



[EXPERIENCES]

AMERICA'S MOST WANTED

In two years' time, our friend and neighbour across the pond turns 250, so we're very much in a US state of mind. Here are some of the best reasons to head stateside, from exciting sports to epic road trips, with a dash of iconic Americana thrown in for good measure...

2,792

The number of stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame

2,448

Length in miles of Route 66 in its entirety

1,454

The height of the Empire State Building in feet

BORN IN THE USA; as American as apple pie; America's sweetheart; Surfin' USA...the list of song titles, movie names and catchphrases referencing that big ol' country across the Atlantic is endless, and the fact you'll know most of them by heart just goes to show how much influence it has on us. Whether you came to know – and love – the Land of Opportunity through watching shows like *Friends*, films like *Die Hard*, or sports like NFL, it doesn't really matter. Picture it, and your mind's eye will show you classic imagery from the red rocks of Arizona, to the giant redwoods of California, diners along Route 66, or Lady Liberty holding up her torch. In short, it's got a lot to offer, and whether you want to camp out in the >

Words by
LAURA MILLAR

📷 Pere Sanz

EMPIRE STATE OF MIND: Built in 1931, the Empire State Building has been an iconic mainstay of the New York City skyline for almost a century



> desert in a silver Airstream, track extraterrestrials in Nevada, or simply eat your way around the South, there's something to suit everyone. Repeat after us: God bless America!

EXPLORE ICONIC AMERICA

HURRAY FOR HOLLYWOOD

If there's anything more American than the Hollywood sign on Mount Lee, in LA's Griffith Park, we don't know what it is. LA has long been a draw for us Brits, as we love its associations with glamour, A-listers, and the movies. Amp up the thrills with a walking tour with Bikes and Hikes LA, which will take you as close to the sign as you can get, then make a pilgrimage to the Walk of Fame on Hollywood Boulevard, to see the names of celebrities from Amy Adams to Renee Zellweger. Several film studios offer tours, such as Warner Bros (where the likes of *Blade Runner*, *Big Bang Theory* and, of course, *Friends*, were made), Universal (*Batman*) and Sony (*Breaking Bad*).

bikesandhikesla.com

DO THE DESERT IN AN AIRSTREAM

Polished, shiny, aluminium trailers, [Airstreams](#) have been a classic symbol of Americana ever since they were invented in California in 1927; over the years they evolved to become motorhomes, although they're now rarely seen on America's roads. You can still stay in one, however; AutoCamp has several locations, from Utah to Texas, where you can spend the night in one of these distinctive, shimmering mobile units with all the mod-cons you need for the 21st century, from a private bathroom to a fully-working kitchenette. One of the most beautiful places to do it is in Joshua Tree, California; settle into an Adirondack chair steps from your front door, light the firepit, toast a marshmallow or two, and watch the sun sink into the sky in a blaze of scarlet glory. A seven-day trip to California, including three

Invented in Los Angeles in 1936 by Wally Byam, **Airstreams** are renowned for their curved, aluminium exteriors and have gained cult status across the US

ISLANDS IN THE AIRSTREAM: At AutoCamp Joshua Tree, guests can stay in an iconic airstream

nights at AutoCamp Joshua Tree, flights and car hire, starts from £1,895pp. bon-voyage.co.uk

I HEART NY

Crossing the Brooklyn Bridge... cheering on the Yankees... taking the Staten Island Ferry... there are so many iconic things to do in New York City, it's no wonder they named it twice. Take in a Broadway show, fly high over Manhattan in a helicopter, or buzz up and down the Hudson in a speedboat. Don't forget to soak up some of NYC's world-class culture, either; check out contemporary artists ranging from Jeff Koons to Andy Warhol at MOMA, or the likes of Georgia O'Keefe and Paul Cézanne at the Met. Make sure you scoff a hotdog while at a basketball game, have 'what she's having' at Katz's Deli, and order a slice of the best pizza in the city at... well, whichever of the city's many pizza parlours lay claim to serving it at present. A six-day Icons of New York trip starts from £1,900pp, including flights, accommodation, and tickets for various attractions and activities as outlined.

