



Otherworld

TRAVEL



GREAT

**AMERICAN
ROAD**

TRIPS

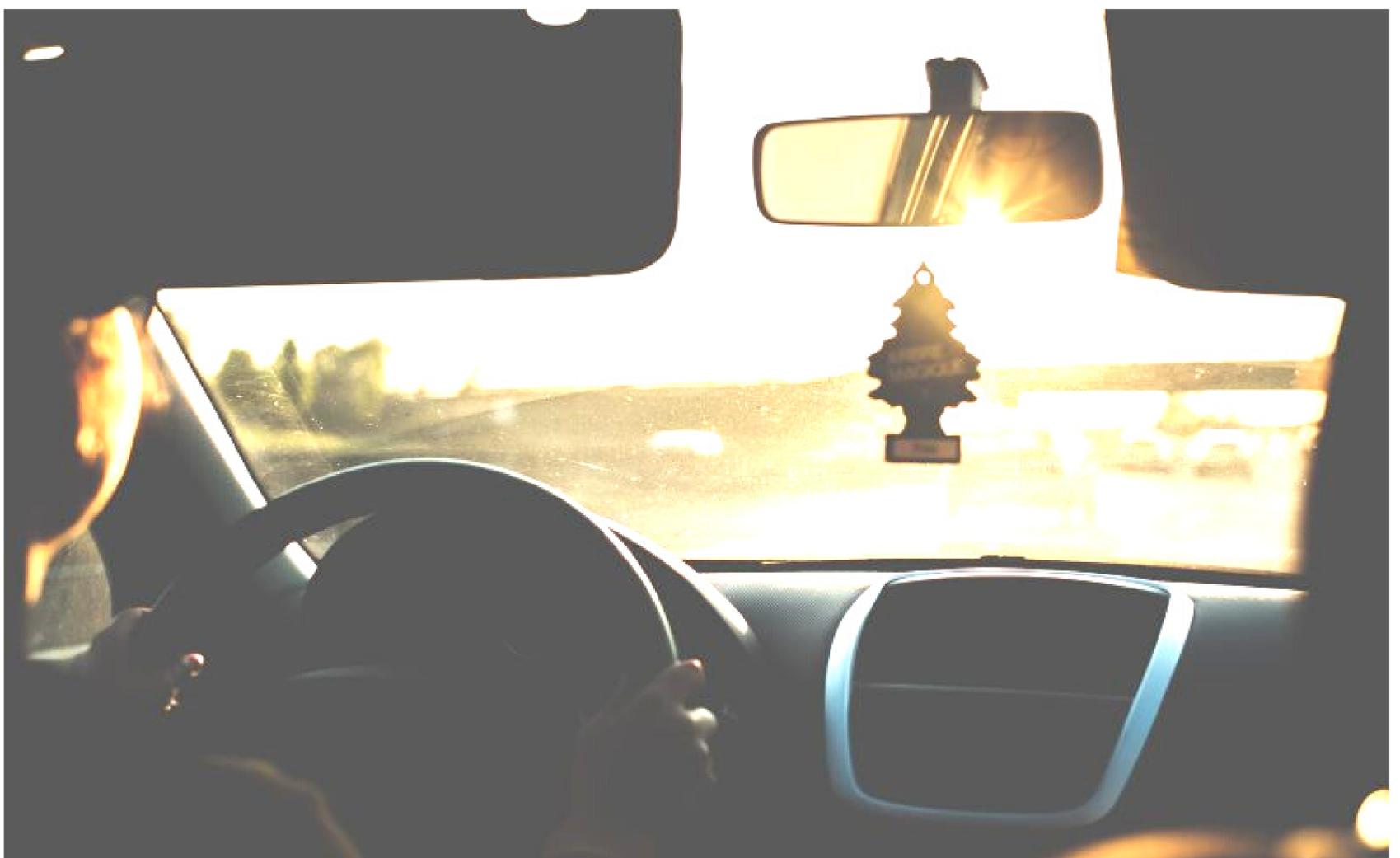
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GETTING BEHIND THE WHEEL

52 states, 9.8 million square kilometres and some of the worlds most spectacular natural scenery; the United States is a road tripper's dream. There's something so freeing about jumping behind the wheel and hitting the open road, heading for some exciting new city or gorgeous national park.

