



Celebrating the Nation's 250th Anniversary with 250 Road Trip Ideas

Arizona and national adventures, iconic stops, and unforgettable road-trip inspiration

From red-rock overlooks to small-town treasures, this Canyon & Compass guide turns a long travel list into an easy-to-scan handout. Use it to spark trip ideas, build an itinerary, or highlight standout experiences across Arizona and beyond.

Canyon vistas, desert roads, mountain towns, and historic stops create the perfect Southwest sampler. This section highlights classic bucket-list views as well as scenic detours worth building a trip around.

1. Marvel at the South Rim of the Grand Canyon
2. Hike the dramatic Bright Angel Trail
3. Watch the sunrise at the North Rim of the Grand Canyon
4. Take a helicopter tour over the Grand Canyon
5. Walk the surreal, wave-like sandstone of Coyote Buttes North (The Wave)
6. Explore the swirling sandstone of Coyote Buttes South
7. Hike the sandy trails of White Pocket in Vermilion Cliffs
8. Photograph the spectacular light beams in Upper Antelope Canyon
9. Wander the naturally winding walls of Lower Antelope Canyon
10. Marvel at the Colorado River loop at Horseshoe Bend
11. Rent a houseboat or kayak on Lake Powell



12. Drive the scenic Desert View Drive in Grand Canyon National Park
13. Explore the Navajo Nation's Canyon de Chelly via the White House Trail
14. View the iconic Spider Rock at Canyon de Chelly
15. Camp near the bottom of the Grand Canyon at Havasu Falls
16. Photograph the turquoise travertine pools of Havasupai
17. Explore ancient cliff dwellings at Navajo National Monument
18. Step into 1,000-year-old Pueblo ruins at Wupatki National Monument
19. Stroll down Historic Route 66 in Williams, AZ
20. See vintage road-side relics at Big Mike's Route 66 in Williams
21. Snap a picture with the vintage shops in Seligman, AZ
22. Visit the kitschy roadside motels and attractions in Holbrook, AZ
23. Gawk at the vast expanse of the Barringer Meteor Crater
24. Drive the Oak Creek Canyon scenic switchbacks
25. Climb Cathedral Rock in Sedona
26. Bike or hike to the spectacular Devil's Bridge in Sedona
27. Unwind along the West Fork Trail in Oak Creek Canyon
28. Visit the spiritual Chapel of the Holy Cross in Sedona
29. Take a thrilling open-air Jeep tour through the red rocks
30. Walk the tranquil, shaded trails at Red Rock State Park
31. Walk the downtown streets and galleries in Flagstaff
32. Learn about Arizona history at Riordan Mansion State Historic Park in Flagstaff
33. Stroll the historic downtown district of Prescott, AZ
34. Sip drinks on Whiskey Row in Prescott
35. View ancient cliff dwellings at Montezuma Castle National Monument
36. Discover the fascinating, deep limestone chambers of Kartchner Caverns State Park



Central Arizona & The Valley

From Phoenix day trips to cool mountain escapes, Central Arizona blends outdoor adventure with easy-access attractions. It's ideal for travelers who want desert scenery, water stops, and flexible weekend routes.

37. Hike Camelback Mountain in Phoenix
38. Take a walk through the massive Saguaro cactus at Utery Mountain Regional Park
39. Enjoy panoramic city views from Piestewa Peak
40. Drive the scenic Apache Trail loop
41. Take a boat tour on Canyon Lake
42. Visit the Wild West ghost town of Goldfield
43. Explore the diverse biomes at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix
44. Walk through the preserved desert oasis at Boyce Thompson Arboretum
45. Learn about Native American history at the Heard Museum
46. Hike or picnic at Lost Dutchman State Park
47. Paddleboard or kayak at Lake Pleasant
48. Float down the Salt River on an inner tube
49. Visit the historic McFarland State Historic Park in Florence
50. Explore the Tonto Natural Bridge State Park in Payson
51. See the massive ponderosa forests along the Mogollon Rim
52. Drive up to the alpine village of Greer in the White Mountains
53. Ski or snowboard at Arizona Snowbowl near Flagstaff



Southern & Southeastern Arizona

Southern Arizona offers a different rhythm—towering saguaros, borderlands history, art towns, cave systems, and wide-open scenic drives. This region is perfect for culture-rich stops and dramatic desert landscapes.