originaltravel.co.uk

GO STARGAZING IN A DARK SKY PARK IN UTAH

Ever wished you could, well, wish upon a star? America has over 60 dark sky parks, communities and reserves, as officially designated by the International Dark-Sky Association. One of the most beautiful – despite the somewhat unprepossessing name – is Dead Horse Point State Park near Moab in eastern Utah. Often compared to the Grand Canyon for its dramatic views, it sits above the beautiful White Rim Trail in Canyonlands National Park and offers far-reaching vistas of Moab, the La Sal Mountains to the south, and the Colorado River 2,000ft below. Recognised as a Dark Sky Park, it is one of the best places to see the Milky Way in the state. You might also recognise the area for its use in the iconic final 'Grand Canyon' scene in *Thelma & Louise* (1991). A seven-night trip around the state, including a visit to Dead Horse Point, starts from £1,910pp including



accommodation, transport and activities (flights cost extra). intrepidtravel.com

SADDLE UP FOR THE HOUSTON RODEO, TEXAS

Channel your inner cowboy (or girl) with a trip to the Houston Livestock Show



and Rodeo, the world's largest livestock exhibition and rodeo. Also known as RodeoHouston, it's been going since 1932 and, for the past 22 years, has been held at the purpose-built NRG Stadium, as the show just got too big for its previous venue, the Astrodome. Of course, the entertainment includes watching professional riders >

SETTLE INTO AN ADIRONDACK CHAIR STEPS FROM YOUR FRONT DOOR, LIGHT THE FIREPIT, TOAST A MARSHMALLOW OR TWO, AND WATCH THE SUN SINK INTO THE SKY



> wrestling steer, roping calves, barrel racing and bareback riding, but there are also concerts, carnivals and barbecues. Past performers include Gene Autry and Elvis Presley, while more recently, Beyoncé, Selena Gomez, and Ariana Grande have played here. Get your tickets now for the next instalment, taking place between March 4 - 23, 2025; if you're really brave, you can even take part in some of the competitions yourself. Yeehaw!

rodeohouston.com

GET INTO THE SPACE RACE AT THE KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, FLORIDA

It was the USA which put the very first man on the moon – Neil Armstrong set foot on its rocky, silvery surface on July 21, 1969 – and you can learn all about America's space exploration history at the Kennedy Space Center, originally known as NASA Launch Operations Center, on Florida's Merritt Island. You'll be able to visit early rocket launch sites, check out the Atlantis space

shuttle, and see the US Astronaut Hall of Fame. The Center has also been used as a filming location for movies including [Armageddon](#), Apollo 13 and, more recently, Fly Me to the Moon.

kennedyspacecenter.com

GET A LITTLE BIT COUNTRY IN NASHVILLE

From Dolly Parton to Johnny Cash, Taylor Swift to Miley Cyrus, the list of musicians who were either born in, lived

Alongside the Space Center, [Armageddon](#) used the arid landscape of Barry Barber Ranch in South Dakota as a stand-in for the pockmarked surface of an asteroid

SPACE COWBOY: At the Kennedy Space Centre, you can dive into the history of space travel in the US

in, or performed in Nashville is impressive. Somewhat bizarrely, Nashville evolved into its alter ego, Music City, thanks to an insurance company; in 1925 the National Life and Accident Insurance Company had the ingenious idea of launching a radio station here to promote its business, and reserved Saturday nights for an evening of live (and lively) country music. It became so popular they had to build an auditorium to accommodate the performers and audience, and the weekly show was renamed in 1927 as

ENTERTAINMENT INCLUDES WATCHING PROFESSIONAL RIDERS WRESTLING STEER, ROPING CALVES AND BAREBACK RIDING



STICK SEASON: Rent a Camper Days RV and drive New England during its iconic autumn season

the Grand Ole Opry. Today you can still go there and hear live performances, but don't miss checking out the honky tonk bars along Broadway, a visit to the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, or a more intimate evening at the legendary Bluebird Cafe, where famous songwriters perform acoustic sets. visitmusiccity.com

