

April 2016

# **NO BOUNDARIES FOR US**

Inspiration for the inexperienced traveler

Oh! Ohio	16
Montreal, Quebec	56
How to break into camping or RV'ing	70

A [DougBardwell.com](http://DougBardwell.com) Publication

Travel, tech, photography and more

April 2016,

Hello readers,

We've got a lot of ground to cover this month.

Many of you have mentioned you wanted more info about [camping and RV'ing](#), so we are starting a multi-month series on how to get started with each one.

Also, we are offering something we've never done before - making our magazine [available for private branding](#). If you've got a mailing list, and would like to send out **No Boundaries For Us** with your own branding, we can help you make that happen. Drop us a note at [NB4U@dougwardwell.com](mailto:NB4U@dougwardwell.com) and we can show you how easy and affordable it would be. If you know of someone who might benefit, please let them know about this offer.

Leading off the magazine this month are two more counties in [Virginia](#) to add to the ones we covered last month.

One of the hottest destinations now is Cuba. If you are lucky enough to score a trip, we've got some housing ideas for you.

[Ohio](#) is our feature state this month and we've got a slew of suggestions for you if you find your way to the Buckeye State.

Two new attractions in Finland and Norway will give you a reason to try out Norwegian Air, one of our favorite airlines.

[Montreal](#), Quebec is our international destination of the month and it's a city that always has something of interest happening. Summer is a wonderful time to make the trip. There's even a special attraction that your daughters or granddaughters would love.

Check out our top 10 lists with international trip suggestions or the USA's top small city getaway destinations.

As usual, there are tech and photography gear recommendations, photography tips and Kickstarter campaigns you might want to jump on.

As always, Get Up and Get Outdoors. Enjoy!

Doug

# In This Issue:

	Virginia	4
	Lynchburg	6
	Loudoun	10
	Homestay Cuba	12
	Ohio	16
	Cleveland	18
	Akron	26
	Lake Erie Shores & Islands	32
	Columbus	40
	Special Offer for advertisers	44
	Artisan Travel trip to Finland	46
	Wolf Lodge	48
	Gadgets for photographers	50
	Ten places to go in 2016	52
	Montreal on a budget	56
	Events in Montreal	61
	Barbie museum in Montreal	62
	Top 10 small town getaways	64
	Travel tidbits you need to know	66
	Photo tip of the month	68
	Camping and RV'ing	70
	REI new app	78
	Navy Pier - Chicago	80
	Kickstarter campaigns to watch	82
	Next month	83
	Past issues	84



# Virginia

**Lynchburg**  
VIRGINIA

*Trending Accessible!*

2X daily round-trip Amtrak service from/to D.C.

66  
29  
81  
64  
95  
460  
D.C.  
C'ville  
Lynchburg  
Appomattox  
Richmond

**VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS**

**DiscoverLynchburg.org**



Amid the Blue Ridge Mountains and along the James River, Lynchburg, Virginia has always been trending. Named for John Lynch who started a ferry service to cross the James River, Lynchburg grew prosperous as a tobacco trading town and at times throughout its history, Lynchburg ranked as one of the wealthiest communities per capita in the nation. This affluence fueled construction of extraordinary buildings giving downtown an array of 19th and 20th century structures in a wide variety of architectural styles.

Through a recent downtown renaissance, many of these historic structures have been renewed into diverse restaurants, unique shops, and enticing attractions creating a lively urban scene with galleries, theatres and music venues. Warm hospitality and engaging sites include the Lynchburg Museum in the Old Courthouse, Point of Honor historic residence, the well storied Old City Cemetery & Arboretum, National Medal winning Amazement Square Children's Museum, poet Anne Spencer's House & Garden and scenic hiking/biking trails throughout the city and along James River tributaries, make Lynchburg the perfect place to reinvigorate!

Explore our regional treasures like the Blue Ridge Parkway, one of the most visited national parks in

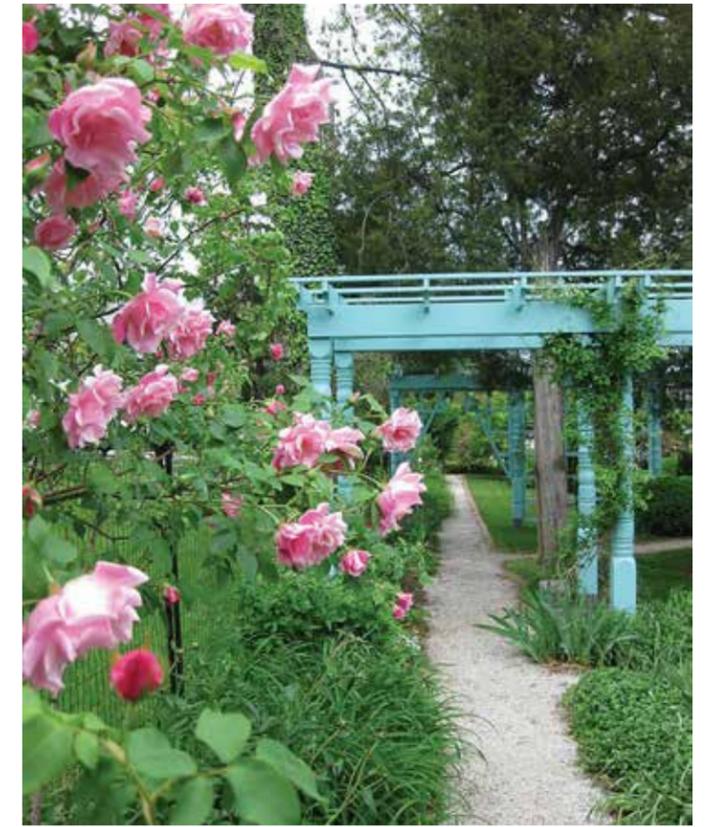




the county; Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest, who once called Lynchburg "the most interesting spot in the state"; the National D-Day Memorial honoring the fallen soldiers of World War II; and Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, where America's Civil War came to a close.

With many wineries, breweries and even a meadery in the Lynchburg area, adventurers in the culinary and potable delights will enjoy the diverse, eclectic options with something for everyone including vegetarians, vegans, gluten free diners and farm-to-table connoisseurs.

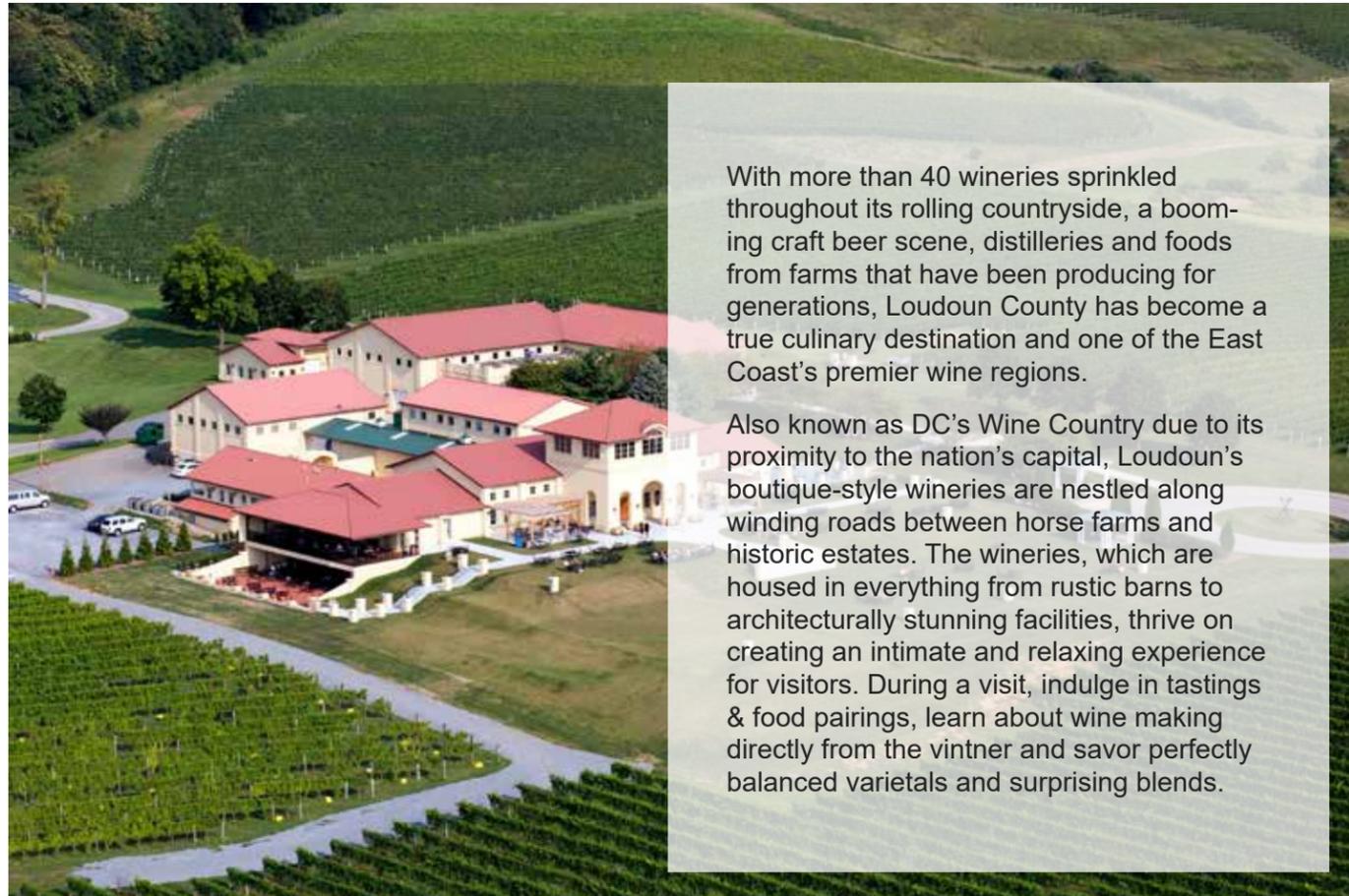
Lynchburg is accessible via Amtrak on both the North East Regional and Crescent lines and has its own regional airport with flights arriving daily. So, come to [Lynchburg, Virginia](https://www.lynchburgva.com/) where you'll be Trending Memories!





Discover your next culinary adventure in DC's Wine Country

# Loudoun, VA



With more than 40 wineries sprinkled throughout its rolling countryside, a booming craft beer scene, distilleries and foods from farms that have been producing for generations, Loudoun County has become a true culinary destination and one of the East Coast's premier wine regions.

