

NORTH CAROLINA AND TENNESSEE
GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of America's most visited park, head out on the perfect Smokies trip, venturing deep inside on foot with the help of area hiking clubs, which are leading special guided treks throughout the year (*see greatsmokies75th.com for the schedule*). The best area lodging is **Blackberry Farm** (1471 W. Millers Cove Rd., Walland, Tenn.; 865/380-2260; blackberryfarm.com; doubles from \$995, including meals). For a fraction of the cost—and a similarly bucolic setting—head to the **GREAT VALUE Butterfly Gap Retreat** (4366 Butterfly Gap Rd., Maryville, Tenn.; 865/984-6021; butterflygap.com; doubles from \$195), five architecturally unique guesthouses. At the **Foothills Milling Company** (315 S. Washington St., Maryville, Tenn.; 865/977-8434; dinner for two \$75), a short drive away, chef Bart Vaughan does comfort food with a Southern flair: hikers fill up on braised short ribs served over cheese grits.

UTAH CAPITOL REEF

This 242,000-acre expanse of stunning burnt-orange cliffs and canyons in southwestern Utah didn't appear on U.S. maps until 1872. Since then it's



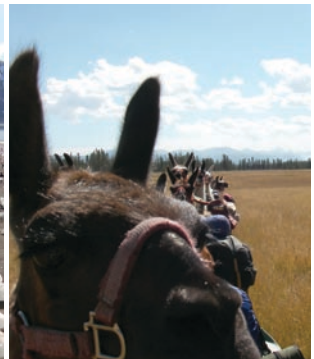
ADVENTURE TRIPS

6 NATIONAL PARKS

A few of our favorite natural wonders offer close-up wildlife encounters, hiking trails for all abilities, and awe-inspiring views. **By Matt Hendrickson and Bree Sposato**



Into the Wild
 Clockwise from top:
 The Oconaluftee River, in the Great Smoky Mountains; a pack-carrying llama in Yellowstone; glacial ice in Kenai Fjords; Burro Wash, in Capitol Reef.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: MACDUFF EVERTON; COURTESY OF LLAMA TRIPS IN YELLOWSTONE; COURTESY OF ALASKA WILDLAND ADVENTURES; COURTESY OF REI ADVENTURES



Outward Bound Clockwise from above left: Yellowstone's Hilgard Lake; "Tail of the Dragon" road, in the Great Smokies; kayakers on Aialik Bay, in Kenai Fjords; the site of the Grand Canyon's new private camp; hiking through Capitol Reef's badlands.

served as the backdrop for dozens of westerns, but it remains largely unexplored. Enter **REI** (800/622-2236; rei.com; seven-day trips from \$1,799 per person), which has just launched a trip that takes you from the dramatic domes lining Waterpocket Fold, a 100-mile scar in the earth's crust, to Cassidy Arch, and, adjacent to the park, the five stacked sandstone terraces that form the Grand Staircase National Monument.

MONTANA GLACIER

Disney's not just for kids. **Adventures by Disney** (800/543-0865; adventuresbydisney.com; eight-day trips from \$2,439 per person) offers adults-only itineraries to national parks throughout North

America, including a new eight-day excursion (September 5-12) through Montana's Glacier National Park (and into Canada's Banff National Park). The trip offers a range of adrenaline-pumping activities, including rafting Class III rapids on Montana's Flathead River and summiting Alberta's 7,500-foot Sulphur Mountain.

ARIZONA GRAND CANYON

At 5,000 feet deep and 10 miles across, the Grand Canyon is one of the world's most iconic natural wonders; with 4.5 million visitors a year, it's also one of the most crowded. Camping there usually means sharing your space with a slew of other trekkers, but veteran tour operator

Off the Beaten Path (800/445-2995; offthebeatenpath.com; six-day trips from \$2,795 per person) now gives guests the chance to stay in a private camp near the South Rim, set within the world's largest stand of ponderosa pines. By day, you'll trek two miles down into the canyon, tour ancestral Puebloan ruins, and bike local trails, all in the hands of expert guides. Come evening, you'll stay in your own deluxe walk-in tent, outfitted with a memory-foam mattress and mirrored washbasin.

PRIME PARK VISTAS
To see the most spectacular national park views, go to travelandleisure.com.

PACKING LIST >>



Waterproof jacket, **The North Face**, \$179.



Watch with compass and flashlight, **iBeam**, \$59.



Nylon backpack, **Victorinox**, \$65.



Waterproof digital camera, **Canon**, \$330.



Motion-stabilizing hiking shoe, **Keen**, \$110.

