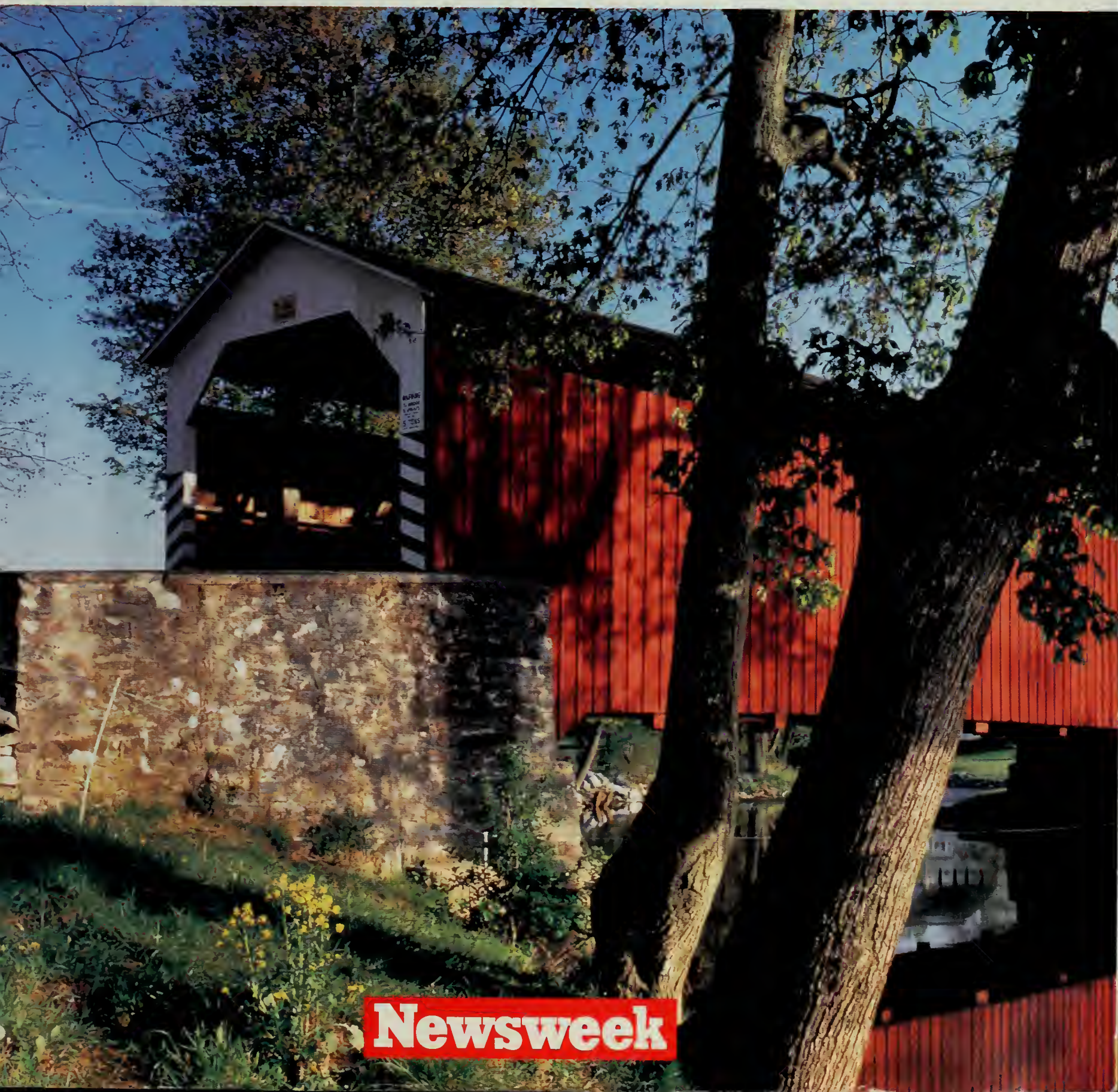
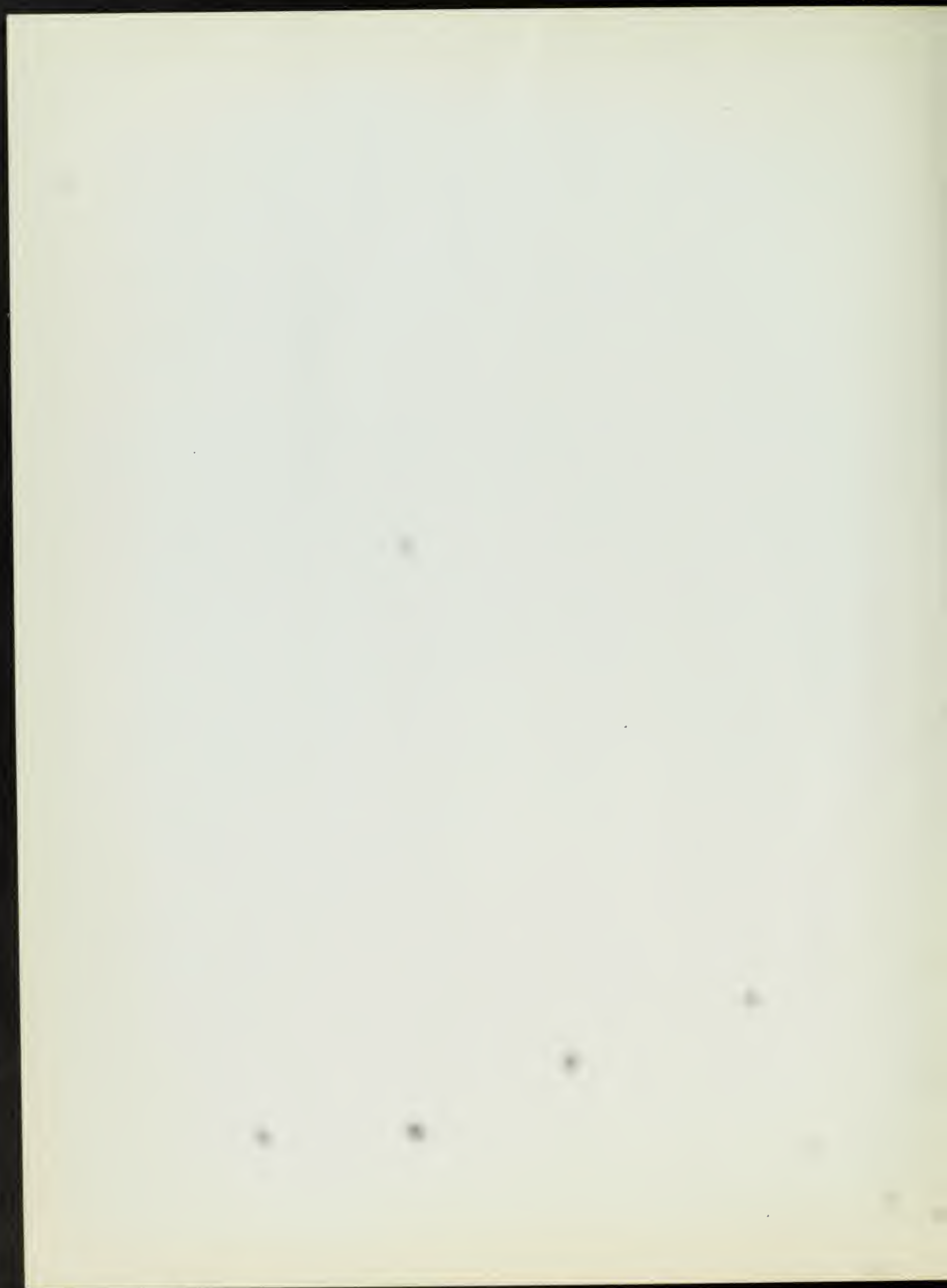


 **Rand McNally's Road-Touring Set**

AMERICA'S SCENIC ROAD TOURS



Newsweek



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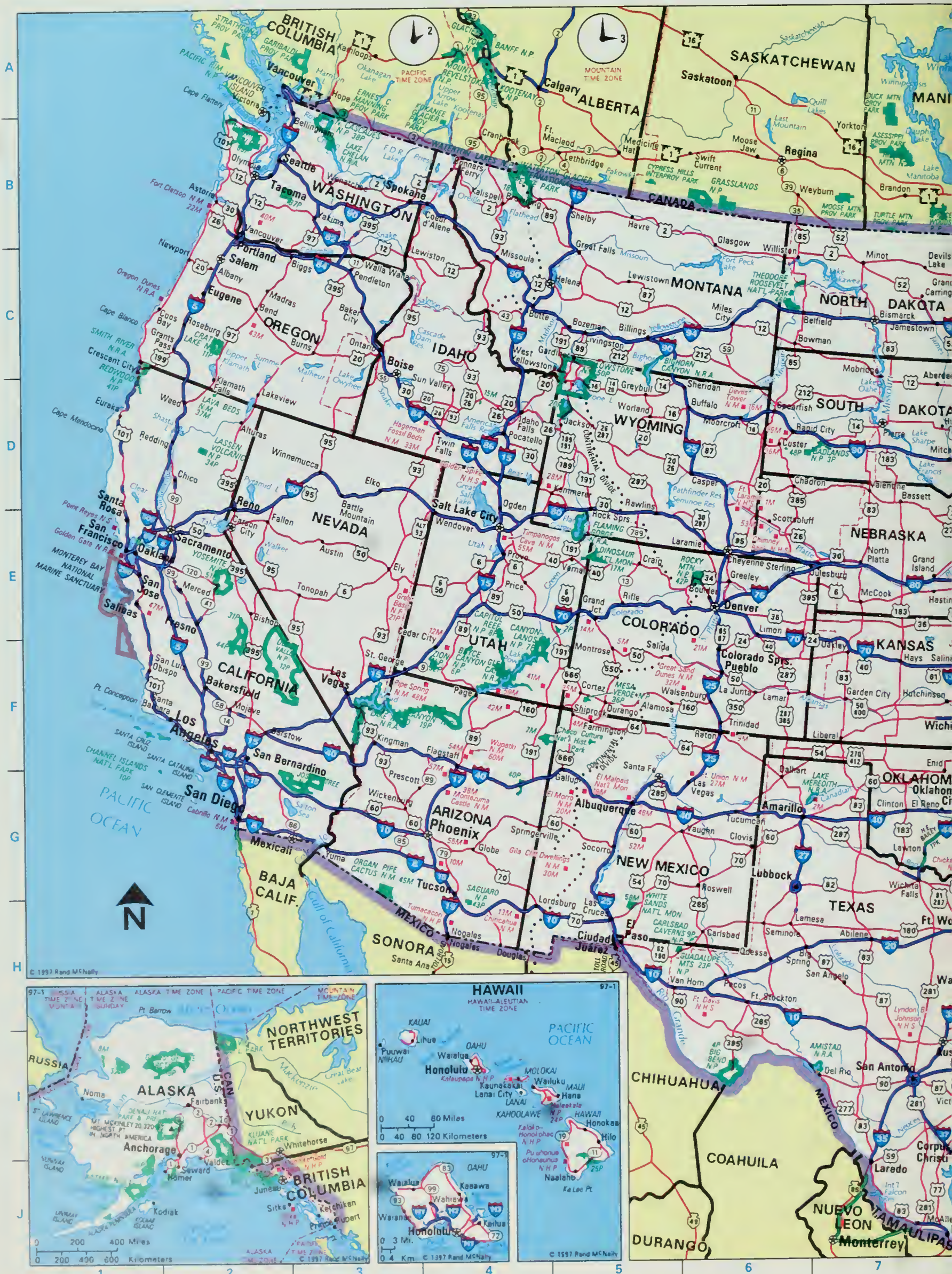
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Photos were provided by: 4: Jim McElholm/VT Tourism & Mktg.; 5: VT Tourism & Mktg.; 6: CT Tourism Office; 8: RI Tourism Div.; 9: Bob Grant/NHOTTD; 10: NYS Dept. of Economic Dev.; 11: NYS Dept. of Economic Dev.; 12: NYS Dept. of Economic Dev.; 13: NYS Dept. of Economic Dev.; 15: Mark Downey/VA Tourism Corp., Paul Witt/Gettysburg Convention & Visitors Bureau; 16: Steve Shaluta, Jr./WV Div. of Tourism & Parks, VA Tourism Corp., David Fattaleh/WV Div. of Tourism & Parks; 17: MN Office of Tourism; 18: MN Office of Tourism; 19: OH Dept. of Dev.; 20: OH Dept. of Dev./John Williams; 22: St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission, Kansas Travel & Tourism; 23: KS Travel & Tourism, IA Div. of Tourism; 24: NC Travel & Tourism; 25: SC Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Tourism; 26: GA Dept. of Industry, Trade & Tourism; 27: FL Dept. of Commerce, Div. of Tourism; 28: FL Dept. of Commerce, Div. of Tourism; 30: New Orleans Metro. Convention & Visitors Bureau; 32: New Orleans Metro. Convention & Visitors Bureau; 34: Denver Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau; 37: Monterey Visitors & Convention Bureau; 38: Monterey Visitors & Convention Bureau; 39: WA State Tourism Div.; 41: WA State Tourism Div.; 43: Peter French/HI Visitors & Convention Bureau; 45: HI Visitors & Convention Bureau, William Waterfall/HI Visitors & Convention Bureau; 46: AK Div. of Tourism; 48: AK Div. of Tourism.

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THE DRIVE
Vermont's
Northeast
Kingdom

DISTANCE:
203 Miles Round
Trip, Burlington

TIME:
Allow one or
two days

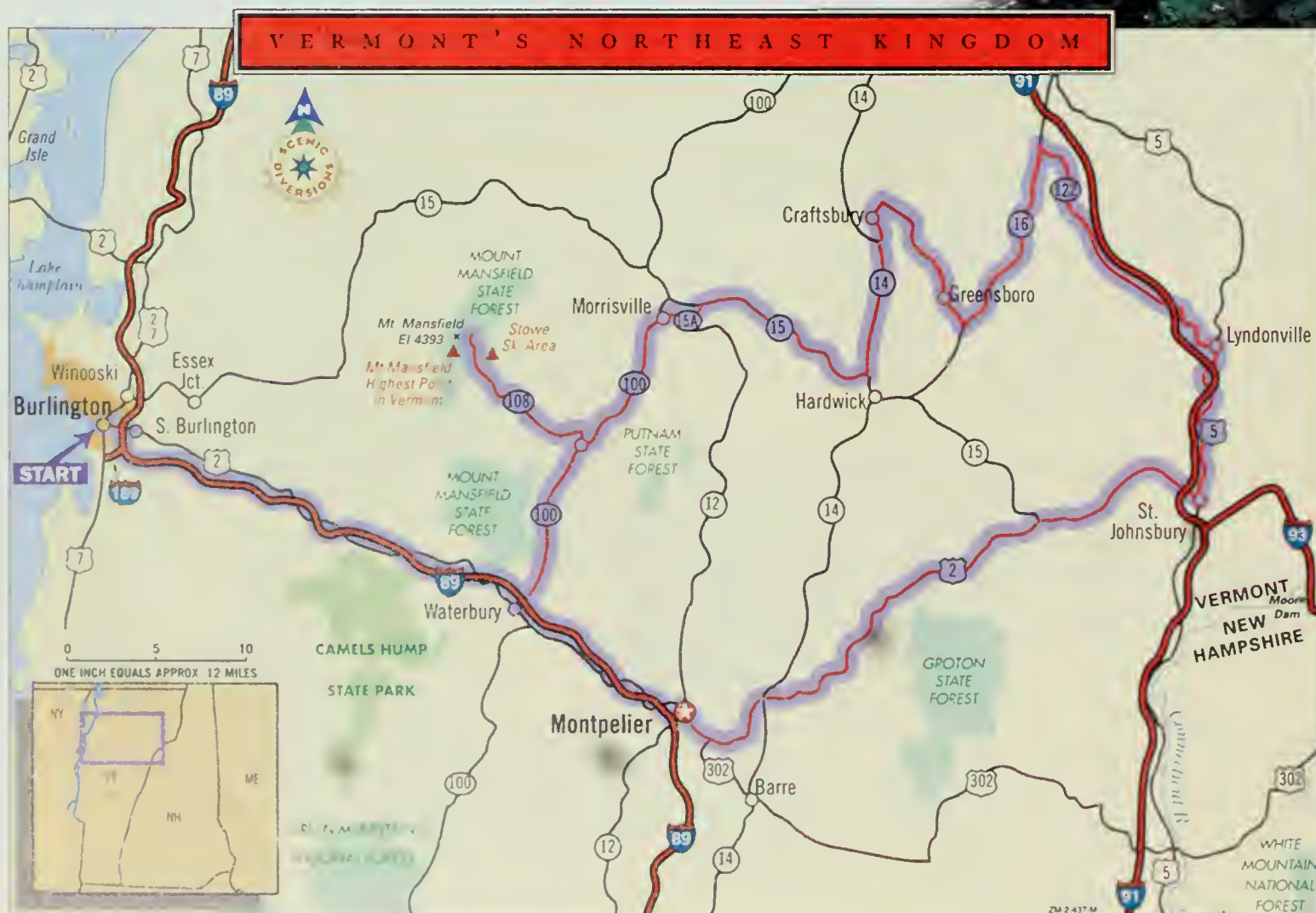
HIGHLIGHTS:
Mountain scenery,
picture-perfect
villages, boutiques
and antiques shops,
Ben and Jerry's ice
cream factory,
distinguished inns,
leaf viewing in fall,
snow sports in
winter.

N O R T H E A S T

Your mental picture of New England—covered bridges, immaculate dairy farms, steeped villages, and sagging old farmhouses—was probably taken in Vermont. Big-pawed golden retrievers sleep on front porches almost everywhere you go. And since each season there has its own appeals, choosing exactly when to go can be a happy dilemma.

Fortunately, you can't go wrong in Vermont. In the fall, the Crayola colors are fantastic (especially early to mid-October). At that time of year, the weather is often phenomenally beautiful, with flawless blue skies and plenty of sunshine. During winter, the hills are alive with skiers and snow-shoers. When snows thaw, the landscape awakens into an extravaganza of blossoms and foliage that gets greener each day as the state warms into summer.

Northern Vermont ranks top on the list of the state's most sensationally scenic areas. Miles and miles of cattle-dotted farmlands, silent lakes cupped in the hills like gemstones, and streams that



THE ULTIMATE INN

"Turn on the lift, there's snow in those hills!" The good life gets better at *Twin Farms*, where a private ski mountain crowns this extraordinary inn's list of amenities. Located in *Barnard*, Vermont, Twin Farms – named for two farmhouses once owned by Sinclair Lewis and Dorothy Thompson – is a one-of-a-kind experience. Guests can stay in one of four lavishly fur-

nished suites in the main house or one of the so-called cottages scattered around the wooded grounds – decorated in different themes ranging from a log cabin in the middle of the woods (probably the most luxurious log cabin in the world) to a two-story art-filled house that can't be described as anything less than magnificent. The prices (which start at a lofty \$750 a night for two) include three out-of-this-world meals (plus an elaborate afternoon tea), unlimited use of all facilities, including skiing on the inn's private mountain in winter and – in warmer weather – tennis, mountain biking, canoeing, and fly fishing (all equipment is provided). Year-round activities include billiards, darts, an extensive video collection, open bars – and more. For more information or reservations, call (802) 234-9999 or (800) TWIN FARMS (894-6327).



really do sparkle clinched the title. Add to that a backdrop of looming mountains, and you're looking at not just the state's, but some of our country's most beautiful scenery.