Also known as DC's Wine Country due to its proximity to the nation's capital, Loudoun's boutique-style wineries are nestled along winding roads between horse farms and historic estates. The wineries, which are housed in everything from rustic barns to architecturally stunning facilities, thrive on creating an intimate and relaxing experience for visitors. During a visit, indulge in tastings & food pairings, learn about wine making directly from the vintner and savor perfectly balanced varietals and surprising blends.



Continue the culinary journey through Loudoun with a visit to one of the county's farm-to-table restaurants set in structures that reflect Loudoun's agricultural past including former mills, historic taverns and even a conservatory featuring stunning sunset views of the Potomac River. Craft beer lovers can explore the LoCo Ale Trail where 17 breweries offer tastings, tours and special events throughout the year.

Loudoun offers a variety of unique experiences that expand beyond the food and wine scene. History buffs can discover where America happened as they travel The Journey Through Hallowed Ground, tour pristinely maintained historic estates and stroll through villages filled with everything from unique, fashionable boutiques to country stores, bake shops and equestrian establishments that connect visitors to Loudoun's famed horse country.

With access to the waterways, public parks and Virginia hills, Loudoun is also a haven for outdoor enthusiasts. Soar across the tree tops with a zipline tour, kayak down the Shenandoah or Potomac rivers, bike down the W&OD Trail or relax with an outdoor yoga class at a vineyard.

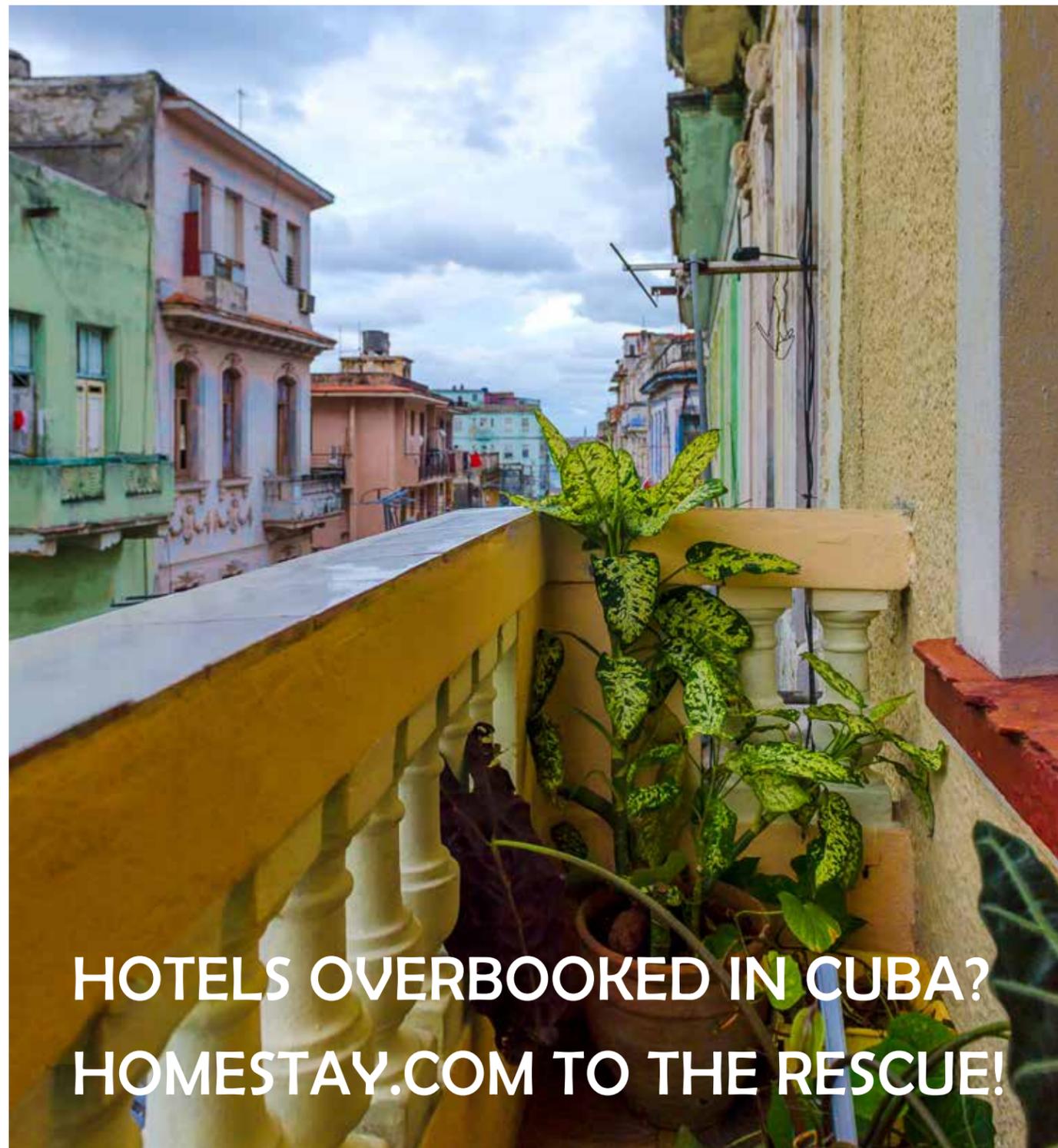
For more information on DC's Wine Country, visit [www.visitloudoun.org](http://www.visitloudoun.org)



Photos clockwise: 50 West Vineyard; Adroid Theory; Clydes Willow Creek Farm, Salamader Zip at Empower Adventures. Opposite lower left: Breaux Vineyards; top left: Winery 32.

Zipline photo credit: Visit Loudoun  
All others credit: Aboud Dweck





## HOTELS OVERBOOKED IN CUBA? HOMESTAY.COM TO THE RESCUE!

**Living with and like Locals Enriches Cultural Experience;**

**Stylish, Comfortable Accommodations, Friendly, Knowledgeable Hosts,  
Astonishingly Affordable Rates**

With the lifting of the travel ban to Cuba in 2015, US travelers are flocking to taste a forbidden culture, still preserved in mid20th century amber, before the tides of modernization rush in. Travelers are finding, however, that the time warp experience comes with a price – a very limited number of hotel rooms. Enter [Homestay.com](http://Homestay.com), the online accommodation marketplace where travelers can rent rooms in private homes, with hosts present throughout the stay to ensure their comfort and security while sharing insider knowledge of all things Cuban.

Since its founding in 2013, Homestay.com has grown to 50,000 listings in more than 150 countries – and Havana leads the top 10 most popular cities for US travelers, followed by cities in Asia, Europe and South America. Fortunately for travelers to Cuba, Homestay.com boasts hundreds of rooms throughout the island-nation. Mainly concentrated in bustling Havana, they are also found in the artistic enclave of Trinidad and in rural Vinales, where majestic karst domes tower over rolling tobacco fields. As part of the Homestay.com family, these Cuban hosts cater to travelers from all over the world couples, families and solo travelers alike. Now, US travelers frustrated by hotel room shortages are discovering Homestay.com as the answer to their prayers.

They are also discovering the perks that come with the personal touch, such as attentive service and prices far below hotel rates. Many hosts go out of their way to arrange airport transfers, tours, visits to attractions, bicycle rentals, restaurant reservations, transportation to other Cuban locales and more. Hosts usually speak several languages, including English. Accommodations, often in renovated colonial buildings, are comfortable and stylish, many with cool tile floors and balconies. Breakfast is always included, and many hosts are happy to provide optional meals.

### **Hosts at Heart of Cuban Homestay Experience**

For Homestay.com travelers, finding the right host is crucial, and Homestay.com makes onscreen searching easy by destination and dates, with filters for desired amenities, catering, pets and hobbies. During the booking process, guests and hosts can get acquainted via the online messaging system that includes a videophone option. Hosts like to know guests' reasons for traveling, age, interests and special requirements to prepare a proper welcome, and guests can get all their questions answered.

In Havana, a search might turn up great homestays such as these and many more:



Maritza and her two daughters, trained engineers all, offer two double rooms with private bath starting at \$27 per night in their fully renovated spacious apartment in Havana's Vedado district, a 10minute walk from the Malecon sea wall. They are into bicycling, football, photography, computer games and mountain biking, and have hosted guests from the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Germany, Canada, Mexico and New Zealand, earning rave reviews on their Homestay.com page:

*"I could not have hoped for a better family to stay with. I feel I have made lifelong friends and am so grateful for the fantastic memories, meals, conversations, laughter and hugs. I have never before been made to feel so welcome and at home."* Louise, New Zealand

Also in Havana, Pedro's Casa S is just a block from the sea. He and his wife enjoy learning languages, sports and travel. They rent two double rooms with new air conditioning sleeping a total of six in a Spanish colonial house. Artistic and environmentally aware,



*bread, eggs and fruit and plenty of tea and coffee. The beds were very comfortable, always a hot shower and all very clean.” Helen, Ireland*

In Vinales, a lovely detached house is hosted by Idaisys, who enjoys gardening, learning languages, baseball, nature and socializing. She offers an air conditioned double room with separate entrance, two big beds and ensuite bathroom, starting at \$21 per night. Several terraces are available for playing dominos with the family or admiring the garden brimming with orchids and medicinal herbs. The rooftop terrace offers dazzling views of the high mogotes hills by day and the panoply of stars by night. Idaisys is a fount of information about hiking, horse riding, biking, canopy zipline tours, beaches and dance clubs. Her guests always feel that they’ve gotten the most out of their time in Cuba:

*“Our very clean and comfortable room exceeded expectations. We spent an evening on the rooftop terrace with a cold beer admiring the breathtaking Vinales landscape. We would highly recommend Casa Idaisys.” Michael & Aisling, Ireland*



they offer yoga mats for meditation and asanas. Charges start at \$27 per night. They too get rave reviews from their international guests:

*“Pedro collected us from the airport which was a great bonus. We were made to feel very welcome and were treated like family. Breakfast was lovely with nice*



#### About Homestay.com

Homestay.com is an accommodation marketplace dedicated to the homestay travel experience, where the host is present for every stay. With more than 50,000 hosts offering places to stay across some 150 countries, Homestay.com enables travelers to stay in the home of a local resident while they are there. Focused as much on people as it is on places, Homestay.com puts hosts at the heart of amazing travel experiences. Book at [www.homestay.com](http://www.homestay.com).