Follow any highway for long enough and it won't take long to find yourself in a completely new landscape. Wide open bays and secluded beaches quickly become large expanses of desert, dotted by cacti and ancient monoliths; towering pine forests make way for golden fields of grain and the highest snow-capped mountains morph like Russian dolls into tiny mole hills in city parks.

There's no end to what you'll discover on a road trip through the US. The hard part is choosing which one to take.



TOP 5 ROAD TRIPS IN THE USA

ROUTE 66

It would be criminal not to start with the most famous of all great American road trips; Route 66.

The journey begins in Chicago and winds all the way through the Midwest before ending in California's Santa Monica. Route 66 covers nearly 4,000 kilometres (2,448 miles) and was originally used to assist with the migration west during the Dust Bowl of the 1930s. Since the much faster Interstate Highway system went in, Route 66 was named a National Scenic Byway and became a huge tourist magnet for fans of the famous song and TV show of the same name.

Cyclists, you'll be happy to know that a Bicycle Route 66 is in the works.

THINGS TO SEE ON THE WAY

- Gateway Arch in St Louis
- Take a photo with the Route 66 Rising sculpture in Tulsa
- Quirky art installation at Cadillac Ranch in Amarillo, Texas
- Fiery, kaleidoscopic colours of the Painted Desert in Indian Wells, Arizona
- Petrified Forest National Park in Holbrook, Arizona
- Million-year old limestone deposits in the Meramec Caverns in Stanton, Missouri
- Gorgeous Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet, Illinois
- Sand dunes and wildflowers in the Mojave Desert in California



PLACES TO STAY

- Crowne Plaza - Springfield, Illinois
- Holiday Inn Downtown - St Louis, Missouri
- Hyatt Regency - Tulsa, Oklahoma
- The Wigwam Motel - Holbrook, Arizona
- Country Inn by Radisson - Amarillo, Texas
- Best Western Plus Rio Grande Inn - Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Little American Hotel, Flagstaff, Arizona
- Bellagio Hotel & Casino - Las Vegas, Nevada
- Shutters on the Beach - Santa Monica, California

GOOD TO KNOW

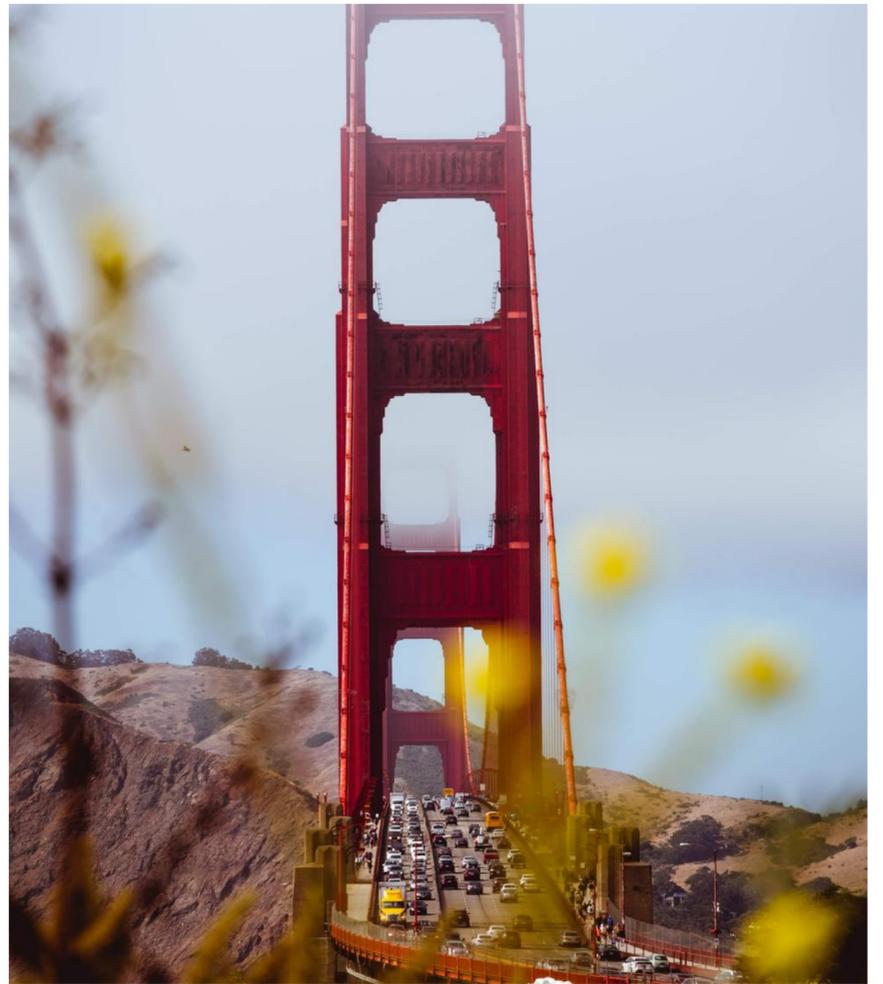
Spread this route over at least 2-3 weeks - you don't want to rush it. Spend a couple of nights in every other city.