The drive starts in *Burlington*, Vermont's largest city, situated on the shores of *Lake Champlain*. Before setting out on your journey, take time to walk around downtown, which is a small enough area to negotiate on foot. It's centerpieced by the *Church Street Marketplace*, a four-block stretch of Church Street closed to traffic, with sidewalk cafes, benches, and all sorts of street performers.

Though it's only about a 45-minute drive east to *Stowe*, pause first for refreshments! In *Waterbury*, you'll go right by *Ben & Jerry's ice cream factory*, and it's well-worth stopping to see its tours, exhibits, gift shop, and all-around air of a carnival. Across the street, watch cider-pressing at the *Cold Hollow Cider Mill*, and see films on how cider and maple sugar are made. Once you've had your fill, roll on over to Stowe (take I-89 to Exit 10, Route 100 north).

Dominated by *Mount Mansfield*, Vermont's highest mountain (4,393 feet), Stowe is a winter mecca for skiers with its daredevil trails, exuberant after-ski life, and lodges that look like those found in Austria. But when the lifts close, Stowe loses none of its charm. All sorts of emporia fill the town, selling everything from antiques to Christmas ornaments to hand-made sweaters almost too pretty to wear.

Stowe's natural beauty is by far its strongest appeal. Though you can see plenty driving (in fact, you can drive to the top of Mt. Mansfield), consider taking the time to explore

by foot. Much of the landscape is part of Vermont's *Mount Mansfield State Forest*, with hiking trails, camping areas, and picnic spots. Or, ride a gondola (in warm weather months as well as in winter) to the top of Mount Mansfield. For the ultimate view, climb into a glider at *Stowe Aviation*. For 20 minutes – or more, depending on which flight you take – you'll soar over the peaks and valleys like an eagle.

From Stowe, head north on Route 100, turning right onto Route 15A in *Morrisville*. You'll find yourself passing huge red barns with silver silos, old farmhouses settled into the contour of the land, and fields full of cows and spotted ponies with tangled manes. You'll see fishermen wading in rivers, and thousands of white birch trees that look like fish bones against the dark pine forests.

In *Hardwick*, take Route 14 north to *Craftsbury* (you'll see signs), a Grandma Moses kind of village with crisp, clean white buildings, a billiard-green square, and flawless white fences all around. Consider stopping in at *Craftsbury Center* (follow the signs on the dirt roads), a camp for all ages devoted to the graceful sport of sculling. In winter, it becomes a cross-country ski center.

From Craftsbury, follow the road to *Greensboro* (southeast of Craftsbury), home to *Willey's General Store*, an attraction in itself. Here, you'll find everything from farm equipment to parts for balsa-wood planes. Then carry on to *Lyndonville*, where five covered bridges (one dating back to 1795) sit within the town limits. Follow Route 16 north and then make a sharp right onto Route 122.

From Lyndonville, head south on U.S. 5 to *St. Johnsbury*, to see some beautiful Victorian buildings, an art gallery, and a museum that teaches all about the production of maple syrup.

From there, follow U.S. Route 2 to I-89 and return to Burlington.

Inn-Side Vermont

Small, distinguished inns are hidden throughout Vermont – tucked away in forests, set on farmlands, prominently situated in villages – you name it. A complete list of inns (and many bed and breakfasts) is published by the Vermont Chamber of Commerce. For a copy,

Write or call

P.O. Box 37,
Montpelier, VT 05601
(802) 223-3443.

Vermont also has a reservation service for bed and breakfasts.

Write or call

Vermont Bed & Breakfast,
Box 1, East Fairfield, VT
05448

(802) 827-3827.

THE DRIVE
Highlights of
New England

DISTANCE:
1,307 Miles Round
Trip, Boston
TIME:
At least 10 days

N O R T H E A S T

New England

Special Events

April. Boston Marathon.

Takes place on the third Monday every April. Runners run from Hopkinton to the Prudential Center.

June. Harbor Festival, Bismore Park on Ocean Street in Hyannis. An annual Blessing of the Fleet, clam-shucking and pie-eating contests, and all sorts of activities take place.

July. Fourth-of-July Parade, on Main Street and Old Colony Way in Orleans. This is a 2 1/2-mile theme parade held every year.
Harborfest, Boston. A seaside celebration with fireworks, chowder contests, boat races, historical reenactments, and a performance by the Boston Pops Orchestra.
Esplanade Concerts, Boston. Musical programs by the Boston Pops in the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade.

August. Cape Cod Antiques Exposition, at the Charles F. Moore Sports Center, O'Connor Way (exit 12 off Route 6). This exposition attracts antiques dealers from all over New England.
Festival of the Arts, Chase Park on Cross Street, Chatham. A juried outdoor event attracting artists from all over.
Festival Days, Dennis. An annual festival with an antique-car parade, church suppers, crafts fairs, road races, and more.

September. Annual Bourne Scallop Festival, Buzzards Bay Park, Buzzards Bay. The largest scallop festival on the East Coast.
Cranberry Festival, Harwich. Races, clambakes, barbecues, a parade – this is an enormous small town festival.

October. Charles River Regatta, Boston. One of the rowing world's biggest races is held the third Sunday in October every year.

December. First Night Celebration, Boston. Boston Common on New Year's Eve.

This trip takes you from Boston, Massachusetts, to the state's North Shore, along the coast of New Hampshire and the southern coast of Maine, over to Maine's Western Mountains and Lakes region, through the mountains of New Hampshire and Vermont, down through the Berkshires in Massachusetts and the Litchfield Hills of Connecticut to the Connecticut coast, up to Newport, Rhode Island, and back to Boston.

The fastest way to reach the North Shore of Massachusetts from Boston is actually the least direct: Take I-93 north to I-95 north (Route 128 east). Get off at the exit marked for Route 114 and Salem. You could also head up on U.S. 1 from Boston, but who wants to crawl through traffic?

Roughly covering the area between Salem and Newburyport near the New Hampshire border – the *North Shore* has long been a favorite escape for Bostonians. Magnificent ships, built in the coastal towns back in the 18th and 19th centuries, brought great wealth to the area after returning from ports in Africa and Asia. Today, many of the buildings – including majestic sea-captains' homes – still stand surveying strikingly beautiful stretches of the Atlantic.

Make your first stop in the sea-fronting town of **Salem**, famous for the witch trials that took place back in 1692. Attractions devoted to that scandalous time include *The Salem Witch Museum* (the former home of a witch-trial judge), and *Crow Haven Corner*, a tiny shop owned by Laurie Cabot, Salem's most illustrious witch.

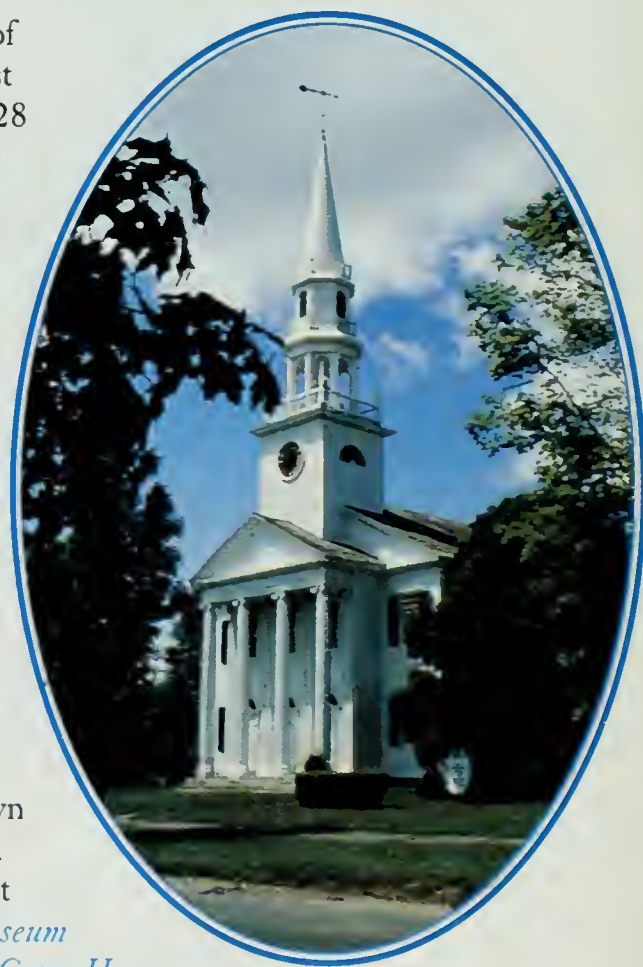
From Salem, it's an easy drive over to **Marblehead**, a village well-known among yacht and sailboat owners who come from around the world to race during the summer months. Consider taking tours of *Abbot Hall*, *Jeremiah Lee Mansion*, and *King Hooper Mansion*, three landmark buildings.

Then drive the loop around **Marblehead Neck**. Several grand ocean- and harbor-front homes surrounded by handsome lawns and gardens make up this quiet residential community.

Carry on up the coast, following Route 1A to **Beverly**, and then Route 127 to **Manchester**, which is poised on the shores of *Cape Ann*. Take time out to visit *Singing Beach*, a sensationally beautiful patch of beach.

Continue north to **Gloucester**, a major fishing port. Once in town, you'll see signs directing motorists along the city's "Scenic Tour," which takes you by the *Harbor Cove*, the *Inner Harbor*, the *Fish Pier*, and to the city's celebrated statue of a *Gloucester fisherman*.

Next stop: **Rockport** – once a quiet fishing village, now a thriving resort town. During the summer, the *Bearskin Neck* – a narrow peninsula jutting into the water off *Dock Square*



Continuing north from the Kennebunks, you can either pick up U.S. 1 (at Kennebunk) or opt for the more scenic Route 9 from Kennebunkport. The latter takes you past several sun-soaked beaches. Upon reaching the town of **Scarborough**, turn right onto Route 207





Boston Harbor Sightseeing

Several companies offer Boston harbor sightseeing cruises, including

- Bay State Cruise Company
56 Long Wharf
(617) 723-7800
- Boston By Sail
66 Long Wharf
(617) 742-3313
- Boston Harbor Cruises
On Long Wharf
(617) 247-4320
- The Spirit of Boston
60 Rowes Wharf
(617) 569-6867 has lunch and dinner/dance cruises.
- City Sights
Consider climbing into a trolley for a Boston tour. Several companies offer them, including *Boston Trolley Tours* (617) 427-8687. They have a large fleet of handcrafted trolleys that run year round, stopping at well over a dozen boarding stops scattered around the city. The narrated tour lasts about 100 minutes (though you can get on and off as you go along).

which leads to *Prouts Neck*. This oddly-shaped peninsula juts into *Saco Bay* about eight miles south of **Portland**. Much of its coastal scenery – steep cliffs, swirling surf, and dwarfish rock-clinging trees – appears on the canvases of the American painter Winslow Homer, who lived and worked there.

Continue up the coast on U.S. 1, making stops at Portland, **Boothbay Harbor**, and a handful of other towns before heading inland to the western part of the state. Take U.S. 1A to **Bangor**, and then pick up U.S. 2 West, which takes you across the state to the western mountains and lakes region. Turn right onto Route 17 (shortly after **Dixfield**) to get to the *Rangeley Lakes*. This area is almost solid wilderness punctuated with an occasional town (by town, we often mean a post office, a church, and a general store). In the summer months, boaters and fishermen fill the lakes, some of which have multisyllabic names such as *Mooselookmeguntic*, *Kennebego*, *Aziscohos*, *Cupsuptic*, and *Umbagog*. Come winter, the nearby areas of

Sugarloaf and *Saddleback* teem with skiers.

Return to U.S. 2, and continue west over the border into New Hampshire. Here, you'll find yourself right in the heart of the *White Mountains*, home to *Mount Washington Auto Route* (from Pinkham Notch). Climb aboard the *Mount Washington Cog Railway* at **Bretton Woods**, or continue following Route 16 south to **Conway**, and turn right onto Route 112. The 33-mile distance between Conway and **Lincoln** is known as the *Kancamagus Highway*, one of the most spectacularly scenic drives you'll ever make.

Hop on I-93 North to reach *Franconia Notch*, a dramatic mountain gap surrounded by 6,500 acres of state park. A stretch of eight miles on I-93 is called the *Franconia Notch Parkway*.

Continue on I-93 North crossing the border into Vermont. Take U.S. 2 to **Montpelier**, the smallest state capital in the country. A bit north of Montpelier, pick up Route 100, which you'll follow south through the state. Several interesting towns line the way, including **Waitsfield** and **Warren** (off Route 100 east of Lincoln Gap Road). Route 100 also takes you along the edge of the *Green Mountains*, and through intensely scenic Vermont. Detour on any road that looks appealing, except those that warn to "KEEP OUT!" You'll find most of Vermont's best scenery on dirt roads that do not show up on most maps, or necessarily lead anywhere.

Once you cross into Massachusetts, head west to **Williamstown**, in the *Berkshires*. The *Berkshire Hills* – which occupy the western quarter of the state – are known for both their rural beauty (sprawling farms, tidy little villages, dozens of lakes and ponds, thousands of acres of forest) and their cultural assets (they're home to the *Tanglewood Music Festival* and *Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival*). U.S. 7 takes you through the heart of them, and runs through a series of great little towns including **Lenox** and **Stockbridge**.

Williamstown's most notable attractions include the *Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute*, an outstanding collection of French Impressionists, Renoirs, and Old Masters, and the *Williams College* campus, which also has a fine collection of paintings, as well as one of the nation's best collections of rare books.



B&B

If you're interested in staying in a bed and breakfast, there are several booking agencies in Boston, including

- Bed & Breakfast Associates
Bay Colony Ltd.
(800) 347-5088 or
(617) 449-5302
- Greater Boston Hospitality
(617) 277-5430
- Host Homes of Boston
(617) 244-1308

Boston

SEEING THE SIGHTS

You'll find history with just about every step you take in Boston – and you'll take many. The most complete – and affordable – way to explore the city's historical sights is to follow the red brick road along the *Freedom Trail*. This three-mile, self-guided walking tour takes you to many of Boston's most celebrated landmarks, starting at the *Boston Common Visitor Information Center* (near the Park Street subway station), winding its way through the downtown district to *Faneuil Hall*, passing through the North End and into *Charlestown*, where you'll find the *USS Constitution*. Some of the sites include *The Old State House*, *Paul Revere's House*, and the *Bunker Hill Monument*.

In addition to the Freedom Trail: The *Black Heritage Trail* (617) 742-5415 takes you on a 90-minute walk past the city's 19th-century African-American community landmarks. You can opt for a guided tour or pick up a map and brochure and follow it on your own. *Boston by Foot* (617) 367-2345 or (617) 367-3766 (for recorded information) has a variety of guided walks, from May through October. The *Victorian Society in America* (617) 267-6338 takes you to the city's Victorian sights. The *Women's Heritage Trail* (617) 731-5597 focuses on the lives of 20 women who made significant contributions to the city.

Boston's newer attractions (meaning anything after the Revolutionary War) include the *Museum of Fine Arts*, which showcases works by Rembrandt, El Greco, and Van Gogh. The nearby *Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum* is a 15th-century art-filled Venetian palace with an impressive collection of paintings and sculpture (including works by Rembrandt, Botticelli, Titian, and Raphael). Boston's *Computer Museum* features a giant walk-through computer and dozens of work stations for visitors to explore cyberspace.

There's lots more. If you have time, spend it wandering around the different neighborhoods, including *Beacon Hill*, *Downtown*, and *The Back Bay*, located just over the *Charles River*, in Cambridge.

From Williamstown, head south on U.S. 7. At **Pittsfield**, detour a bit to the west on Route 20. About five miles beyond, you'll find *Hancock Shaker Village*, a living-history museum devoted to the Shakers.

Continue south on U.S. 7, stopping at the *Berkshire Museum* in Pittsfield. Herman Melville wrote *Moby Dick* in a house called *Arrowhead*, also in Pittsfield.

Next stop: Lenox, home of *Tanglewood*, where throughout the summer months, the Boston Symphony Orchestra makes music under the stars. If you can't attend a performance, take time to stroll around the park's 210 acres – including formal gardens – which are open daily.

Continuing south, you'll find the summer residence of novelist Edith Wharton near the junction of Routes 7 and 7A. The *Mount* – a Classical revival – is sensationally situated on 49 acres.

You may recognize Stockbridge from *The Saturday Evening Post*. You can see some of Norman Rockwell's original covers as well as the world's largest collection of the illustrator's works in the *Norman Rockwell Museum*. The *Red Lion Inn* on Main Street has been a major Stockbridge landmark for more than 200 years. Stop in for a drink in the courtyard or on one of the rockers on the front porch. Then wander around the shops on Main Street.

U.S. 7 takes you directly into Connecticut, where you can spend a little time exploring some of the three dozen towns scattered throughout the *Litchfield Hills*. The town of **Litchfield** itself (follow Route 63 from **South Canaan**), is classic New England, complete with a village green, a bone-white church, and huge 18th-century houses lined up along wide maple-tree-lined streets.

Follow U.S. 7 right over to **Norwalk** on the coast of Connecticut (pausing to see **Ridgefield**, a lovely old village).

An outstanding attraction in Norwalk is the *Maritime Center* in "SoNo" (**South Norwalk**). Among its highlights: an aquarium with sharks and seals, an IMAX theater, a boat-building demonstration, and several interactive displays.

Just up the coast (hop on I-95 and get off at Exit 18), you'll find **Westport**, a town rife with restaurants and shops and home to *Sherwood Island State Park*, a pleasant beach on *Long Island Sound*.

Get back on I-95 and head north, making your next stop at **Old Saybrook**. Once a shipbuilding and fishing town, it's now a popular spot for summer vacationers.

Carry on to **Mystic**, where the famed *Mystic Seaport*, magnificently preserves the days of America's shipbuilding and whaling prosperity in a huge open-air museum. The star attraction is the 113-foot *Charles W. Morgan*, a whaling ship built in 1841. Then try to create your own prosperity at the *Foxwoods High Stakes Bingo & Casino*, in **Ledyard**.

Continuing up the coast on I-95, you'll soon come to Rhode Island. To reach **Newport**, take Exit 3A, Route 138 east. Follow 138 east over the *Jamestown* and *Newport bridges*, directly into Newport. A city steeped in history, Newport needs little introduction. Plan to spend a good chunk of time on foot, exploring *Colonial Newport*. Then do the mansion tour by car. Route 24 north takes you back to the Boston area.



THE DRIVE:

The Hudson River Valley

DISTANCE:

281 Miles
Round Trip.
New York City

TIME:

Allow at least two
or three days

HIGHLIGHTS:

Riverside towns,
historic houses,
museums, U.S.
Military Academy,
mountains and
woodlands, farms,
wineries, antiques
and crafts shops,
hiking, horseback
riding, sports
resorts, skiing
(downhill and
cross-country).