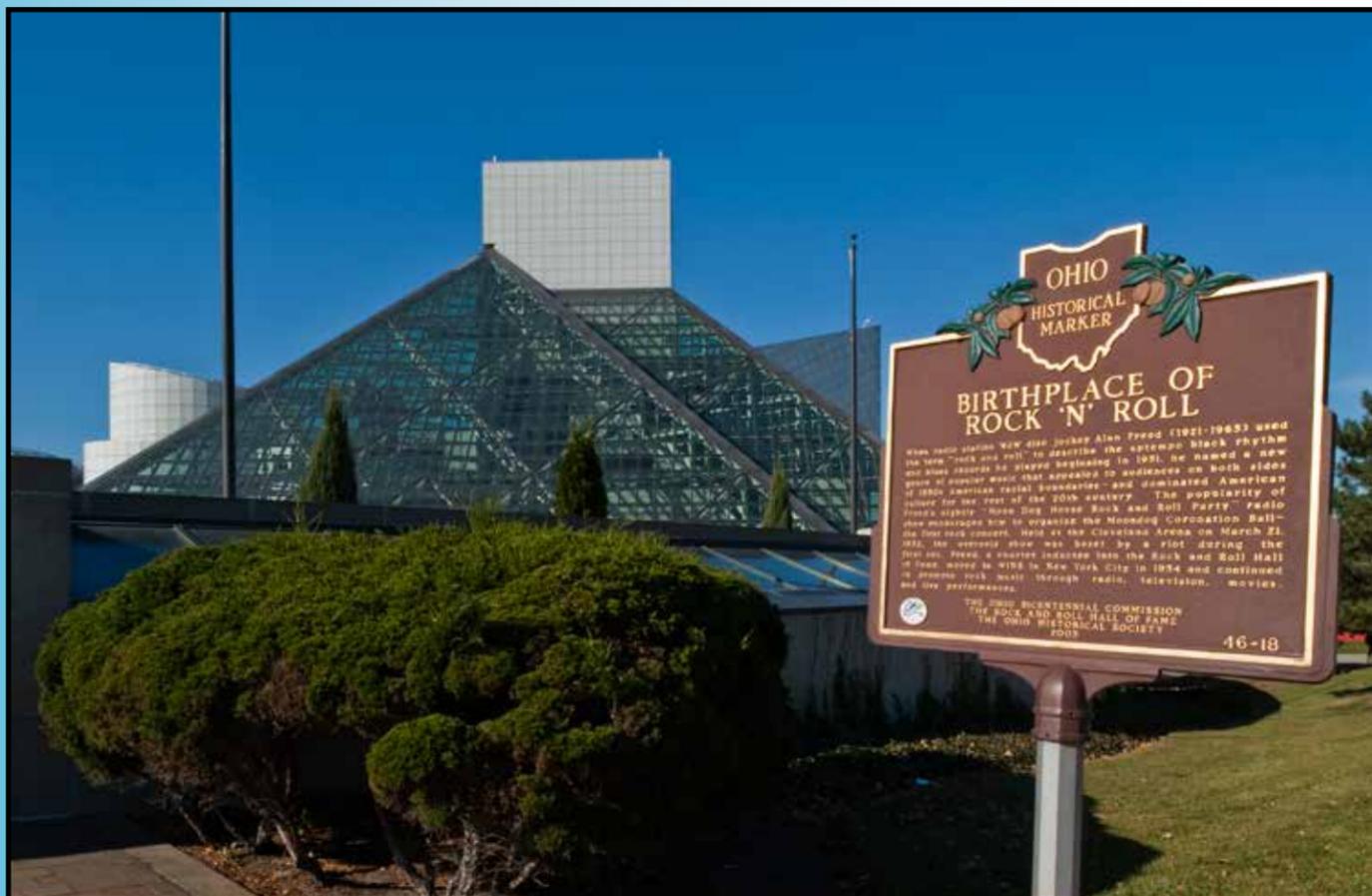
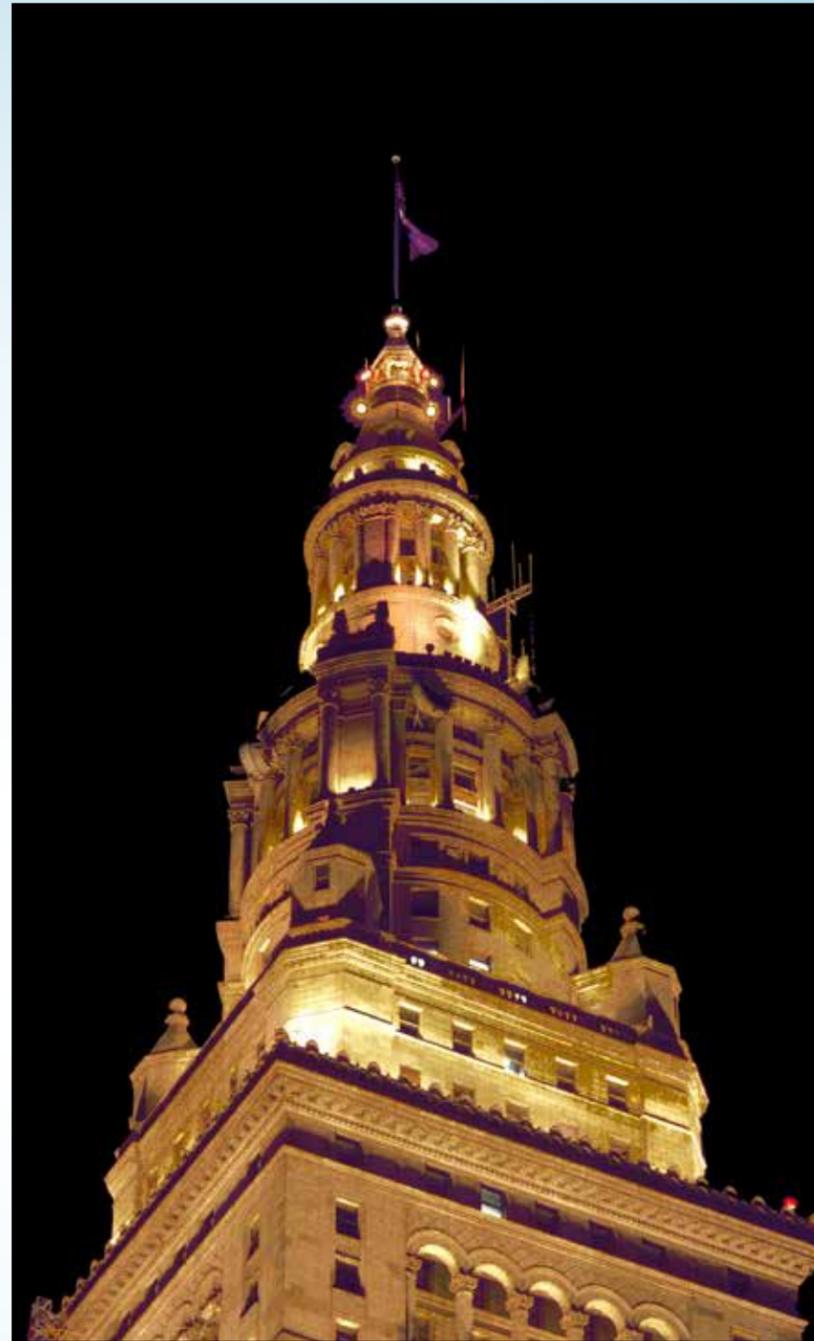