EXPLORE THE WILD WEST

Immerse yourself in the culture of the Old West with an unforgettable trip around Utah, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and South Dakota. Admire the peaks of the Grand Tetons, watch Old Faithful put on a show at Yellowstone, and gaze at the dusty vastness of South Dakota's Badlands. You can relive the adventures of an 1850s, westbound wagon train at the National Oregon/California Trail Center in Montpelier, Idaho, learn more about the time of cowboys and Native Americans at the Buffalo Bill Center for the West in Wyoming, and marvel at the vast Lakota warrior represented at the Crazy Horse Memorial in South Dakota. You'll also get the chance to see the faces of former American presidents etched in the stone cliffs of Mount Rushmore. A nine-day Wild West, Cowboys and Buffalos trip starts from £2,966pp, including accommodation, meals, guide and various experiences (flights extra). trafalgar.com

DRIVE AN RV AROUND NEW ENGLAND

The mighty recreational vehicle is every big American family's transport of choice; something with multiple wheels, swivel

chairs, and everything from comfortable beds and hot showers to microwaves, washing machines and satellite dishes. They are used on long-distance journeys, where networks of RV parks allow you to stay overnight in some of the country's most beautiful regions, many with fancy facilities of their own, from restaurants to swimming pools. Take one for a spin around New England – preferably in the fall – with the fam, or a bunch of friends. A Cruise America C-25, which sleeps up to four adults and one child, and features a hot shower, kitchen and automatic transmission, starts from just £83.93 per night from April 2025. camperdays.co.uk

CHECK OUT AN AMUSEMENT PARK IN CONNECTICUT

Let's be honest, the theme parks and Disneyfication of Florida and California feel a bit too obvious. Why not hark back to a more innocent age, and visit Lake Compounce, Connecticut: it's the oldest continuously operating amusement park in the USA. It first opened in 1846, when its main attractions included rowing boats, a gazebo for lakeside concerts, and several rudimentary rides. Over the decades, it's always had a wooden rollercoaster - the

first one was opened in 1914 - and today it features waterslides, a big wheel, free-fall rides, a carousel and more. Who needs Mickey? Single-day tickets from £24.25. lakecompounce.com

GET STUCK INTO SPORTS

HEAD FOR SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA, THE BIRTHPLACE OF BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Who'd have imagined that a simple game batting a ball back and forth across a net, with the aim of each team to keep it from hitting the sand, could have ended up as an Olympic sport? Yet it did, debuting at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia. The modern, two-player Olympic variation was invented in Santa Monica, California, in 1930, but the city's first permanent beach volleyball nets were installed in the early 1920s. By 1924, serious competitors were entering Santa Monica's inter-club competitions, and it became the perfect place for wannabe Olympians to train, thanks to its deep sand and naturally active lifestyle. In 2028, things will come full circle as the city gears up to host the sport here >



WILD HORSES: Explore Oregon's picturesque Wilson Ranches Retreat on horseback at sunset

HONKY TONK: Robert's Western World is known as Nashville's home of traditional country music

> for the LA28 Summer Games. Fancy trying it yourself? There are dozens of courts available for beginners and beyond. santamonica.com

WATCH NASCAR IN NORTH CAROLINA

It started as a way for illegal moonshiners to dodge the cops during Prohibition. In the 1920s, Wilkes County in North Carolina was known as America's moonshine capital; eager not to get caught by the police, distillers souped up their vehicles, tweaking the engines to make them go twice as fast. This led to drivers racing each other for fun, and in 1948, the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing was established. Cars can get up to speeds of around 200mph; see these exhilarating competitions for yourself at the North Wilkesboro Speedway, which hosted one of the very first official races, and marvel at the cars' engineering and past hero drivers at the NASCAR Hall of Fame on the edge of Charlotte's city centre. northwilkesborospeedway.com