N O R T H E A S T

Mid-Atlantic

The mighty Hudson River is one of America's most famous waterways, named after Henry Hudson who explored it in 1609.

Running 315 miles from the *Adirondacks* to the sea, it rushes by waterfront towns, stately mansions, vineyards, forests and mountains, and several historic sites commemorating Revolutionary War battles.

For this diversion, we suggest driving up the east bank, crossing over the *Rip Van Winkle Bridge* near the town of **Hudson**, seeing a bit of *Catskill Park*, and returning down the western shore.

Start by heading north out of **New York City** (follow signs for the *Saw Mill River Parkway*). Then jog over to U.S. 9 in **Hastings**, an exit off the Saw Mill. U.S. 9 roughly follows the Hudson shoreline, taking you through a string of historic towns and attractions.

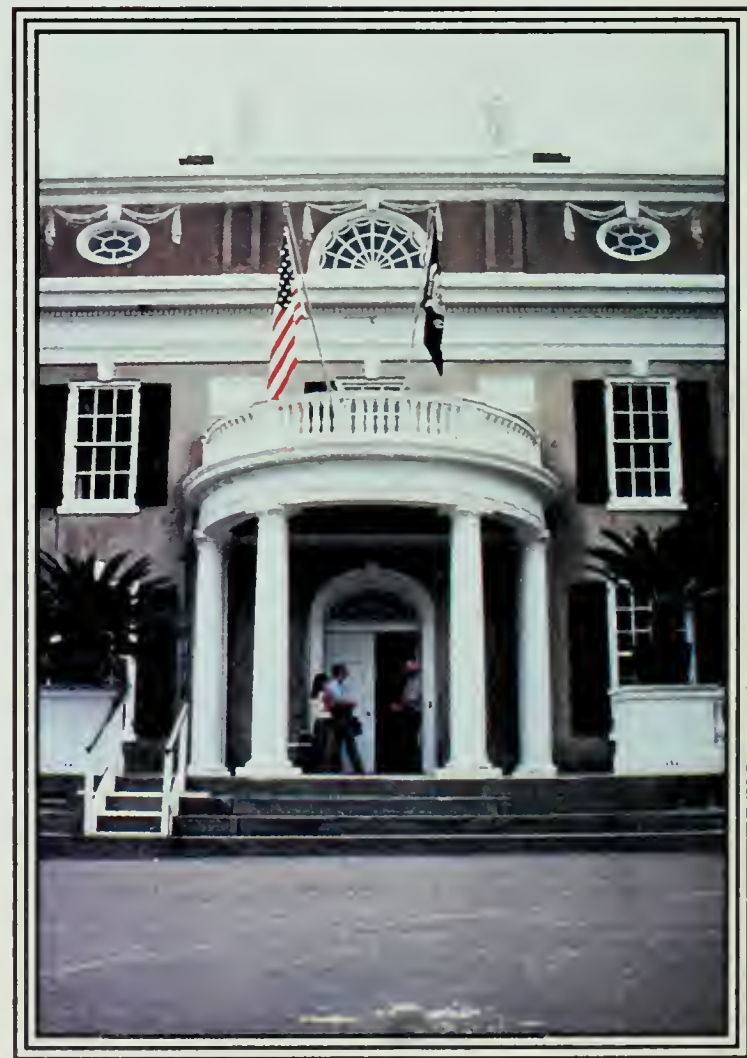
Make your first stop **Tarrytown**, a riverside town settled by the Dutch in the mid-1600s and later made famous by the writings of Washington Irving, particularly *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. Noteworthy attractions in the area include *Lyndhurst*, a Gothic Revival estate and the former home of financier Jay Gould, and Irving's Hudson River Estate, called *Sunnyside*. In nearby **North Tarrytown**, you'll find *Philipsburg Manor*, a beautifully restored 17th-century manor house with a mill and mill pond; and *Kykuit*, the Rockefeller Estate in Pocantico Hills, a 40-room Colonial Revival mansion on 87 acres.

Continue up U.S. 9 to *Van Cortlandt Manor* in **Croton on Hudson**, a restored baronial manor offering insight into the lifestyles of the 19th-century rich and famous. From there, carry on to **Garrison**, home to *Boscobel*, an early 18th-century country home open for touring. Filled with historic 19th-century buildings, the village of **Cold Spring** lies just to the north, where the *Foundry School Museum* displays Hudson River School paintings.

Once you've looked around Cold Spring, set out north on Route 9D, picking up U.S. 9 above I-84. **Poughkeepsie** is the next major town. It's home to *Vassar*, one of the country's top colleges, which you can visit.

Continue north on U.S. 9 for six miles to reach **Hyde Park**, where you'll find *Franklin D. Roosevelt's home*. The president's birthplace and life-long residence (which is one mile south of town on U.S. 9) is known as *Springwood*.

One of the Hudson's most famous attractions stands just north of Hyde Park. The



What's Happening When?

May: Rhinebeck Antiques Fair.

Held at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds. (914) 758-6186.

June: Crafts at Rhinebeck.

A juried show of over 350 exhibitors. Held at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds. (914) 876-4001.

August: Ulster County Fair.

An annual event at the Fairgrounds, two miles southwest of New Paltz on Libertyville Road.

September: Hudson Valley Food Festival.

Uptown Kingston, Wall Street area. Includes music, tastings, and cooking demonstrations.

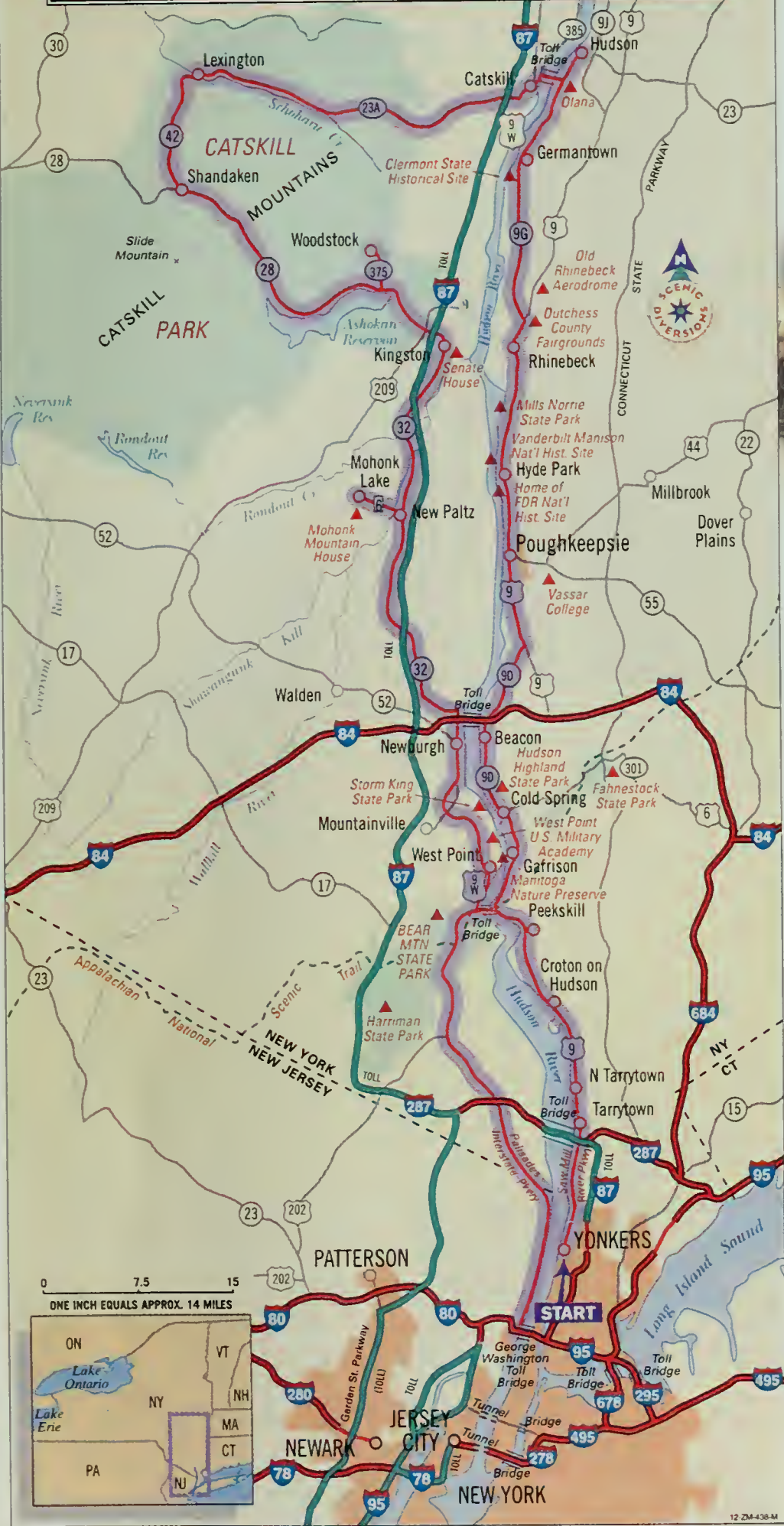
Harvest Moon Festival.

Seasonal foods, music, exhibits. Hudson River Maritime Museum, Rondout Landing, Kingston. **Annual Radio Control Jamboree.** An air show and other aerial events at the Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome. (914) 229-2371.

October: Crafts at Rhinebeck Fall Festival

Over 200 exhibitors, plus harvest-related activities at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds. (914) 876-4001. **Rhinebeck Antiques Fair.** Dealers from all over New England show furniture, folk art, paintings, etc., at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds. (914) 758-6186.

THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY



Vanderbilt Mansion is a 54-room Beaux Arts mansion that was designed by McKim, Mead, and White for Frederick Vanderbilt. You can tour the house and grounds, which gaze out at the shimmering Hudson River. Afterward, con-



tinue north to **Rhinebeck** and have a look around the *Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome*, a museum devoted to vintage airplanes. Shortly after Rhinebeck, turn off to the left on Route 9G and you'll come to two more of the area's most notable attractions: the *Clermont State Historic Site* in **Germantown**, and **Olana**, just south of Hudson. Clermont was the home of Robert R. Livingston (and seven generations of his family), one of five men elected to draft the Declaration of Independence. He also was chancellor of New York, and administered the oath of office to George Washington. The 19th-century landscape artist Frederic Edwin Church built his home, Olana (a five-story Persian-style villa atop a bluff overlooking the Hudson), in the 1870s.

Keep going north to the former whaling town of **Hudson**. Here you'll find several antiques shops, as well as a handsome collection of 18th-century restored Federal, Greek Revival, and Victorian houses. Detailed walking tour maps are available at most of the shops.

From Hudson, backtrack a bit to cross the river on the Rip Van Winkle Bridge. Route 23 takes you to **Catskill**, a gateway to the *Catskill Mountains*. To have a look at some of the magical scenery, follow Route 23A west to **Lexington**. Then turn south on Route 42, following that to **Shandaken**. From there, take Route 28 east and turn left onto Route 375 to

see **Woodstock**, where the famous concert took place. **Kingston**, which was New York State's first capital (back in 1777), is the next major stop. This old river port was founded in 1652 as a Dutch trading settlement. Many of its early buildings still stand open to the public, including the *Old Dutch Church* and the *Senate House*. Other attractions include the *Hudson River Maritime Center* and the *Trolley Museum*, which showcases old trolley cars.

“Hey Dudes.”

If you thought you had to go west to have a dude ranch experience, you'll be pleased to discover the *Rocking Horse Ranch Resort* in **Highland**, New York (near New Paltz on the west side of the Hudson River). A great choice for families, this dude ranch is complete with horseback riding, all-you-can-eat chuckwagon cuisine, and a whole “alphabet of activities.” For information, call (914) 691-2927.



miles or so until you see a sign for the *Storm King Art Center* in **Mountainville**. It's a leading outdoor sculpture park and museum, sprawling over 400 acres of lawns, terraces, fields, and woods.

Dramatically situated on a bluff overlooking the Hudson River, *West Point*, home to the United States Military Academy, is next. Founded in 1802, it has turned out many prominent leaders over the years, including Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant, and George S. Patton. History buffs shouldn't miss its museum devoted to military history.

From West Point, take U.S. 9W south and get off at the **Haverstraw** exit to reach *Bear Mountain State Park*, a 5,067-acre park that extends westward from the Hudson. Here you'll find the excellent *Trailside Museum*, which consists of a reptile museum, a nature study museum, a geology museum, and a history museum. You can also take a scenic ride up *Perkins Memorial Drive* to the mountain-top observatory.

It's an easy drive back to **Manhattan** from here – just 45 miles. Take the *Palisades Interstate Parkway* south to the *George Washington Bridge*.

ACTIVE DIVERSIONS

When visiting this part of the world, pack a good pair of hiking boots or walking shoes, binoculars, and clothes you can get out and explore in. Here are just some of the activities you'll find:

- **Biking.** Rent mountain bikes at *Catskill Mountain Bicycle Shop* on North Front Street in New Paltz, (914) 255-3859; at *Overlook Mountain Bikes*, 107 Tinker Street, Woodstock, (914) 679-2122; and at *Woodstock Bicycle Shop*, 9 Rock City Road, Woodstock, (914) 679-8388.

From Kingston, head south on Route 32 to **New Paltz**. The Colonial governor of New York granted land to half a dozen Huguenots, who founded this history-rich town back in 1678. Take a walk down *Huguenot Street* – the oldest street in America – lined with stone houses and a church built between 1692 and 1799. New Paltz is also home to the *Mohonk Mountain House*, a big, old-fashioned country hotel on *Mohonk Lake* (“Mohonk” is an Indian word that means “lake in the sky”). Take time out to wander about its wooded trails. For a far-reaching view, climb the cliff-top observation tower.

From New Paltz, drive south to **Newburgh** to see *Washington's Headquarters* (during the last days of the Revolutionary War). From there, continue south on Route 32 about seven

A Tour of Wineries

The *Shawangunk Wine Trail* loops for 30 miles through five Ulster County wineries that are open for touring.

The wineries include: *Adair Vineyards*, 75 Allhusen Road, New Paltz, (914) 255-1377; *Rivendell Winery*, 714 Albany Post Road, New Paltz, (914) 255-0892; *Brimstone Hill Vineyards*, 49 Brimstone Hill Road, Pine Bush, (914) 744-2231; *Baldwin Vineyards*, 110 Hardenburgh Road, Pine Bush, (914) 744-2226; and *Walker Valley Vineyards*, Route 52, Walker Valley, (914) 744-3449. Hours vary from vineyard to vineyard, but generally they are open during the summer months until 5 p.m.

Inn-Side Information

While exploring the eastern shore of the Hudson River, consider detouring a bit east to the Millbrook area, which is known as "horse country." In nearby Dover Plains, you'll find a one-of-a-kind inn. Old Drovers Inn on Old Post Road (Route 22) has been welcoming visitors for more than 250 years. It's full of old-fashioned charm and has a respectable restaurant specializing in innovative American cuisine.

For information, call (914) 832-9311.

- *Bird-watching.* *Slide Mountain* in the Catskills is great for bird-watching. Among its many inhabitants are wild turkeys, ruffed grouse, pileated woodpeckers, yellow-bellied sapsuckers, and several different warblers and thrushes.
- *Golf.* *Mohonk Mountain House*, New Paltz, (914) 255-1000 and *Green Acres* in Kingston, (914) 331-7807.
- *Hiking.* Hiking opportunities abound in the Hudson Valley region. *Hudson Highland State Park*, just north of Cold Spring has lots of trails to wander along, as does the *Manitoga Nature Preserve*, south of Garrison. In nearby Carmel, the Appalachian Trail cuts through *Fahnestock State Park*.
- *Hudson River Boat Tours.* In Kingston, several boat companies offer river trips, including *Hudson River Cruises*, which has music and dinner cruises (914) 255-6515, and the *Great Hudson Sailing Center* (914) 338-7313 for sailing trips.
- *Skiing.* For downhill skiing and cross-country, there's *Belleayre Mountain Ski Center*, Highmount, (914) 254-5600; for cross-country only, *Lake Mohonk* in New Paltz, (914) 255-1000.



Meal Tip

If you're in the area of FDR's home and it's time for dinner, you couldn't ask for a better place to eat than the *Culinary Institute of America* in Hyde Park, 433 Albany Post Road, (914) 471-6608. There are four student-staffed restaurants on the 150-acre campus: *St.*

Andrew's Cafe offers contemporary dishes, the *Caterina de Medici Dining Room* features regional Italian cuisine, the *Escoffier Restaurant* serves French, and *The American Bounty Restaurant* specializes in American food. Reservations are a must.



N O R T H E A S T

226 Miles Round
Trip, Washington,
D.C.

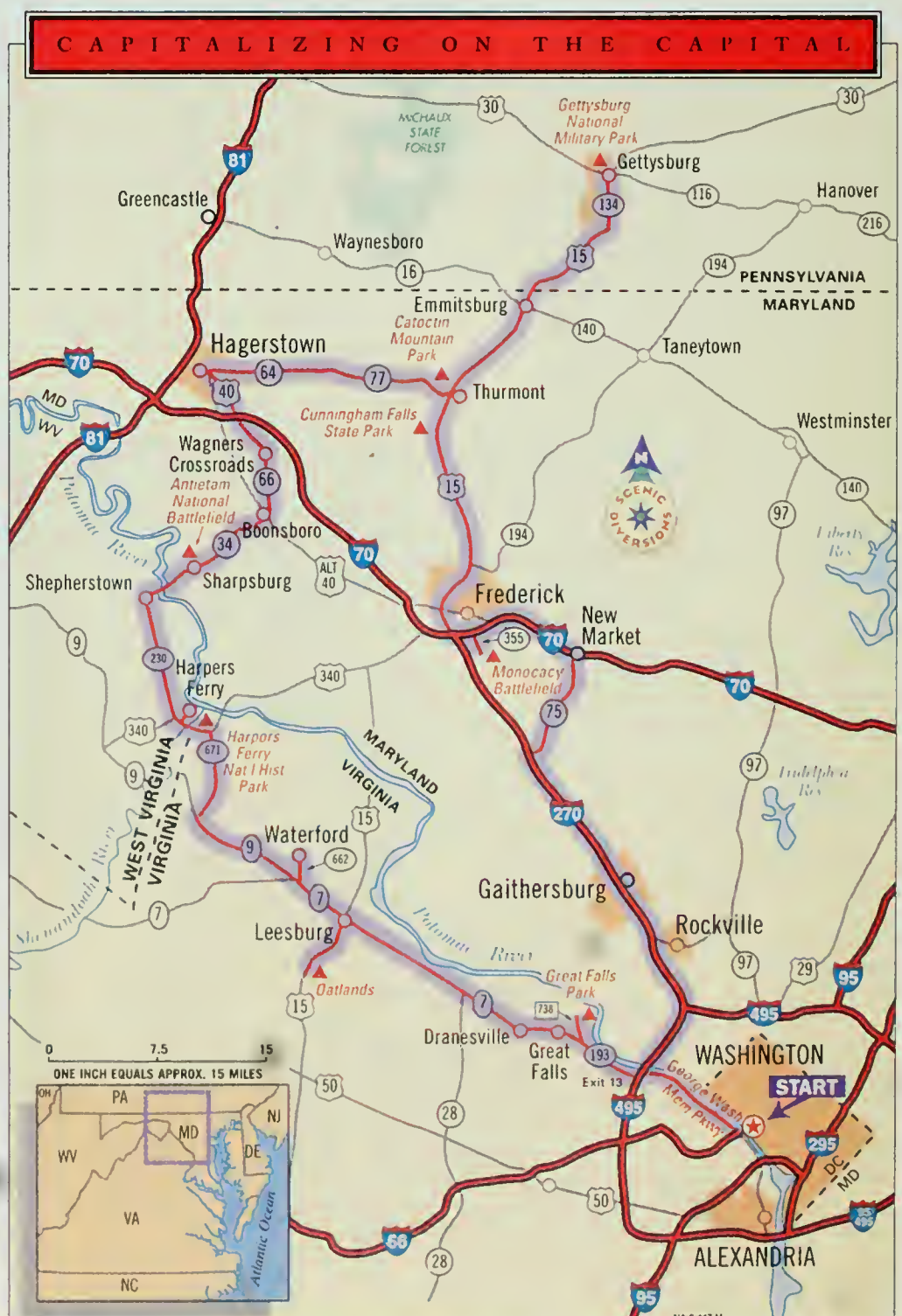
Allow at least
two days

HIGHLIGHTS:
Hunt Country,
Civil War sites,
mountain scenery,
hiking, fishing,
boating, cross-
country skiing.