Keep your itinerary flexible in case you want to take a detour, e.g. stopping in Palm Springs on the stretch between Vegas and Santa Monica.

TOP 5 ROAD TRIPS IN THE USA

PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY

This short but sweet West Coast road trip covers the best parts of the California coastline. Beginning in the effortlessly cool city of San Francisco, you'll head south through San Jose, Santa Cruz, the gorgeous Monterey Bay, then on to San Luis Obispo and trendy Malibu before ending up in San Diego.



THINGS TO SEE ON THE WAY

- The iconic Golden Gate Bridge
- Wander along Fisherman's Wharf and down Lombard Street in San Francisco
- Spooky Winchester Mystery House in San Jose
- Explore the seaside village of Carmel-by-the-Sea in Monterey
- Take in the views at Big Sur
- Hire a beach cruiser and ride along the Santa Barbara coast
- Take a surf lesson at Malibu Beach
- Shop on Rodeo Drive in LA

PLACES TO STAY

- W San Francisco
- Monterey Marriott
- San Simeon Lodge
- Casa Del Mar Inn, Santa Barbara
- Freehand Los Angeles
- Hilton San Diego Bayfront

GOOD TO KNOW

Spread this route over at least 2-3 weeks - you don't want to rush it. Spend a couple of nights in every other city.

Keep your itinerary flexible in case you want to take a detour, e.g. stopping in Palm Springs on the stretch between Vegas and Santa Monica.

You can tack on a few extra days and visit Yosemite, 4 hours from San Francisco. Otherwise, enjoy some time in Sonoma or Napa Valley Wine Country between LA and San Diego.

