

Road Trip Planner



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AMERICA'S GREATEST TREES

Trees usually call the most attention to themselves in the fall, when their green leaves turn to bursts of red, yellow, and orange. But many vacationers are discovering that historic or giant trees, and entire forests, make great destinations. There are a number of websites offering details about the locations and characteristics of important or unusual trees, as well as listings of state parks. Explore some of the links below to find more information about natural resources near you or along routes you may be traveling. You'll also find a list of recommended destinations.

National Register of Big Trees

www.americanforests.org/resources/bigtrees/

The Earth Restoration and Reforestation Alliance

www.championtrees.org

American Forests Historic Tree Nursery

www.historictrees.org

Famous Trees

AMELIA EARHART SUGAR MAPLE

ATCHISON, KANSAS

This maple flourishes in front of the aviator's childhood home.

ANDREW JACKSON SOUTHERN MAGNOLIA

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Planted by the seventh president as a memorial to his wife.

MOON SYCAMORE

STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

Grown from seeds taken to the moon on the Apollo XIV mission.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SYCAMORE

SELMA, ALABAMA

The tree stands beside the Brown Chapel, where King often preached.

COPSE

GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

A grove of white oaks located at the site of a pivotal Civil War battle.



Famous Forests

SIX RIVERS NATIONAL FOREST

EUREKA, CALIFORNIA

PINEY WOODS

EAST TEXAS

OKEFENOKEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

FOLKSTON, GEORGIA

WEETAMOO WOODS

TIVERTON, RHODE ISLAND

ADIRONDACK STATE PARK

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN REGION, NEW YORK

Park and Hiking information

AMERICAN TRAILS

www.americantrails.org

AUDIO BOOKS

Wherever you drive, listening to an audio book can transport your family to a different world. You might find that instead of asking “How long ‘til we get there?” your children won’t want to leave the car when you arrive. We have listed some of our favorite audio books below, though your best choice might be a tale that is particularly appropriate for your family or your itinerary. Try asking your child’s teacher to suggest titles that explore subjects in the class curriculum. Or seek out a librarian’s recommendations for stories set in the area you plan to visit or for historical novels or biographies that fill in the background for monuments, museums, or cultural sites.

Charlotte’s Web

by E. B. White | read by E. B. White (Listening Library)

The magic of this recording lies in the combination of the power of the sad, suspenseful tale and the narration of the author himself. “His voice—what a voice—draws you right into the story,” says Martha Stewart Living chief creative director Gael Towey, who also recommends White’s *The Trumpet of the Swan*.

Ages 6 to 11

The Civil War

by Geoffrey C. Ward with Ric Burns and Ken Burns | read by Ken Burns (Random House Audio Books)

When traveling in a car east of the Mississippi, there’s a great chance you’ll pass a battle site. Listening to this selection while looking at the landscapes makes the historical events seem more vivid. Ken Burns has a youthful voice and a natural manner, which renders the material all the more approachable. The vocabulary is somewhat advanced, but children can ask somebody seated in the front to explain.

Age 12 and up

Death on the Nile

by Agatha Christie | read by David Suchet (Audio Partners)

This 1937 whodunit translates well to listening in the car because there’s always a twist in the plot, so you have to pay attention.

Age 11 and up

Great Expectations

by Charles Dickens | read by Martin Jarvis (Audio Partners)

“It’s heartbreaking and suspenseful,” Towey says. “The twists and turns are very much like Harry Potter.” Don’t be afraid of works by masters like Dickens. We think of them as classics, but to children they’re just stories.

Age 11 and up

Harry Potter

by J. K. Rowling | read by Jim Dale (Listening Library)

Absolutely every parent we asked mentioned this series of books. The storyteller creates voices that wonderfully evoke the characters. Each book in the six-part series is available, providing listening for many trips as well as the longest journey.

Age 8 and up

Holes

by Louis Sachar | read by Kerry Beyer (Listening Library)

This is the tale of a child who survives a hard-knocks life and solves a strange mystery. Kerry Beyer succeeds at making himself unobtrusive: You simply hear the story.

