

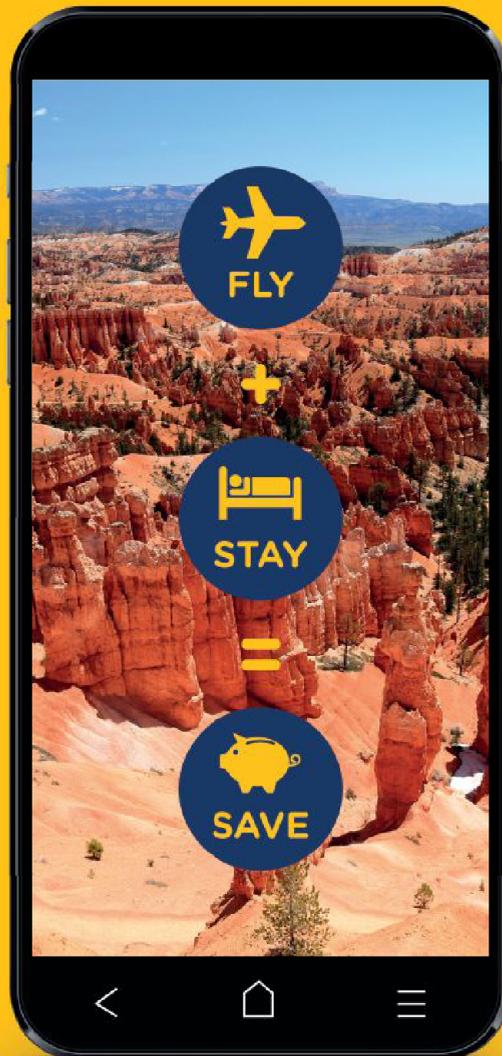
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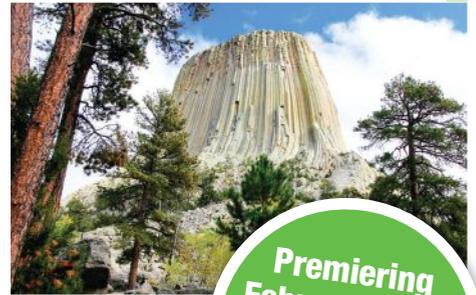
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Sojourns for Shoppers

These vibrant cities offer the perfect balance of free attractions and dynamic shopping districts.



Bountiful Boston, MA

This is a city where cobblestone streets meet glass-enclosed shopping galleries, where the Freedom Trail's landmarks stand beside trendy restaurants and where you'll find some of the USA's most prestigious universities.

Where to shop: Browse designer clothing in sprawling shopping centres, such as Copley Square, stroll open-air markets (most notably Faneuil Hall Marketplace), and meander historic Newbury Street's chic boutiques, cafés and galleries. Antiques lovers will want to visit the Beacon Hill

neighbourhood, while bargain hunters can take advantage of nearby outlet shopping. Wherever you shop, you'll enjoy the tax exemption on all clothing valued under \$175.

Free things to do: Climb the Bunker Hill Monument, the site of the first major battle of the American Revolution, take a self-guided tour of the 16 historical sites that comprise the Freedom Trail, or join a Samuel Adams Brewery Tour. Visiting on a Wednesday? The Museum of Fine Arts is free from 4 p.m. until close.

VisitTheUSA.com/boston

Photos clockwise from top left: Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston, Massachusetts; San Francisco, California; Macy's, Las Vegas, Nevada; Forum Shops, Las Vegas; dining on Newbury Street, Boston

Spirited San Francisco, CA

This colourful coastal city has drawn artists, free spirits and most recently, tech gurus, for years. Hence it's eclectic mix of shopping pursuits.

Where to shop: Union Square, with its large department stores and designer boutiques, is the epicentre of shopping in San Francisco. For vintage finds, tasty taquerias and the vibrancy San Francisco is famous for, visit the Mission District. Among the fashion boutiques on Filmore Street near Japantown is an interesting mashup of independent bookstores, flower shops and coffee bars. Wrought-iron gates close the chic Maiden Lane to everything but foot traffic during peak business hours, giving pedestrians ample room to stroll into designer shops or sip lattes at sidewalk cafés. The city's Chestnut Street has similar appeal.

Free things to do: San Francisco City Guides offers tours through historic neighbourhoods and recounts the influence of events such as the gold rush and the 1906 earthquake. The flagship Ghirardelli Square is on the National Register of Historic Places and just a few blocks from the famously crooked Lombard Street. Walk up this steep, twisted street for the perfect photo op at the top. A walk across the Golden Gate Bridge and into the adjacent park also offers incredible views. The city's Cable Car Museum has fascinating displays of antique cars.

VisitTheUSA.com/sanfrancisco

Viva Las Vegas, NV

Known for its top-notch entertainment, Las Vegas has gained a new reputation for its over-the-top shopping. This metropolis in the desert has multi-storey indoor malls on the city's main Strip, as well as plentiful options inside its hotels.

Where to shop: You can spend days perusing the vast selection of stores in The Forum Shops at Caesars, the Grand Canal Shoppes at The Venetian and The Palazzo, and the Miracle Mile Shops at Planet Hollywood. For luxury stores, visit The Crystals; to find great bargains, make time for the Las Vegas Premium Outlets.

Free things to do: Watch water fountains "dance" to synchronized music at the Bellagio hotel, enjoy the jugglers and trapeze artists performing at the Carnival Midway inside the Circus Circus hotel, and explore the lush wildlife habitat at the Flamingo, home to exotic birds. History lovers visit the Marjorie Barrick Museum, which is themed after the Wild West.