54. Take the scenic drive up Mount Lemmon near Tucson
55. Explore the colossal Saguaro cactuses at Saguaro National Park
56. Visit the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson
57. Photograph the stunning architecture of Mission San Xavier del Bac
58. Wander through the surreal “sky islands” at Chiricahua National Monument
59. Visit the “Town Too Tough to Die” in Tombstone, AZ
60. Step into the deep mining history of Bisbee
61. Walk the historic streets of Old Bisbee
62. Explore the eerie and colorful caves of Colossal Cave Mountain Park
63. Wander the historic streets and shops of Erie Street in Lowell Ghost Town, Bisbee
64. Hike the trails at Catalina State Park
65. Tour the massive underground dome of Biosphere 2 near Tucson
66. Visit the Amerind Foundation Museum in Dragoon
67. Photograph the giant rock formations at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
68. Bird watch in the Madera Canyon
69. Drive the scenic loop through the Sonoita wine country
70. Explore the historic Presidio in Tubac, AZ
71. Stop at the Tubac Center of the Arts and local galleries



- 72. View petroglyphs at the Picture Rocks
- 73. Step back in time at Fort Bowie National Historic Site
- 74. Tour the Yuma Territorial Prison State Historic Park
- 75. Experience the lush river landscapes of Colorado River State Historic Park in Yuma

USA: 50 States & Territories

This broader collection of iconic destinations across the country is organized to help travelers explore by experience. Beyond Arizona, these ideas broaden the Canyon & Compass spirit into a national collection of landscapes, cities, and unforgettable travel moments.

National Parks & Nature

For travelers drawn to epic landscapes, this collection focuses on towering peaks, dramatic canyons, glacier views, desert trails, and iconic national park experiences.

- 76. Walk among the giant redwoods at Redwood National Park, CA
- 77. Marvel at the waterfalls and cliffs of Yosemite National Park, CA
- 78. Drive the scenic Going-to-the-Sun Road in Glacier National Park, MT
- 79. Watch Old Faithful erupt at Yellowstone National Park, WY
- 80. Gaze at the steep granite walls of Zion National Park, UT
- 81. Photograph the intricate hoodoos at Bryce Canyon National Park, UT
- 82. Hike through The Narrows at Zion National Park



83. Marvel at the massive arches at Arches National Park, UT
84. Drive the scenic loop through Canyonlands National Park, UT
85. Explore the hidden slot canyons of Capitol Reef National Park, UT
86. Stand before the sheer rock face of El Capitan in Yosemite
87. Camp among the massive trees at Sequoia National Park, CA
88. Trek the beautiful trails of Olympic National Park, WA
89. View the stunning alpine lakes in Rocky Mountain National Park, CO
90. See the incredible hydrothermal pools at Lassen Volcanic National Park, CA
91. Photograph the crystal blue waters of Crater Lake National Park, OR
92. Watch the sunrise from Cadillac Mountain in Acadia National Park, ME
93. Explore the misty, ancient forests of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, NC/TN
94. Drive the Going-to-the-Sun Road in Glacier National Park, MT
95. Marvel at the stunning Alaskan glaciers at Glacier Bay National Park, AK
96. Hike the volcanic landscapes of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, HI
97. Walk through the lush rainforests of Haleakalā National Park, HI
98. Explore the vast, echoing chambers of Carlsbad Caverns National Park, NM
99. See the surreal white gypsum dunes at White Sands National Park, NM
100. Photograph the soaring peaks of Grand Teton National Park, WY
101. Hike the stunning backcountry of Denali National Park, AK
102. Marvel at the dramatic, carved pinnacles of Badlands National Park, SD
103. Drive the scenic Badlands Loop Road, SD
104. Explore the steep canyons and wilderness of Black Canyon of the Gunnison, CO
105. Trek across the vast salt flats of Death Valley National Park, CA
106. Photograph the dense rainforests of Olympic National Park, WA



107. See the spectacular cascading waters of Yosemite Falls, CA
108. Explore the lush, green valleys of Cuyahoga Valley National Park, OH
109. Swim in the clear waters of Virgin Islands National Park, USVI
110. Dive or snorkel at Biscayne National Park, FL
111. Explore the massive, slow-moving river of grass at Everglades National Park, FL
112. Camp under incredibly dark skies at Great Basin National Park, NV
113. Hike the unique dune fields of Great Sand Dunes National Park, CO
114. See the world's largest known cave system at Mammoth Cave National Park, KY
115. Explore the ancient cliff dwellings at Mesa Verde National Park, CO
116. View the stunning subalpine meadows of Mount Rainier National Park, WA
117. Hike among the giant trees at Kings Canyon National Park, CA
118. Explore the badlands and wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, ND
119. Visit the stunning, deep canyons of Zion National Park, UT
120. Photograph the wildlife and wilderness of Isle Royale National Park, MI
121. Walk through the rugged granite peaks of North Cascades National Park, WA
122. Explore the rocky coastlines and pristine beaches of Channel Islands National Park, CA
123. Marvel at the rugged, deep geologic layers of Kings Canyon National Park, CA
124. Photograph the geothermal wonders of Yellowstone National Park, WY
125. Trek the long trails of Rocky Mountain National Park, CO



Iconic US Cities

These city picks spotlight places where culture, architecture, food, and neighborhood energy come together—great for travelers who want iconic landmarks with plenty of atmosphere.