# OHIO

Home of the Pro Football Hall of Fame

# CLEVELAND

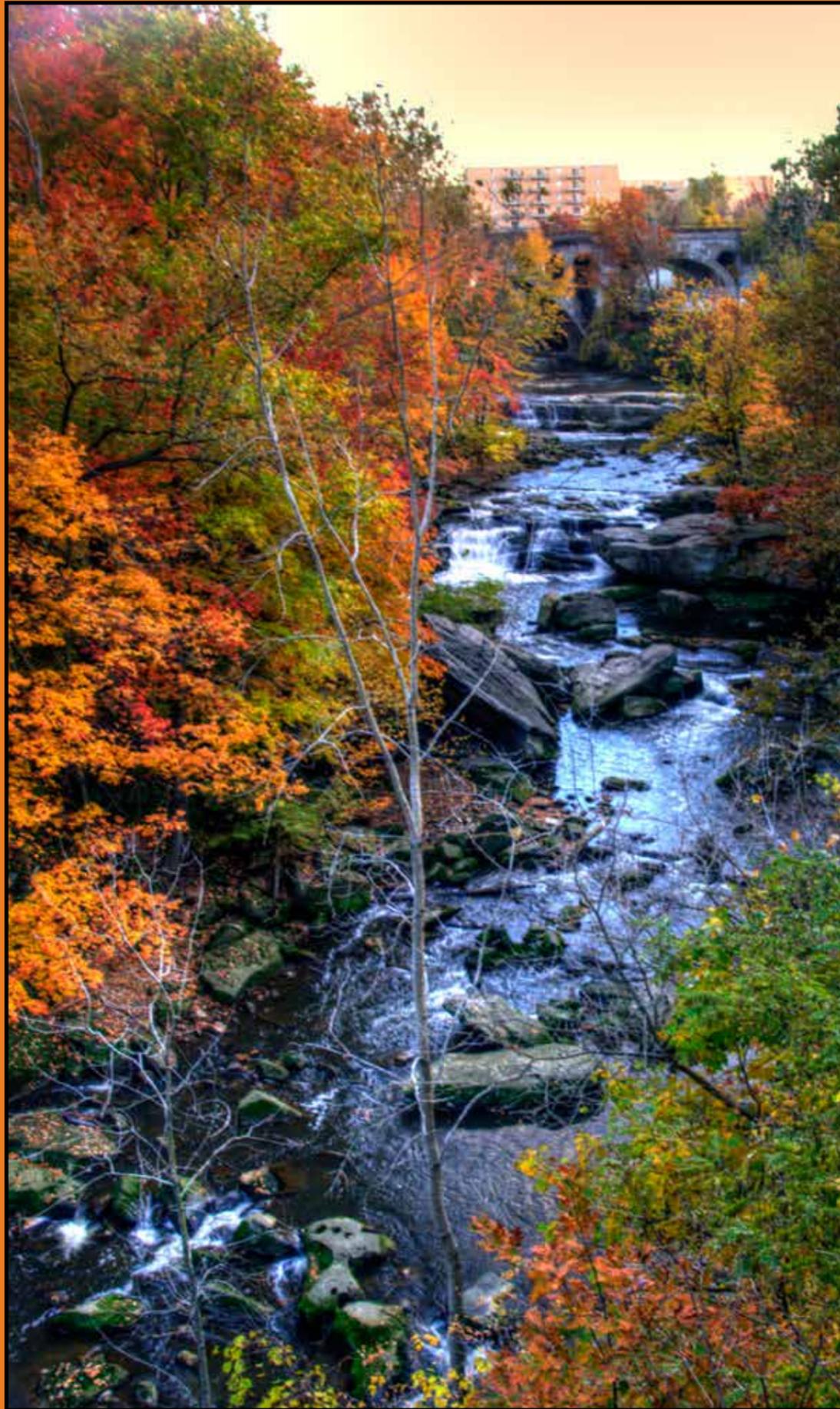


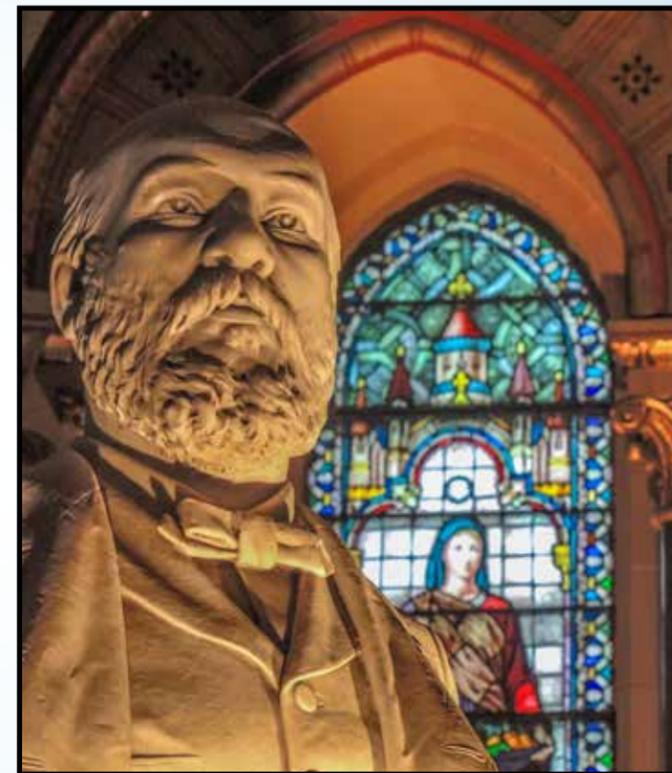


Having lived in the Cleveland area for over 60 years now, I still find it "The Best Location in the Nation" as the old jingle used to say. With its fabulous park system, its water features and a great library system, its got all the resources I need. Now, its become a great foodie destination as well, so what's not to love?

Here is a selection of views from the back of my camera, so you can see what I see every day here in exciting northeastern Ohio.

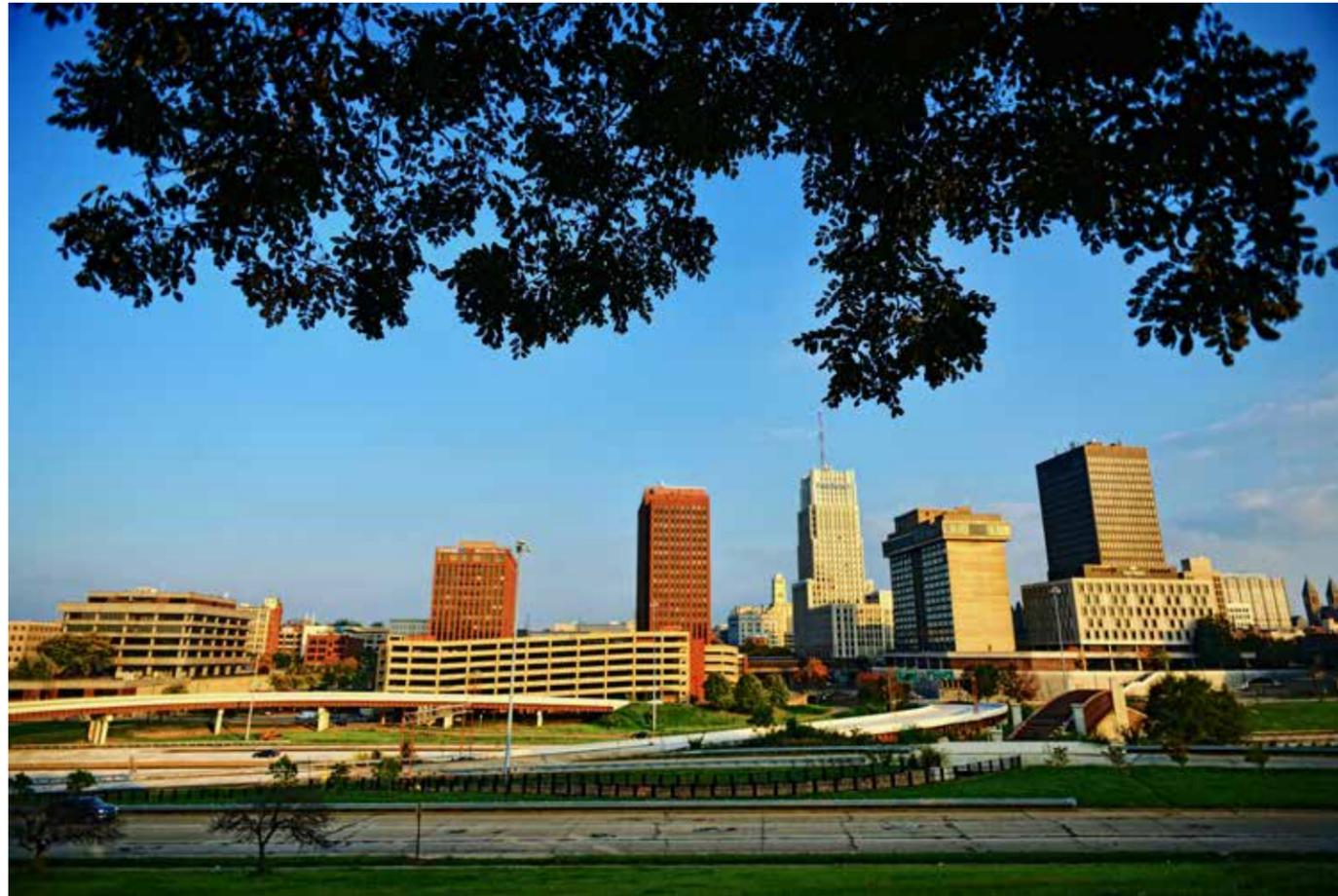






# Akron





Spring is finally here. In Greater Akron, that means the foliage along the Towpath Trail is starting to bloom, the birds have returned to Cuyahoga Valley National Park, the animals are out in the Akron Zoo, and it's time to start preparing for the festivities happening all summer long.

May brings the [Cherry Blossom Festival](#), where visitors can enjoy rides, music, food and shop from a variety of vendors. In July, watch kids fly down Derby Downs in the [FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby](#), a national event since 1934. August closes out the season with the [Word Golf Championships Bridgestone Invitational](#), [Twins Day Festival](#), and the [National Hamburger Festival](#).

Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Ohio's only national park and the 11<sup>th</sup> most visited in the nation, will be celebrating the National Park Service's 100th anniversary this summer. Visitors can wander off the beaten path and find the park by using the Ohio Erie & Canalway Towpath Trail, which runs through the heart of downtown Akron, or by hopping on the [Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad](#). CVNP boasts 33,000 acres of unimaginably beautiful areas to play, rest and recharge. CVNP will be hosting a variety of events to celebrate the National Park Service's centennial including concerts, educational programs, and a BioBlitz where visitors and scientists will attempt to identify every

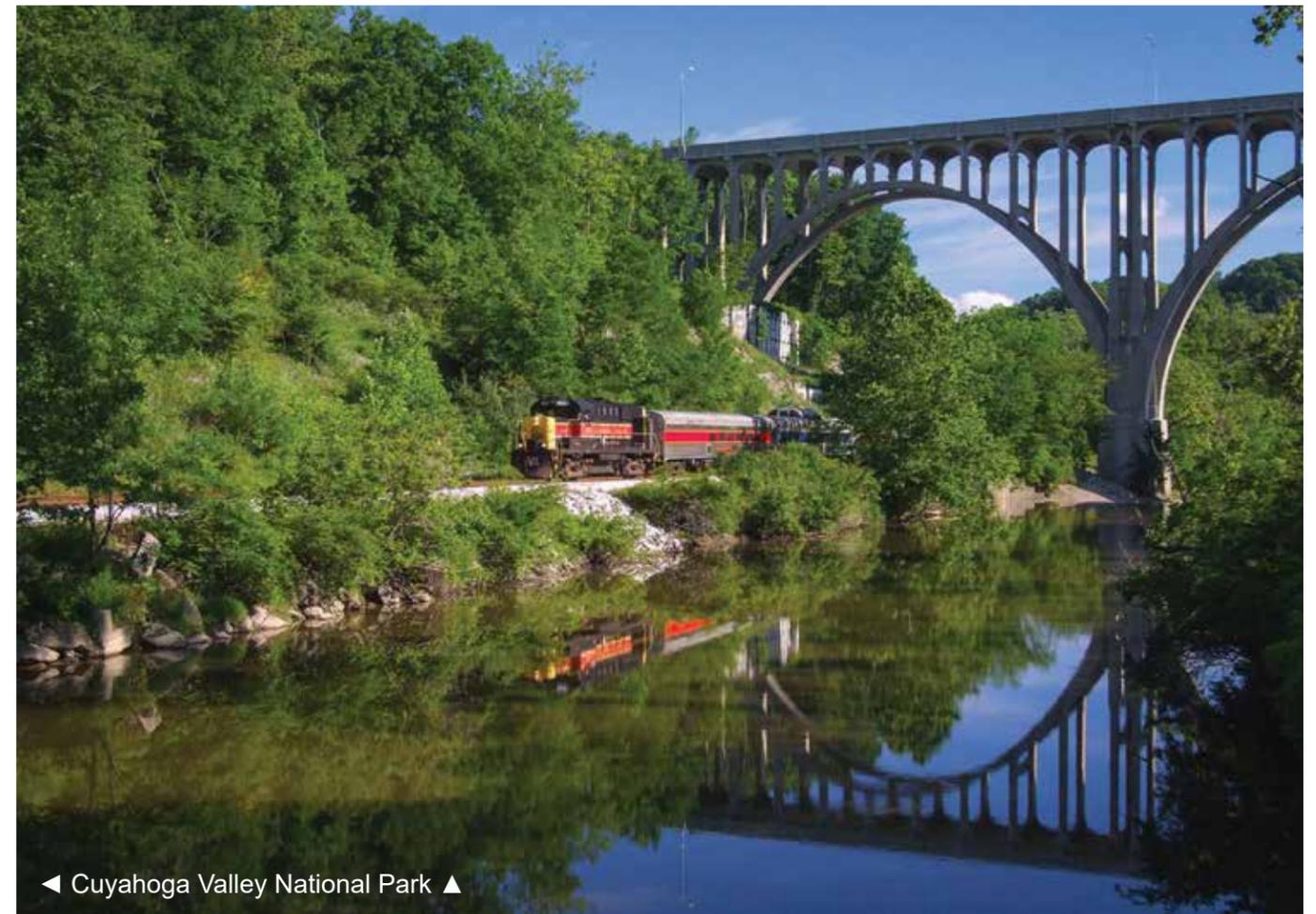


species in the park over a 24 hour period.