TOP ROW: CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: COURTESY OF LLAMA TRIPS IN YELLOWSTONE; PETER ARNOLD INC/ALAMY; COURTESY OF ALASKA WILDLAND ADVENTURES; PJ O'MALLEY; COURTESY OF REI ADVENTURES. BOTTOM ROW, FROM LEFT: DAVIES + STARR (3); COURTESY OF CANON USA; DAVIES + STARR

ALASKA KENAI FJORDS

This remote swath along the southern coast of Alaska's Kenai Peninsula is home to glaciers and fjords, puffins and porpoises—and now an upscale hotel.

Accessible only by boat, Alaska Wildland Adventures' **Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge** (800/334-8730; kenaifjordsglacierlodge.com; doubles from \$950) is a collection of 16 comfortably rustic log cabins set on a 1,700-acre wildlife sanctuary owned by Alutiiq natives. Here, the park is literally your backyard.

WYOMING YELLOWSTONE

Bypass the crowds at Old Faithful and head to Yellowstone's best kept secret: the quiet Bechler region, in the southwest corner.

The most unexpected way to discover its dozens of waterfalls and hidden thermal spouts is on a customized camping expedition with **Llama Trips in Yellowstone** (406/587-2661; llamatripsinyellowstone.com; from \$250 per person per day), a husband-and-wife-owned operator that will have you soaking in a hot pool at the base of a 150-foot waterfall and observing the area's wildlife (moose, black bears, bald eagles) up close—though not too close. Gentle llamas, indigenous to the region, carry all of your equipment. +

ON THE WATER

1 NEW SPORT

Interested in surfing but can't commit the time? Stand-up paddleboarding is surfing made easy: the platform is wider, longer, and more stable than a standard surfboard, and a long paddle makes maneuvering simple. Riders can catch waves but also zip through smooth water. On Oahu,

Turtle Bay Resort (808/293-6000; turtlebayresort.com; doubles from \$430) arranges lessons through **Hans Hedemann** (808/924-7778; hhsurf.com; lessons from \$75), an outfitter that also runs classes in Waikiki. On the mainland, the hub for the sport is Santa Barbara: **BlueLine Paddle Surf** (24 E. Mason St.; 805/450-9490; bluelinepaddlesurf.com; lessons from \$75) is located a block from prime paddleboarding territory on East Beach. —JENNIFER FLOWERS



ILLUSTRATION BY RYAN HESHKA

DRINKS

6 CLASSIC COCKTAILS

Toast the season with these updated standards at outposts from Miami to Seattle.

THE DRINK SANGRIA**THE SPOT** BROSLIA, MIAMI

This stylish spot in the city's Design District serves up pitchers of white sangria—made with apricot brandy, apples, oranges, and white and sparkling wine—on a mosaic-covered terrace shaded by oak trees. *163 N.E. 39th St.; 305/572-1400; pitchers \$35.*

THE DRINK MOJITO**THE SPOT** ROOFTOP CANTINA,

SANTA FE At this outdoor bar, watermelon infused with Bacardi Limón puts a summer spin on the Cuban cocktail, and pairs well with the downtown plaza views. *132 W. Water St.; 505/983-1615; \$8.*

THE DRINK NEGRONI**THE SPOT** BAR NINETEEN12, BEVERLY HILLS

Ask for this Campari-laced Italian aperitif here and it will come garnished with an orange and lemon twist. The combination is enjoyed on a plush couch overlooking the



Raspberry lemonade and a margarita at Healdsburg Bar & Grill, in Sonoma County.

secluded garden. *9641 Sunset Blvd.; 310/273-1912; \$17.*

THE DRINKS RASPBERRY LEMONADE AND MARGARITA**THE SPOT** HEALDSBURG BAR

& GRILL, SONOMA COUNTY At the Healdsburg, the lawn is the best place for a cold drink. The raspberry lemonade here is spiked with vodka and Chambord, while the margarita is a mix of tequila, Patrón Citrónge, simple syrup, and fresh lime juice. *245 Healdsburg Ave., Healdsburg, Calif.; 707/433-3333; both \$8.*

THE DRINK AMERICANO**THE SPOT** ODDFELLOWS CAFÉ & BAR, SEATTLE

Twinkling lights line the courtyard here, in the city's eternally hip Pike/Pine neighborhood. A thirst-quenching Americano, made with Campari, sweet vermouth, and club soda, celebrates the city's short—but memorable—sunny season. *1525 10th Ave.; 206/325-0807; \$8.*

—CHARLOTTE DRUCKMAN

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