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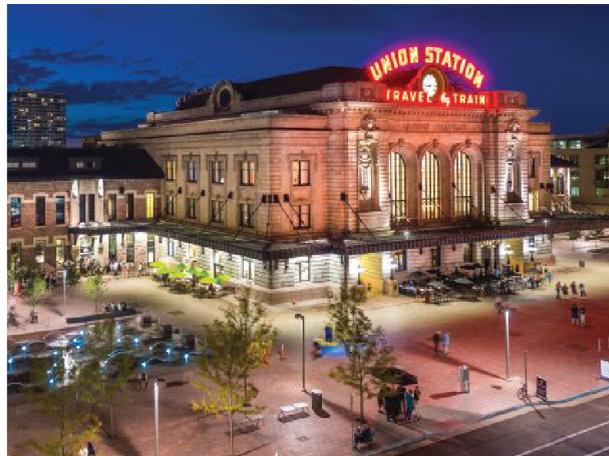
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Photos top
to bottom:
Minneapolis,
Minnesota;
Mall of America,
Minnesota



BARGAIN SHOPPING

Outlet malls often offer great value, so it's no surprise if you want to visit one (or two or three) during your visit to the USA. Many have become bona-fide entertainment centres, complete with children's rides and activities, restaurants, theatres and more. Follow these tips to make the most of your U.S. shopping experience.

- If you plan to restock your closet and buy in bulk, shop when stores open or during the last hour or two before closing, when crowds are thinnest.
- Many outlet malls also have name-brand luggage stores, in case you need something to carry your new fashions home.
- For the best selections, Mondays and Tuesdays are when most retail stores restock. These are often the least-crowded days, too.
- Some states, such as Louisiana and Texas, offer tax-free shopping to international visitors who show a valid passport.

▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Mighty Minneapolis, MN

The home of Target headquarters and Mall of America, the largest indoor mall in the U.S., Minneapolis is ideal for those who love the excitement of an urban metropolis.

Where to shop: Take advantage of tax-free shopping at Mall of America, with over 500 stores, 50 restaurants and entertainment complexes such as Nickelodeon Universe, the USA's largest indoor theme park. If that's not enough, both the Nicollet Mall and Southdale, which was actually the USA's first enclosed shopping centre, also call Minneapolis home. A string of antiques towns in the surrounding area are perfect for those who like main street charm. The area's Scandinavian heritage can be seen in the city's many arts and crafts fairs and festivals, where artists and woodworkers show off their wares.

Free things to do: The Como Park Zoo & Marjorie McNeely Conservatory's new Japanese garden is the latest reason to visit. One of the country's largest urban sculpture parks, the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden's centrepiece is a playful figure known as "Spoonbridge and Cherry" that converts into an 18-hole miniature golf course in warmer months. The Minneapolis Institute of Art is consistently ranked one of the best art museums in the USA. Both Summit Brewing and Flat Earth Brewery offer free tasting tours of craft beers.

VisitTheUSA.com/minneapolis





**ST. PETE
CLEARWATER
FLORIDA**



Photos top to bottom: Clearwater Beach; kite surfing, Gulf of Mexico; Dalí Museum, St. Petersburg

ST. PETE/CLEARWATER

Amazing beaches just 90 minutes from Orlando

Delight in sunny weather, award-winning beaches – including perennial hot spot Clearwater Beach – and invigorating culture in this warm, laid-back destination. A string of small, charming beach communities is within easy reach of St. Petersburg, a vibrant, cultural city. Relax at a tiki bar overlooking the Gulf of Mexico, or find blissful solitude on the beaches of Honeymoon and Caladesi Islands. Then discover St. Pete’s energetic downtown, with art galleries, theatres, taverns serving craft beer and the iconic Dalí Museum. Also enjoy fun festivals that take place year-round in the area’s 24 unique communities, from the Greek enclave of Tarpon Springs to the off-the-beaten-path beach town of Pass-a-Grille.