Inside the national park rests Blossom Music Center, where The Cleveland Orchestra will kick off the [Blossom Music Festival](#). Visitors can enjoy classical performances on the lawn from July all the way through September by the orchestra and other guests including Yo-Yo Ma, Pinchas Zuckerman, and Jean-Yves Thibaudet. Blossom is also

home to [Porthouse Theatre](#), which is home to a variety of plays June through August.

Just across the street from Blossom Music Center, you'll find [Sarah's Vineyard Winery & Art Gallery](#). Located inside Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Sarah's Vineyard Winery & Art Gallery is the only one of its kind established on National Park land – a truly coveted address. In collab-





Akron Zoo



Twins Day

oration with the park and National Park Service, Sarah's Vineyard's owners have become the stewards of land which was once home to a mid-1800 farm. Locally sourced ingredients comprise a deliciously inventive menu, including wood-fired pizzas, pasta and hearty soups, salads and sandwiches. Comfortable spaces include The Tasting Room, The Loft, The Garden, The Deck, and The Pavilion, which features an imposing, yet warmly-welcoming 3-story wood burning stone fireplace.

Those looking for more can visit [The Twisted Olive](#), a dining experience from the same people that brought you Gervasi Wines. Once home to the Belden family, The Twisted Olive has reimagined the estate's sprawling 16,000 sq. feet of living space to become one of Greater Akron's newest iconic dining experiences. Three-stories of smartly appointed dining rooms and unexpected spaces offer groups of all sizes a culinary event they will not soon forget. From their signature naked and smashed meatballs to the mouthwatering Sister Schubert's dinner rolls that accompany some of the most creatively prepared



Stan Hywet Hall

entrees you'll find anywhere, The Twisted Olive has one goal – satisfy even the most discriminating palate, time after time.

Greater Akron cities offer visitors the thrill of rich culture found in various major metropolitan areas without the headache. Art enthusiasts can explore the [Akron Art Museum](#), featuring an exhibit by DEVO co-founder and Akronite Mark Motherbaugh this summer, or other galleries including [Summit Artspace](#) and [Akrona](#), which feature local and touring exhibits. Those looking to catch a performance have a variety of playhouses and concert venues from which to choose including the [Akron Civic Theatre](#), one of five remaining atmospheric theaters in the nation. Guests who still haven't had their fill can look into Greater Akron's past at [Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens](#), [Hale Farm & Village](#), and [Perkins Stone Mansion](#).

With so much to do, it's hard to fit the Greater Akron experience into a single day. The area easily accessible by both highway and airport. Whatever your traveling preferences are, Akron has something for you. To plan your visit, go to [www.akron.travel](http://www.akron.travel) and create an experience that will be your very own.



# LAKE ERIE SHORES & ISLANDS



Ohio's Lake Erie Shores & Islands is a perfect active destination. One of the Midwest's hottest vacation spots, the region between Toledo and Cleveland provides a mix of gorgeous scenery and outdoor recreation. Find your Lake Erie Love while exploring the area's natural beauty.

#### Birding

Lake Erie Shores & Islands is largely regarded as one of the best places in North America for observing spring songbird migration due to the abundance of preserved ecosystems along marshy coasts and woodlands. It includes more than 15 areas designated by Audubon as "Important Bird Areas." Popular Magee



Marsh Wildlife Area was recently named Best Birdwatching Destination in the U.S. by a *USA Today* reader poll. Additional ideal habitats for birding include Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Kelleys Island, and Old Woman Creek State Nature Preserve among others. A diverse list of species entices birders from around the globe to visit each spring, including more than 30 species of warblers; masses of thrushes, vireos, flycatchers, and orioles; shorebirds, raptors, eagles, and an abundance of waterfowl.

*The Biggest Week in American Birding* returns to the "Warbler Capital of the World" May 6-15, 2016 for its seventh year. This ten day festival attracts bird watchers with its educational workshops, guided bus and boat trips, expert speakers, guided walks, visits to birding hot spots, and more.

#### Fishing

This Midwest U.S. destination is also known as the "Walleye Capital of the World." Anglers relish its Lake Erie location because there are many ways to fish the Great Lake. Choose a private charter that includes all the necessities, or a





walk-on “head boat.” Experienced boat captains take you where the fish are biting. Besides the renowned Walleye, Smallmouth Bass and Yellow Perch are also prized catches. There are varied options for those who prefer fishing from shore. Lakeside parks and piers make excellent fishing spots.

Golfing

Lake Erie Shores & Islands is also a great place to hit the links. More than a dozen golf courses provide variations for golfers of all skill levels and budgets. From quick-play executive courses to country club quality resort terrain, golfers enjoy challenging runs with captivating views and tremendous character. Many courses offer club rentals, so there’s no need to bring your own. Driving ranges, putting greens, and golf pros are also available at several clubs to assist with improving skills.

Championship-designed courses include the Arthur Hills-designed, private course at Catawba Island Club and the Tom Fazio-designed public course at Sawmill Creek Resort. Oak Harbor Golf Club on the banks of the Portage River and



Thunderbird Hills on the banks of the Huron River provide scenic views with challenging pars.

Hiking

The islands of Lake Erie, including Put-in-Bay, Middle Bass Island, and Kelleys Island, are ideal for hiking. Numerous trails dot the islands and

include opportunities for hikes of varying abilities. Trails take hikers around abandoned quarries, along sandy coastlines, through wildflower patches, and into the woods. On the mainland, fantastic metroparks as well as several nature preserves offer additional hiking pursuits. Choose from wide paved trails or head off-the-beaten-





path for a truly unique trek. Bring your binoculars because you might catch glimpse of local wildlife including bald eagles.

Biking

While the Lake Erie Islands are popular for their golf carts, they are also great for biking. The limited auto traffic makes the un-clogged roads safe for bikers. Bring your own bike on the ferry or rent one at one of several rental spots. Bike the perimeter roads for amazing lake

views or traverse the islands visiting popular attractions along the way. Bike rentals and trails are not limited to the islands either, as mainland communities embrace cyclers with designated bike lanes, marked trails, rentals, and services.

Visit

On top of the incredible outdoor recreation offered in Ohio's Lake Erie Shores & Islands, the region is well-known for its family attractions such as Cedar Point Amusement Park, Kalahari Waterpark, African Safari Wildlife Park and more. Plus a number of historic sites, lighthouses, wineries, breweries, and delicious dining make this destination one everyone should visit.



A variety of lodging options, from campgrounds and bed & breakfasts to condos and full-service resorts, are available throughout the region, with discount packages available. For more information on all there is to do in Ohio's Lake Erie Shores & Islands region, visit [SHOREsandISLANDS.com](http://SHOREsandISLANDS.com) or call 800.255.3743 and request a travel guide.

# COLUMBUS, OHIO



# Columbus Coffee Experience Expands with Five New Shops

In addition to being known world-wide for my beloved Ohio State Buckeyes, Columbus, Ohio is gaining recognition for their coffee scene. Here's a guest post about the latest additions to their Coffee Experience.

*This post is written by Matthew Lovett, a local freelance writer and former barista.*

Starting right now month, we're expanding the Columbus Coffee Trail from eight to 13 shops, making it more widespread than ever! While some of the new shops continue to showcase a specialty touch to coffee, others bring a no-fuss approach — if you want a flavored roast or a caramel latte, it's yours. Look below to see what shops we're adding and what they do best. For location info, head over to our [Participating Locations page](#).



## Crimson Cup

Roast magazine's Macro Roaster of the Year for 2016 is on the up-and-up. In 2015 they built a brand-spankin'-new roasting facility to coincide with a fresh Upper Arlington location. Whether you visit the new spot or go to the original Clintonville location, they're running a true-to-form coffee shop either way. They've got the normal espresso and manual brew offerings, but stay tuned into them because they're also known to tinker with drink recipes for delicious kicks. Crimson Cup has established themselves an authority in Columbus coffee, and there's no better time than now to pay a visit.



## Fox in the Snow Cafe

At Fox in the Snow, you can come for the food or the coffee. The house-made hand pies are stunning. And their egg sandwiches — don't get us started. And we can attest to the quality of their blueberry scones. If you can get past the vast selection of house-made pastries (good luck) they're rocking an excellent coffee set up as well. Their coffee's roasted outside of Ohio in Maine by Tandem Coffee Roasters. Tandem's the basis for all the usual espresso drinks, and if you just want coffee, you're getting it via Hario V60. Try the New Orleans iced coffee when the sun's out on full blast.

## Luck Bros' Coffee House

Tucked into Grandview is Luck Bros., one of the first shops to really hop on the specialty bandwagon in Columbus. They roast their own coffee onsite, and are huge proponents of craft coffee, going so far as to separate the classier espresso drinks from say,

the chocolatey blended kind. One can get drip coffee there, though I recommend a cup on the clever dripper for a more manicured, flavorful cup. Once your beverage is decided upon, complete your Luck Bros. experience with a piece of their homemade Breakfast Bake.