CHEER ON THE GEE-GEES AT THE KENTUCKY DERBY, LOUISVILLE

If you like a flutter, there's no better place to do it than at this classic horse race,



which has been held at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky, since 1875. It's run by three-year-old thoroughbreds over a distance of 1.25 miles (that's 10 furlongs in old money). Held annually on the first Saturday in May, it's the first leg of the Triple Crown – a series of three races – and is known, rather poetically, as 'The Run for the Roses', as the winning horse is draped in a blanket of the romantic blooms. The Derby has been variously nicknamed 'the most exciting', 'the fastest', or 'the greatest' two minutes in sports. Stay at Hotel Genevieve, a stylish

boutique property just a fifteen-minute drive from the track.

kentuckyderby.com; hotelgenevieve.com

GET ON TWO WHEELS IN SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

There's a reason so many professional cyclists have made Sonoma County their home – and why they call the region 'Ride Country' rather than 'Wine Country'. The area's varied terrain includes rolling hills, valleys, Redwood forests, wetlands and mountains. It has attracted the likes of former US Champion and Olympic medallist Levi Leipheimer, and Lance Armstrong, who used to train here with his Tour de France multi-winning team. Take part in some Cyclotourism yourself; try a pro-cycling experience with US cyclist Pete Stetina, where you'll discover his favourite routes and refuelling spots, or combine it with wine tasting on a biking tour with Getaway Adventures. In between adventures on two wheels, visit some of the area's best wineries to refuel and rehydrate. sonomacounty.com

WATCH NFL IN PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

A former steelworking town, Pittsburgh



FIRST BASE: Pittsburgh's PNC Park, home of the Pirates, sits on the banks of the Allegheny River

is known as the City of Champions, and rightly so when it's got a sports record this impressive. The Pittsburgh Steelers American football team has had six Super Bowl wins, while the Pittsburgh Penguins have clocked up five ice hockey Stanley Cups, and the Pittsburgh Pirates are five times baseball World Series victors. In 2026 Pittsburgh will be chosen to host the NFL Draft. One of the biggest, most-anticipated sporting events of the year in the US, it's where professional American football teams take turns choosing new players to join them. It's an even prouder moment because the origins of the NFL Draft come from Pittsburgh itself; in 1936, the very first Player Selections Meeting, as it was then known, took place at the Fort Pitt Hotel in Downtown Pittsburgh. Take in a game at the Acrisure Stadium as part of a new trip with Bon Voyage; the 12-night Steel City to Music City, ending in Nashville, starts from £2,395pp including flights.

bon-voyage.co.uk

TEE OFF IN THE PALM BEACHES, FLORIDA

It's seen legends such as Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods, and Rory McIlroy: the PGA National Resort, located in Palm Beach Gardens, boasts six championship 18-hole golf courses. The most famous is known simply as 'The Champion', which has hosted the 1983 Ryder Cup, the 1987 PGA Championship, the Senior PGA Championship (between 1982 and 2000), and the PGA Tour's Cognizant Classic since 2007. You can take lessons with a pro, get a new club fitted, or have your swing analysed. If you tire of golf, the resort also offers tennis courts, a luxurious spa designed by Venus Williams, and six signature restaurants. Travelbag has a seven-night trip staying at the PGA National Resort on a room-only basis, including flights and car rental, from £1,599pp.

travelbag.co.uk

PLAY PICKLEBALL IN BAINBRIDGE, WASHINGTON

It's the sport that's swept the nation: a

PEOPLE HAVE BEEN RIDING THE WAVES IN HAWAII SINCE THE 5TH CENTURY WHEN POLYNESIANS FIRST BROUGHT IT OVER

quirky cross between tennis, ping-pong and badminton, it's played with a paddle and a perforated plastic ball. Pickleball courts have been popping up all across the country, and there's even an official amateur association, The United States Amateur Pickleball Association (known as USAP). But it was first invented by three middle-aged dads in [Bainbridge Island](#), in Washington State, in 1965, when they came up with the idea to entertain their families, using an old badminton court and ping-pong paddles. Legend has it it was named after a family dog called Pickles.