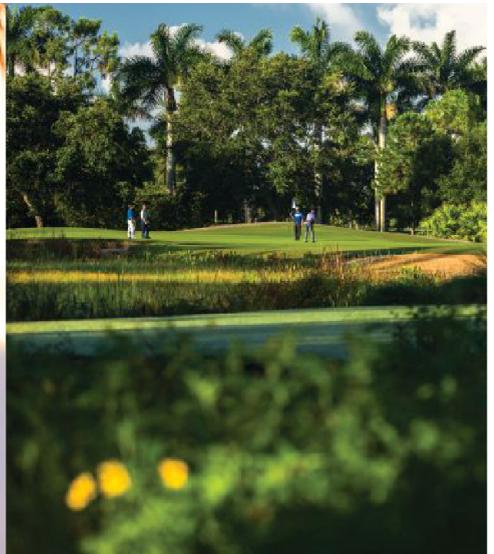


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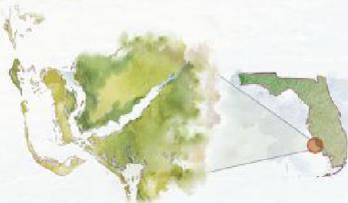
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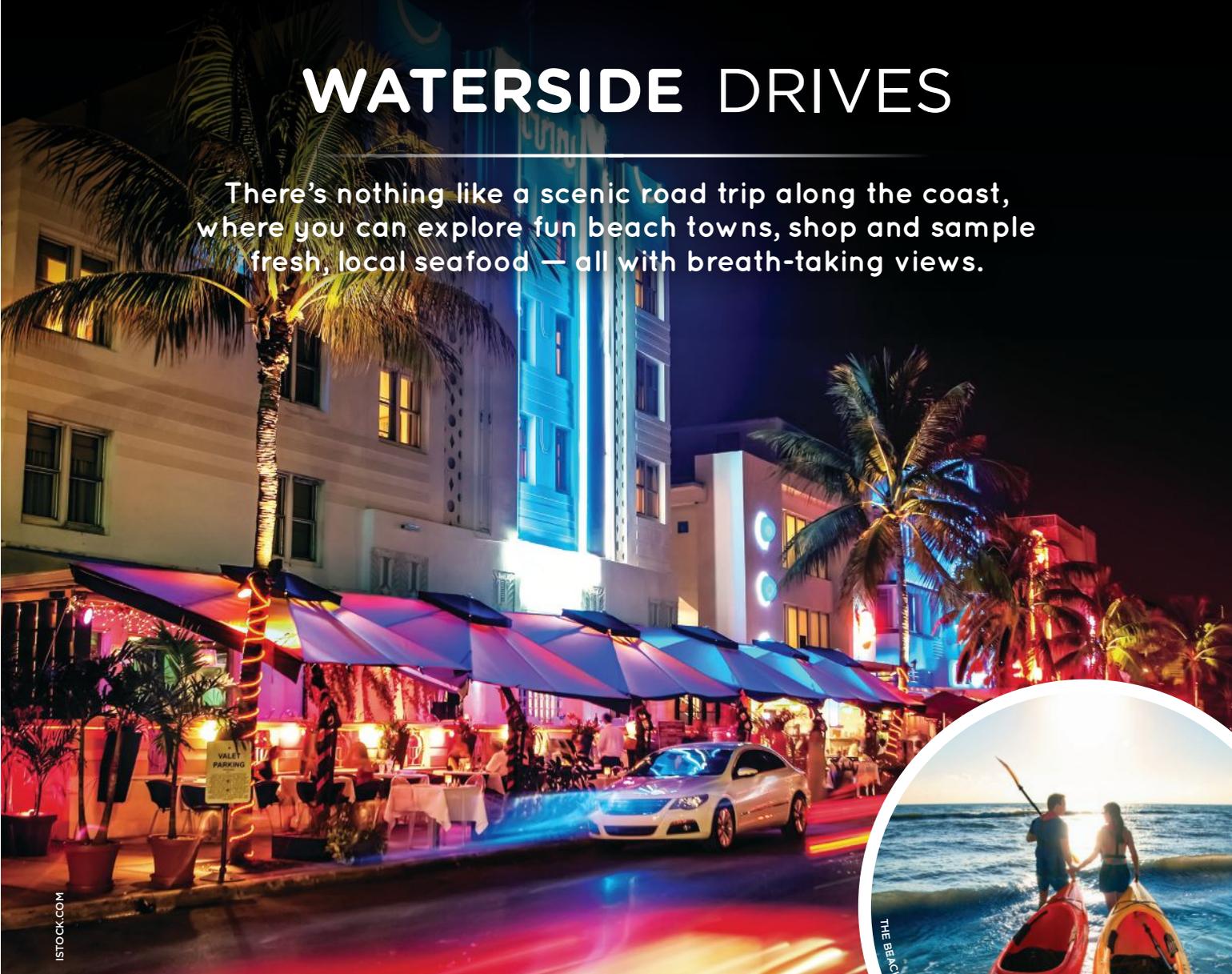
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WATERSIDE DRIVES

There's nothing like a scenic road trip along the coast, where you can explore fun beach towns, shop and sample fresh, local seafood — all with breath-taking views.



From the Gulf to the Ocean via South Florida's Tamiami Trail

U.S. Highway 41, known locally as "The Trail," runs between Tampa and Miami. Leaving from Tampa's Gulf of Mexico coast, you'll cross broad rivers as you pass seaside cities and beach towns, such as Sarasota and Siesta Key, known for their soft, sugar-white sand beaches. Farther south, comb the beach for seashells in Sanibel Island, one of the top destinations for collectors, and visit the historical site known as the Edison & Ford Winter Estates in Fort Myers. Explore the shops and galleries in Naples before heading east through the Everglades, one

of the world's unique preserves. The wetlands stretch out majestically on either side of the road for 80 miles. At journey's end, take a dip in the ocean in Miami Beach and dance the night away in one of the city's nightclubs.

Must Do: Pull off "The Trail" and spend a few hours at Shark Valley, one of the entrances to Everglades National Park. You can walk, bike or ride a guided tram to see alligators and wading birds, then climb the observation tower for a view of the wetlands.

Foodie Favourites: Cuban food is everywhere throughout South Florida, but especially in Miami's Little Havana neighbourhood, where iconic restaurants La Carreta and Versailles have been serving locals for decades.

VisitTheUSA.com/florida

Photos top to bottom: Ocean Drive, Miami Beach, Florida; Sanibel Island, Florida

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13 ►

USA

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Shopping at Sea Pines Resort, Hilton Head Island

DISCOVER

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Travel to a place where there's always something new to discover. Bask in the Southern sunshine, bike along secluded seaside pathways or dine al fresco all year long. The Palmetto State is the perfect destination for creating unforgettable experiences, so start planning your trip today *and find out why South Carolina is Just Right for holidays.*

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California Dreaming

Land of Surfers and Sunshine

Start your trip on the iconic road known as the Pacific Coast Highway in San Diego, where you'll find the San Diego Zoo, theme parks and the swanky seaside shopping and dining village of La Jolla. Drive north toward the surf havens of Laguna Beach and Newport Beach and peruse galleries or sign up for a surfing lesson. Near Los Angeles, Malibu is home to celebrities and beautiful beaches with dramatic cliffs along the coastline.

Foodie Favourites: Outdoor cafés are everywhere, as is fresh, farm-to-table cuisine, which is no surprise given that the movement all but originated here. Try Mexican-influenced dishes such as fish tacos, and pair your meals with local California wines.

