward, Alaska

of 50

[VIEW MAP](#)

**ADDRESS:**  
*Seward, AK 99664,*  
*USA*

**WEB:** [Visit website](#)

Advertisement

Two and a half hours south of Anchorage, on the edge of Resurrection Bay, in a fjord cut millennia ago by retreating glaciers, sits Seward, a port city on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula.

See the Harding Icefield, the predominant feature of [Kenai Fjords National Park](#), as it stretches over 700 square miles. The Kenai Fjords area is home to black and brown bears, mountain goats, bald eagles, tufted and horned puffins, sea lions, harbor seals, orcas, humpback whales, and porpoises. Learn more at Seward's [Alaska SeaLife](#)

[Center](#). Visitors will delight in the opportunity to see the area via a fjord cruise, helicopter tour, or on foot—a guided [Exit Glacier ranger-led hike](#) is an ideal way to learn about this mobile body left over from the last ice age.

Stay at [Harbor 360 Hotel](#), the only property in town with a swimming pool, located on a boat harbor within walking distance to the [Alaska Railroad](#) depot. —*Wendy Altschuler*

Advertisement

## 03 Sedona, Arizona

of 50

Rock Formations On Landscape Against Sky

VIEW MAP 

**ADDRESS:**  
Sedona, AZ 86336,  
USA

**WEB:** [Visit website](#)

Tucked along Oak Creek and surrounded by red rocks, Sedona is one of Arizona's most popular escapes, especially among nature lovers.

The area has more than 400 miles of trails winding through Red Rock State Park's junipers, the meadows of Slide Rock State Park, and the rock formations encircling the city. After exploring the outdoors, pamper yourself at one of Sedona's luxury spa resorts—such as [Enchantment Resort](#) or the [Kimpton Amara Resort](#)—or unwind at [Winery 1912](#), a stop on the Verde Valley Wine Trail.

If you want to explore further Arizona's northern wine country, head to nearby Cornville's wineries or sample vintages at tasting rooms in Cottonwood and Jerome. The next day, use Sedona as a base to [explore the Grand Canyon](#), one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. Its South Rim is just a two-hour drive north from Sedona. —*Teresa Bitler*

## 04 Eureka Springs, Arkansas

of 50

Eureka Springs, Arkansas

VIEW MAP 

**ADDRESS:**  
Eureka Springs, AR,  
USA

The curious and the afflicted were some of the earliest arrivals in Eureka Springs, drawn by the legends of miraculous healing waters veiled beneath the isolated wilderness of [Northwest Arkansas](#). Today it's the adventurous and the hungry who

come seeking memorable experiences in this quirky Victorian town, where sequestered stairways provide passage to the eccentric eateries and artist-owned shops hidden throughout its steep, winding streets.

Only the bravest of souls stay the night at “America’s Most Haunted Hotel,” the [1886 Crescent Hotel and Spa](#), while a recently renovated motor lodge, [The Wanderoo Lodge](#), offers the liveliest accommodations with an onsite adventure outfitter. A day hike out to [Tea Kettle Falls](#) will help work up an appetite for the mammoth burgers at [Sparky’s Roadhouse Café](#) or the sweet treats at [M.J’s Macaron’s & More](#).

For dinner, hit up [The Gravel Bar](#) for live music and craft beer, or head underground for a romantic candle-lit experience inside the [Grotto Wood-Fired Grill and Wine Cave](#). Eureka Springs Coffee House serves locally roasted coffee-to-go, perfect for fueling an early morning [fishing trip on the White River](#) or a [mountain bike](#) adventure through the [Trails at the Great Passion Play](#). —*Kristy Alpert*

Continue to 5 of 50 below.

## 05 San Luis Obispo, California

of 50

Vineyard near San Luis Obispo

VIEW MAP 

**ADDRESS:**

*San Luis Obispo, CA,  
USA*

**WEB:** [Visit website](#)

[California’s Central Coast](#) boasts some of the most stunning views and famous sights in the Golden State. And, since the city of [San Luis Obispo](#) is almost completely equidistant from both San Francisco and Los Angeles, a staycation there almost always includes an epic coastal road trip along beautiful Highway 1.

For a quaint-yet-convenient accommodation option, the [Apple Farm Inn](#) is located near downtown with a farm-to-table restaurant attached. Or, experience the world-renowned (and certainly unique) [Madonna Inn](#), with its fairytale-inspired rooms and incredible bakery.

San Luis Obispo has it all, from the historic [Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa](#) and Spanish-style downtown buildings to award-winning wineries like [Biddle Ranch Vineyards](#) and [Kelsey See Canyon Vineyards](#). For outdoor lovers, [Pismo Beach](#) is just a 15-minute drive away, while nearby [Oceano Dunes](#) offers horseback riding, camping, and even driving on the beach. For sweeping views of wildflowers and massive ocean bluffs, spend the day exploring the 8,000-acre [Montaña de Oro State](#)

[Park](#) just west of the city. —*Katherine Gallagher*

## 06 Fort Collins, Colorado

of 50



[VIEW MAP](#)

**ADDRESS:**

*Fort Collins, CO,  
USA*

**WEB:** [Visit website](#)

placeholder city image

Outdoor adventure and craft beer—two things Colorado does best—are two main draws for visitors to Fort Collins. For active folks, biking is one of the best ways to explore; Fort Collins boasts more than 285 miles of bike trails and is one of only five cities in the nation with a [platinum-level rating as a bike-friendly city](#).