If you're looking for a wonderful (read: splurge) place to stay while touring the Virginia Hunt Country, you can't go wrong with the Inn at Little Washington. A Colonial inn (and member of the Relais & Chateau group) having just a dozen rooms (some of them are suites) which are individually and exquisitely decorated. For more information, write The Inn at Little Washington, P.O. Box 300, Washington, VA 22747, or call (703) 675-3800.

Start by crossing the Potomac River in Washington, D.C., and driving north on the George Washington Parkway. Then get on I-495 southbound, and take Exit 13 for Route 193 West. Follow that for about four and a half miles, and then turn onto Route 738 to *Great Falls Park*. Here you can hike on 15 miles of trails (from easy terrain to somewhat rugged) and see the swirling *Great Falls of the Potomac River*.

From there, go through the town of **Great Falls**, and then get on Route 7 north at **Dranesville**. Follow that to **Leesburg**, which is in the heart of Virginia's Hunt Country. For a bit of history on the area, have a look around the *Loudoun Museum* (16 Loudoun Street SW) and take a walk around the historic district. Also worthwhile (especially for the horsey set) is the *Museum of Hounds and Hunting* and the *Morven Park International Equestrian Institute* in *Morven Park*, about a mile north of town. Morven Park (which sprawls over 1,500 acres) also includes a





28-room mansion, a carriage museum with over 100 horse-drawn vehicles, and boxwood gardens.

The countryside surrounding Leesburg is beautiful in every direction, with rolling hills, Thoroughbred horse farms, and beautiful rural villages. To the north (Route 662) is **Waterford**, an 18th-century *Quaker Village*, designated a National Historic Landmark. Six miles south of town (on U.S. 15) is **Oatlands**, a 261-acre estate that formerly was the center of a 5,000-acre plantation.

Next stop: **Harpers Ferry**, West Virginia, a name you surely know. Because of its strategic location, it was a town that changed hands many times during the Civil War. It was also the site of the U.S. arsenal captured by abolitionist John

Brown in 1859. To reach it, take Route 7 from Leesburg, Route 9 to Route 671, then north to Harpers Ferry. You are now at the junction of the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers, where West Virginia, Virginia, and Maryland meet. The whole area (covering more than 2,200 acres) is a National Historical Park. There is a Visitor Center just off U.S. 340, where the tours begin.

From Harpers Ferry, go west on Route 340 for about two miles. Then turn right onto Route 230 toward **Shepherdstown**. Cross the Potomac River into Maryland and follow Route 34 to **Sharpsburg**.

Just north of town you'll find *Antietam National Battlefield*, where one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War took place on September 17, 1862. At this site, more than 23,000 men were killed or wounded when Union forces blocked the first Confederate invasion of the North. There's a self-guided auto tour of the major landmarks.

Emmitsburg (which is just south of the Pennsylvania line) is your next destination. The drive – through Maryland's Blue Ridge region – is lovely. You pass through mountain scenery (the *Appalachian Trail* cuts through this area). Take Route 34 from Sharpsburg to **Boonsboro**. Then follow Route 66 north to **Wagners Crossroads** and continue north on U.S. 40 to **Hagerstown**. From there, head east on Route 64 and then 77 to **Thurmont** (consider pausing for a picnic at *Cunningham Falls State Park* or in *Catoctin Mountain Park* just before reaching Thurmont). Then turn left onto U.S. 15 and follow it for about nine miles to Emmitsburg.

As you approach Emmitsburg, you'll come to two of the area's most famous attractions. First, the *National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes*, which is a replica of the French shrine (one-third the size of the original), and then the *Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton*, the first American-born saint. Emmitsburg itself is listed in the National Register of Historic Towns. If you're in the market for antiques, check out the *Emmitsburg Antique Mall* (1 Chesapeake Avenue), which has more than 120 dealers displaying their collections.



Crafts Fair

Every May, the town of Frederick, Maryland, has a crafts fair that draws more than 500 artisans. Don't miss it.



Continue north on U.S. 15 to Route 134, crossing the Mason-Dixon Line into

Gettysburg, where the Civil War's most decisive battle was fought between July 1-3, 1863.

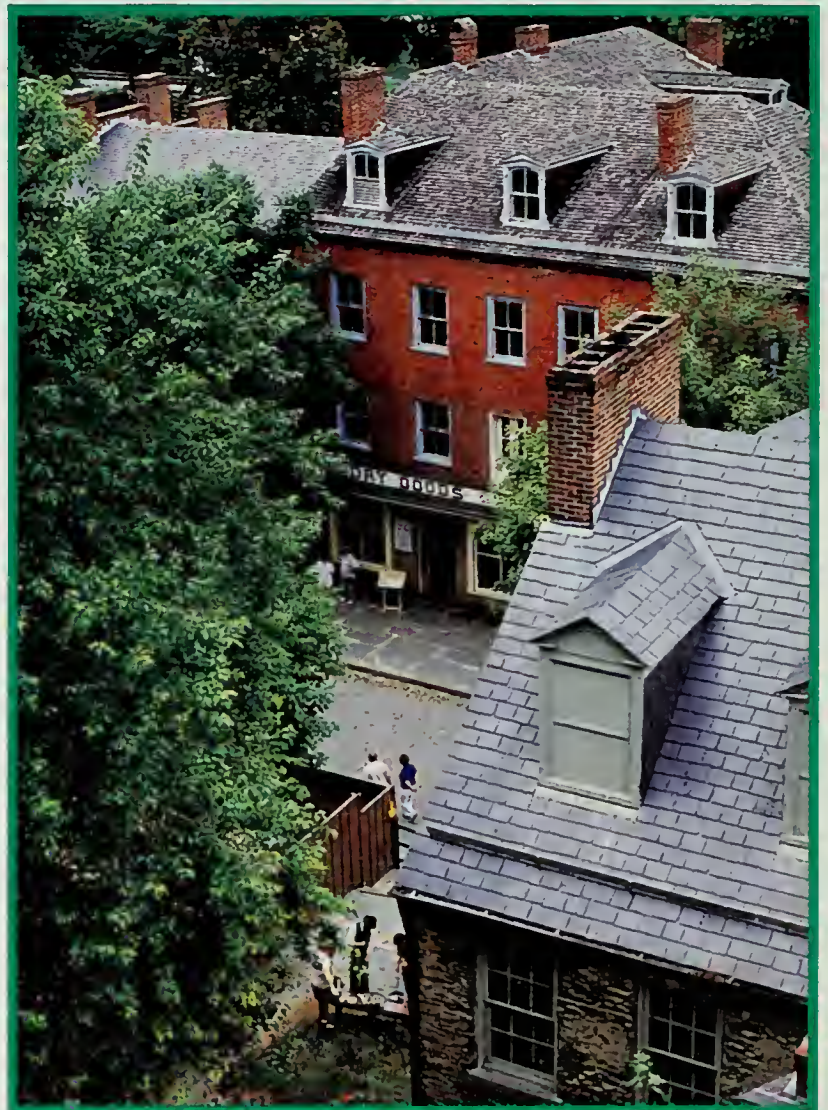
Gettysburg National Military Park has more than 35 miles of

roads through 5,700 acres of battlefield area. You can tour the sites with a Battlefield Guide, licensed by the National Park Service, or venture out on your own.

Retrace your steps back to Thurmont on U.S. 15, and then continue south toward **Frederick**. Founded in 1745, this lovely Colonial town is famous for its numerous 18th- and 19th-century houses bordering tree-lined streets. It's a town rich with history, having been the home of Francis Scott Key, author of "The Star Spangled Banner," Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney, who issued the famous Dred Scott Decision; and Barbara Fritchie, the ardent Unionist immortalized by Whittier's poem "*Barbara Fritchie*." Several historic buildings are open for touring, including the *Barbara Fritchie House* (154 West Patrick Street); *Schifferstadt* (Rosemont Avenue and 2nd Street), a farmhouse built in 1756; and the *Roger Brooke Taney and Francis Scott Key Museum* (121 South Bentz Street). Also worthwhile: *Trinity Chapel* (where Francis Scott Key was baptized); the *Mt. Olivet Cemetery* (monuments mark the graves of Francis Scott Key and Barbara Fritchie); the *Historical Society of Frederic County Museum*; and *Monocacy Battlefield* (three miles south of town on Route 355).

About seven miles east of Frederick (take I-70), you'll find the town of **New Market**, which is rife with antiques shops.

Once you've had a look around, take Route 75 south and pick up I-270 southbound to Washington, D.C.



THE DRIVE
Minnesota's
North Shore
Drive

DISTANCE
227 Miles Round
Trip, Duluth to
Grand Portage

TIME
Allow at least
two days

HIGHLIGHTS
Waterfront
attractions, museums,
old mining
communities,
coastal scenery,
swimming, fishing,
hiking, water sports,
wildlife spotting.

C E N T R A L

Great Lakes

Minnesota's North Shore is known for its natural beauty and outdoor diversions. It's also home to a string of inviting little communities. This scenic drive takes you right up the northern shore of Lake Superior, from Duluth to Grand Portage, on the Canadian border.

Start by exploring Duluth, which is a world-class seaport with a truly magnificent waterfront that resulted from a \$150-million renaissance. The harbor area has several sights to see, including the *Corps of Engineers, Canal Park Marine Museum* (devoted to Lake Superior marine history), and the *William A. Irvin*, a former flagship of the U.S. Steel Great Lakes Fleet. The *Downtown Lakewalk* is a two-mile pathway



A Road to Follow

In addition to driving the length of the North Shore, if you have time, consider detouring a bit to follow the Gunflint Trail. It starts at the northwestern edge of Grand Marais and goes north and west 58 miles to Saganaga Lake on the Canadian border, taking you through an area rife with lakes. You can camp, picnic, fish, and go canoeing.

that takes you through a couple of parks from which views of the lake are lovely. The *Depot*, further into town, is a restored train station housing three museums. Other Duluth attractions include the *Lake Superior Zoological Gardens*, the *International Sculpture Garden* in *Lake Place*, and *Glensheen*, a Jacobean revival mansion.

From Duluth, head north on Route 61, which you'll actually follow for this entire drive. This road clings to the rocky coast of Lake Superior, passing the forested slopes of the *Sawtooth Mountains*.

One of the first towns you'll come to is **Knife River**, which is famous for its smoked fish.

Two Harbors, a major shipping center for the Iron

Range taconite and the iron ore industry, is next. Here you can tour the enormous *Duluth and Iron Range Railroad Loading Dock* and watch huge ore boats come into port. To find out more about the iron ore history, take a look around the *Lighthouse Point and Harbor Museum*. Also see the *Lake County Historical Society Museum*, where you can learn all about the area's logging, fishing, and railroad heritage.

North of **Castle Danger**, you'll find *Gooseberry Falls State Park*, a 1,675-acre park where you can fish, hike, picnic (and cross-country ski or snowmobile in winter), and then *Split Rock Lighthouse*, the tallest lighthouse on the Great Lakes. Poised high on a cliff, it served as a guiding sentinel from 1910-1968. You can tour the lighthouse and outbuildings.

Just up the coast is **Silver Bay**, which got its name from a ship's captain who thought its rocky shores looked like silver. North of Silver Bay, you'll find *Tettegouche State Park*, which is home to the state's highest waterfall. Then you'll come to a string of charming little communities, including **Little Marais**, **Tofte**, and **Lutsen**. A little further up the coast is **Grand Marais**, a major fishing and resort center and starting point for the Gunflint Trail (see sidebar, "A Road to Follow").

This drive ends just five miles from the Canadian border in **Grand Portage**. In years gone by, the area was a rendezvous point and supply depot for fur traders operating between Montreal and Lake Athabasca. Visitors can see the reconstructed trading post.



THE DRIVE
Ohio's
Lake Erie
Region

DISTANCE
185 Miles Round-
Trip, Cleveland

TIME
Allow at least
two days

HIGHLIGHTS
Cleveland's big city
attractions, historic
villages, museums,
an amusement park,
wineries, caves,
boating, swimming,
fishing

CENTRAL

Great Lakes

For this scenic drive, we combine a visit to Cleveland with a drive to the Lake Erie island region, considered "Ohio's Scenic Playground."

If you think you won't need much time to see Cleveland you'll be very surprised. This increasingly interesting city has lots to do. Start by checking out the shops in the new *Tower City Center*, a three-story shopping complex in the *Terminal Tower* downtown.

Then hit the museums. *The Cleveland Museum of Art* has a top-draw collection of 19th-century French and American Impressionist paintings; the *Cleveland Museum of Natural History* displays the only extant skull of the Pygmy Tyrant; the *Western Reserve Historical Society*, which is devoted to the history of Northeast Ohio; and the *Crawford Auto-Aviation Museum*, which houses more than 15 vintage automobiles and aircraft. At the North Coast Harbor, you can visit the brand new *Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum*. Leave yourself plenty of time to just stroll through the city's neighborhoods, including *Public Square* downtown and *The*





Ohio's Amish Country

South of Cleveland, in Holmes, Wayne, and Tuscarawas counties, you'll find the state's Amish Country. About 35,000 plain people (the largest Amish population in the world) live in this area. Originally Swiss Mennonites, the Amish created their own sect. Following Jacob Amman, they came to the United States in 1728 to practice their austere lifestyle undisturbed. For more information on the Amish way of life (and some Amish sights to see), stop by the Mennonite Information Center near Berlin. (330) 893-3192.

impressive collection of Civil War artifacts. From its widow's walk, there's a great view of the city and the lake. Sandusky is also home to the *Merry-Go-Round Museum*, where you can actually watch a wood-carving demonstration and ride a working carousel. At nearby *Cedar Point* (it's five miles southeast on U.S. 6 to Causeway Drive, then north over the Causeway), you'll find a beach, marina, and an amusement park with more than 50 rides, live shows, a crafts area, and more.

From Sandusky, continue west, crossing the *Sandusky Bay*. When you get on the peninsula, head east toward **Marblehead**, an artist's colony perched on a scenic windswept point. The *Marblehead Lighthouse* has been illuminating the way for more than 170 years. If you want to get away to a laid-back place, consider taking the ferry over to *Kelleys Island*, the largest U.S. island on *Lake Erie*. The entire island is in the National Register of Historic Places. In addition to beaches, the island is most famous for its *Glacial Grooves*, a series of long, deep furrows carved by glaciers more than 30,000 years ago. Take time to see *Inscription Rock*, a slab of limestone covered with pictographs.

From Marblehead, backtrack a bit on Route 163, and then turn right onto Route 53 to *Catawba Point*. From here, you can take a ferry over to **Put-in-Bay** on *South Bass Island*. A top spot for fishermen, Put-in-Bay is famed for its small-mouth black bass fishing in spring, walleye in summer, and ice fishing for perch and walleye in winter. On top of that, there's boating, swimming, biking, golf, and water-skiing. Take time to see *Perry's Victory and International Peace Monument*, a 352-foot-high column that commemorates Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry's victory over the British Naval Squadron at the Battle of Lake Erie, near Put-in-Bay in 1813. Also see *Perry's Cave*, where the commodore is said to have stored supplies before the battle. Nearby is *Crystal Cave*, with numerous deposits of strontium sulfate crystals. *Heineman Winery* is also located on the grounds.

From *South Bass Island*, you can take a ferry to *Middle Bass Island*, where you can tour winery cellars that were carved out of limestone bedrock.

From there, make your way back to Sandusky and then take U.S. 250 south to I-80/90. Then get on I-480 and follow that to I-71, which will take you back to Cleveland.

Flats/Warehouse District just to the west of downtown.

From Cleveland, head west on I-90 to Route 2. Then turn north to get to the coastal town of **Vermilion**. Here you'll find a historic shopping area, some good restaurants, and the *Inland Seas Maritime Museum*, which contains Great Lakes ship models, paintings, photographs, and audio-visual displays.