Must Do: The Laguna Coast Wilderness Park lies within some of the last undeveloped coastal canyons in California and offers hiking trails through rocky bluffs to ridge-top vistas.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 15 ►

Photos top to bottom: Old Orchard Beach, Maine; Torrey Pines, San Diego, California

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Maritime Villages

Along Maine's Highway 1

Begin this trip in charming Portland, Maine, home to the historic Old Port, where you can shop along cobblestone street and watch the fishing boats make their way in and out of the harbour. Drive through the countryside along Highway 1 from Portland toward Penobscot Bay, with its quaint towns such as Freeport. Stop for a stroll in Wiscasset, the self-proclaimed "Prettiest Village in Maine," before moving on to Rockland, home of Beech Hill Preserve's pick-your-own organic blueberries. The wild blueberry is the official fruit of Maine and as much a symbol of the state as the fresh local lobster. Continue north to Penobscot Bay and Rockport, a tiny harbour town with shops, galleries and cafés, taking a moment to savour the delights of the many lobster shacks and chowder houses you'll find on the way.

Foodie Favourites: Lobster rolls – essentially thick bread slathered with fresh lobster salad – are found throughout Maine, but Red's Eats in Wiscasset attracts a crowd for their generous helpings.

Must Do: Home to the outfitter L.L. Bean, Freeport is where you can sign up for kayak and mountain bike tours as well as archery lessons and more.

VisitTheUSA.com/maine





North Carolina

From the mountains to the sea, adventures await.

Explore lighthouses, taste fresh seafood and see the beauty of wild horses in a picturesque setting. Drive the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway, hike the Appalachian Trail and discover the waterfalls inside Great Smoky Mountains National Park. For a more urban experience, visit Charlotte, home of craft breweries, the NASCAR Hall of Fame and the U.S. National Whitewater Center, where you can raft the rapids where Olympians train. This diverse state is filled with distinct experiences waiting to be discovered.



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JON JAROSH/DOOR COUNTY VISITOR BUREAU

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Wisconsin's Door County Coastal Byway

Escape to Lake Michigan

With the steep cliffs of the Niagara Escarpment, dense forests and lakeshore villages, Wisconsin's Door County Scenic Byway is the perfect USA trip, especially in the spring and summer, when both wildflowers and cherry blossoms bloom. On the north side of the peninsula, there are lighthouses to climb and opportunities to hire sailboats, canoes and kayaks.

Foodie Favourites: Refreshing cherry cider and fresh Wisconsin cheese curds are must-eats here. Most cafés up and down the peninsula will offer one or the other, if not both.

Must Do: Tour the peninsula that extends far into Lake Michigan via Highway 42 north to Gills Rock, the departure point for scuba divers exploring the shipwrecks at the mouth of Green Bay.

VisitTheUSA.com/wisconsin



Photos left to right: Sherwood Point Lighthouse, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin; Charleston, South Carolina

South Carolina's Highway 17

A Road Trip Back in Time

With its antebellum historic districts shaded by live oaks, Beaufort, South Carolina, is an old seaport worthy of exploring before heading out via Highway 17 toward Charleston. Horse-drawn carriage rides and antiques shopping top the list of things to do in Charleston. Just west of the seaside city, Edisto Island National Scenic Byway, with its Spanish moss dripping from live oak limbs that form canopies over the roadways, is a 24-mile drive that crosses broad marshes. Farther north in Myrtle Beach, a boardwalk flanked by amusement park rides sets the stage for family fun.

Foodie Favourites: From Carolina barbecue to Lowcountry cuisine (think she-crab soup and mouth-watering gumbo), you'll find it all on menus throughout the state.

Must Do: Take a ferry ride to Fort Sumter from Charleston Harbor to see where the U.S. Civil War began.

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Alexandria/ Pineville

From the outdoor adventures in the Kisatchie National Forest to historic attractions and downtown festivals, this central Louisiana region offers plenty of charm. Visit plantations, heritage museums tucked inside old train stations and a museum dedicated to Solomon Northup, whose memoir inspired the film, *12 Years a Slave*.

AlexandriaPinevilleLa.com



New Orleans

This city is the birthplace of jazz, the cocktail and Cajun/Creole cooking. Everywhere you go in New Orleans you will find enthusiasm for food, music, parades and life itself. A blend of distinctive architecture, unique cuisine, tax-free shopping and cool jazz creates an entertaining “gumbo” that only New Orleans knows how to dish out.

NewOrleansInfo.com



Shreveport- Bossier

A mix of the spicy Cajun attitude and generous Texas spirit, this southwest corner of Louisiana is where Creole meets cowboy. Stand on the stage where Elvis Presley made his debut, cruise the mighty Red River, shop along the riverfront and tango with “Lady Luck” at six Vegas-style casinos. Get ready to “Bet It and Taste It.”

Shreveport-Bossier.org

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MUST-SEE MUSEUMS AND MONUMENTS

This intriguing crop of attractions celebrates the culture and history of the USA.

Washington, D.C.

One of the world's most-visited cities, Washington, D.C., is awash in museums, memorials and monuments. The streets hum with conversations in different languages, sidewalks teem with cafés serving every cuisine imaginable, and cultural institutions seem to dot every corner.

Museums Not to Miss: The 15 museums of the Smithsonian Institution, including the National Air and Space Museum, the Museum of American History and the Museum of Natural History, are all free. The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden looks like a spaceship that landed on the National Mall. Inside, enjoy the masterpieces by Matisse and Rodin. The Newseum features interactive exhibits that explore how the news affects our shared experiences, and the International Spy Museum is a fascinating repository dedicated to the history and role of espionage.