For a little more adventure, just west of the city is Horsetooth Reservoir, a popular spot for swimming, boating, and fishing. The reservoir sits at the base of Horsetooth Mountain, which offers wildlife spotting and scenic hiking trails that lead to sweeping views of the valley below.

After a day exploring the natural beauty of the area, you can unwind and relax with a cold beer; Fort Collins is home to [more than 20 craft breweries](#), and produces about 70 percent of Colorado's beer, so you won't have trouble finding a pint or a flight in town. Lastly, don't leave without spending time downtown, also known as Old Town, where you can shop, dine at a few of the 80-plus restaurants, and admire the historic buildings in this charming neighborhood. As you walk around, you'll undoubtedly feel the palpable charm and spirit that led to [Fort Collins being the inspiration](#) for the design of Disneyland's Main Street USA. —*Jamie Hergenrader*

## 07 Mystic, Connecticut

of 50

Mystic, Connecticut harbor at Dawn

[VIEW MAP](#)

**ADDRESS:**

*Mystic, Stonington, CT,  
USA*

Seaside views, maritime history, and quintessential New England charm are just a few of the things you can find in Mystic, a Northeastern nautical gem. A few hours from both New York City and Boston, this town may be best known for its famed pizzeria, Mystic Pizza, featured in the 1988 film of the same name.

Beyond its slice shop lies a [perfect weekend getaway](#) that combines outdoor activity, a

world-class museum, and unique dining experiences. Get out on the Mystic River by chartering an old-school sailing ship with [Argia Mystic](#); sip cider at [B.F. Clyde's](#), a steam-powered cider mill that's been open since 1881; or explore the [Mystic Seaport Museum](#)—one of the most esteemed maritime museums in the United States—to learn about the history of Mystic, a former powerhouse of the shipbuilding industry.

Book a room at [The Whaler's Inn](#), the town's chic boutique hotel featuring perfect views of the Mystic River Bascule drawbridge, and make a pit stop at [Olde Mistick Village](#), historically designed to recreate the architecture of the 1720s. Don't leave town without experiencing a meal at [Oyster Club](#), a culinary jewel featuring outdoor dining in an elevated treehouse. —*Astrid Taran*

## 08 Wilmington, Delaware

of 50

Wilmington Waterfront

VIEW MAP 

ADDRESS:

Wilmington, DE,  
USA

WEB: [Visit website](#)

With President Joe Biden installed in the White House, now seems like a good time to check out his beloved hometown of Wilmington. It's easy to follow in his footsteps and visit some of his favorite spots, places where he campaigned from, and iconic buildings named after him.

If you arrive by train on Amtrak, you'll pull into the Joseph R. Biden Railroad Station, named for him in 2011 while he was vice president. Head over to the [Wilmington Riverfront](#), a lively entertainment district that was the site of much of the Democratic National Convention in 2020, plus it hosted Biden's parking lot victory celebration. Walk along the Christina River or bike part of the 8-mile Jack A. Markell Nature Trail. The Delaware Children's Museum, OperaDelaware, and the Delaware Sports Hall of Fame are all located there.

When hunger strikes, hit up one of the Biden family's favorite restaurants, like casual Italian spot [Café Verdi](#), adored sandwich joint [Capriotti's](#), or [Bardea Food & Drink](#), where Joe took Jill for her birthday in 2019. If you're ready for a drink, swing by [Wilmington Brew Works](#) and order a Rail Car One: Wilmington to Washington, in honor of you-know-who.

Sleep at the grand dame [Hotel Du Pont](#), inside a historic building with opulent interiors and five-star amenities, and splurge at the hotel's restaurant [Le Cavalier](#), with chef Tyler Akin at the helm. For something more casual, next door is the [De.Co](#) food hall with eight food stalls, including a pizza place from Bardea and pho and banh mi spot Phubs—all stalls also offer takeout and delivery. —*Devorah Lev-Tov*

Continue to 9 of 50 below.

## 09 Destin, Florida

of 50



[VIEW MAP](#) 

**ADDRESS:**  
*Destin, FL 32541,*  
*USA*

**WEB:** [Visit website](#)

romana robbins photography / Getty Images

With pristine Gulf Coast beaches and world-class fishing, Destin is the classic Florida vacation spot. Throw in some [golf](#)—there are eight championship courses—and family-friendly thrills like go-karts and water slides, and you've got enough for a week or more. Start your adventure at HarborWalk Village, featuring dozens of shops, eateries, and attractions. From here, you can launch into almost any water activity: kayaking, jet skiing, paddle boarding, parasailing, even a [pirate cruise](#).