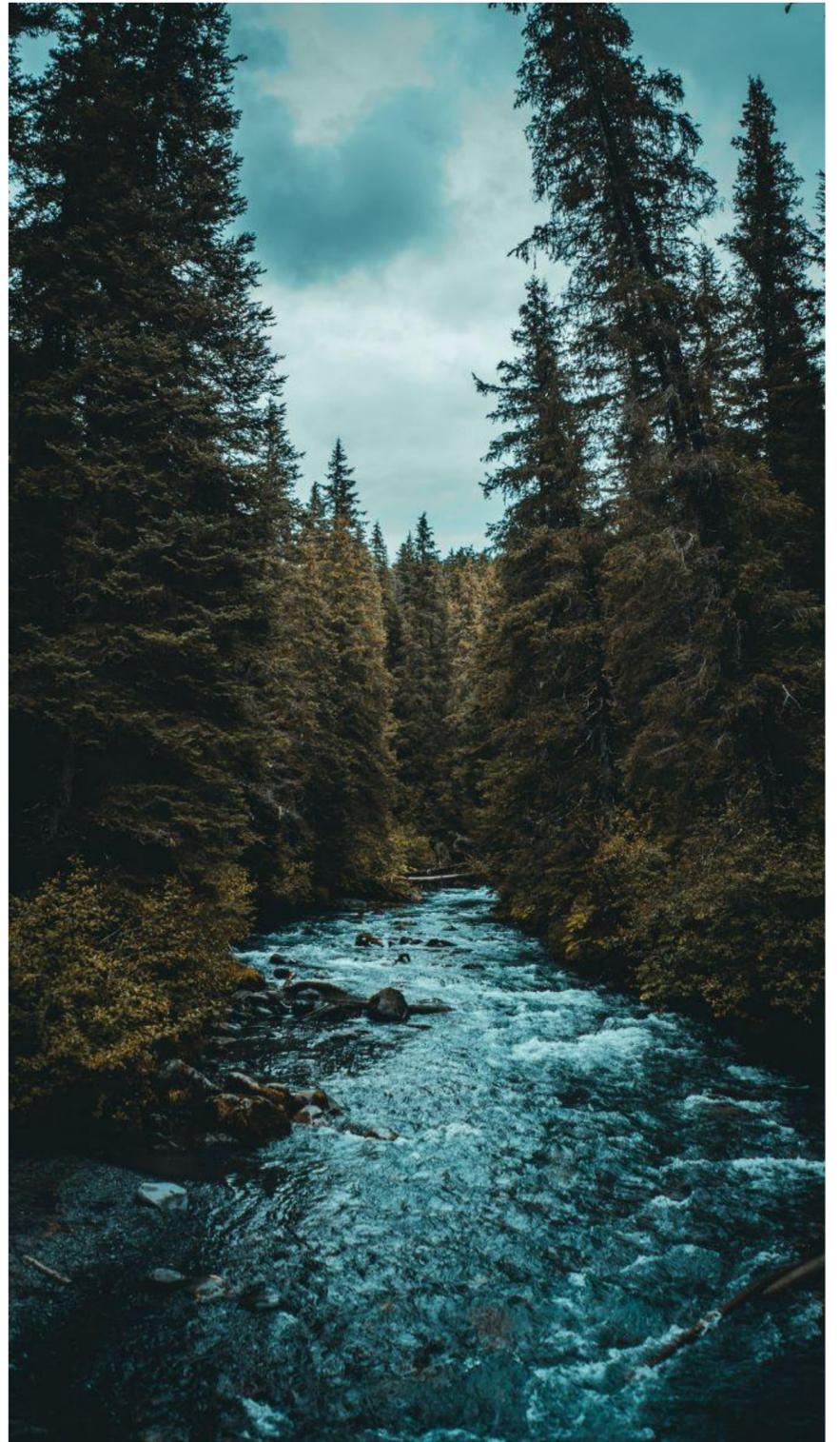


TOP 5 ROAD TRIPS IN THE USA

GREAT ALASKAN ROAD TRIP

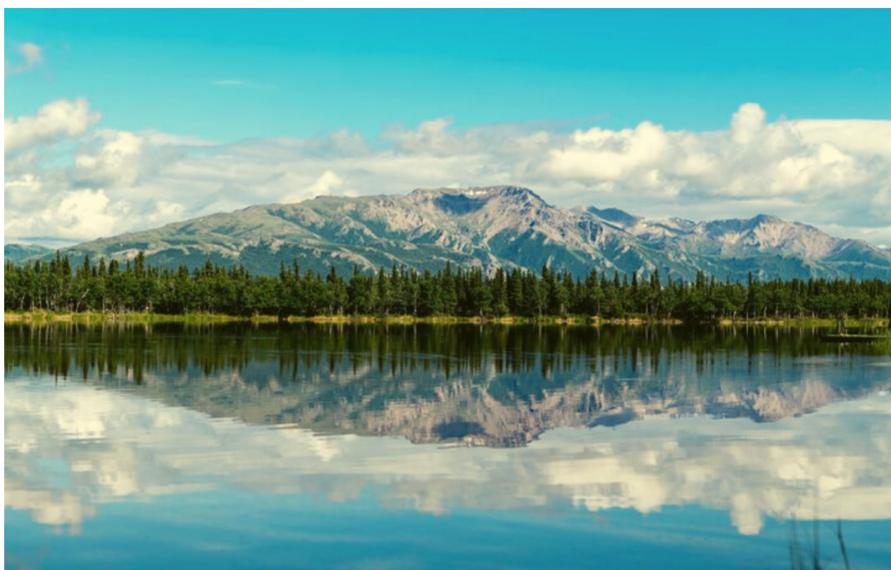
There's a reason they call Alaska "The Last Frontier." With some of the most jaw-dropping scenery, challenging weather conditions and endless opportunities for getting off the beaten path, it's a great choice for adventurous road trippers.

You could easily spend a month or two exploring the ins and outs of this rugged state but if you've only got a couple of weeks to play with, a round trip from Anchorage will satisfy your inner explorer.



THINGS TO SEE ON THE WAY

- Chugach Mountains of Anchorage, overlooking the tranquil Cook Inlet
- Boat ride to Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park
- Spot wildlife in Pioneer Park in Fairbanks
- Explore Denali National Park, but look out for grizzly bears, golden eagles and moose!



PLACES TO STAY

- The Lakefront Anchorage
- Homer Cottonwood Cabins
- Hotel Seward