Monuments Not to Miss: Memorials are plentiful in the U.S. capital, including towering tributes to several U.S. presidents. The Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial is surprisingly human in scale: Four outdoor rooms feature 10 sculptures depicting events from the Great Depression and World War II. Another moving tribute is the Albert Einstein Memorial, featuring a 22-foot, stylized bronze statue that sits in a grove of trees at the National Academy of Sciences. Children can sit in his lap to have their photos taken.

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VisitTheUSA.com/washingtondc

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Philadelphia and eastern Pennsylvania are flush with history. Philadelphia is the birthplace of U.S. independence; Valley Forge, to the northwest, is where General George Washington wintered during the lowest point of the war for independence against Britain; and farther west is Gettysburg, where the union may have been preserved during the U.S. Civil War.

Museums Not to Miss: The birthplace of American democracy, Philadelphia's Independence National Historical Park is the site of many of the events that carried the nation through its founding. The Liberty Bell



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D. CRUZ FOR VISIT PHILADELPHIA

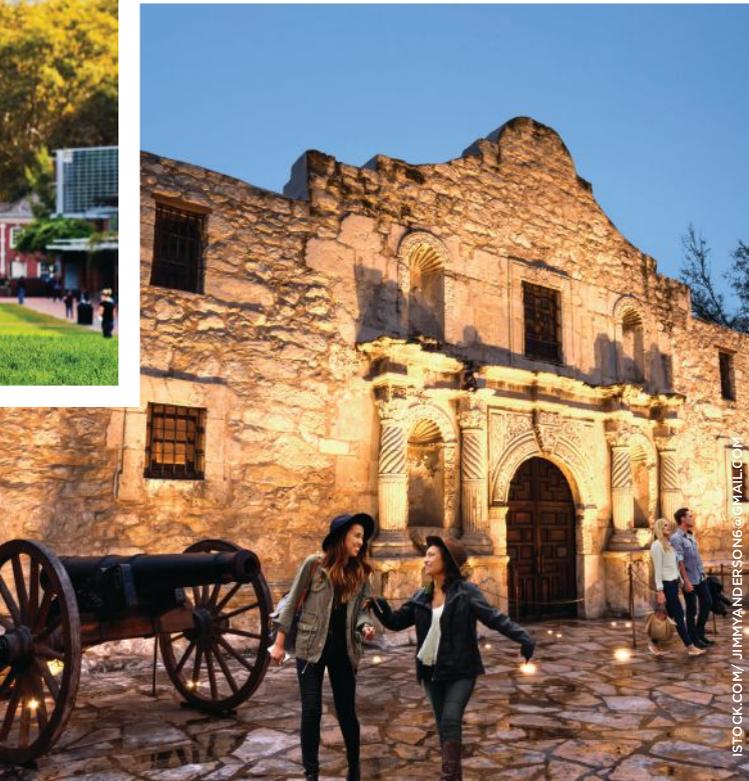
Center, Independence Hall, Congress Hall and Franklin Court are among the buildings that comprise the park. Nearby, the Barnes Foundation features works by Cezanne, Picasso and Renoir.

Monuments Not to Miss: Philadelphia has many memorials rich in history, including pop-culture monuments, such as musician John Coltrane's house, the statue of "Rocky" and the stairs at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Also worth a visit is the Battleship New Jersey, one of the world's largest. Northwest of the city is Valley Forge National Historical Park, where the Continental Army had its winter encampment in 1777-78; farther west is Gettysburg National Military Park, the site of the bloodiest battle of the U.S. Civil War and ultimately, that war's turning point. The consecrated ground served as inspiration for President Abraham Lincoln's immortal Gettysburg Address.

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San Francisco, California

Lauded for its beauty and sophistication, its innovation, its influential artists and its legendary embrace of diversity and differences, San Francisco is a symphony of cultures, sub-cultures, counter-cultures and more.

Museums Not to Miss: You'll find some of the city's best museums in the greenery surrounding Golden Gate Park, including the California Academy of Sciences, which is part natural-history museum, part planetarium and part aquarium. Another hometown favourite, the Asian Art Museum, displays historical works and objects that celebrate the range of artistry from India to Indonesia to China and the Philippines (its café is worth a visit, too).

Monuments Not to Miss: The former federal penitentiary on Alcatraz Island, Ghirardelli Square, the Coit Tower and the Golden Gate Bridge are familiar San Francisco landmarks, seen time and again in movies and on television. Make sure to spend time at the Palace of Fine Arts, built for the Panama-Pacific Exposition in 1915, which looks like something out of a Roman fantasy. Muir Woods National Monument is a pristine forest of towering (378 feet) coastal redwoods 20 minutes north of San Francisco. Shuttle bus service to and from the monument is available.

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VisitTheUSA.com/sanfrancisco

San Antonio, Texas

This is the home of the Alamo, where a group of Texians stood against the advance of Mexico General Santa Anna's army during the war for Texas' independence in 1836. It's also the nation's seventh-largest city, and it surprises visitors with its sophistication.

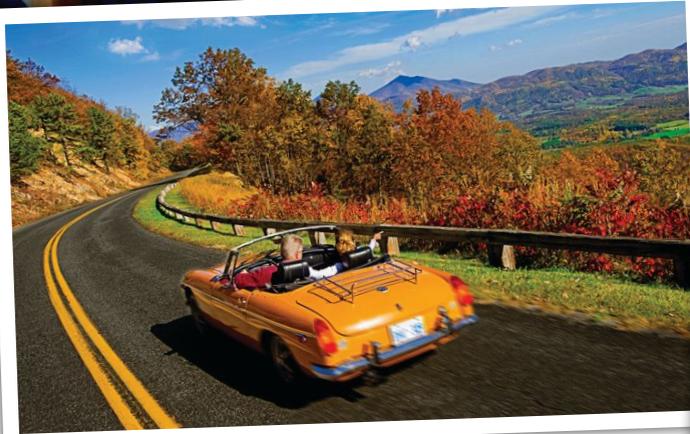
Museums Not to Miss: The McNay Art Museum houses an estimable collection of medieval and renaissance art and glass. The San Antonio Museum of Art features the largest collection of ancient Egyptian, Greek, Roman and Asian art in the South. Also notable are the San Antonio Children's Museum and the downtown Buckhorn Saloon and its two mini-museums, the Buckhorn, with its Western exhibits, and the Texas Ranger Museum, focused on the legendary police force of Texas.