Give it a go at its place of origin; head to Founders Courts, where they have open play every Monday to Thursday morning. The Bainbridge Island Historical Museum even has a section dedicated to the history of pickleball.

stateofwatourism.com

Situated in the Puget Sound, [Bainbridge Island](#) is just a 35-minute ferry from downtown Seattle, or a drive across the Agate Pass Bridge, and has a population of around 25,000

GET FIFA FEVER IN MIAMI, FLORIDA

It will all be happening in Miami in 2026,

as the city will be hosting seven matches at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens between June 15 and July 18, including the bronze final. The prestigious stadium is home to the NFL's Miami Dolphins and has already welcomed many high-profile sporting events, including six Super Bowls, the Miami Open tennis tournament, and even Miami Grand Prix Formula 1 racing. Until then, you can catch regular Dolphins games and even Taylor Swift's Eras concert; she plays there between 18 and 20 October. Don't miss the chance to explore South Beach's impressive Art Deco architecture or soak up the vibrant Hispanic atmosphere and feast on cubanos in Little Havana.

hardrockstadium.com

HANG TEN IN HAWAII

People have been riding the waves in Hawaii since the 5th century AD when Polynesians first brought the activity over from Tahiti and the Marquesas islands. Hawaiians invented the art of standing and surfing upright on boards and, many might say, perfected it. Today, the best places to surf include the North Shore in Oahu (try the Banzai Pipeline), Honolua Bay in Maui, and >



SURFIN' SAFARI: Maui's Honolua Bay is a dream surf break for learners, with easy riders to shore



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From historic landmarks to vibrant neighborhoods, **Philadelphia** offers an eclectic scene ready to impress visitors. The culinary scene offers bold flavors, from iconic cheesesteaks to inventive award winning restaurants. Renowned collections of fine art are complemented by a street art scene that secures Philadelphia's title as "Mural Capital of the World."

Start planning your American adventure at discoverPHL.com.



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LOOSE CANNON: Cannon Beach in Oregon is recognised by the iconic Haystack Rock in the ocean

> Hanalei Bay in Kauai. Start in Honolulu, where buzzy metropolis meets tropical island – the gentle waters of iconic Waikiki Beach are ideal for beginners to try their hand at surfing. Take in the striking views of Diamond Head Crater from the sea, then cool down with a Hawaiian classic: shave ice, flavoured with syrup or fruit.

gohawaii.com

SEE THE SUPER BOWL IN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Continuing America's run of epic sports events, February 2025 sees the Super Bowl being held at the Big Easy's Caesars Superdome (for the eighth time). If you're a fan of Kendrick Lamar, book your ticket now, because he's doing the prestigious halftime show slot. If you're not, head out into the heart of the city to enjoy all it has to offer; stroll the historic French Quarter and enjoy the jazz music drifting from almost every bar, especially on iconic Bourbon Street, at Preservation Hall around the corner and just

down the road at The Spotted Cat. Don't miss a ride on the St Charles streetcar, or a steamboat cruise on the Mississippi, and if you're a foodie, stuff your face with delicious Creole and Cajun cuisine, from gumbo to beignets and po'boys.

caesarssuperdome.com

GET YOUR MOTOR RUNNING

EAT YOUR WAY AROUND THE SOUTHERN STATES

Yes, when you think of food in America, you generally think giant portions, but beyond the huge platefuls there is some genuinely tasty cuisine out there – and perhaps nowhere more distinctive than in the South. Influenced by a variety of cultures, from West African to European, it has resulted in a delicious melting pot of flavours. Head to Nashville

Much of the filming locations for **Twilight** took place around Washington and Oregon, with Portland, Damascus, Ecola State Park and St. Helens serving as Forks in the film

for hot chicken at Hattie B's, where you can choose your heat level from 'Southern' (mild) to 'Shut the Cluck Up' (extremely hot). In Memphis, go to Central BBQ for tender meat prepared with smoky dry rubs, from ribs to pulled pork and beef brisket, and don't miss a hearty bowl of jambalaya, gumbo or shrimp and grits at the Clarinet Bistreaux in New Orleans. Try as many of these stops as you can – and more – over Ocean Florida's 13-day Southern USA multi-centre itinerary, which includes flights and car hire from £2,698pp.