- Best Western Valdez Harbour Inn
- Aurora Village, Fairbanks
- EarthSong Lodge, Denali

GOOD TO KNOW

The weather in Alaska is very unpredictable so pack accordingly. Between mid-September and late April, there is the chance you'll see the Northern Lights!

If you're not comfortable driving in the snow, plan your visit for July-August during the warmer months.

The incredible wildlife of Alaska is one of the states biggest drawcards but you'll need to follow ranger advice when visiting National Parks and wilderness areas to keep yourself and the animals safe.

TOP 5 ROAD TRIPS IN THE USA

NEW ENGLAND

Old world charm and gorgeous coastal scenery converge on this scenic road trip from Boston to Cape Cod. The Northeast of the United States is easily one of the most peaceful corners of the country,

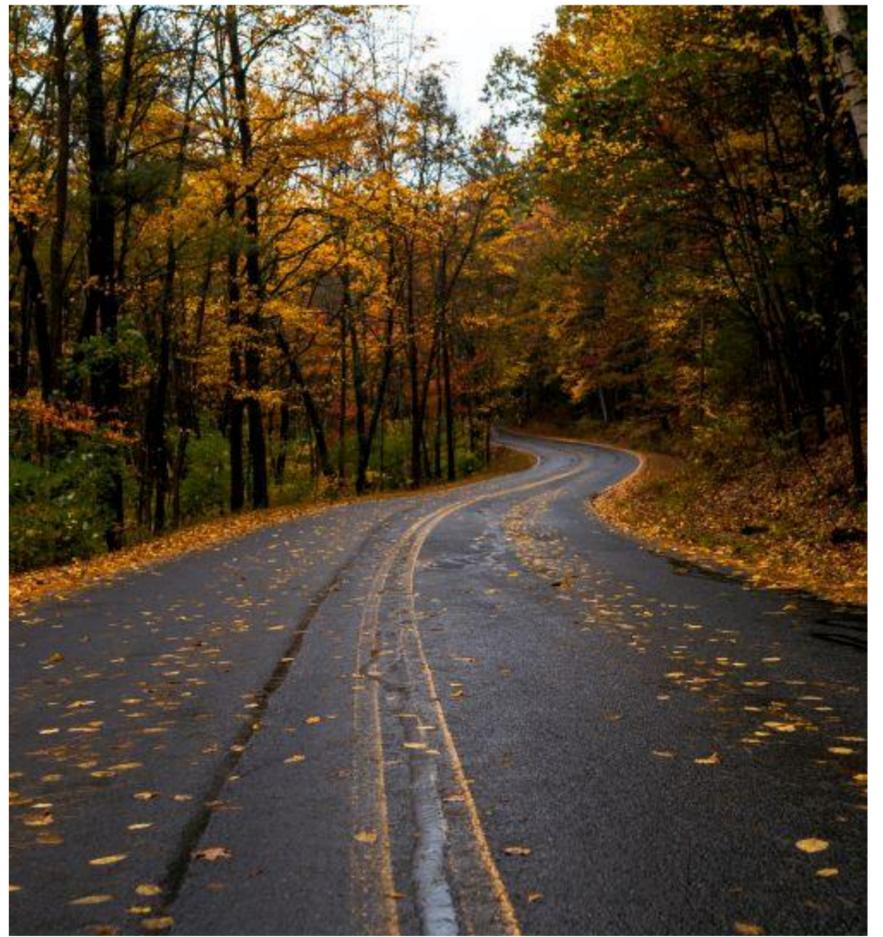
Comprising six states - Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. Each one is as unique in history and culture as they are in landscape.