Monuments Not to Miss: San Antonio is justly famous for its enchanting River Walk lined with restaurants and shops and the HemisFair '68 space needle (the Tower of the Americas), but it's also home to the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. The latter is comprised of five Spanish colonial-era missions: Concepcion, Espada, San Jose and San Juan Capistrano; the Alamo is the fifth, it's just not in the park.

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VisitTheUSA.com/sanantonio

Photos clockwise from top left: The National Mall, Washington, D.C.; The California Academy of Science, San Francisco, California; The Alamo, San Antonio, Texas; Independence Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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Montana

Natural wonders and national treasures

Most people don't even know places like this exist. And yet here it is, waiting for you—mountains and valleys, bears and bison, waterfalls and trout streams, all dotted by small towns full of friendly people, great food, and charming pubs. Montana is different from most other places in the U.S.—it's bigger, friendlier, and teeming with easy access to nature in all its forms and splendor. This rugged state is full of the sort of once-in-a-lifetime experiences that make travel worthwhile: Glacier National Park and the majestic Going-to-the-Sun Road, the intense thermal features and teeming wildlife of Yellowstone National Park, farm-to-table meals, craft beers, small town shops, and off-the-beaten-path adventures around every corner.



VisitMT.com

Summer in the Mountains

Fresh mountain air provides the perfect inspiration for a summer holiday. While exhilarating and adventurous in the winter, ski resorts are just as inviting in the warmer months. Enjoy long, sunny days that stretch into cool, starry nights, and plenty of fun outdoor festivals, shopping and sightseeing at these six ski resorts that make ideal summer getaways.



Park City, Utah

PARK CITY CHAMBER/BUREAU

1 Park City, Utah

East of Salt Lake City in the Wasatch Mountains of Utah, Park City has become a world-class resort town, with its cool breezes and wildflowers stirring hikers, fishermen and photographers. Explore wooded trails by morning and cafés and shops along the town's historic main street in the afternoons. Discover museums dedicated to the Winter Olympic

Games, which were held here in 2002. Above the Olympic Park, the Mountain Challenge offers self-navigated obstacles, and the Park City Resort's Alpine Coaster's elevated track whips you through twists and turns (its Alpine Slide has a spine-tingling descent on a luge-like track). Local residents escort hungry visitors down hilly Main Street to sample local dishes and see unique galleries during guided Park City Food Tours. The Crosby Collection on Main Street offers Native American collectibles

ranging from jewellery to weavings to handmade pottery.

Summer Festivals Not to Miss:

The Park City Food & Wine Classic and the Oakley Rodeo are regional favourites. Music lovers will want to visit during the Utah Symphony & Opera's Deer Valley Music Festival, the Big Stars Bright Nights summer concert series or the Park City Beethoven Festival, a celebration of the genius composer's varied symphonies.

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VisitTheUSA.com/parkcity

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27 ►



New York — Where there's something for everyone.

From the thrill of deep-sea fishing off Long Island to tranquil hiking and paddling in the Adirondack Mountains, there's so much to do in New York State. Sample vintages from award-winning wineries among the Finger Lakes, and experience the wonder of Niagara Falls. Watch the best thoroughbreds in the world at Saratoga Race Course, and a Broadway show in New York City. Explore historic homes in the Hudson Valley, island castles in the Thousand Islands, and the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. Take on North America's highest and longest zipline in the Catskills, and take in a musical performance at the lakeside Chautauqua Institution.

 [ILoveNY.com](https://www.iloveny.com)



CATSKILLS

Home of outdoor fun and artistic endeavours

Just a two-hour drive from New York City, the Catskills region is synonymous with verdant, rolling farmland, towering peaks and lush valleys. From handcrafted cheeses to maple syrup, dark ales and local wines, visitors savour the riches of the land. Explore fishing streams, mountain biking and hiking trails, and paddling routes in the Catskill Forest Preserve and Catskill Park. Invoke your inner muse at music festivals and visit the home of the landscape painter who founded the Hudson River School. The Catskills is an ideal getaway for travellers looking to relax, indulge and explore.

 [VisitTheCatskills.com](https://www.VisitTheCatskills.com)



CENTRAL NEW YORK

Known as “America’s Craft Brew Destination,” discover a hearty crop of breweries, cideries, distilleries and wineries in this dynamic region. Enjoy biking and hiking through scenic parks, cruise the Erie Canal or ride the Adirondack Scenic Railroad. Stroll down main streets in charming towns and villages like Cooperstown, home of the National Baseball Hall of Fame.



SYRACUSE

Located in the center of New York State, Syracuse is a unique blend of history, outdoor adventure and vibrant culture, surrounded by craft breweries and wineries. Experience a true Americana urban renaissance and fresh, farm-to-table dining – a food lover’s paradise. Discover historic waterways as well as Destiny USA, one of the largest entertainment, dining and shopping venues in the USA.