126. Stroll through Central Park in New York City, NY
127. Catch a Broadway show in Manhattan, NY
128. Ride a cable car in San Francisco, CA
129. View the iconic Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, CA
130. Walk the historic Freedom Trail in Boston, MA
131. Visit the historic Faneuil Hall in Boston, MA
132. Explore the art and culture at the Art Institute of Chicago, IL
133. Walk along the Chicago Riverwalk, IL
134. See the monuments on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.
135. Tour the Smithsonian museums in Washington, D.C.
136. Stroll the lively French Quarter in New Orleans, LA
137. Listen to live jazz music on Frenchmen Street in New Orleans, LA
138. Explore the Space Needle and Chihuly Garden in Seattle, WA
139. Visit the historic Pike Place Market in Seattle, WA
140. Walk the vibrant, music-filled streets of Nashville, TN
141. Tour the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville, TN
142. Walk the lively Las Vegas Strip, NV
143. See the world-famous Fountains of Bellagio in Las Vegas, NV
144. Stroll the historic Alamo Mission in San Antonio, TX



- 145. Visit the vibrant riverfront shops of the San Antonio River Walk, TX
- 146. Explore the Miami Art Deco district in South Beach, FL
- 147. Stroll the scenic coastal pathways in Portland, ME
- 148. Tour the historic monuments of Philadelphia, PA
- 149. Wander the vibrant, eclectic neighborhoods of Austin, TX
- 150. Enjoy the live music and food truck scene in Austin, TX

Cultural & Historic Landmarks

History lovers and curious explorers will find memorable stops here, from nationally significant landmarks to preserved districts that bring American stories to life.

- 151. See the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, PA
- 152. Tour Independence Hall in Philadelphia, PA
- 153. Walk the historic grounds of the Gettysburg National Military Park, PA
- 154. Visit the powerful Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park in Atlanta, GA
- 155. Tour the historic MLK birth home in Atlanta, GA
- 156. Visit the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, MO
- 157. Tour the historic French Quarter architecture in New Orleans, LA
- 158. Explore the USS Constitution Museum in Boston, MA
- 159. Walk the historic cobblestone streets of Charleston, SC
- 160. Tour the historic plantations and gardens of Charleston, SC
- 161. Stroll the beautiful Savannah historic squares in Savannah, GA
- 162. Walk the scenic River Street in Savannah, GA
- 163. Visit the famous Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC



- 164. Explore the beautiful gardens and winery at the Biltmore Estate
- 165. Tour the historic district of Williamsburg, VA
- 166. Step back in time at Colonial Williamsburg, VA
- 167. Walk the historic trails at Valley Forge National Historical Park, PA
- 168. See the stunning Mount Rushmore National Memorial, SD
- 169. Tour the majestic Pearl Harbor National Memorial, HI
- 170. Visit the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor, HI
- 171. Tour the historic Pearl Harbor aviation museum
- 172. Walk through the legendary French Quarter in New Orleans, LA
- 173. Explore the French Market in New Orleans, LA

Coastal Escapes & Scenic Drives

When the journey matters as much as the destination, these routes and shoreline stops deliver sweeping views, fresh air, and some of the most scenic drives in the country.

- 174. Drive the iconic Pacific Coast Highway (Big Sur), CA
- 175. Photograph the Bixby Creek Bridge on the Pacific Coast Highway, CA
- 176. Cruise the breathtaking Going-to-the-Sun Road, MT
- 177. Drive the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway, NC/VA
- 178. View the stunning overlooks along the Blue Ridge Parkway
- 179. Hike along the dramatic coastlines of Acadia National Park, ME
- 180. Drive the spectacularly scenic Overseas Highway, FL Keys
- 181. Visit the beautiful beaches of Key West, FL
- 182. Drive the iconic Hana Highway in Maui, HI