This journey north from the historic city of Boston should be done at a leisurely pace. Give yourself at least two weeks to take in all the sights.



THINGS TO SEE ON THE WAY

- Walk the Freedom Trail; a walking route that takes in Boston's numerous historic sites
- Explore the White Mountains and marvel at the North East's highest peak
- Dine along the waterfront in Portland, Maine
- Venture into Acadia National Park in Bay Harbour
- Visit one of the region's oldest cities, Gloucester, made famous by the book Captain Courageous- Beach hop in stylish Cape Cod



PLACES TO STAY

- DoubleTree Downtown - Boston, Massachusetts
- Christmas Farm Inn & Spa - Jackson, New Hampshire
- Hyatt Place - Portland, Maine
- The Bluenose - Bay Harbour, Maine
- Ocean House - Kennebunkport, Maine
- Courtyard by Marriott - Cape Cod, Massachusetts

GOOD TO KNOW

If you visit during autumn, the landscape is set ablaze with gorgeous orange, yellow and red foliage. It's cold but worth it for the pictures!

If you're feeling adventurous, search for glamping sites along the way instead of your standard hotel accommodation. Glamping Hub has plenty on offer for various budgets.

Save a bit of money by making it a loop trip and dropping the rental car back in Boston.



TOP 5 ROAD TRIPS IN THE USA

GREAT RIVER ROAD

America's mightiest river, the Mississippi, runs for an epic 3,700 kilometres (2,350 miles) down the length of the US, flowing from its source in Lake Itasca in Northern Minnesota and spills out into the Gulf of Mexico on the country's southern border.

Weaving along and over it is the Great River Road, one of the most famous road trips in the US. Though the road follows a slightly more direct route from North to South, you'll still need at least two weeks to do this at a leisurely pace.

Pick up your rental car in Minneapolis and prepare for an epic 1,400 mile journey to New Orleans.

THINGS TO SEE ON THE WAY

- Pine forests and rugged wilderness at Lake Itasca State Park
- Bird watching along the river in Alma, Wisconsin
- World's Largest Beer Bottle in Potosi
- Gateway Arch and the Art Museum in St Louis
- Explore the birthplace of Rock 'n' Roll in Memphis
- Spot alligators at Maurepas Swamp
- Take a dinner cruise on an old steamboat in New Orleans

GOOD TO KNOW

Take a detour out of Memphis and visit Graceland, the home of Elvis Presley.