BUFFALO NIAGARA

An exciting slice of Americana

One of the “best-kept secrets” in the U.S., Buffalo is experiencing a 21st-century revival built on its foundation as one of the great 19th-century American boomtowns. Buffalo has a unique regional food culture, world-class architecture, a first-rate museum of modern art and is a special place as the USA’s “Gateway to the West.” Nearby Niagara Falls offers travellers an easy day trip to one of the wonders of the world. This best-kept secret won’t be one for long!





West Virginia

Where adventure is the everyday

Beloved by outdoor enthusiasts, the Mountain State is more than just stunning scenery. Visit Civil War sites throughout the Monongahela National Forest, where you can also go mountain biking and horseback riding. Home to the USA's first golf club, there are more than 100 golf courses spread throughout Wild, Wonderful West Virginia, with mountains and valleys providing incredible backdrops. Explore Harpers Ferry National Historic Park, and indulge in the spas found throughout Berkeley Springs, a small town filled with talented artisans. Foodies find plenty to love, too, with award-winning international cuisine at the area favourite, the Bavarian Inn, as well as homestyle dishes fresh from local farms.



GoToWV.com

Flagstaff, ARIZONA

Historic charm in a mountain setting

Snow-capped peaks and pine trees provide a scenic backdrop for this four-season hub where a mix of small town charm and adventure beckons. Walk through this classic Western town with Native American influences and peruse unique shops, restaurants and galleries. Visit the Lowell Observatory where the planet Pluto was discovered and the Museum of Northern Arizona for a glimpse into Native American history. Enjoy the quirky attractions along the classic road known as Route 66, which is celebrating its 90th anniversary in 2016. Just 80 miles away, Grand Canyon National Park beckons with its majestic landscape of buttes, canyons, rivers and wildlife.



FlagstaffArizona.org





Mammoth Mountain, California

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

2 Mammoth, California

In the warm months, the lifts to the top of Mammoth Mountain are packed with mountain bikers who come for the 80 miles of groomed, beginner-friendly trails. Fly fishing on Hot Creek, dog sledding in the backcountry, horseback riding and golf all make the resort an outdoor enthusiast's paradise. At Yosemite National Park nearby, wind through Tuolumne Meadows on your way to the valley floor, where you can follow in the footsteps of Ansel Adams and photograph the rock formations referred to as Half Dome, El Capitan (beloved by rock climbers) and Yosemite

Falls. A variety of dining options in the Village at Mammoth await the curious epicure, including plenty of restaurants serving California cuisine, and the James Beard Award nominee, Campo Mammoth, known for its locally sourced Italian cuisine. Bleu Handcrafted Foods brings to the table artisan breads, farmstead cheeses, game sausages and craft wines and beers.

Summer Festivals Not to Miss:

The Mammoth Lakes Jazz Jubilee gets under way in mid-July. It's followed in early August by the Mammoth Festival of Beers and Bluesapalooza (the name tells you everything you need to know).

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VisitTheUSA.com/central-california

3 The Berkshires, Massachusetts

Renowned for its rustic beauty, beguiling small towns and superb hiking on the Appalachian Trail, the Berkshire Hills area makes a perfect summer getaway. Go on a whitewater rafting adventure, rent a canoe and fish for largemouth bass or zip-line above a canopy of trees in an aerial adventure park. Rent a bicycle in Adams and explore the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail or get off the beaten path to photograph one of the region's many waterfalls. Berkshire Horseback Adventures in Lenox offers yet another alternative. You can explore the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, which contains the painter and illustrator's original works, or join a ghost or garden tour at The Mount in Lenox, home of U.S. novelist Edith Wharton. Small-town antiques shops as well as outlet malls are plentiful, the latter in the towns of Lee and Pittsfield. Local farms provide plenty of fresh foods for area restaurants. Sample the fine reds produced by Les Trios Emme Winery in New Marlborough or Furnace Brook Winery's delightful whites, which pair well with the artisanal Berkshire blue cheese from Great Barrington.

Summer Festivals Not to Miss:

Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in Becket from June until August is the foremost modern-dance celebration in the U.S. The Boston Symphony Orchestra makes its summer home in Lenox and Stockbridge, anchoring the Tanglewood Music Festival in July and August. It's one of the USA's most popular and well-regarded music festivals.

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SALT LAKE

Utah's capital city is the gateway to the West, where urban experiences are just hours from more than 60 national and state parks. Enjoy scenic hiking, bike riding and rock-climbing. Afterward, visit a museum or festival, and take advantage of a variety of farmers markets and al fresco dining options.

 [VisitSaltLake.com](https://www.visitSaltLake.com)



HEBER VALLEY

Less than an hour from Salt Lake City, this region's stunning mountain backdrop presides over three pristine lakes and offers fishing, hiking, biking and even a soak in the Homestead Crater, a geothermal spring hidden within a limestone dome with warm, deep, clear blue waters. No wonder Heber Valley is Utah's adventure escape.

 [GoHeberValley.com](https://www.GoHeberValley.com)



CEDAR CITY

This sanctuary of mountain air and cultural attractions is home to a Scenic Byway loop that leads to Cedar Breaks National Monument. The region is known as "Festival City U.S.A." for its street fairs, parades and award-winning Shakespeare Theatre Festival. Main Street is quaint with local shops and cafés, and one of Southern Utah's only wineries.

 [VisitCedarCity.com](https://www.VisitCedarCity.com)



SAN JUAN COUNTY

Explore Canyonlands National Park, three national monuments and two Navajo Tribal Parks – all of which are open 24 hours per day year-round. This is ideal for experiencing one of the darkest night skies in the USA, including three designated International Dark Sky Parks. Spring through autumn, visitors can join ranger-led programs and enjoy cool, sunny weather as well as great values on lodging.