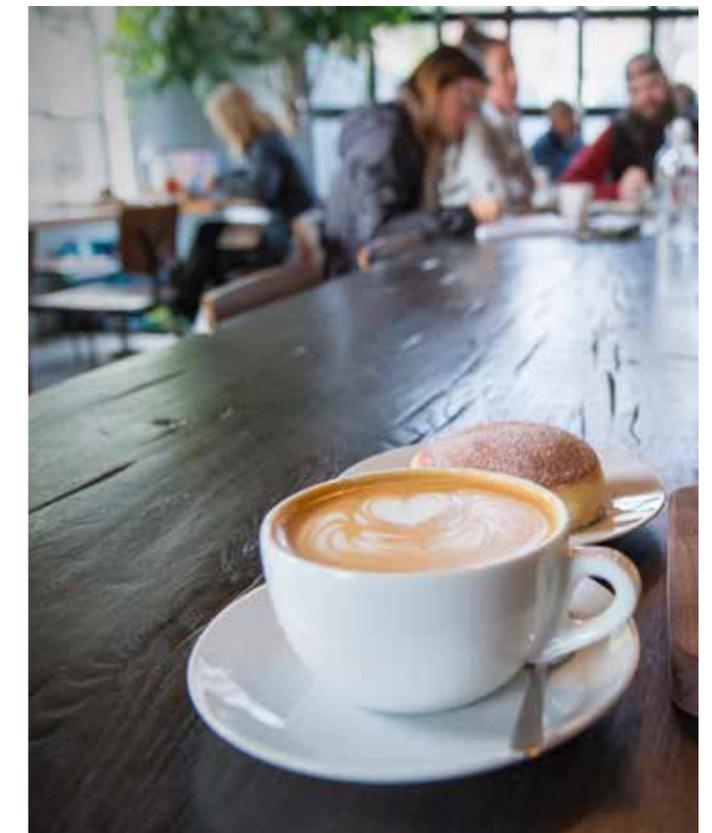
## Red Velvet Café

If you can believe it, there's a coffee shop in the popular stretch of new businesses on South Fourth Street downtown. Tucked among Mikey's Late Night Slice, Dirty Frank's, 16-Bit Bar + Arcade you'll find Red Velvet Café, a shop with One Line Coffee beans in tow that offers coffee drinks to complement their slew of pastries and Filipino-inspired sandwiches. Normal coffee and espresso drinks don't the menu, alongside international options such as Turkish and Vietnamese coffee. Varied menu aside, Red Velvet's finest characteristic might be how it caters to the taste buds of both nerdy and basic coffee drinkers alike.

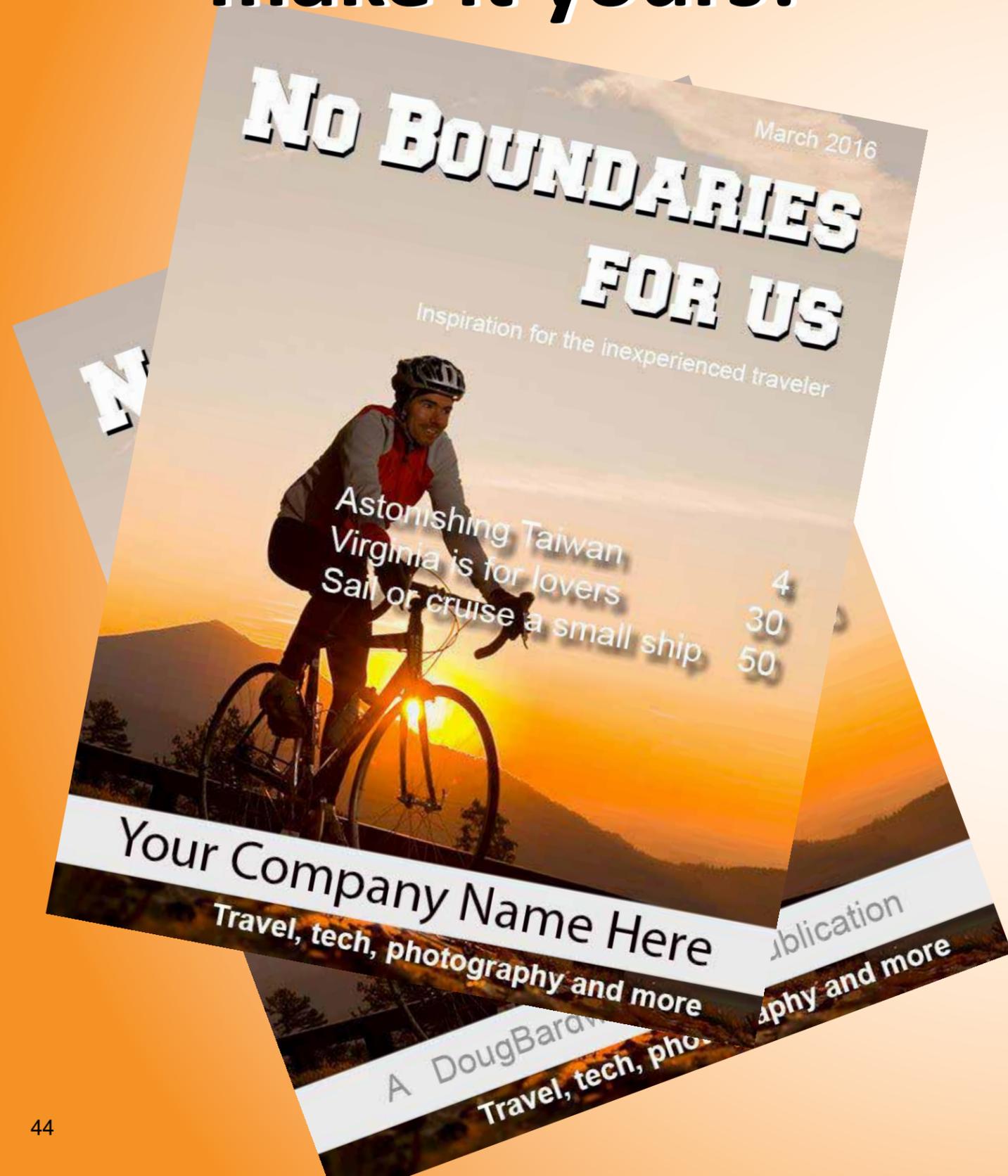
## Winan's Chocolates and Coffees

Head down German Village to catch up on Winan's, a company that's extended its reach all over Ohio to share its deep history of treat-making. They're best-known for their gargantuan assortment of candies, their coffee selection is still one to be reckoned with. Most of their coffees fall into the flavored category, and with labels like Blueberry Crumb Cake and Pecan Praline Brulee, it's easy to see why. (Don't worry, there's still a fair share of single origins for sale.) Winan's epitomizes that no-fuss coffee philosophy: if it tastes good, Winan's has you covered.

Watch the video below and read more about the Columbus Coffee Experience here: <http://www.cbuss-coffee.com/>



# Take our magazine and make it yours!



Is your company or organization involved in:

TRAVEL

TECHNOLOGY

PHOTOGRAPHY

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

ACTIVITIES FOR SENIORS

HEALTHY LIVING

You've already got your own mailing list. Now give your customers some content each month that they'll really appreciate.

Private branding opportunities now available at extremely reasonable rates and flexible terms. A high-quality newsletter to distribute to your mailing list with virtually no work on your part.

## BENEFITS:

- Your company or organization's name on the front cover.
- The back cover for your full page advertisement or calendar of events.
- Create your own "Letter from the editor page" if desired.
- Additional internal pages for your own content if desired.
- Membership on our editorial board - help us select monthly content.
- No need to involve your IT staff. Simply email a link to your list.
- Each issue will be kept online for a minimum of twelve months.
- Exclusivity available by geographic area or industry.
- Monthly reports will be issued so you'll know how many people are reading.

[Contact us for a no-obligation quote](#)



Fabulous Finland inclusive tour from Artisan Travel



The lakeside village of Torassieppi offers immersion in traditional culture and contemporary experiences on a six-night holiday available until the end of April.

Staying on a 19th century reindeer farm, gain an insight into the life led by reindeer and their herders, and learn the importance of this special and historical bond in Finnish culture. Have a go at the ancient Sámi



pastime of plaiting colourful woollen ribbons called pirtanauhu, used as belts and bootlaces, and learn how to cook traditional Lappish dishes using local and organic ingredients.

Contrast a homely setting and rustic activities with a stay in the neon-lit Torassieppi Winter Village, with ten snow rooms, an ice bar and restaurant, or try glamping in brand new Aurora Domes - completely insulated, igloo-shaped tents with one transparent wall facing northwards for prime views of the unpolluted skies. Spend daylight hours in the wilderness expe-

riencing a 25km husky safari, exploring on snowshoes or trying cross-country skiing, and search for the Northern Lights at night.

If you've never been in a traditional smoke sauna, your chance comes on this trip. A savusauna doesn't have a chimney; smoke from burning wood fills the room, taking around five hours to heat, and is released via a small opening. The smoky heat feels soft and velvety, perfect for soothing the body after a day of exhilarating activity.

Artisan Travel's six-night trip costs from £1,735 pp (two sharing) including return flights (Heathrow to Kittila), transfers, five nights' full-board accommodation at the Torassieppi Reindeer Farm, one night full-board at the Winter Village, encounters with reindeer and herders, craft-making, cookery class, Arctic spa and smoke sauna, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and husky safari. Additional Dome stay per night is £115 pp. Departures until 24 April.

For more information, please see [www.artisantravel.co.uk](http://www.artisantravel.co.uk), or call 01670 785 085.



Photos by: Antti Pietikainen

## SPEND A NIGHT AMONG THE WOLVES IN THE NEW "WOLF LODGE" IN NARVIK, NORWAY

New "Northern Lights Gondola Adventure" Further Positions Narvik as the Next Arctic Tourism Hot Spot



Photo by: Markus Eriksson

Polar travel and Northern Lights experts, Off the Map Travel, invite adventurous travelers to Narvik, Norway to spend a night with wolves at the new Wolf Lodge and search for the Northern Lights through the new "Night with the Wolves" package. The newly opened lodge is the only one of its kind, offering a chance to observe wolves close-up in their natural Arctic environment.

The lodge is set inside a wolf enclosure at Polar Park, the world's northernmost wildlife park. Separated from the wolves only by the lodge's wooden walls and oversized windows, guests will enjoy a cozy stay and wolf viewing in the lodge by night, and experience a supervised, face-to-face Wolf Kiss with the socialized wolves by day. A wolf expert and guide accompanies guests throughout their



stay. Polar Park is located 72km from the harbor town of Narvik, in the heart of the Salangsdalen Valley. The park is home to a wide selection of native Arctic animals including wolverine, Arctic fox, bears, lynx, reindeer and wolves.

With a Scandinavian pine design inspired by modern Norwegian farmhouses, the Wolf Lodge can comfortably accommodate 10 guests. Intimate with a rustic feel, the lodge features an open-plan area with a fully equipped kitchen and hand-crafted dining table, and a living room which looks out onto the wolves. Five guest rooms and a shared bathroom are located on the lower level.