183. Photograph the beautiful waterfalls along the Hana Highway, HI
184. Explore the rocky shores of Cape Cod National Seashore, MA
185. Relax on the sandy beaches of the Outer Banks, NC
186. Photograph the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse in the Outer Banks, NC
187. Stroll the boardwalk at Virginia Beach, VA
188. Tour the historic lighthouses along the Oregon Coast, OR
189. Drive the scenic Columbia River Gorge, OR
190. Marvel at the stunning Multnomah Falls in the Columbia River Gorge, OR
191. Explore the beautiful shores of Lake Tahoe, CA/NV
192. Take a boat cruise on the pristine waters of Lake Tahoe
193. Relax on the white sand beaches of Santa Monica, CA
194. Walk the lively Venice Beach Boardwalk, CA
195. Drive the stunning scenic loop in Custer State Park, SD
196. View the abundant wildlife in Custer State Park, SD
197. Photograph the dramatic shores of the Great Lakes at Pictured Rocks, MI
198. Drive the spectacular Going-to-the-Sun Road in Glacier National Park, MT
199. Walk the beautiful Pacific beach at Cannon Beach, OR
200. View the dramatic basalt sea stacks at Cannon Beach, OR

Unique Experiences & Entertainment

Experiences that mix entertainment, landmark attractions, and memorable settings for those looking for something a little different.



201. Attend a spectacular live performance at the Red Rocks Amphitheatre, CO
202. Hike or take a scenic drive around the Red Rocks area, CO
203. Hike the trails in the breathtaking Garden of the Gods, CO
204. Visit the stunning architecture of the U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Chapel, CO
205. Tour the United States Air Force Academy grounds in Colorado Springs, CO
206. Marvel at the otherworldly rock formations of Bryce Canyon, UT
207. Hike the Navajo Loop trail at Bryce Canyon, UT
208. Take a scenic drive through Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park, AZ/UT
209. Photograph the iconic Mittens buttes at Monument Valley, AZ
210. Ride a hot air balloon over the desert mesas in Albuquerque, NM
211. Visit the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe, NM
212. Stroll through the historic Santa Fe Plaza, NM
213. Explore the adobe architecture and art markets of Santa Fe, NM
214. Wander through the massive sand dunes at White Sands National Park, NM
215. Sled down the gypsum dunes at White Sands, NM
216. Relax in the hot springs of Hot Springs National Park, AR
217. Tour the historic bathhouse row in Hot Springs, AR
218. Hike the lush trails of Hot Springs National Park, AR
219. Stroll the lively Riverwalk in San Antonio, TX
220. Visit the historic San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, TX
221. Explore the deep underground caves at Carlsbad Caverns, NM
222. Watch the evening bat flight at Carlsbad Caverns, NM
223. Tour the stunning Boneyard at the Pima Air & Space Museum in Tucson, AZ
224. Visit the historic Titan Missile Museum in Sahuarita, AZ
225. Explore the unique street art at the Murals of Tucson, AZ



226. Walk the historic downtown streets of Jerome, AZ
227. Tour the Douglas Mansion at Jerome State Historic Park, AZ
228. Dine with views of the Verde Valley in Jerome, AZ
229. Wander the shops and galleries of Tubac, AZ
230. Experience the Wild West vibe of the OK Corral in Tombstone, AZ
231. Watch a live reenactment of the Gunfight at the OK Corral in Tombstone
232. Explore the historic Boothill Graveyard in Tombstone, AZ
233. Ride a stagecoach through the streets of Tombstone, AZ
234. Tour the preserved 19th-century Courthouse State Historic Park in Tombstone
235. Sip wine at the local tasting rooms in Willcox, AZ
236. Visit the Rex Allen Cowboy Museum and Willcox Historic Theater, AZ
237. Hike the trails surrounding the Dos Cabezas Mountains near Willcox, AZ
238. Tour the historic Gila County Historical Museum in Globe, AZ
239. See the restored prehistoric pueblo dwellings at Besh-Ba-Gowah in Globe, AZ
240. Wander the historic streets of downtown Globe, AZ
241. Explore the community art center at the historic Globe Courthouse, AZ
242. Walk the historic main street and see the vintage shops of Winslow, AZ
243. Stand on the Corner in Winslow, AZ (a nod to the Eagles song)
244. Tour the historic La Posada Hotel in Winslow, AZ
245. Walk the trails of Homolovi State Park near Winslow, AZ
246. Photograph ancient petroglyphs at Homolovi State Park, AZ
247. Explore the railroad and mining history of Kingman, AZ
248. Take a scenic drive through the rugged Hualapai Mountains near Kingman, AZ
249. Tour the historic Bonelli House in Kingman, AZ
250. Drive the scenic Route 66 loop through the mountains to Oatman, AZ