 [UtahsCanyonCountry.com](https://www.UtahsCanyonCountry.com)

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4 Smugglers' Notch and Stowe, Vermont

"Smuggs," as it's known, and its neighbour, Stowe Mountain Resort, are easy drives from Burlington through the charming villages and towns that make northwestern Vermont so bucolic. They're also full of fun: In Jeffersonville, you'll find kayak and canoe wine tours. Four-legged adventures include horseback riding at Lajoie Stables and backcountry trips via Eden Dogsledding. Step onto the Appalachian Trail for a walk in the woods or zip line through the trees at Arbortrek Canopy Adventures. In Stowe, stop by the Trapp Family Lodge where the *Sound of Music* family has welcomed visitors to its U.S. refuge in the mountains since 1948. Fine dining choices abound: Hen of the Wood, a six-time James Beard Award finalist, serves farm-to-table fare both in Burlington and inside an 1835 grist mill in nearby Waterbury. Burlington's Town Center and University Mall are tops for brand name shopping. For goods made by local artisans, visit the Stowe Craft Design Center.

Summer Festivals Not to Miss:

The Stoweflake Hot Air Balloon Festival features a beer garden in addition to sunrise and twilight launches. The three-day Stowe Food & Wine Classic and the six-week Vermont Summer Festival Horse Show are summer staples in this region. The Lake Champlain Maritime Festival celebrates history for four days on the Burlington waterfront with live music, dragon boat demos and more.

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SMUGGLERS' NOTCH, VERMONT



SMUGGLERS' NOTCH, VERMONT

Photos top to bottom: Waterfall climbing in Smugglers' Notch, Vermont; Practicing yoga in Smugglers' Notch, Vermont

5 Big Sky, Montana

Ride the lifts to the top of Lone Peak in the largest ski area in the United States, and zoom back down on a mountain bike or a zip line. The nearby Madison River is famed for trout fishing, and the Gallatin River is perfect for those who want to experience the thrills of whitewater rafting. There's also high-country golf, tennis and, of course, plenty of great hiking. For sightseeing, the famed gold fields in Alder Gulch are just to the west, and nearby, Virginia City has a National Historic District that looks like a ghost town — a must see. You'll find Italian, Asian and bistro cuisine well represented in Big Sky, but locals

flock to Buck's T-4 Lodge for its exquisite game concoctions, the Blue Moon Bakery for pizza and pastries, and the Gallatin Riverhouse Grill for barbecue. Big Sky is also the perfect basecamp for exploring Yellowstone National Park, about an hour's drive south.

Summer Festival Not to Miss:

The early August Big Sky Classical Music Festival offers name soloists and chamber groups for serenely elegant, indoor and outdoor sensory experiences. Free master-class and orchestral performances, along with question-and-answer sessions with famous musicians, make for a great weekend under Montana's starry summer skies.

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VisitTheUSA.com/montana



6 Sun Valley, Idaho

The Resort at Sun Valley is the hub for just about any outdoor summer experience you can think of, whether there's an activity you've been dying to try or one you've loved for ages. Go sport shooting, trout fishing or play tennis on your choice of 17 hard courts. Discover hot springs and Indian pictographs along the Salmon and Payette rivers, which are renowned for whitewater rafting. Stop and explore the Shoshone Indian Ice Caves, a classic roadside attraction. Southeast of the resort, hike into the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, a treeless lava lake featuring more than 25 volcanic cones. After a day on the river (or the moon), downtown Ketchum is a hub for shopping, dining and more.

Summer Festivals Not to Miss:

The mid-September Ernest Hemingway Festival celebrates the works of Sun Valley's most famous former resident. Readings and historic walking tours of downtown Ketchum as well as the writer's favourite haunts fill the calendar. The Sun Valley Summer Symphony is the largest free outdoor symphony in the USA, offering three weeks of music and picnicking. The Hailey Days of the Old West near Sun Valley features parades, Wild West rodeos and bike races spread across several days around July 4th.

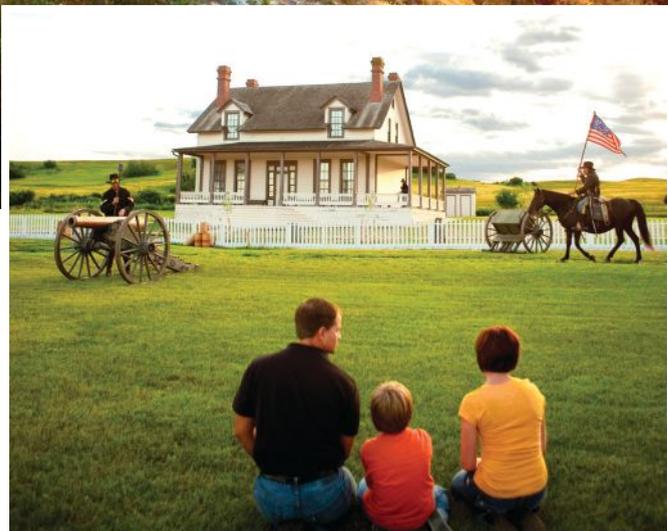
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VisitTheUSA.com/sunvalley



Photos top to bottom: Sun Valley, Idaho; Big Sky Resort, Big Sky, Montana

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North Dakota

Where adventure, history and cowboy culture intersect

This ruggedly beautiful state offers unparalleled natural beauty and unlimited outdoor activities. Have a taste for adventure? Hike, bike or go horseback riding through the North Dakota Badlands and Theodore Roosevelt National Park, a stunning landscape that includes rock, buttes and grasslands. See bison, elk and more in one of 63 wildlife refuges. Visit the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site to learn about the state's original inhabitants, and join the locals at a rodeo to see the cowboy culture up close. Come experience legendary North Dakota!



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