Enhancing the Arctic wolf experience is a hunt for the Northern Lights, either from the warmth of the Wolf Lodge, or as part of a new Lights at the Lodge gondola adventure led by a Northern Lights expert. Traveling up Narvik Mountain (Narvikfjellet) and overlooking the port of Narvik and the fjord beyond, the gondola ride leads to a striking two-floor lodge at the mountain summit. Here guests can stay warm inside while enjoying refreshments and awaiting the colors of the Aurora, or opt for an outdoors experience from one of the lodge's three viewing platforms, situated for optimal Northern Lights clarity and photography.



Pal Jacobsen

If weather precludes the gondola from running, a second lodge located half-way up the mountain is reachable by road and a short walk.

A four-day, three-night "Night with the Wolves" itinerary to Narvik with Off the Map Travel is priced from £2299 per person (approximately \$3150 USD as of this writing), based on four travelers, excluding flights. The program includes all transfers, one night at the new Wolf Lodge with dinner and a guide, a Wolf Kiss to meet the wolves face-to-face, accommodation for two nights in a four-star hotel with breakfast daily, a hunt for the Northern Lights from the hotel's sky bar, a boat trip along the fjord to search for wildlife, and the new "Lights at the Lodge" Aurora hunt up Narvik Mountain (Narvikfjellet) with a guide.

For more information about visiting Narvik on a Northern Lights adventure, visit [www.offthemaptravel.co.uk](http://www.offthemaptravel.co.uk) or [www.ILoveNorthernLights.com](http://www.ILoveNorthernLights.com), call +44 (0) 800 566 8901 or email [info@offthemaptravel.co.uk](mailto:info@offthemaptravel.co.uk).



### [Bestek 300W Power Inverter](#)

In a form slightly larger than your fist, the Bestek 300W is compact but solid. In a bright red color case, it's easy to spot when you need it. Even the most mechanically challenged person on the planet will have no problem with this – just plug it into the cigarette lighter of your car and turn it on.

Having used other inverters in the past, I was surprised how quiet this one is in comparison. A small fan noise is all you hear while it works away providing 110v or USB power wherever and whenever you need it.

It comes with a three-foot cord, making it just long enough to reach the back seat for kids who want to power their games or DVD players. With all the electronics carried by a typical family of four, there never seems to be enough power to go around. Now there is.



## More great gadgets for photographers

### [Panasonic remote controlled Panorama 360° pan head](#)

Panning and zooming are the two most common motions in video, and while every video camera can handle zooming quite smoothly, none offer any assistance with panning. For that, you need a good fluid head for your tripod...until now.

With the Polaroid panorama pan head, you can flip open its three clever "feet" and sit it on any horizontal surface, or screw it to any tripod, slider or selfie stick with the 1/4"x20 screw hole at the bottom.

The pan head will hold any smartphone or small tablet with a unique and easy to attach screw mount. It also comes with a Go-Pro tripod mount.



### [3Pod Orbit 3-section carbon fiber tripod](#)

can be that bridge between an amateur's budget and the quality of a pro's arsenal. There aren't many substitutes for a good tripod, and video shot without one is immediately apparent. Don't ruin those precious travel videos with shaky footage.

The Orbit 3-section is ideal for quick setup in the field with just two quick-flip locks on each leg. They firmly grasp the legs, even under a full load. For even more flexibility, the Orbit head rises up and out of the center brace, swiveling a full 90° so that your camera can point straight down. This is great for small creatures or shots of flowers in front of a distracting background.

[My Cloud EX2 Ultra](#) has been upgraded with a powerful 1.3 GHz dual-core processor enabling users to get ultra-fast transfer rates for high performance and smooth video streaming. Users also have access to 1 GB of DDR3 memory, allowing them to multitask with ease and leverage applications for HD media streaming, surveillance and much more. Several data management and security features allow users to select a preferred method for managing and protecting their movies, photos, music and digital files.

With simplified file and folder sharing, users can send customized, private links that allow recipients read/write access to particular files on the user's My Cloud EX2 Ultra. Whether on a photo shoot, or editing at home, saving creations at full fidelity and sharing with your entire network is a breeze. With MyCloud.com web access, or the My Cloud mobile app, users can access their media and manage users from any internet connected device. With WD Sync™, users can automatically synchronize their media and files across their computers and their My Cloud device with the confidence that their computer content is up to date and accessible from all devices.



# Ten Places to Go in 2016



The world is changing rapidly, and with change comes new travel opportunities. Many developing nations are now embracing tourism, and once forbidden regions are emerging as bucket list destinations.

Whether searching for mountain gorillas in Rwandan jungles, trekking the glaciers of Greenland with a climate change scientist, sipping yak butter tea with nomads in Mongolia, or strolling the bazaars of Iran, we're excited about these destinations in 2016.

1. **Mongolia** - Mongolia's endless grassland and



desert steppe make a dramatic backdrop for the tiny round gers of lone nomadic families. Buddhist monasteries mark the vague tracks across the steppe and the annual festival, Naadam, still showcases nomadic skills. But times are about to change: Geologists and miners are searching for riches under the ground, and the government plans to pave roads connecting all provinces to capital Ulaanbaatar by 2020. <http://www.mircorp.com/trip/siberia-mongolia-spirits-nomads/>

2. **Iceland** - The scenery is dramatic, beautiful, nearly absent of trees, and littered with volcanic lava. The visual splendor of the island can be enjoyed on foot, vehicle, bike, boat, or horse. Iceland boasts



amazing brown trout and char fishing and is a mecca for salmon fishermen. It is as famous for its gastronomic delights, too. Add to that an Icelandair Stop-over promotion that lets travelers spend up to seven nights in Reykjavik en route to their final destination at no additional airfare. Iceland-based low-cost carrier WOW Airlines also continues to expand in North America. <http://www.frontiersiceland.com/>

3. **Greenland** - Greenland offers fantastic landscapes of pristine beauty, exotic, arctic wildlife and abundant northern lights. The spring provides a taste of the beauty of Greenland during a time of the year when the snow and sea ice are still thick enough for dog sledding and the saltwater fish are biting. Late April is dark enough at night to see the magnificent Northern Lights, and this time of year is also one of the best to see the magnificent wild musk-ox herd near Kangerlussuaq. March 2016 will welcome the international Arctic Winter Games to capital Nuuk, along with a song, food and dance festival. <http://bigchilladventure.com/trips/greenland-spring-in-the-arctic/>



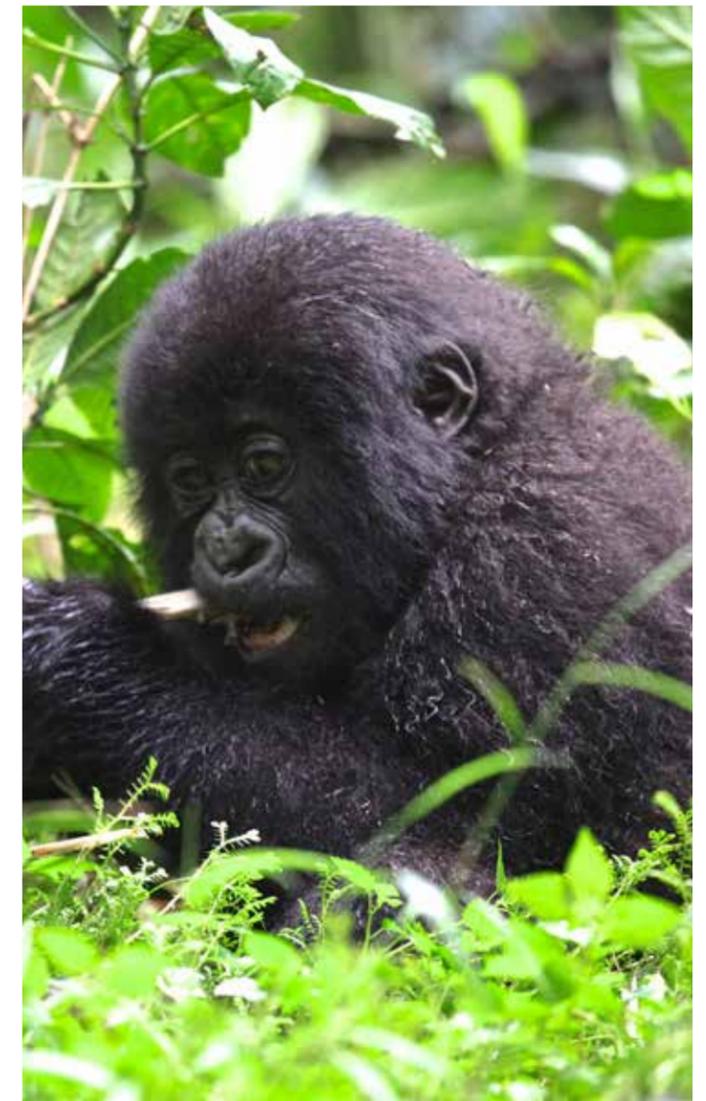
Photo by Mindy Cambiar

4. **Iran** - Once the seat of the mighty Persian Empire, Iran is a complex place of searing beauty with shapely domes, mosaic-clad minarets and



arched madrassahs set against a brilliant blue sky. With a culture that prizes hospitality above all, the people of Iran pride themselves on being friendly and warm to travelers, wherever they are from. The easing of diplomatic relations is resulting in added flight routes, while travel insurance and visas are becoming easier to obtain. The reopening of the British Embassy this year is another good thing for Iran travel. <http://www.mircorp.com/destinations/iran/>

5. **Rwanda** - Encounter some of the last remaining mountain gorillas in the world by trekking into the lush forests of Rwanda, home to hundreds of species of birds and numerous waterfalls. Explore Kigali, one of Africa's cleanest, safest, and most progressive cities, and visit the important genocide memorial. Track chimpanzees and the beautiful golden monkey, and keep an eye out for elephants and buffalo. Enjoy a boat ride on the massive Lake Kivu, spend time relaxing on the beach, and enjoy some of the world's best coffee. <http://gondwanaecotours.com/portfolio/gorilla-trekking-in-rwanda/>



6. **Georgia** - The little country of Georgia is a gorgeous place boasting fabulous food, music and mountains. Its warm Mediterranean climate, deep black soil, saw-toothed mountains and Black Sea coast combine to make a Garden of Eden, overflowing with wine and rich in culinary flair – everything you could wish for in a destination. Cheap flights, new routes, and improved infrastructure confirm Georgia as a top destination for 2016. <http://www.mircorp.com/destinations/south-caucasus/georgia/>