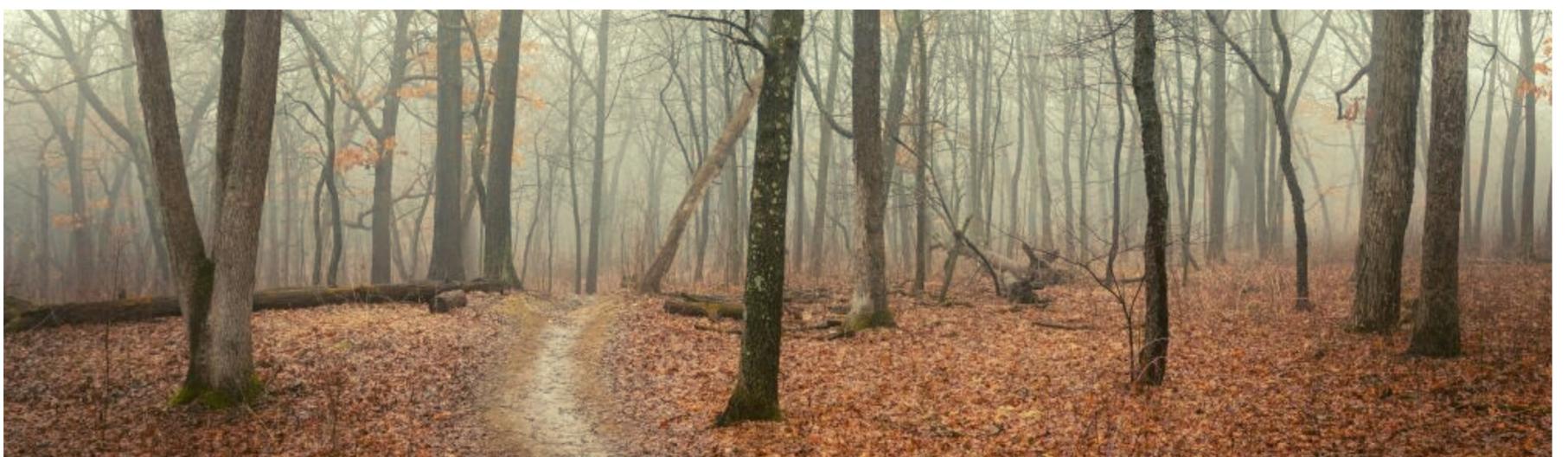
The Great River Road is fairly well sign posted with green pilot's wheel and steamboat icons adorning signs at junctions, but you'll want to have a GPS as a back up.

Some of the best, most hearty meals you'll ever eat can be found along the road side in unassuming restaurants and diners. Think filling comfort foods like mac 'n' cheese, ribs and burgers.



PLACES TO STAY

- Hilton Minneapolis - Minnesota
- The Current Iowa, Autograph Collection - Davenport, Iowa
- Redstone Inn & Suites - Galena, Illinois
- Hyatt Regency at the Arch - St Louis, Missouri
- Guest House at Graceland
- WATERMARK - Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- French Quarter Mansion - New Orleans, Louisiana



TOP TIPS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

01 CAR HIRE

Consult with a travel agent or do some research online to find out which rental companies offer the best rates. Because you'll be picking up and dropping off the car in two different locations, you'll want to be aware of all the costs involved.

02 CHOOSING YOUR RIDE

Pick something comfortable and fuel efficient. Smaller cars may be more affordable but they'll start to feel a little claustrophobic after several days behind the wheel. Sports cars, while they look great and are super fun to drive, will burn through the petrol much quicker than a standard car.