ocean-florida.co.uk

SET OFF ON THE OREGON FILM TRAIL

The state's dramatic scenery has seen it become a hotbed for film production, and the Oregon Film Trail gives you the opportunity to explore some of its most iconic cinematic locations. From lush forests and rugged coastlines to vibrant cities and small towns, the trail offers stunning scenery with peeks into pop culture. With more than thirty locations and some of Hollywood's biggest films – from Academy Award winners like *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* to cult classics like *The Goonies* – it's an ideal film-buff-meets-nature-lover holiday. **Twilight** fans will be in heaven – look out for stops including Cannon Beach and St Helens – and along the way you'll encounter fascinating wildlife, including wild sea lions. An eight-day trip, including flights and car hire, starts from £2,345pp.

bon-voyage.co.uk

DRIVE ACROSS THE COUNTRY ON ROUTE 66

It's America's most iconic route, and in 2026, it will be 100 years old. It was one of the USA's first continuous stretches of paved highway, and served as a major road for those who wanted to migrate west. Starting in Chicago, Illinois, and ending in Los Angeles, California, today around 85% of the road still exists in a drivable condition. Take the ultimate, 2,520-mile road trip through eight states, where iconic stops will include Springfield, the former home of President Lincoln; St Louis, where you can head to the top of the Gateway Arch; the cowboy town of Amarillo; and the Grand Canyon itself. You'll finish in Santa Monica, where the original route ended. The Epic Route 66 Road Trip >

IN MEMPHIS, GO TO CENTRAL BBQ FOR MEAT PREPARED WITH SMOKY DRY RUBS, FROM RIBS TO PULLED PORK AND BRISKET



> starts from £4,305pp, including flights, car hire and accommodation.
originaltravel.co.uk

DRIVE THE FLORIDA KEYS

The Keys are the continental United States' southernmost island chain, connected by the Overseas Highway's 42 bridges – one almost 7 miles long – over the Atlantic Ocean, Florida Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. Referred to as the Highway that Goes to Sea, the Overseas Highway is 113 miles long, starting at the Miami–Dade/Monroe County line and ending at Key West. Lying just 90 miles north of Cuba, this 2-by-4-mile island city features the southernmost point in the continental United States. Along the way you can stop at Key Largo, famous for the 1948 movie of the same name, starring Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall; Islamorada, known as the sport fishing capital of the world; the Seven Mile Bridge, whose original

incarnation was nicknamed the 'eighth wonder of the world'; and the beautiful beaches of Bahia Honda State Park. A seven-night trip, including flights and car hire, starts from £1,749pp.
purelytravel.co.uk

DISCOVER THE BEAUTY OF UTAH

Utah is home to some of the most spectacular national parks in the western USA. Start a road trip around the state at the epic [Grand Canyon](#), then head to the world-famous Monument Valley, with its distinctive sandstone towers standing tall in the ancient Navajo Territory, a landscape familiar from countless Westerns. Then make for Utah's 'Mighty Five' parks, each with

A massive 1,904 square miles, the **Grand Canyon** is bigger than the state of Rhode Island, and is believed to have been carved out as many as 70 million years ago

LOCK AND KEY: Key West, part of the Florida Keys archipelago, is the state's southernmost point

its own unique geological wonders. Marvel at over 2,000 natural sandstone arches in the aptly named Arches National Park, while Canyonlands offers dramatic desert landscape sculpted by the Colorado River, filled with towering pinnacles and buttes. Zion, Utah's first national park, sees the Virgin River running through its lush valley, flanked by soaring canyon walls. You'll end at Bryce Canyon, where the awe-inspiring spire-shaped rock formations known as hoodoos create a surreal landscape. A 10-night self-driving experience which includes flights, accommodation and car hire, starts from £1,849pp.
americansky.co.uk