Continue west on U.S. 6 to **Sandusky**, which has one of the best natural harbors in the country. Thanks to its early boat building prosperity, it has a distinct 19th-century look. Take a look around the *Follett House Museum*, a Greek Revival home built in the 1830s. It has an

THE DRIVE
America's
Heartland

DISTANCE

1,630 Miles Round
Trip, St. Louis

TIME

Allow at least one
week to 10 days

HIGHLIGHTS

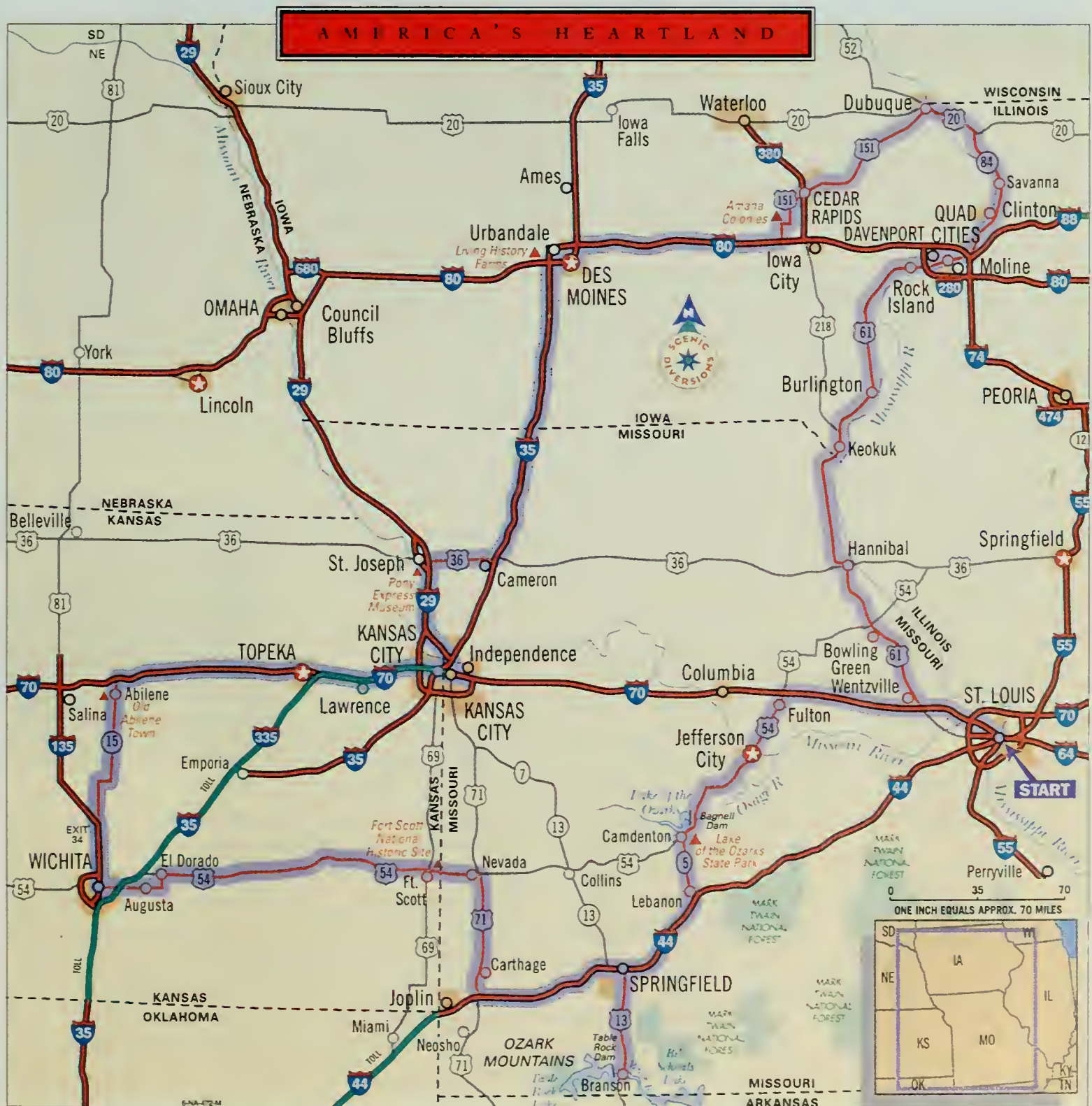
Museums, historic
houses, churches,
boating, camping,
swimming, and
horseback riding.

CENTRAL

Midwest

On this great drive, we take you back to the days of the pioneers by exploring Missouri, Kansas, and Iowa.

Missouri's largest city, **St. Louis**, near the confluence of the *Missouri* and *Mississippi rivers*, was the gateway to the West back in the pioneer days. This era is memorialized by the *Gateway Arch*, a 630-foot-high stainless steel structure that was designed by Finnish-American architect Eero Saarinen. Among the city's other attractions are the *Museum of Westward Expansion*, the *Sports Hall of Fame*, cathedrals, the *National Museum of Transport*, an art museum, a science center, and a botanical garden.





From St. Louis, head west on I-70 to **Fulton**. On the campus of *Westminster College*, where Winston Churchill gave his "Iron Curtain" speech in 1946, you'll find a 17th-century *Christopher Wren church* that was brought here from England and reassembled.

Take U.S. 54 south to **Jefferson City**, which, like many state capitals, nobody ever guesses right on a name-the-capitals trivia quiz. Named after Thomas Jefferson, it is locally known as "Jeff City." Attractions here include the *Governor's Mansion*,

the *Cole County Historical Society Museum*, and the *Missouri Veterinary Medical Foundation Museum*.

About 54 miles southwest of the capital on Route 54 is *Lake of the Ozarks State Park*. The lake itself was formed by the *Bagnell Dam* constructed across the Osage River. It's a popular recreation area, with boating, camping, swimming, and horseback riding.

Springfield is the next stop (follow I-44). This city is known as the "Gateway to Ozark Mountain Country," and is close to some of the state's most beautiful scenery. See the *History Museum*, the *Art Museum*, and the *National Cemetery* (where both Union and Confederate soldiers are buried).

From Springfield, detour south (on U.S. 65) to **Branson**, a booming resort town in the Ozarks featuring more than 40 music/variety shows. *Table Rock Dam* is on the *White River* about six miles southwest of Branson, an excellent fishing spot.

Backtrack to Springfield and then go west on I-44, and then north on U.S. 71. At the town of Nevada, turn left onto U.S. 54 and cross the border into Kansas. Right at the junction of U.S. 69 and U.S. 54, you'll find the *Fort Scott National Historic Site*, a frontier military post that saw action during the Civil War. There are some restored buildings, a museum, and a visitor center.

Continue on to **Wichita**, the largest city in Kansas. Take time out to see the *Old Cowtown Museum*, which is a 40-building historic museum village. Also see the *Indian Center Museum*, the *Omnisphere and Science Center*, the *Wichita Art Museum*, and the *Allen-Lambe House Museum and Study Center*, which is considered the last of Frank Lloyd Wright's prairie houses.

At Exit 34, take Route 15 north to **Abilene**, which was once famous as a Kansas "cow town." Back in 1867, it was the terminal point of the Kansas Pacific Railroad and the nearest railhead for the shipment of cattle brought over the Chisholm Trail. Take a walk around "*Old Abilene Town*" which includes original buildings of the town's cattle-boom days. Also see the *Eisenhower Center*, where Dwight Eisenhower and his five brothers were raised. The grave sites of Ike and Mamie, his wife, are also here.

Take I-70 east to **Kansas City**. The greater Kansas City metropolitan area is comprised of both Kansas City, Kansas and Kansas City, Missouri. Most of the attractions are on the



Missouri side, but the Kansas side has its share with an Indian cemetery, the *1857 Grinter House* (Grinter was the first permanent European settler in Wyandotte County), and a 20-acre wildlife preserve.

On the Missouri side, visitor highlights include the *Kansas City Museum*, the *Liberty Memorial Museum*, the *Toy and Miniature Museum*, the *Arabia Steamboat Museum*, the *Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art*, and *Crown Center* (a "city within a city" with shops, theaters, restaurants, and hotels).

Nearby **Independence**, Missouri is best known as the home of President Harry S. Truman. It used to be the jumping-off point for pioneers heading west along the Santa Fe, California, and Oregon trails. See the *Harry S. Truman Library and Museum*, the *Harry S. Truman Courtroom and Office Museum*, the *Harry S. Truman National Historic Site*, and the *Truman Farm Home*. Other attractions include the *Bingham-Waggoner Estate* (where the Missouri artist George Bingham lived from 1864-1870), and the *1859 Marshal's Home and Jail Museum*.



Take I-29 north to **St. Joseph**. Once the starting point of the Pony Express, the town is now home to the *Pony Express National Memorial* and other historic houses and museums.

From there, take U.S. 36 east and then I-35 north, crossing the border into Iowa. The state's largest city and capital, **Des Moines**, is next. Attractions here include the *Science Center of Iowa*, the *Polk County Heritage Gallery*, the *Botanical Center*, *Blank Park Zoo*, the *State Capitol* with its gold-leaf dome, *Salisbury House*, the Victorian mansion *Terrace Hill* and the *Living History Farms* in nearby **Urbandale**.

From Des Moines, head east on I-80 to U.S. 151 north, stopping at the *Amana Colonies*.

These seven villages (west of **Iowa City** and south of **Cedar Rapids**) are Iowa's leading tourist destination. The history of the communities goes back more than 250 years, when a Lutheran separatist group from Germany settled here. Attractions include general stores, wineries, bakeries, a woolen mill, furniture and clock shops, and hearty German family-style restaurants.

Continue on U.S. 151 through Cedar Rapids to **Dubuque**. Situated along the Mississippi River where Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin meet, Dubuque was once a lead mining center. Of interest are the *Fenelon Place Elevator*, the *Mathias Ham House Historic Site*, the 130-year-old *farmer's market*, *General Zebulon Pike Lock and Dam*, and the *Old Shot Tower*, where Civil War cannonballs were fashioned from molten lead.

Cross the Mississippi on U.S. 20 and take Route 84 south, the *Great River Road*, through the Quad Cities metropolitan area. Go back across the river on I-280 and then continue south on U.S. 61 to **Hannibal**, which was Mark Twain's boyhood home.

Return to St. Louis via U.S. 61.

THE DRIVE:

A Bit of
the Carolinas
& Georgia

DISTANCE:

856 Miles Round
Trip, Charlotte

TIME:

Allow at least
five days

HIGHLIGHTS:

Coastal scenery
and beaches,
mountains, outdoor
sports, resorts,
golf, tennis, historic
cities.

S O U T H

Southeast

For this tour, we take you from Charlotte, North Carolina's largest city, over to the South Carolina coast and then down to Savannah, Georgia (just over the border), and back to Charlotte.

En route, you'll visit **Charleston** and **Savannah** – two historically rich cities – and the offshore island, *Hilton Head*.

From Charlotte, head south in I-77 to **Columbia**, the capital of South Carolina. Spend some time here touring the *Governor's Mansion*, *State House*, *Hampton-Preston House*, *Riverbanks Zoo*, and *Trinity Cathedral*.

To reach Charleston and the coast, head east on I-26. Here you'll find Antebellum homes, winding cobblestone streets, and magnificently fragrant gardens. Start your sight-seeing with a clip-clopping carriage ride past gracious mansions, antique churches, and oak-studded parks. Historic homes open for touring include the *Nathaniel Russell House*, with its incred-

ible spiral staircase; the *Edmonston-Alston House*, overlooking the harbor; and the *Calhoun Mansion*, which boasts 35 fireplaces – visit at least one of these homes.

Afterward, stroll along the brightly painted houses on *Rainbow Row* (inspiration for *Porgy and Bess*), and visit *Fort Sumter*, where

the first shots of the Civil War were fired. At *Magnolia Plantation and Gardens*, you can bike, boat, or hike through acres of blossoms. And *Boone Hall*, a few miles from town, is where *Gone With the Wind* was filmed. Its mansion and grounds offer well-preserved glimpses of a silver-screen South.

From Charleston, work your way down the coast, taking U.S. 17 to **Gardens Corner**, where you'll pick up U.S. 21 south. Then take Route 170 to U.S. 278, which you'll follow right out to Hilton Head Island. A sprawling country club of an island, Hilton Head is home to golf course after golf course, hundreds of tennis courts, and all sorts of facilities, including health spas, marinas (from which you can take boat rides), and yachty *Harbour Town* shops for splurging. On top of all this, the island is surrounded by wide, white-sand



What's Cooking?

If you love seafood and freshwater fish, you'll be in your glory in this part of the world. You'll find everything from conch fritters cooked on the beach in wooden shacks to scallop mousse with lobster sauce served at a restaurant you'd expect to see on the pages of *Gourmet*. In between, you'll find gumbo, jambalya, crabcakes, seafood crepes, fresh fish (broiled, poached, sauteed...you name it), and too many shrimp to mention.

beaches that are not only wonderful for sunning, but for pedaling bicycles, jogging, and bird-watching.

The coastal city of **Savannah**, which is well known for its Antebellum buildings and squares, is next on the itinerary. From Hilton Head Island take U.S. 278 to Route 46, following Route 170 and U.S. 17 into town. Here the "Old South" lives on in more than 1,000 restored buildings that are lined up like contestants in a beauty contest.

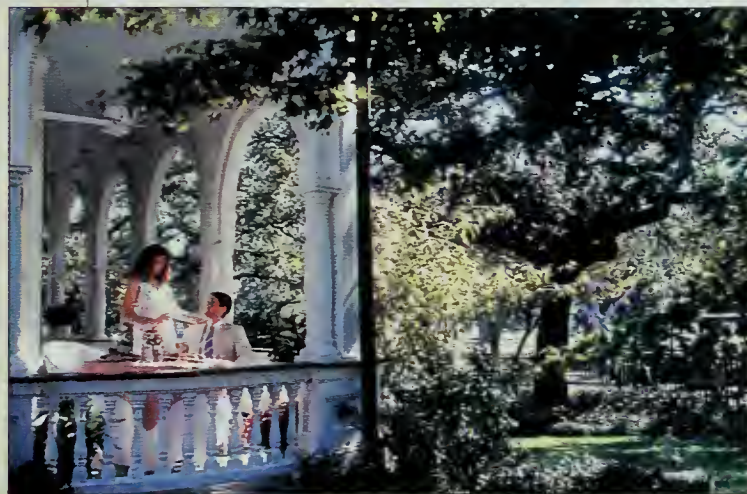
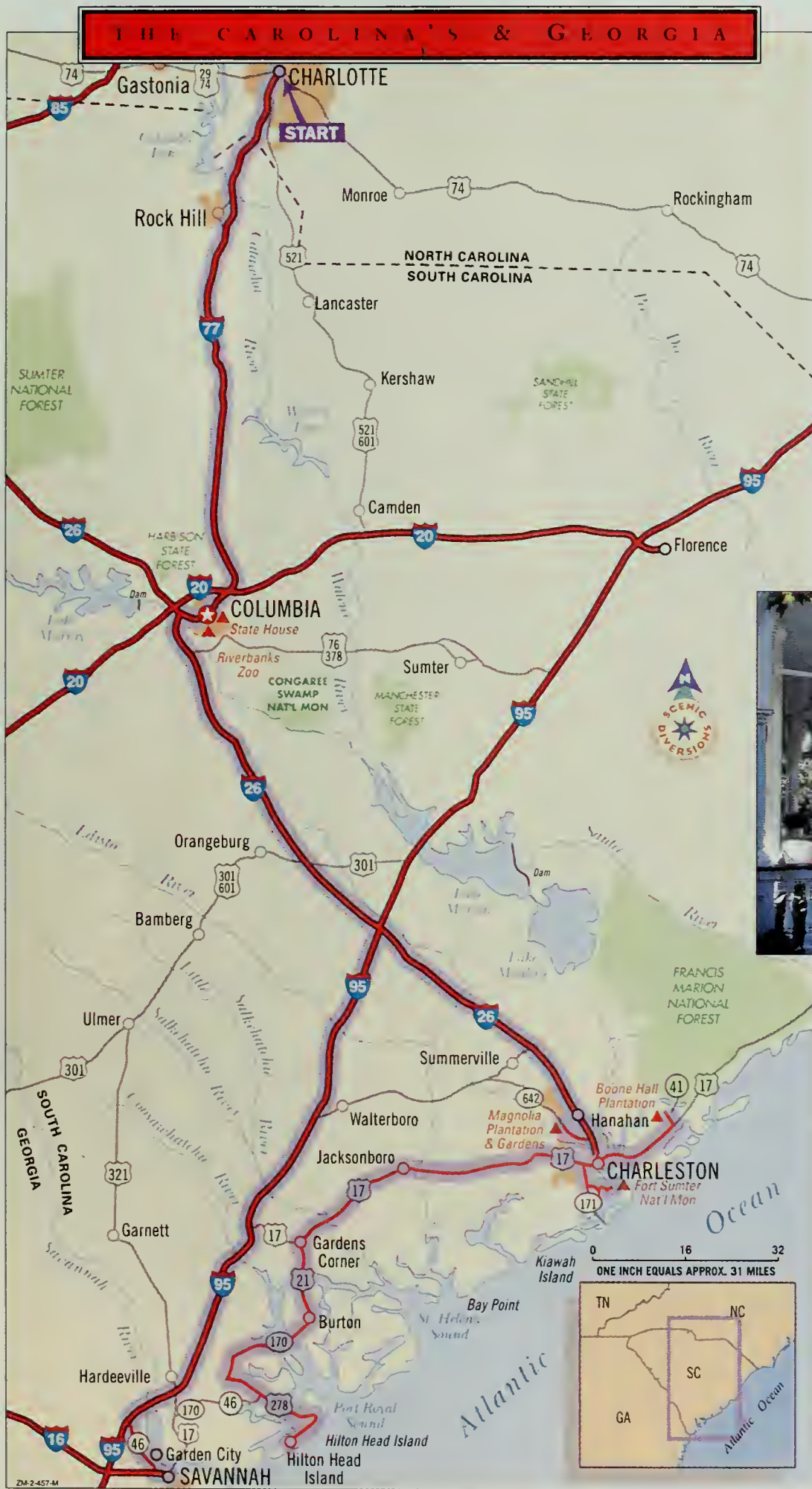
Founded in 1733 by James Edward Oglethorpe from Surrey, England, Savannah is laid out in a perfect grid. There's a *National Historic Landmark District* covering 2.5 square miles. It's home to numerous Federalist and English Regency houses that were rescued and

restored in the mid-1950s by a group of concerned citizens (many of the houses had fallen into disrepair when the price of cotton crashed at the turn of the century). The historic district is bordered by East Broad Street, Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Gwinnett Street, and the Savannah River. Explore this area on foot.

Once you've seen Savannah, head back to Charlotte by taking I-95 and then I-26 north to Columbia, then I-77 north back to Charlotte.

IF YOU HAVE EXTRA TIME

Consider detouring a bit to visit *Kiawah Island*. A short drive from Charleston, Kiawah is like a little oasis of perfection. On a typical day, the sky is as clear as a



pane of glass, and the sea is a beautiful blue. Its ten miles of beach, studded with sand dollars, beckon you with balmy breezes and warming sunshine.

There is a combination platter of resort activities on the island, including top-flight tennis, four (yes, four!) 18-hole golf courses, swimming pools, bike trails, and spa facilities. And at the same time, there's a lot of nature to see, including over 140 different species of birds, alligators, and loggerhead turtles that lay their eggs on the beach at night between May and August. If you wish to stay in the area, try the *Kiawah Island Inn & Villas*, with 150 rooms. For information, call (800) 845-2471 or (803) 768-2121.

North Carolina's Outer Banks

If you're able to spend more time in North Carolina, consider taking a drive to the north end of its coast, where you'll find the *Outer Banks*. This string of wind-swept islands stretches 175 miles, roughly parallel to the mainland coast.

To reach it from **Norfolk**, Virginia, take Route 168 South to U.S. 158. Cross the bridge at **Point Harbor**, near the end of U.S. 158 to **Kitty Hawk**. When you first start driving south on this narrow ribbon of islands (connected by bridges and ferries), you may find yourself saying, "Where's the beach?" You will see lots of honky-tonk attractions, motels, fast-food places, and the like. Ever since the Wright brothers launched the world's first flying machine here, much of the upper Outer Banks have been colonized by tourist facilities. But for vacationers, there's more, especially if you press on – past the busy towns of Kitty Hawk, **Kill Devil Hills**, and **Nags Head**. In fact, go all the way – to *Ocracoke Island*, which is ringed by soft-sand – and foot-print-less – beaches.

En route, you'll find yourself surrounded by the wildly beautiful scenery of *Cape Hatteras National Seashore*: wind-swept dunes, endless stretches of beaches, waves breaking in a series of prismatic explosions. Some must-see stops along the way include *Jockey's Ridge* (gargantuan sand dunes), the historic town of **Manteo** (site of Roanoke's Lost Colony – which is the subject of an outdoor theater all summer long), and the *Cape Hatteras Lighthouse* – the tallest on the East Coast. Once on **Ocracoke Island**, you can do some all-out relaxing, beachcombing, clamming, swimming, or bicycling. Consider overnighting in the village of **Ocracoke**.