03 RELOCATION RENTALS

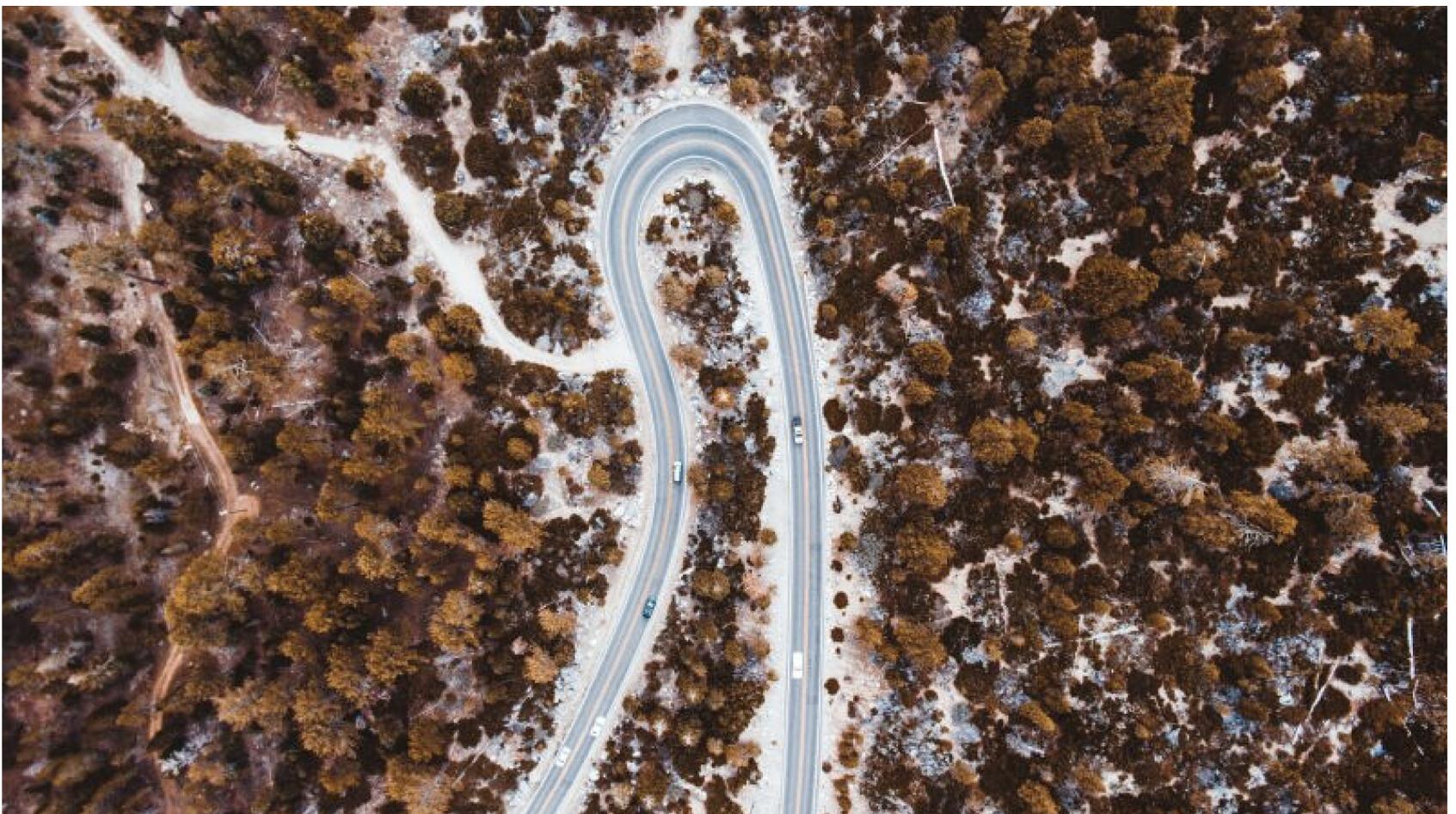
You can sometimes find cars or motorhomes that need to be relocated and can be rented for a much lower price, but you only have a limited time to get the car from A to B so there isn't a lot of flexibility.

04 INTERNATIONAL DRIVERS LICENSE

A standard English drivers license is widely accepted across the country, however, picking up an international driving permit is a safe bet. Most car rentals companies require you to have held a license for at least 12 months and be 25-years or older.

05 DRIVING ON THE "WRONG SIDE"

In the US, cars drive on the right-hand side of the road. It might take a little while to get used to but if you follow the traffic and keep your wits about you, you'll be just fine.



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