TAKE THE ULTIMATE CALIFORNIA ROAD TRIP

Seen in countless films and TV shows, including in the opening credits of Reese Witherspoon hit, *Big Little Lies*, California's Pacific Coast Highway, also known more prosaically as Highway 1, is one of America's most photogenic routes. Stretching from San Francisco down to LA, do it in style in a >

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HIT THE ROAD JACK: [above] Dead Horse Point state park; [right] road tripping along Highway 12

> vintage vehicle or sports car, as you travel through Sonoma Valley, Big Sur and Santa Barbara. Stay at the award-winning Post Ranch Inn along the way, which offers incredible views across the ocean, and enjoy wine tasting in Santa Barbara's tasting rooms. End your journey in glamorous Beverly Hills, where designer shopping is on your doorstep, with a stay at the elegant Maybourne hotel. A 13-night Ultimate California trip, including flights, accommodation, luxury car hire, private guides and transfers starts from £8,600pp. scottdunn.com

SEEK OUT ALIEN LIFE IN NEVADA

The truth is out there... somewhere, in the dusty desert of Nevada. Discover its Loneliest Road and the eerie Extraterrestrial Highway on a road trip where you might go for hours without seeing another living soul. Highway 50 runs from Ocean City, Maryland to Sacramento, California and the stretch between Ely and Lake Tahoe was named by Life magazine as 'the loneliest Road in America.' The route's wide open spaces go on for miles... and miles... and miles. By the time you get to Highway 375, also known as the Extraterrestrial Highway, you might be grateful just to spot a little green man. The route gets its name from its association with Area 51, a heavily guarded air force base just outside Las Vegas; no one really knows what goes on within... maybe this is your chance to



find out. A 12-night Nevada and the Loneliest Road trip, including flights, accommodation and car hire, starts from £1,925pp. bon-voyage.co.uk

EXPLORE THE TEXAS GULF COAST

Most people associate Texas with cowboys, massive steaks, and country music. Big cities like Houston and Dallas are a draw, as is quirky, liberal Austin. But often overlooked is its picturesque, tranquil coastline, which stretches over 350 miles and offers selfie-worthy sand dunes, charming seaside towns, and beautiful beaches. Start in Galveston, a resort town perfect for families and solo trippers alike, with handsome Victorian architecture and lively attractions like the Pleasure Pier. Further along the coast you'll encounter the natural wonders of Padre Island National Seashore where you'll find pristine beaches, abundant wildlife, and the chance to spot sea turtles and their hatcheries in their natural habitat. traveltexas.com

TAKE TO THE ROAD ON SCENIC BYWAY 12

No road trip to Utah would be complete

without driving down Scenic Byway 12. At 123 miles long, it has everything you need for an incredible journey – the way the road winds through the mighty rocks, the magnificent landscapes en route, and the smooth surface quality of the tarmac. Designated an All-American Road (only one-third of America's scenic byways get this distinction) it connects US 89 near Panguitch with SR 24 near Torrey. The route takes you on a journey as you climb into the Dixie National Forest, curve past Grand Staircase-Escalante, and roll alongside the shimmering red rock of Capitol Reef National Park. Subalpine fir and tall aspen trees decorate the surroundings, and plenty of scenic viewpoints await. visitutah.com

NAVIGATE THE GREAT LAKES ROAD

Stretching from Chicago, Illinois, the Great Lakes Road takes you along the shores of America's Great Lakes, peppered with vibrant urban cities, charming small towns, and breathtaking scenery. Start in Milwaukee on Lake Michigan, a cool city known for its brewing traditions, and a scenic location where three rivers meet. Stop off in Detroit, separated from Canada by the Detroit River. Driving through Michigan in Mackinac County, road trippers can experience 'the jewel of the great lakes', Mackinac Island, and marvel at the spectacular view of lush forests, limestone rock formations and sea caves, atop the Sleeping Bear Dunes. visittheusa.co.uk ♦

THE STRETCH BETWEEN ELY AND LAKE TAHOE WAS NAME 'THE LONELIEST ROAD IN AMERICA' BY LIFE MAGAZINE IN JULY 1986