CHARLESTON'S SPECIAL EVENTS

Festival of Houses, mid-March to mid-April. For this event, beautiful historic homes around Charleston are open for touring. For more information, call (803) 723-1623.

Spoletto Festival/USA, late May to early June. This is the American version of the Italian Festival of Two Worlds, which was started by Gian Carlo Menotti. All kinds of music is

featured, including jazz, opera, and classical, plus art exhibitions, dance performances, and theater. For more information, write to: P.O. Box 157, Charleston, SC 29402, or call (803) 722-2764.

Garden Candlelight Tours, mid-September to mid-October. The city's historic homes and gardens are beautifully illuminated by candles during this annual event. For information, call (803) 722-4630.

International Film Festival, late October to early November. Works of film makers from around the world are presented here.



S O U T H

Orlando & Environs

111-111-111

355 Miles Round Trip, Orlando

Allow at least
three days

Amusement Parks,
J.F.K. Space Center,
beaches water
sports.

If having fun is tops on your vacation wish list, you're in the right area. Central Florida is not home to just one or two major attractions, it's a virtual candy store of amusements. You can easily spend a week hop-scotching from one to the next and still not see and do everything.

We'll start with *Walt Disney World* in **Orlando**, of course, which is the hub around which much of the state of Florida radiates. Walt Disney World stretches across 43 square miles and offers three spectacular theme parks: the *Magic Kingdom*, the *EPCOT Center*, and the *Disney-MGM Studios Theme Park*. There are also 20+ hotels, dozens of restaurants, a total of 99 holes of golf, 15 lighted tennis courts, miles of open waterways,

A photograph of a beach scene. In the foreground, several bright yellow beach umbrellas are open on the sand. A few people are visible walking along the shoreline. The ocean waves are breaking in the background under a clear blue sky.

O R L A N D O & E N V I R O N S



white-sand beaches, and swimming pools galore. On top of all that, the nightlife keeps you going, going, going. At *Pleasure Island*, there are seven night clubs with live music, dance floors, comedy shows, you name it.

Consider starting your Walt Disney World exploration at the Magic Kingdom, which is crowned by the dreamy *Cinderella Castle*. The Kingdom covers 100 acres, including *Main Street, U.S.A.*, which is a story-book American town with turn-of-the-century buildings and hedges trimmed to look like mouse ears (and other animals). Disney characters wander around merrily greeting visitors. There are several subkingdoms within the Magic Kingdom, including *Adventureland*, which offers the “Pirates of the Caribbean,” an immensely popular animated exhibit. *Frontierland*, a gold-rush town, has one of the Kingdom’s

Another World

Florida's Horse Country

If you thought Florida was all palm trees, sand, and amusement parks, you'll be delightfully surprised to discover Ocala, which is about an hour-and-a-half-drive north (and slightly west) of the Orlando area.

Here you'll think you're in Kentucky, Virginia, or even the English Cotwolds. White-fenced pastures stretch out in every direction. Statuesque Thoroughbreds stretch their long necks as they yank clumps of grass out of the earth. Women with perfect French braids rigorously currycomb ink-black stallions.

Several decades ago, Thoroughbred horse breeders found that Ocala's combination of steady sunshine, mineral spring water, and limestone-based soil would be ideal for race horses. Today, there are over 450 Thoroughbred farms in the Ocala area (especially along Route 40 and U.S. 27). Some are open for touring. For information, contact the Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' and Owners' Association, (352) 629-2160, or the Ocala Marion Chamber of Commerce, 110 East Silver Springs Road, Ocala, (352) 629-2160.



newest and most popular attractions, *Splash Mountain*. It's a thrill ride that takes you through the Disney movie, "Song of the South," culminating in a five-story drop! By the way, you may get wet. Frontierland is also home to the Magic Kingdom's Big Thunder Railroad, which chugs through the desert to the town of *Tumbleweed*. If you prefer a roller coaster to a train, you can soar through space at *Space Mountain* – another thrilling Disney attraction. Tomorrowland also features a new sensory thriller called the *ExtraTERRORestrial Alien Encounter*, which looks like a city imagined by sci-fi writers and movie-makers of the 1920s and 1930s.

EPCOT (Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow) consists of two main areas: *Future World* and the *World Showcase*. Inside that enormous white thing – the Spaceship Earth – that looks like a golf ball, visitors can take a time-travel journey through the story of civilization and then experience a simulated ride around the AT&T Worldwide Information Network. *INNOVENTIONS*, one of the hottest new attractions at EPCOT, is a showcase of technology of the near future. Guests can try out wrist phones, interactive videos, CD-ROM, and virtual reality. *Travel the Motorola Information Skyway* is a virtual reality/3-D ride that shows how wireless communications are transmitted and received.

Another wonderful new attraction at EPCOT Center is a high-tech 3-D "misadventure," called "*Honey I Shrunk the Audience*." This wildly amazing and amusing 20-minute experience happens in *Kodak's Journey Into Imagination Pavilion*, where audiences (wearing 3-D goggles) shrink into their seats.

The World Showcase at EPCOT is a living gallery of international cultures. Eleven nations from around the world share their cultures in shows, attractions, restaurants, and shops. Time it so you can have at least a meal or two here; you can take your pick of cuisines from around the world.

If you've always wanted to experience the excitement of movie-making, you can go behind the scenes, take a screen test, or learn animation techniques at Disney-MGM



Tables of Content

Walt Disney World offers an astonishing selection of foods from around the world, including everything from smoked turkey legs sold from carts in the Magic Kingdom, to elaborate six-course French meals complete with flickering candles, crisp white linen, and fine crystal. The biggest concentration of international restaurants is EPCOT's World Showcase. You'll need just one phone number to make reservations at all the restaurants in Walt Disney World, EPCOT Center, and Disney-MGM Studios;

(407) 934-7639.



Studios, where movies and TV shows are made. But there's more here, including attractions such as the *Twilight Zone Tower of Terror*, which sends audiences on a visit to a long-abandoned Hollywood hotel where they meet some of the long-lost guests.

As wonderful as Disney World is, there's a lot more to see in the Orlando area. Right nearby, you'll find *Sea World of Florida* (home to Shamu and Baby Shamu); *Gatorland Zoo* ("The Alligator Capital of the World" – home to more than 5,000 alligators and crocodiles); *Universal Studios Florida* (with more than 40 movie-themed rides); and *Cypress Gardens* (see human pyramids on water skis, among other amphibious acts).

Over on the coast (take Route 528 east), you can visit the *John F. Kennedy Space Center* and *Spaceport U.S.A.*, which is the launch site for all United States manned space missions. You can tour the Space Center and *Cape Canaveral Air Force Station*, and watch IMAX movies like "The Dream is Alive" and "Blue Planet" on giant screens. In nearby **Titusville**, take a walk through the *Astronaut Hall of Fame*.

Follow U.S. 1 or I-95 to reach **Daytona Beach**, one of Florida's oldest resorts. This famous beach town lives a carnival-atmosphered life on its lively boardwalk, where the sounds of bowling balls trundling down alleys, the ringing and dinging of pinball machines, and the smacks of cue sticks hitting pool balls can always be heard. Drive right up on the beach; it's all part of the scene.

To return to Orlando, take I-4. If you want to detour to **Ocala**, take Route 40 west (just north of Daytona Beach).

IF YOU HAVE THE TIME...

Consider visiting *Amelia Island*. Just 30 miles north of **Jacksonville**, this offshore island has dune-covered beaches, a lovely Victorian town named **Fernandina Beach**, and a pair of impressive resorts. When you're not golfing, biking, playing tennis, or horseback riding, take a stroll or carriage ride around the town, which has more than 30 restored gingerbread houses. Then stop in for a drink at the oldest bar in the state, the *Palace Saloon*. You might also take a ride over to *Amelia Island Lighthouse* and *Fort Clinch*, surrounded by 1,000 acres of well-tended parkland. For staying, the *Amelia Island Plantation* offers a sports scene almost too good to be true, and private villas for lovers of solitude. Its neighbor, the *Ritz-Carlton*, is atop a bluff of dunes and has golf, tennis, a fitness center, dining, and dancing, as well as ocean views from each and every room.

THE DRIVE:

The Old South

S O U T H

DISTANCE:

546 Miles Round Trip, New Orleans

TIME:

Allow at least four or five days

HIGHLIGHTS:

New Orleans, Cajun Country, museums, bayou cruises, Indian burial mounds, gardens, plantations

Mardi Gras and More

New Orleans pulls out the stops for Mardi Gras, but the rest of the year, the city always has a tipsey air of carnival with its profusion of festivals, parades, and celebrations. In March alone there's a Black Heritage Festival, an environmental festival called Earth Fest, a St. Patrick's Day Parade, St. Joseph's Day Festivities, and a Tennessee Williams Literary Festival. For a complete calendar of events, contact: New Orleans Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau, 1520 Sugar Bowl Drive, New Orleans, LA 70112. (504) 566-5005.

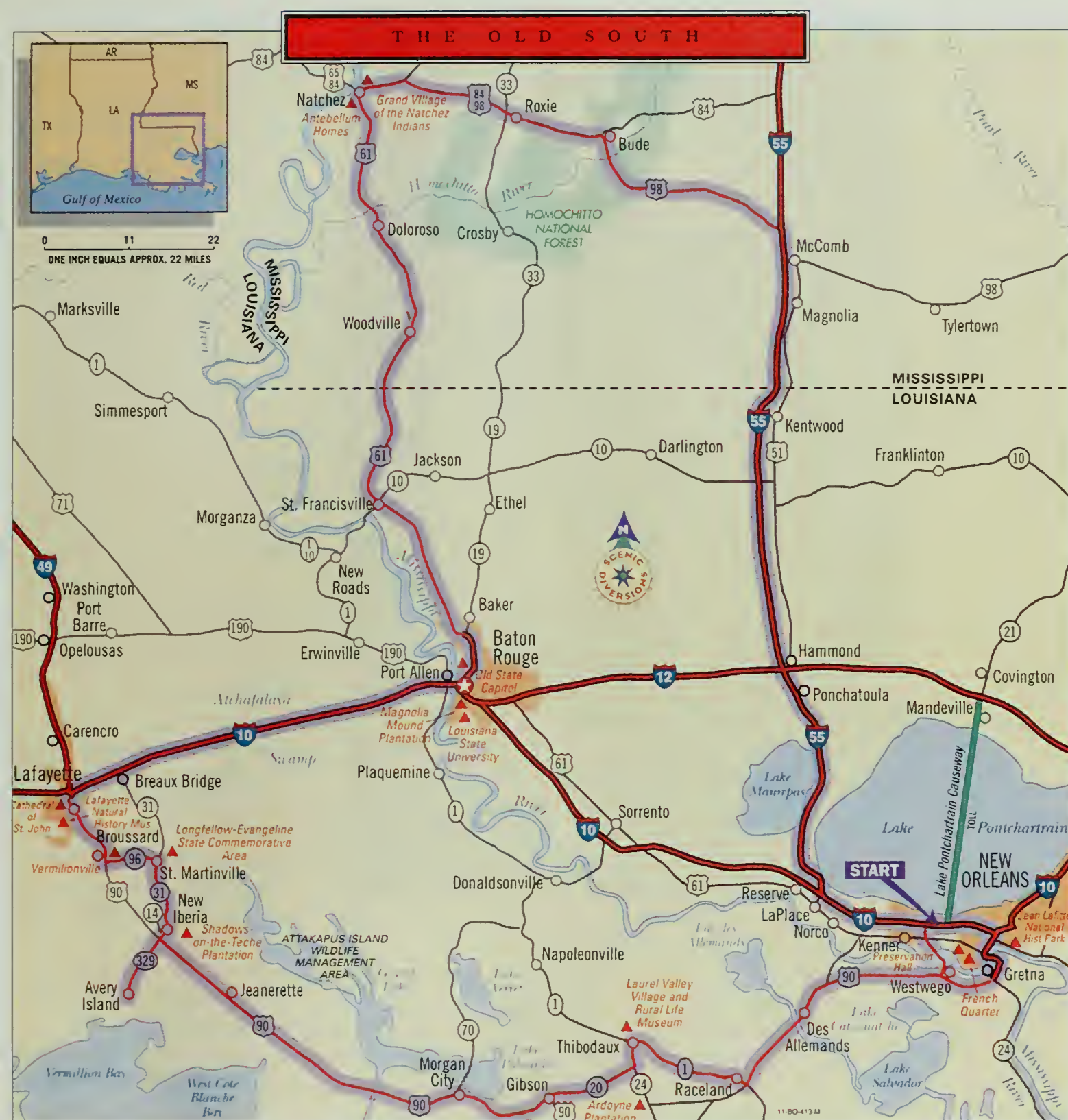
The South

Moss-draped plantations, *Mardi Gras*, heavenly food, toe-tapping music—there must be a million reasons to visit this part of the world. Here we take you from Louisiana's much-loved city of **New Orleans**, through Cajun Country, and up to **Natchez**, Mississippi.

Jazz musicians call it the "Big Easy." Locals say "N'Awlins." Whatever name you use, New Orleans is a city you'll want lots of time to explore. Start in the *French Quarter*, called the "Kau-tuh" by New Orleanians, and spelled out in French — "Vieux Carre" — on most signs. It's easy to get around on foot. Within a couple of hours, you should know the main streets: Bourbon, Royal, and Chartres (pronounced "Charters"). To get the most out of your visit, pick up a copy of the *French Quarter Walking Tour* from the tourism center at 520 St. Ann Street (right on Jackson Square). It will take you past the most significant historical buildings as well as scores of candy-colored houses adorned with wrought-iron porches, gates, and windows. Be sure to visit the *French Market* (a two-block-long farmers' market), the *Moon Walk* (a riverside promenade), the *St. Louis Cathedral* (tours given daily), and *Cafe du Monde*, where you can sip cafe au lait and feast on beignets (like doughnuts, without holes, smothered in confectioner's sugar) as you watch the New Orleans characters stroll by.

While the French Quarter is the city's most romantic district, you might want to see something more: the *New Orleans Museum of Art* (NOMA) in City Park and the *Garden District*, which is most fun to see aboard the 150-year-old *St. Charles Avenue streetcar*, clanging up the tree-lined street, passing one mammoth 19th-century mansion after another.





On menus all over New Orleans, you'll find lots of seafood (crab, shrimp, redfish) cooked Creole style, a spicy blend of French, Spanish, and Caribbean influences. After dinner, everybody moves on to *Bourbon Street*, one big open-air party that happens year-round, 24 hours a day. This famous boulevard is lined with jazz clubs, night spots, and bars you may have to queue up for. One of the biggest lines gathers around *Pat O'Brien's*, where everyone goes to sip Hurricanes (watch out!). And there's always a crowd outside *Preservation Hall*. That's where you can hear some of the Big Easy's best jazz musicians strum, toot, and tap out tunes that will give you the chills.

When you've had your fill of New Orleans, cross the Mississippi River on either the *Greater New Orleans Bridge* or *Huey P. Long Bridge* and follow U.S. 90 west to Route 1 towards **Thibodaux**, passing bayous and sugar plantations as you go along. Make your first stop the *Laurel Valley Village and Rural Life Museum*, a turn-of-the-century plantation complete with a schoolhouse, general store, boarding house, and the remains of an old sugar mill.

From there, go south on Route 24 and pick up Route 20 southwest. Follow that to Gibson and then take U.S. 90 then Route 14 north to **New Iberia**. The center of Louisiana's sugarcane industry, there's a handful of sights to see here. Take a walk around

Fright Sights

For those who enjoy the eerie and weird, take a tour on the wild side.

- New Orleans
Historic Voodoo Museum,
(504) 523-7685:
Voodoo and swamp
tours for the strong
of spirit.
- Society for
Paranormal Research
International,
(504) 522-0045:
“Hauntings Today”
investigations and
ghost expeditions
through “haunted”
buildings in the
French Quarter.
- Cukie’s Travels,
Lacombe,
(504) 882-3058:
Walk or ride through
“Cities of the Dead,”
New Orleans’ unique
above ground ceme-
teries.
- Jean Lafitte Swamp
Tours,
(800) 725-3213:
Take a swamp boat
through the bayou,
where a sharp-
toothed smile greets
every guest!



its downtown *Historic District* and don't miss seeing *Shadows-on-the-Teche Plantation*, a red brick and white-pillared Greek Revival house built on the banks of Bayou Teche. Nearby, you can find out all about how Tabasco brand pepper sauce is made on *Avery Island* (reached by toll bridge, seven miles southwest of New Iberia via Route 14 and 329) at the McIlhenny Company.

From New Iberia, follow Route 31 for about ten miles to **St. Martinville**. This is where Longfellow's heroine Evangeline (in real life, Emmeline Labiche) ended her journey from Nova Scotia in the 1760s along with many other Acadians. You can see her grave, the *Evangeline Oak* (where she and her lover supposedly met), and a 157-acre *Longfellow-Evangeline State Commemorative Area*. Other attractions in town include the *St. Martin de Tours Church* and the *Petit Prais Museum*. You can also climb

aboard the *Cajun Queen* at Evangeline Oak for a one-hour cruise on the bayou.

Take Route 96 out of St. Martinville and pick up U.S. 90 northbound to **Lafayette**, Cajun Country's biggest city. Take time to see the *Old City Hall*, the *Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist*, the *Lafayette Museum*, and the *Lafayette Natural History Museum and Planetarium*. Don't miss the *Acadian Village* southwest of town, which is a reconstruction of a small 19th-century Cajun community or *Vermilionville*, a museum village of crafters, cooks, fiddlers, and storytellers.

From there, head east on I-10, crossing the *Atchafalaya Swamp* and the Mississippi River to **Baton Rouge**, a major river port with historic homes and tree-lined streets. See the *Old State Capitol* and the newer 34-story Capitol Building, which was constructed during the tenure of Governor Huey Long (you can go to the top for a view of the city). Other attractions include the *Old Arsenal Museum*, an arboretum, *Magnolia Mound*, a 19th-century house, the *Rural Life Museum* and the preserved *Indian Mounds* at Louisiana State University, and steamboat excursions. The *Old Governor's Mansion*, which resembles The White House, offers weekend tours (by appointment).

From Baton Rouge, head north on U.S. 61 to **Natchez**, Mississippi, where the Old South is very much alive. There are lovely Antebellum and Victorian mansions (many listed in the National Register of Historic Places), tree-shaded streets, and manicured gardens and grounds. Many of the houses are open for touring. See also the *City Cemetery*, which dates from the early 1800s, Emerald Mound (an Indian mound constructed about 1300 AD), the *Grand Village of the Natchez Indians*, the *Natchez Museum of African-American History and Culture*, and *Natchez Under-the-Hill*, the historic waterfront district.

From Natchez, head east on U.S. 98 to I-55, which you can follow south back into the New Orleans area.

THE DRIVE

Rocky Mountain National Park

DISTANCE
261 Miles Round-Trip, Denver

TIME
Allow at least three days

HIGHLIGHTS:
Denver's museums, restaurants, historical attractions, mountain scenery, hiking, bird watching, fishing, boating, hunting, horseback riding, mountaineering, skiing and snow sports in winter months.