Ages 9 to 12

Peter Pan

by J. M. Barrie | read by the Saint Charles Players (Monterey Soundworks)

Hearing this classic story on tape brings out layers of subtlety that were lost in various TV and movie versions.

Ages 7 to 11

The Roald Dahl Audio Collection

by Roald Dahl | read by Roald Dahl (Harper Children’s Audio)

These tapes have a personal warmth that only the author can give. You hear how much Roald Dahl loves James in “James and the Giant Peach” and how he loathes the mean farmers in “The Fantastic Mr. Fox.” Be forewarned: At times the stories are a bit dark.

Ages 9 to 12

A Series of Unfortunate Events

by Lemony Snicket | read by Tim Curry and Lemony Snicket (Listening Library and Harper Children’s Audio)

These charmingly gothic tales about a trio of adventurous orphans are the most popular audio books in the family of Lisa Wagner, television editorial producer for Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia. There are five Lemony Snicket audio books available, the best of which are read by Tim Curry.

Age 8 and up

BIKE TOURS

When it comes to planning vacations, many people are choosing to include biking tours and treks, some even scheduling entire getaways with their bikes in mind. Several companies now offer packages that attract cyclists, beginners to veterans, and organize programs that contain lodging and meals as well as plenty of sightseeing. Those more interested in mapping out their own trails are encouraged to buy a regional cycling guide where routes are laid out by length and level of difficulty. Before setting out, make sure to click some of the links below for more information about biking near you.

ADVENTURE CYCLING ASSOCIATION

www.adventurecycling.org

RAILS-TO-TRAILS CONSERVANCY

www.railstrails.org

REI ADVENTURES

www.rei.com/adventures



AMERICAN ARTISTS' COLONIES

Artists' colonies were first founded in France, but began flourishing in the United States during the late nineteenth century after American artists imported the idea back home. Galleries and—later—museums were natural outgrowths around these communities, and became popular destinations for patrons and sightseers. By looking at the paintings produced by the artists-in-residence in museums or books and visiting the scenic spots that inspired them, we see a piece of our history through the artists' eyes. You can visit some of the areas where these colonies were established. Click on the links below for more information.

NEW HOPE, PENNSYLVANIA

www.newhopepa.com

JAMES A. MICHENER ART MUSEUM

www.michenerartmuseum.org

Doylestown, Pennsylvania

CONNECTICUT IMPRESSIONIST ART TRAIL

www.arttrail.org

PROVINCETOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

www.ptownchamber.com



HOW TO PLAY

When someone spots an animal, road sign, or other item that is shown on the game boards (see templates on following page), she points it out to the other players, who then mark the corresponding picture on their boards. (A horse on a billboard or in a trailer is as good as one in the field.) The first person to get five pictures in a row—horizontally, vertically, or diagonally—wins.

To make a set of reusable playing boards, cut the four quadrants from the template on the next page, and have them laminated at a copy shop. That way, boxes can be checked off with erasable markers and then wiped clean for another use. Alternatively, you can produce one-use boards by photocopying, cutting out, and marking with pen or pencil during play.



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TIME TRAVEL ROAD TRIPS
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Visiting the houses and grounds of old estates, such as Thomas Jefferson's Monticello in Virginia or the Cliff House in Colorado, offers a direct look into our country's past, but—until recently—not a complete one. Curators are now trying to give a better, more inclusive glimpse of the everyday workings at these landmarks, primarily by examining the roles, quarters, and work stations of the slaves or servants who lived there. With a richer sense of the past on display, a fascinating part of our history comes vividly alive. Depending on your destination, there are a number of places to visit, such as those included in our guide below.