To relax in nature, hit the beaches. There's snorkeling at Henderson Beach State Park, dolphin sightings at Jetty East Beach, and killer sunsets in Crystal Beach's off-season.

[READ MORE +](#)

**THINGS TO DO**

The Best 25 Things to Do in Canada

**ARIZONA**

The 10 Best Places to Visit in Arizona



**THINGS TO DO**

Top 11 Things to Do in Bucks County, Pennsylvania

**NEW YORK**

The Top Destinations in New York State

**UNITED STATES**

The Best Small Town in Each US State

**TIPS & TRICKS**

The Top 10 East Coast Winter Destinations

**NEW JERSEY**

The Top 15 Destinations in New Jersey

**WEST VIRGINIA**

10 Great Places to Visit in West Virginia

**INSPIRATION**

Where to Go in 2021: 10 Future Trips You Can Start Planning Now

**FLORIDA**

The Top Beaches on Florida's Gulf Coast

**NEW YORK**

The 7 Most Charming Towns in New York's Finger Lakes

**CANADA**

20 Must-See Destinations in Canada

**ALABAMA**

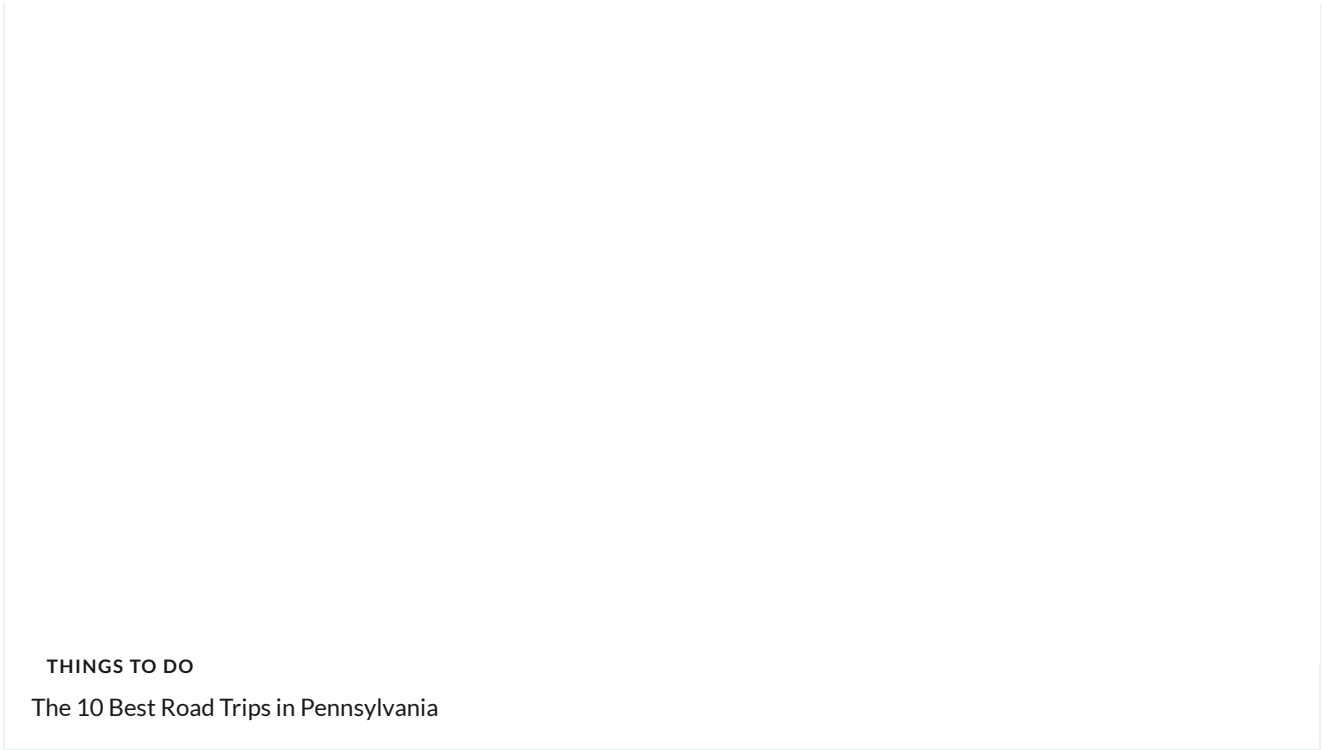
Top 13 Things to Do in Birmingham, Alabama

**GETAWAYS**

The 9 Best New England Getaways for Families in 2021

**NEW YORK**

Plan a Trip to New York State



**THINGS TO DO**

The 10 Best Road Trips in Pennsylvania

GET OUR TRAVEL TIPS TO YOUR INBOX

Enter your email

**SIGN UP >**

FOLLOW US

 Destinations

 Trip Planning

 Inspiration

ABOUT US

ADVERTISE

TERMS OF USE

-----

of the [Dotdash](#) publishing family.

CONTACT

CALIFORNIA PRIVACY NOTICE