W E S T E R N

The Colorado Rockies, famed for their winter skiing, offer a world of warm-weather diversions as well. On this tour, we take you from Denver, up through Boulder, to Rocky Mountain National Park, and then back to Denver.

Though most visitors to Colorado are eager to get out and see the countryside, Denver (the mile-high city) offers lots of things to do. Stroll about the arcades and courtyards of 19th-century *Larimer Square*, see the *United States Mint*, inspect the Western art collection at the *Denver Art Museum* and the *Museum of Western Art*.

From downtown Denver, take I-25 northbound, and at exit 217, get on U.S. 36 to Boulder. Situated on the edge of the Rockies, Boulder is the only U.S. city that gets part of its water supply from a city-owned glacier. (*Arapaho Glacier*, 28 miles west). It's considered the technical and scientific center of the state, and is home to the *University of Colorado*. There are several worthwhile sites to see, including the museum, the planetarium, science center, and observatory at the university; the *Boulder Art Center* (lots of good regional art); the *National Center for Atmospheric Research*, and the *Boulder Museum of History*. You can also take a tour of the *Boulder Laboratories* of the *National Institute of Standards and Technology*.

Continue north on U.S. 36 to **Estes Park**, a resort area surrounded by mountains. There's an historical museum in town that provides a good background on the park and environs. Check out the *Stanley Hotel*, a landmark building. For a peak experience, ride the *Aerial*

Tramway to the top of *Prospect Mountain* (8,700 feet). The views from the top are, well...top-notch.

Follow U.S. 34 west for about two miles to Rocky Mountain National Park. Over 65 peaks exceed 9,600 feet in this gaspingly beautiful mountain range. There are also beautiful lakes set into the mountains as if precious jewels, rushing



On the Road Again

Here's a real find: *American Dream Safari* offers seven- and 14-day escorted tours through select American landscapes in classic 1950 cars and trailers. Tours include a three- to five-day *Prairie Tour* through the Kansas area, a *Desert Southwest trip* (through parts of Arizona and New Mexico), and a *Blues Pilgrimage* (including New Orleans, The Delta Region, Memphis, and more). Tours are designed for small groups (two to six travelers), in order to be flexible and spontaneous. If you don't want to go on an extended trip, you can take the two-hour sunset *Prairie Cruise* from Kansas City. You'll explore the prairie countryside in a beautifully restored two-ton wheat truck. Contact American Dream Safari, P.O. Box 556, McPherson, KS 67460-0556. (800) 552-2397.

streams, thick forests, and meadows sprinkled with wildflowers.

Once inside the park, U.S. 34 becomes the noted *Trail Ridge Road*, which follows the route of an ancient Native American trail, cutting right through the park (across the *Continental Divide* and into *Grand Lake*), immersing you in the spectacular scenery all the way. Like most of the national parks, you can see quite a bit when traveling by car, but you always get more when you do some hiking. There are trails everywhere.

Once you've stuffed yourselves on the beauty of the park, exit the same way you came in and go through Estes Park, heading east on U.S. 34. This takes you right through *Big Thompson Canyon*, a stunning drive through rugged rock-walled canyons.

When you reach I-25, head south to get back to Denver.

ACCOMMODATING ACCOMMODATIONS

One of the nicest things about visiting Colorado is that there are all sorts of wonderful places to stay. You can spend a week at a dude ranch, dividing your time between trail rides and rodeos. You can step back in time by staying a few days in a grand historic resort hotel or an old robber baron's mansion. You can choose to luxuriate in a mountain spa or settle into a ski lodge. Of course, you'll also find the usual combination platter of affordable chain hotels and motels and plenty of campsites to go around. Here are some of our favorite Colorado accommodations.

BED AND BREAKFASTS

You will find many bed and breakfasts throughout Colorado. Usually, they're very reasonably priced. They also offer wonderful opportunities to feel at home when away, and in some cases, meet and get to know a local family. There's a nice casualness about staying in a bed and breakfast. Also, a good, home-cooked breakfast is part of the deal. Many bed and breakfasts can be the highlight of your stay.

B&Bs are not for everyone, however. One of the biggest drawbacks is that the bath is most likely down the hall and must be shared with fellow guests. If you must have a bathroom of your own, make sure ahead of time that it's possible. Another drawback – only in some

cases – is that you may have to walk through somebody's living room (or other private areas) to get to your room. Very often a family shares the house with the guests. If having a phone in your room (and TV) is important, you may want to rule out a B&B. You also don't have the services one gets at a hotel – such as room service, dry cleaning, and all that.



For a directory of B&Bs in Colorado, contact the Bed & Breakfast Innkeepers of Colorado Association, P.O. Box 38416, Colorado Springs, CO 80937; (800) 83-BOOKS (832-6657). You'll be required to send \$3 for shipping and handling.

HISTORIC HOTELS AND INNS

Colorado is home to some lovely historic inns and hotels. Here's a sampling of what you'll find.

Over a hundred years old, the *Brown Palace* in Denver is a masterpiece building – both inside and out. Designed by architect Frank Edbrooke, it is triangular in shape. All of the rooms are elaborately decorated in Victorian style. 321 17th Street, (800) 321-2599 or (303) 297-3111.

Also in Denver, *The Oxford Hotel* was built at the crest of the silver bonanza. Inside, there are stained-glass windows, marble walls, and frescoes. 1600 17th Street, (800) 228-5838 or (303) 628-5400.

The Broadmoor in **Colorado Springs** opened its doors in 1918 and is a grand old resort with hand-painted ceilings, brass chandeliers, and an elegant marble staircase. Lake Circle at Lake Avenue, (800) 634-7711 or (719) 634-7711.

The *Strater Hotel* in **Durango** was built in 1887 by Henry H. Strater, a prominent drug-gist in this gold and silver boom town. An excellent example of American Victorian architecture, it's a showcase not to be missed. 699 Main Avenue, (800) 247-4431 or (970) 247-4431.

For more information on these and other properties, contact the Association of Historic Hotels of the Rocky Mountain West, 1002 Walnut, #201, Boulder, CO 80303, (970) 546-9040.

COLORADO SPAS

Many resorts in Colorado have small spas or beauty centers where you can book a facial, a massage, or some other beauty treatment. Some also have health clubs with exercise classes, weight rooms, and a menu of instructor-led physical fitness activities. There are a couple of places, however, that have full-fledged spas where you can spend your time in a terry cloth robe shuffling from seaweed wrap to salt glow body scrub, from pedicure to facial, and a whole array of other treatments designed to revive, replenish, and beautify the body.

Here are two real winners that offer all the pleasures of mountain ski resorts, combined with top-of-the-line spa facilities.

The Peaks at Telluride has a wonderful selection of treatments, including a special high-altitude massage that helps to alleviate the symptoms associated with high altitude, an Alpine hydrotherapy bath made with local botanicals, and a Colorado clay treatment that leaves your skin soft and smooth. In addition, there are first-class steam rooms, saunas, whirlpools, and exercise equipment, plus yoga classes, snowshoeing or hiking (depending on the season), instruction, daily fitness classes – you name it. For information: The Peaks at Telluride, 136 Country Club Drive, P.O. Box 2702, Telluride, CO 81435, (800) 789-2220 or (970) 728-6800.

The Lodge & Spa at Cordillera in Vail Valley has a long list of spa treatments, including a variety of massages, a body polish, body wraps, and much more. There are also computerized workout equipment, steamrooms, saunas, an indoor heated lap pool, and indoor and outdoor Jacuzzis. For information: The Lodge & Spa at Cordillera, P.O. Box 1110, Edwards, CO 81632, (800) 877-3529.

CAMPING OUT

With nature as big as it is in Colorado, camping out is extraordinarily popular. For information on campgrounds, contact one of the following: *Colorado Association of Campgrounds, Cabins, and Lodges*, 5101 Pennsylvania Avenue, Boulder, CO 80303, (303) 499-9343; *KOA (Kampgrounds of America)*, P.O. Box 30558, Billings, MT 59114-0558, (406) 248-7444.

THE DRIVE:
San Francisco
& Monterey
Bay

DISTANCE:
261 Miles Round-
Trip, San Francisco

TIME:
Allow at least two
or three days

HIGHLIGHTS:
San Francisco,
coastal scenery,
art colonies, fishing
communities,
beaches, water
sports.

W E S T E R N

California & Nevada

A series of hills crested with gingerbread mansions and glass-and-chrome towers, San Francisco is one of the world's most captivating cities, especially when the fog horns blow, the seagulls soar overhead, and the cable cars trundle by. Combine a visit here with a coastal drive to the pair of coast-hugging hamlets (Carmel-by-the-Sea and Monterey), and you have a made-to-order perfect weekend trip.

You can take your time exploring San Francisco's patchwork of neighborhoods, taking breaks in the dozens of bohemian coffee shops. Be sure to walk up to *Telegraph Hill*, from which you can see the bay either bundled in fog or clear as a window, with the *Golden Gate Bridge* hogging your attention. Window-shop on fashionable *Union Square*. Watch the sea lions that have colonized the docks off *Fisherman's Wharf*. Eat dim sum in *Chinatown* or deliciously good pasta in *North Beach*. The list goes on and on.

A Bridge With a View
San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge is not only one of the longest single-span suspension bridges in the world, but perhaps the most beautiful and the most famous. Linking San Francisco to Sausalito, it was designed by Joseph Strauss and built between 1933 and 1937 at a cost of \$35 million. For one of the best views of the city itself, follow the handicapped-accessible walk up to the toll plaza level, where you'll also find landscaped gardens.

From San Francisco, take the coast road (Route 1) south, passing wave-smashed beaches all the way to **Santa Cruz**, a resort town on the north end of Monterey Bay. Here you'll find sensational swimming and surfing beaches. There's also a boardwalk with a carousel dating back to 1911, and a 1924 rollercoaster, plus amusement arcades, eateries, and other ocean-side attractions. Other Santa Cruz attractions include the *Mission Santa Cruz*, which is actually a replica of the original one that was destroyed in 1857, the *Casa Adobe* (Santa Cruz's old-

SAN FRANCISCO AND MONTEREY BAY



est house), and the *Mystery Spot*, a very puzzling 150-foot circle where some of the laws of gravity are broken.

Follow Route 1 south along the bay to **Monterey**, which was the old Spanish and Mexican capital of Alta California. There's a self-guided walking tour map available at the Chamber of Commerce, which takes you to all of the historic buildings in the *Monterey State Historic Park*. Be sure to spend some time on Fisherman's Wharf, where there are all sorts of shops, seafood cafes, paneled pubs, and boat trips to take (including whale-watching cruises). Take time to see the *Monterey Bay Aquarium* on Cannery Row, the fish-canning factory author John Steinbeck made famous.

From nearby **Pacific Grove**, you can follow the legendary *Seventeen-Mile Drive* (toll required), which takes you through consistently knock-your-socks-off beautiful scenery (rugged headlands topped by golf greens, windswept cypresses, white-sand beaches pounded by the bravely foaming Pacific) to Carmel.

Carmel's charming eccentricities – a ban on neon, house numbers, and traffic lights – keep it postcard-perfect. It's a felony to cut down a tree here, so *Ocean Avenue* resembles not so much a street as a park, lined with cypress, pines, and flower beds. Inns and restaurants are tucked away in Hansel-and-Gretel cottages and red-tiled adobes, and an astounding number of bakeries, antiques shops, and maritime galleries hide in the brick-lined alleys just off the main drag. There's a perfect little beach at the foot of the avenue, and the surrounding scenery is splendid, especially the wildly beautiful *Point Lobos State Reserve* (bring binoculars to spy on the sea lions and otters).

Head inland on Route 68 and then take U.S. 101 north back to San Francisco. If you're a John Steinbeck fan, consider stopping in **Salinas**, where the author was born. The house is now a restaurant and gift shop in the town's nine-block historic district.

From there, continue north on U.S. 101 for 108 miles to San Francisco.

CALIFORNIA AND NEVADA NATIONAL PARKS

● Channel Islands National Park

Santa Barbara, California

Five islands – *Anacapa*, *Santa Cruz*, *Santa Rosa*, *San Miguel*, and *Santa Barbara* – comprise this serenely beautiful national park. Nicknamed "America's Galapagos," it is home to a wide variety of marine mammals and many unique plant species.

Fresh-air activities: Visitors can hike, swim, bird-watch, and camp year round.

For more information: Channel Islands National Park, 1901 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura, CA 93001, (805) 658-5700.

● Lassen Volcanic National Park

Susanville, California

With great lava summits, huge mountains created by lava streams, rugged craters and steaming sulphur vents, *Lassen Volcanic National Park* holds the same wonder for tourists as Yellowstone.

Lassen Peak (10,457 feet) erupted in 1914, beginning a seven-year cycle of sporadic volcanic outbursts, which makes it one of the most recently active volcanoes in the lower 48 states. The acreage surrounding the park is home to forests, streams, and waterfalls.

Fresh-air activities: Naturalist programs, fishing, camping, hiking, and boating from May to October, ski tours in winter.

For more information: Lassen Volcanic National Park,

Mineral, CA 96063, (916) 595-4444.

● Redwood National Park

Orick, California

The world's tallest tree – 367.4 feet high – stands in this northern California park, along with hundreds of other towering redwoods. These trees – some of which have been growing a thousand years or more – once were widely spread across North America, but today can only be found along this very moist stretch of coast.





The park also takes in 46 miles of Pacific coastline scalloped with pebble and sand beaches and sea-carved cliffs.

Fresh air activities: Camping, hiking, bicycling (along *Avenue of the Giants*), and fishing year-round. Field seminars on birds, photography, and park ecosystems are conducted on summer weekends.

For more information:

Redwood National Park, Drawer N, 1111 Second Street, Crescent City, CA 95531, (707) 464-6101.

● **Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks**

Three Rivers, California

Situated in the heart of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, *Sequoia National Park* – along with next-door *King's Canyon National Park* – has two major claims to fame. First, it contains the

highest peak in the lower 48 states (*Mt. Whitney* – 14,494 feet). Second, it has 26 groves of mammoth sequoia trees. Sequoias are the planet's largest trees, with trunks averaging 35 feet in diameter, while redwoods are the world's tallest trees (sequoias grow to about 250 feet, redwoods tower more than 300 feet).

The largest of the groves is the *Giant Forest*, centerpieced by the earth's largest living tree – the *General Sherman*. The tree stands 275 feet high, is 33 feet in diameter, and weighs 1,450 tons.

Fresh-air activities: From June to October, camping, fishing, hiking, and horseback riding; skiing in winter months.

For more information: Sequoia National Park, Three Rivers, CA 93271, (209) 565-3341.

● **Yosemite National Park**

Yosemite Village, California

Yosemite has the Ice Age to thank for its good looks. Glaciers left the area carved into spectacular granite peaks and plunging waterfalls.

Five of the seven continental life zones are represented in the plant and animal species that live in the park, including more than 75 mammal species, hundreds of birds, and more than a thousand species of flowering plants and trees.

Fresh-air activities: Naturalist programs, camping, hiking, biking, swimming, fishing, mountaineering, overnight muleback saddle trips between June and October, downhill and cross-country skiing in winter.

For more information: Yosemite National Park, Box 577, Yosemite Village, Ca 95389, (209) 372-0200.

● **Great Basin National Park**

Baker, Nevada

Extending from the *Wasatch Mountains* in Utah to the *Sierra Nevada* in California, and from Idaho south to Arizona, the Great Basin showcases the contrasting world of the desert and the mountains. During a visit to the park (a very small portion of the basin itself), you can see everything from sagebrush and juniper to alpine meadows strewn with wildflowers, glacial lakes, and stands of bristlecone pines, the oldest living things on earth.

The Park is also home to *Lehman Cave*, which is one of the largest limestone caverns in the West.

Fresh-air activities: Naturalist-led tours and hiking year round.

For more information, Great Basin National Park, Baker, Nevada 89311, (702) 234-7331.

THE DRIVE

Puget Sound
& the Olympic
Peninsula

DISTANCE

605 Miles Round
Trip, Seattle

TIME

Allow at least four
or five days

HIGHLIGHTS

Historic buildings,
coastal scenery,
castle, national
parks, rain forests,
outdoor activities

W E S T E R N

Pacific

A visit to Seattle should unquestionably include a trip to its nearby Olympic Peninsula and neighboring cities around Puget Sound.

This is where pioneers called it quits after venturing across the continent. The area is not only scenic, but home to many historic buildings.

Allow yourself plenty of time to see Seattle, then venture out north of the city on I-5. If you're interested in aircraft, consider taking a tour of the *Boeing Company's* facility in **Everett**. By volume, it is the largest building in the world.

Continue north to **Mt. Vernon**, where you'll exit for Route 20. This takes you right out to *Whidbey Island*. There's a bridge connecting it to the mainland at this point. You can also reach the island by ferry from **Mukilteo** (just south of Everett). A wonderful vacation island, Whidbey is a mere 50 miles long and shouldn't take more than an hour to go from one end to the other. It's a popular place for Seattle locals to weekend. There's hiking, biking, and many other relaxing opportunities.

From **Keystone**, you can catch a ferry to **Port Townsend**, on "*The Peninsula*," which is

what Washington's western-most piece of land is commonly called. You could easily fill several days discovering Port Townsend's Victorian past, which has been beautifully preserved in many buildings. This small Victorian town, which crowds around the water's edge on the northeastern corner of the Olympic Peninsula, is one of four U.S. seaports that has preserved its Victorian heritage (Mendocino, California; Galveston, Texas; and Cape May, New Jersey are the others).

Downtown – which takes less than 10 min-

utes to walk from one end to the other, is full of splendidly preserved commercial buildings that were built in the 1800s. Uptown – which is literally "up" on the top of a bluff overlooking downtown – is home to impeccably restored Victorian mansions with cupolas, bay windows, gingerbread detail, and wraparound porches. A wide and shallow-step staircase connects the two; it was built to accommodate ladies' wide-hooped skirts.

From Port Townsend, follow Route 20 south and pick up U.S. 101 west. You'll pass through **Port Angeles**, which is a commercial logging center, and shortly afterward, find yourself surrounded by beautiful alpine scenery. You are right on the edge of *Olympic National Park*, which covers more than 900,000 acres of wilderness, including 7,966-foot



Mount Olympus. For the most far-reaching, spellbinding views, follow the road to *Hurricane Ridge*, just before Port Angeles.

Once back on U.S. 101, the road twists through foothills, forests, and alongside shiny blue lakes. Consider following Route 112 to *Neah Bay*, home of the *Makah Indian Reservation*.