Northeast

THE ELMS

BELLEVUE AVENUE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND
401-847-1000
www.newportmansions.org/page3756.cfm

Mid-Atlantic

MOUNT VERNON

GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL
PARKWAY
MOUNT VERNON, VIRGINIA
703-780-2000
www.mountvernon.org

MONTICELLO

ROUTE 53
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
434-984-9822
www.monticello.org

Midwest

BRUCEMORE

2160 LINDEN DRIVE SOUTHEAST
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA
319-362-7375
www.brucemore.org

JAMES J. HILL HOUSE

240 SUMMIT AVENUE
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA
651-297-2555
www.mnhs.org/places/sites/jjhh/

South

DRAYTON HALL

3380 ASHLEY RIVER ROAD
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
843-769-2600
www.draytonhall.org

LAURA PLANTATION

2247 HIGHWAY 18
VACHERIE, LOUISIANA
888-799-7690
www.lauraplantation.com

McFADDIN-WARD HOUSE

1906 McFADDIN AVENUE
BEAUMONT, TEXAS
409-832-2134
www.mcfaddin-ward.org

West Coast

FENYES MANSION

470 WEST WALNUT STREET
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA
626-577-1660
www.pasadenahistory.org/thingstosee/fenyeshistory.html

GAMBLE HOUSE

4 WESTMORELAND PLACE
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA
626-793-3334
www.gamblehouse.org

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MUSEUMS OF ARTS AND CRAFTS
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The Arts and Crafts movement flourished in the United States at the end of the nineteenth century and beginning of the twentieth. The movement was a reaction to the ornate aesthetic of the Victorian era and prized simplicity in the artists' renderings of plants and animals on such everyday objects as ceramics, glassware, textiles, bookbinding, woodwork, and jewelry. You can see the influence today in mission-style chairs and tables, copper and iron decorative accents, and tapstries embroidered with ginkgo leaves, orchids, roses, lilies, dragonflies, and beetles, but it's a treat to see some of the original objects in these museums around the country.

Northeast

MORAVIAN TILE WORKS, FONTHILL, AND MERCER MUSEUM

DOYLESTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Tile Works: 215-345-6722

Fonthill: 215-348-9461

Mercer Museum: 215-345-0210

ROYCROFT

EAST AURORA, NEW YORK

716-652-3333

STICKLEY MUSEUM AT CRAFTSMAN FARMS

PARSIPPANY-TROY HILLS, NEW JERSEY

973-540-1165

South

MORSE MUSEUM

WINTER PARK, FLORIDA

407-645-5311

OHR-O'KEEFE MUSEUM OF ART

BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

228-374-5547

Midwest

DARD HUNTER STUDIOS

CHILLICOTHE, OHIO

740-774-1236

PEWABIC POTTERY

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

313-822-0954

West

LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

323-857-6000

HELPFUL PACKING TIPS

TISSUE PAPER AND DRY-CLEANER BAGS are essential for wrinkle-free packing. Use the paper to pad the sides of your suitcase, and place it between layers of clothing. Pack business suits and formal dresses inside the bags, then fold them neatly before placing in the suitcase.

SAVE SPACE by rolling casual clothing: Lay items on a flat surface and roll carefully, smoothing as you go. Try bundling outfits together by wrapping pants around matching shirts. Stuff shoes with socks or underwear to keep the shoes from getting crushed.

DISTRIBUTE WEIGHT EVENLY in your suitcase or duffel bag by packing the heaviest items, such as shoes and toiletry bags, at the bottom. Make extra space in an almost-full duffel or soft case by carefully dropping it onto a hard surface to help the items settle.

DON'T CARRY FULL-SIZE TOILETRIES, which are heavy and bulky. Instead, fill small containers with travel-size quantities of such products. When you unpack at home, refill the containers so they'll be ready for your next trip. Store cotton balls and cotton swabs in plastic bags.

ASSEMBLE AN ASSORTMENT OF HELPFUL TRAVEL KITS: a first-aid kit filled with items such as bandages, antiseptic, and pain relievers; a sewing kit with needles, thread, and other essentials; and a personal-documents pouch with copies of important papers and phone numbers.