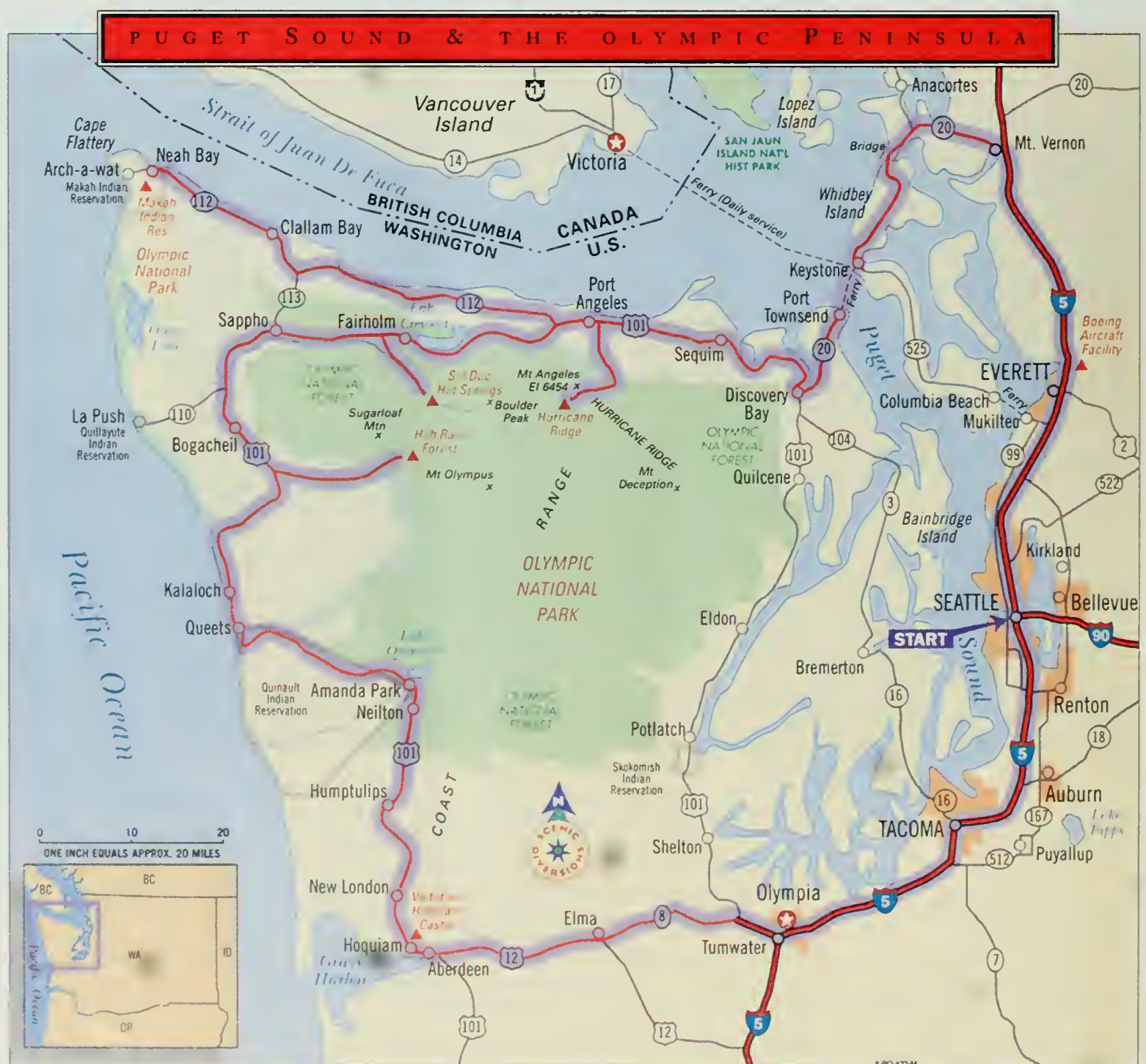
Then continue back on U.S. 101 and look for signs for the road leading to the *Hoh Rain Forest*, which under no circumstances should be skipped. It takes about an hour to reach the end, where there are several trails to follow. The trails take you through halls of moss-draped trees, with firs shooting up as much as 300 feet, and every inch of the ground colonized by vegetation.

South of the Hoh Rain Forest, U.S. 101 runs alongside the sea, offering glimpses of the powerful surf and driftwood-studded beaches. Then it's back into the interior by *Lake Quinault*, a glacier-fed lake surrounded by more rain forests to explore. The *South Shore Road* winds around it.

Further south, in the lumber town of *Hoquiam*, stop at the *Victorian Hoquiam Castle*. This lavishly appointed 20-room mansion was built in 1897 by a lumber baron.

From there, drive east to *Olympia*, the state capital. Situated at the head of Puget Sound with Mt. Rainier and the Olympic Mountains as its skyline, Olympia is an attractive city punctuated with meticulously maintained parks. See the *Capitol Group Government Buildings*, the *Pabst Brewing Company*, and the *State Capital Museum*. Don't leave before sampling the Olympia oysters.

Take I-5 up to *Tacoma*, (the third-largest city in Washington, after Seattle and Spokane).



It's home to many Victorian buildings, as well as modern structures, including the *Tacoma Dome*, the largest wood-domed structure in the world. There are many parks and more seafood eateries than you'll have time for. Take time to see *Point Defiance Park*, *St. Peter's Church*, the *Tacoma Art Museum*, and *Wright Park*, one of the finest arboretums in the Pacific Northwest. From there, it's a short drive to Seattle, via I-5.

NORTHWEST NATIONAL PARKS

These scenic wilderness preserves are designed for your enjoyment. If you're serious hikers or mountain climbers, you will know what to bring. If you're just interested in following a handful of trails, do yourself a big favor and take rain gear, as well as binoculars. You'll most likely have need for both wherever you wander.

● Crater Lake National Park, Oregon

When a transplanted Kansan named William Gladstone Steel first laid eyes on *Crater Lake* in 1885, he was so moved that he decided to devote his life to its preservation. It is he we

have to thank for keeping this marvel of nature out of the hands of homesteaders, lumber companies, and prospectors, and for encouraging Teddy Roosevelt to make it a national park back in 1902.

Crater Lake was formed about 7,700 years ago, when the then 12,000-foot-high Mt. Mazama erupted and blew its top off. It left a crater, 21 square miles in area, which eventually filled up with water from rain and snow, forming a lake 1,932 feet deep (the deepest in the U.S.).

Though this spectacle is clearly the centerpiece of the park, there are 183,224 acres of forests and meadows – teeming with wildlife and woven with hiking trails – surrounding it. There is a scenic road running around the rim of the crater itself.

Getting There: From **Portland**,

take I-5 to **Eugene**, then Route 58 east to U.S. 97 south to Route 138, then west to the park access road. From *Klamath Falls*, drive north on U.S. 97 to Route 62 for the southern entrance. From **Medford**, take Route 62, which runs through the park to the southern entrance.

Visitors Center: Located at *Rim Village* on the southwest shore. Maps and books available. Park exhibits. On summer evenings, rangers give campfire talks at *Mazama Campground* and at *Rim Center* at Rim Village. Open June through September, daily.

Activities: Hiking, biking, boat tours, campfire programs.

Hiking Trails: There are more than 100 miles of trails throughout *Crater Lake National Park*. Among the most beautiful are *Discovery Point Trail*, which is where the lake was originally discovered in 1853 by a miner who called it *Deep Blue Lake* (it was not made public for 31 years); *Garfield Peak Trail*, with a view of *Wizard Island*, which is actually a small volcanic cone; and *Watchman Lookout*, offering 360-degree views (on a clear day, you can see Mt. Shasta in California, 105 miles away).

For more information: Crater Lake National Park, Box 7, Crater Lake, Oregon 97604, (541) 594-2211.



● Mt. Rainier National Park, Washington

Seen from **Seattle** (which is 60 miles away), this sky-poking giant is impressive, but go up close, and you'll be bowled over by its massiveness and beauty. Native North Americans called it "Tahoma" (Mountain of God), today's residents simply refer to it as "The Mountain."

Washington's *grande dame* of volcanic peaks (now dormant some 2,000 years), *Mt. Rainier* towers up to 14,410 feet, a good two miles above some of the surrounding foothills of the Cascade Range.

Its expansive dome is covered with a patchwork of glaciers, including 26 that have been named, and 50-odd smaller ones that remain anonymous.

Getting There: From Seattle, take I-5 south about 13 miles to exit 42B, then follow Route 161 south and pick up Route 7 to Route 706, which will take you directly to the Nisqually Entrance in the southwest corner of the park. There are four other approaches: via Carbon River in the northwestern part, Ohanapecosh in the southeast, Chinook Pass from the east, and White River from the northwest.

Visitors Centers: There are four visitors centers in the park: at Longmire, Paradise, Sunrise, and Ohanapecosh.

Activities: Hiking, mountain climbing, fishing, naturalist programs. In winter, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

Hiking Trails: Three hundred miles of hiking trails thread throughout the park. One of the most popular is the *Wonderland Trail*, which clings to the mountainsides, crosses alpine meadows, and fields of glacial snow.

For more information: Mount Rainier National Park, Tahoma Woods, Star Route, Ashford, WA 98304, (360) 569-2211.

● North Cascades National Park, Washington

Nicknamed the "American Alps," *North Cascades National Park* encompasses 504,780 acres of pristine wilderness. Here, you will see rugged mountain peaks covered with snow, snowfields and glaciers, cascading waterfalls and streams, and thick forests.

The park is divided into two intensely scenic units. The northern area – on the Canadian border – includes Mount Shuksan and the Pickett Range, with glaciers, peaks, and high lakes; the southern area includes the "Eldorado high country" and the Stehekin river valley, a glacier-carved canyon.

In addition to the park, there's *Ross Lake National Recreational Area* (184 square miles lying between the north and south portions) and 97-square-mile *Lake Chelan National Recreation Area* (adjoining the southern area), plus the *Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie*, *Wenatchee*, and *Okanogan* national forests all around.

Getting There: The North Cascades Highway – Route 20 – is the major route to the park. From the west, you can pick it up north of Mt. Vernon from I-5; in the east, in Okanogan from U.S. 97. Route 20 takes you between the northern and southern portions of the park.

Visitors Centers: Information centers at Marblemount and Colonial Creek are only open in the summer months.

Activities: Backpacking, hiking, fishing, hunting, camping.

Hiking Trails: Between the northern and southern portions of the park and the two neighboring recreational areas, there are about 360 miles of hiking and horesback riding trails.

For more information: North Cascades National Park, 800 State Street, Sedro Woolley, Washington 98284, (360) 856-5700.

THE DRIVE

Hawaiian
Journey

DISTANCE

238 Miles Round
Trip, Hilo

TIME

Allow five days

HIGHLIGHTS

Volcanoes, dramatic
cliffs and canyons,
sugarcane and
coffee fields, dense
green jungle,
flowers, national
park, grasslands,
range animals,
beaches, coral reefs,
water sports.

SPECIAL AREAS

Hawaii

The Big Island (a.k.a. Hawaii) is an island with a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde personality. With active volcanoes, it is both haunting and fearsome, while also offering the epitome of relaxed comfort in a number of cushy, waterfront hotels.

Hawaii is home to *Mauna Kea* and *Mauna Loa*, twin volcanic peaks. Mauna Kea, which soars to a whopping 13,796 feet, is the largest island-based mountain in the entire world. Mauna Loa looms up to 13,679 feet. A third volcano, *Kilauea*, is one of the world's most active craters.

You can easily spend a week here, dividing your time between exploring the intensely interesting geologic wonders and dipping in the sea. Most visitors stay on the west, or what's known as the *Kona* – or farther north, the *Kohala – Coast*; the names are almost interchangeable.

For this route, we suggest starting in the lush and tropical town of **Hilo** (on the east coast), and circling around the island counterclockwise.

In Hilo, be sure to see at least one of the flower nurseries that grow orchids, one of Hawaii's biggest exports. In fact, Hawaii's orchid industry is the largest in the world. Also check out the plantation-era buildings downtown and the *Lyman Mission House and Museum* (276 Haili Street), a 19th-century missionary home. The two-ton *Naha Stone*

(in front of the *Hilo Library* at 300 Waianuenue Avenue) is one of the island's most famous artifacts. According to legend, the man who could lift it would



become king of all the islands. The young Kamehameha (who became Hawaii's first king) apparently did. Don't miss *Banyan Drive*, which is famed for its many banyan trees that were planted by visiting celebrities. Just off the drive is *Liliuokalani Gardens*, a 30-acre park with views of Hilo, *Mauna Kea*, and the *Hamakua Coast*. The *Suisan Fish Market* at the end of the drive comes alive in the early morning (from 7:30 a.m.), when fishermen return with the morning's catch.

From there, head north on Route 19, following the Hamakua Coast. A sensational drive, this route takes you atop high cliffs (known as pali) that plunge into the Pacific. Along the



Pack (Flash) Light

When traveling to tropical island destinations, consider taking a small flash-light along. On many islands, brief power failures occur with some frequency. Also, guest rooms are often tucked away in densely covered jungle areas, down long, unlit — or partially lit — pathways.



twisting, winding way, you'll pass waterfalls, valleys, and signs indicating where scenic viewpoints are. In the village of **Honomu** (15 miles north of Hilo), there are two incredible waterfalls — *Akaka Falls* (442 feet) and *Kahuna Falls* (400 feet).

When you reach Route 240, follow it to the end to *Waipio Valley*, home to some of Hawaii's most powerful kings, including Kamehameha. There's a lookout tower, from which the views of the northeastern end of the island are mesmerizing.

Backtrack to Route 19 and turn right, heading west now to **Waimea** (Kamuela). Here you'll find *Parker Ranch*, which is one of the world's largest independently owned cattle ranches. There's a museum and tours. Waimea offers a dramatically different landscape than most of the island. Stretching off in every direction are cattle-dotted

grasslands.

Continue on Route 19 west over to the coast, then take Route 270 north. Just off Route 270 at **Kawaihae**, there's a 15th-century temple and altar (the *Puukohola Heiau National Historic Site*), which was dedicated to the god of war by King Kamehameha I. Apparently, he invited his main rival to the dedication and had him killed.

Return to Route 19, follow it south and you'll pass some of Hawaii's most elegant resorts. At **Puako**, Route 19 becomes the *Queen Kaahumanu Highway*. **Kailua-Kona**, the *Kona Coast's* major town, is home to a string of beachfront condominiums, hotels, shops, restaurants, and bars. This area is where Hawaiian royalty settled back in the 19th century. Take time to see *Hulihee Palace* (5718 Alii Drive), a museum that was formerly a summer house owned by the Hawaiian royal family; and the grounds of the *King Kamehameha Hotel* (near the *Kailua Pier*), where you'll find the restored headquarters of King Kamehameha the Great, who died here in 1819.

Head south on Route 11 and you'll pass through coffee fields, en route to **Kealahou**. Kealahou was where British explorer Captain James Cook was killed in 1779 after a battle with the local Hawaiians. There's a monument marking the spot.

Continue south on Route 11 to **Keokea**, which connects to Route 160. Take this eight miles south to *Pu'uhonua o Honaunau* — the City of Refuge, an ancient holy ground. In the past, this was where anyone who had broken sacred laws could find sanctuary.

Route 11 takes you around the south side of the island to *Hawaii Volcanoes National Park*. Here you can have an upfront look at an island still being born. There are two young volcanoes — Mauna Loa and Kilauea — which are still active. The latter has erupted 50 times since 1980. The park is otherworldly beautiful, with a lunar-like landscape, firepits, fumaroles, and lava flows frozen in time. From there, it's just a 28-mile drive back to Hilo.



THE DRIVE:

Astounding
Alaska

DISTANCE:

939 Miles Round
Trip, Fairbanks

TIME:

Allow at least a
week

HIGHLIGHTS:

Mountains, rivers,
glaciers, fjords,
wildlife, pioneer
and Indian artifacts,
railroad history,
two national parks,
hiking, winter
sports.

S P E C I A L A R E A S

Alaska

Long considered one of the most beautiful states, Alaska hardly needs an introduction. It's a state many individuals dream of visiting: a land of Arctic scenery; strong but vulnerable animals; and a population of hardy people.

Alaska is home to not one or two, but eight of our country's national parks, all of which contain some of the world's most extraordinary scenery. Just to give you an idea: *Denali National Park and Preserve* is home to *Mt. McKinley*, the highest peak in North America (20,320 feet). More than eight million acres of the *Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve* lies above the Arctic Circle. *Kobuk Valley National Park* has the extraordinary presence of the *Great Kobuk Sand Dunes*, a rare spectacle here. At 13,200,000 acres, *Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve* is the largest national park in the national park system. The park also has the greatest concentration of peaks over 14,500 feet in



North America, including *Mt. St. Elias*, which – at 18,008 feet – is second in height only to Mt. McKinley.

For this diversion, we take you south from **Fairbanks**, the heart of Alaska's interior, to the port city of **Valdez** and *Prince William Sound*. This highway parallels the *Trans-Alaska Pipeline*, taking you through mountain passes and over roaring rivers. From Valdez, you will backtrack a bit and then head west on Route 1, which will take you over to the *George Parks Highway*. You'll then head north to Fairbanks, skirting around Denali National Park.

During the summer, the temperature in this part of the world is typically in the 80s and there's up to 20 hours of light in a day.

Start in Fairbanks, Alaska's second-largest city. It

has come a long way since it started life as a Gold Rush settlement. For a bit of background on the area's natives, the culture, and wildlife, stop by the *University of Alaska Museum*. You don't have to go far from the city to see wildlife. In fact, caribou have been known to wander through town. Just two miles away, *Creamer's Field* is a waterfowl refuge for ducks, geese, and cranes during the spring and fall migrations. Before heading south, stop by the bubbling mineral waters just north of Fairbanks, *Manley Hot Springs*, and to the east, *Chena Hot Springs*.





Your first stop as you head south of Fairbanks on Route 2 (which is the start of the Richardson Highway) is **North Pole**, where the United States Postal Service traditionally sends mail to be answered by Santa's elves. Just to the south is **Big Delta**. Stop in to see the museum in the *Big Delta State Historical Park*; among its displays are pioneer relics and Athabascan Native artifacts. **Delta Junction** is the northern terminus of the *Alaska Highway* (which is the only road linking Alaska with the lower 48 states).

Travel south to **Glennallen**, the gateway to Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. The ranger station for the park is located at **Copper Center**, off the *Edgerton Highway*. The park is breathtaking: peaks and glaciers, glaciers and peaks. Most activities are wilderness-oriented, therefore travel and other facilities are limited. From here you can follow a 61-mile long, extremely rough, gravel road to the historic mining towns of **McCarthy** and **Kennicott**, both national historic landmarks. These historic mining towns continue to attract visitors interested in learning more about Alaska's history – one rich with stories of the gold rush days and legendary strikes.

Valdez, the southern terminus of the *Trans-Alaska Pipeline* and situated on Prince William Sound (which is made up of fjords, glaciers, and islands) is next. You can take tours of the pipeline, a ferry trip to the fishing port of **Cordova**, a "flightseeing" tour, or cruise to the *Columbia Glacier* (four miles wide and over 200 feet high at the face).

From there, retrace your steps on the *Richardson Highway*, turning left onto Route 1 at Glennallen. This road takes you past glaciers, mountains, rivers – Alaska just as you pictured it.

If time permits, spend some time exploring **Anchorage**. Otherwise, head north onto Route 3 at **Palmer**, the George Parks Highway.

This route also has a parallel running mate – the *Alaska Railroad*. If you're interested in learning about the railroad, stop in at the *Transportation and Industry Museum of Alaska* in **Wasilla** (west of Palmer).

The George Parks Highway runs parallel to the eastern edge of Denali National Park and Preserve, home to the towering Mt. McKinley. If you have time, take a guided tour into the park's wilderness to see bears, moose, wolves, Dall sheep, lynx, fox, snowshoe hares, and whatever other animals decide to show up.