Patagonia photo by Ciclismo Classico

7. **Patagonia** - Join renowned South American photographer and nature documentary filmmaker Ossian Lindholm on a Patagonian hiking and photo tour that blends Chiloe Island and Torres Del Paine National Park. Evenings are spent at the award winning EcoCamp Patagonia in its sustainable, comfortable, geodesic Suite Domes, the region's first fully sustainable accommodation south of the Amazon. The new Patagonia Park has transformed a cattle ranch in Chile's Aysen region into a land of glaciated peaks and wildlife. It should gain National Park status in 2016. <https://ciclismoclassico.com/trips/patagonia-wildlife-adventure/>

8. **Antarctica** – See it before it's gone. Explore the wildlife-rich shores and waters of remote Antarctica on a small ship cruise. Guests will encounter colossal icebergs and ice landscapes that stretch as far as the eye can see. Hardy adventurers or those with a yearning for history can camp out on the ice and feel the thrill and audacity of early explorers who attempted to conquer this continent. The abundance of wildlife is truly extraordinary, including five seal species, massive penguin rookeries of Gentoo, Adelie and Chinstraps, as well as a profusion of seabirds from albatross to skuas. Interest in Antarctica is set to swell. <http://www.adventure-life.com/antarctica/cruises/1358/antarctic-peninsula-adventure>



9. **Colombia** - Colombia is a diverse country with many of the ingredients that attract travelers to Latin America. Both modern and historic, Colombia's cities of Cartagena, Bogota, and Medellin are beautifully-located, vibrant, and welcoming. Get out of the cities and find a slower pace in Colombia's countryside. Trek in the Andes, raft through a remote canyon, or explore an ancient ruin in Colombia's rainforest. The Colombia tours offer authentic travel experiences of a country still waiting to be re-discovered. <http://www.adventure-life.com/colombia>



Colombia Mountain Biking with Adventure Life

10. **Romania + Bulgaria** - Explore the complex history and fascinating culture of Bulgaria and Romania, two Balkan countries whose rugged terrain and consequent isolation have helped preserve their heritage. Discover the luminous frescoes of the painted monasteries, breathe in the fragrance of the Valley of the Roses, and spend an afternoon visiting with villagers in a tiny Transylvanian town. <http://www.mircorp.com/trip/bulgaria-romania-frescoes-fortresses/>



# Experience Montreal on a Budget



Article and photos by:  
Kyle Bernard  
GoDriftAway.com

Montreal is a mix of many things. It's a mix of English and French; old and new; as well as European and North American influences. A nearly overwhelming amount of restaurants, festivals, the historic Old Port and an intricate metro (subway) system mean that Montreal has something for everyone. It also has a vibrant nightlife that routinely draws in partygoers from all over the world. Here's a detailed guide from a local Montrealer (ME) to help you make the most of your time in one of North America's most storied cities.

## MONEY MATTERS

**Getting Around:** Traveling through Montreal is very easy. The metro system is divided into 4 easy to use colour-coded lines (green, orange, blue & yellow). Most buses run on a steady schedule, passing roughly 2 to 5 times an hour. There are a few transportation price points for visitors to consider.

- 1 way ticket with metro/bus transfer: 3.25 CAD
- Unlimited evening ticket (6 pm – 5 am): 5 CAD
- 2 way ticket with metro/bus transfer: 6.00 CAD
- 1 day tourist/visitor's ticket (unlimited use of metro/bus): 10 CAD
- 3 day tourist/visitor's ticket (unlimited use of metro/bus): 18 CAD
- Weekly pass (unlimited use of metro/bus) 25.50 CAD
- 10 tickets with metro/bus transfer: 26.50 CAD
- For more information visit [Montreal's official public transit site.](#)

**Food Prices:** I suggest doing groceries any and everywhere you travel. If your accommodation has a kitchen, toaster-oven or microwave, you're golden. If not, load up on cold sandwiches, nutrition bars, fruit and water. A week's worth of groceries will run you 50 CAD to 100 CAD depending on where you shop.

The cost of food varies as much as Montreal's ethnic groups. You can go cheap with a 2 CAD slice of pizza at Altaib's or a 4 CAD poutine (1 of Montreal's famed dishes) from La Belle Province. There is also an endless list of sandwich/wrap shops that sell their specialties for under 10 CAD. On the other hand, you can have a proper meal with meat, sides and a drink (juice, beer or wine) for 25 CAD to 45 CAD on average. If you want to experience the fine dining Montreal has built a reputation for, you could easily shell out over 100 CAD per plate. It would be money well spent.

**Hotels/Motels:** The cheapest (budget) hotels or motels you'll find in Montreal range between 35 CAD to 65 CAD in the downtown core (where most of the fun is). Solo accommodations are cheapest, so if you're traveling in twos or more, expect to pay more too (unless you share a hostel dorm).

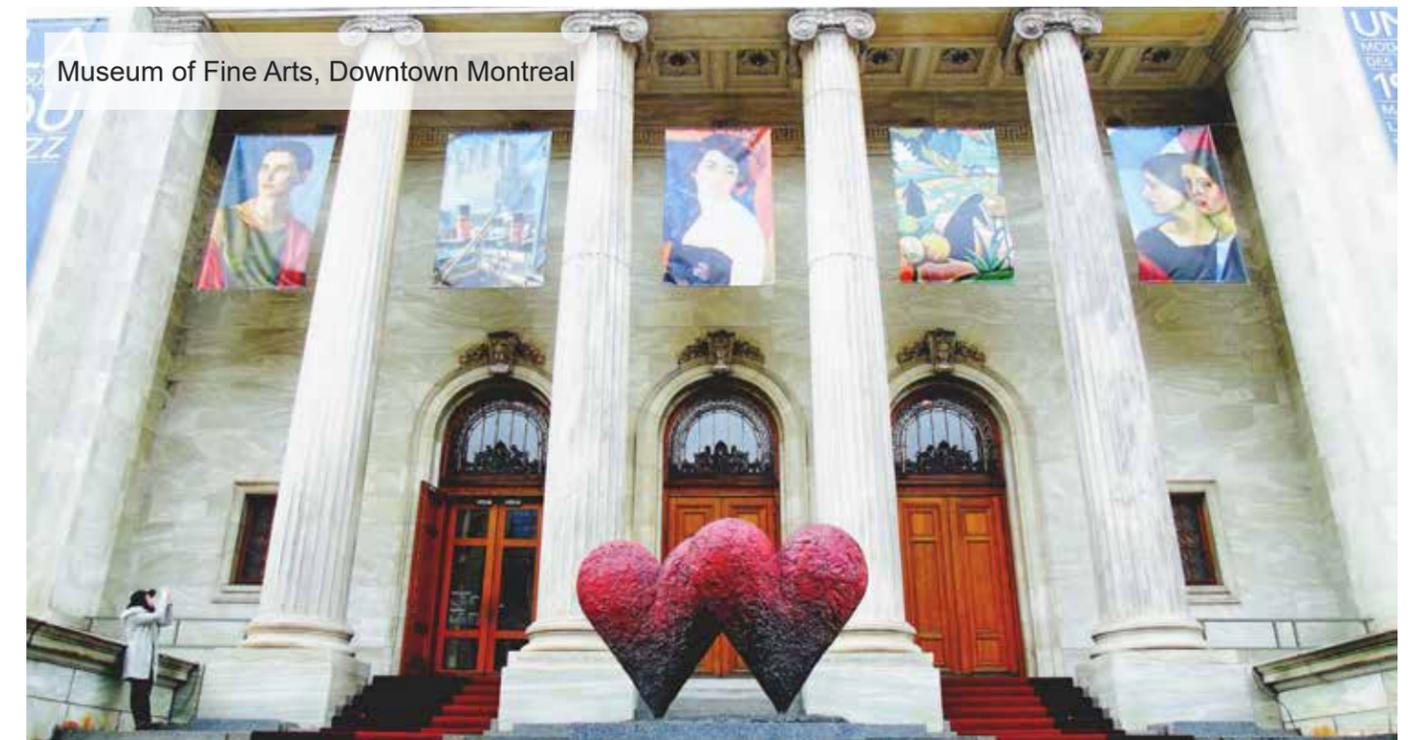
**Hostels:** Hostels are one of the only relatively cheap things you'll find in Montreal. It's an inexpensive city. If booked early enough in advance, hostel accommodations start at roughly 5 CAD and increase to north of 115 CAD nightly. Like most international cities, there are hostels at all points on the price continuum.

**Accommodation Alternatives:** Montrealers are known to be very friendly, especially if you speak French. A free account on Couch Surfing could land you a few free nights on a host's couch or bed. Alternatively, you can party until 3 in the morning then keep the party going at one of Montreal's after-hours clubs (not suggested, sort of). It's not the healthiest choice, but it's cheap (I'm not sure if I'm serious about this yet).

**Museum Mania:** Montreal has plenty of museums (60+), many of which offer free/reduced admission on select days.

- Museum of Contemporary Art: Adult admission 14 CAD – Child admission 10 CAD – 1/2 price on Wednesday evenings from 5 pm to 9 pm.
- Centre Of Design At UQAM: Free from 12 pm to 6 pm from Wednesday to Sunday. Works on display are made by Quebecois designers as well as foreign ones.
- Centre of Canadian Architecture (Centre d'Architecture Canadien): Free from Wednesday to Sunday 11 am to 6 pm and Thursdays from 5:30 pm to 9 pm. Students enter for free with proof of student status.
- Several museums offer free admission on the last Sunday of May and a number of buses offer free rides between the museums as well.

**Free Festivals:** Montrealers are festival fanatics! The city hosts over a hundred festivals each year, from





Boardwalk in the Old-Port of Montreal, near the Clock Tower and man made beach

the Caribbean themed “Jump Up,” to film festivals and the world famous Jazz Festival. Many of the festivals have free shows on select days. One of the more popular winter festivals is Montreal En Lumiere (Montreal In Lights), a multi-day, multi-event festival celebrating Montreal culture and ending in the almighty Nuit Blanche (White Night). Nuit Blanche is a nocturnal promenade filled with alcohol, food, parties and just about everything else.

**See City Hall For Free:** A 45 minute to 1 hour guided tour of Montreal’s City Hall is available from May through October. It’s a great way to learn a little more about the city.

**Free Ice Cream Day:** Once a year in the warmer months (April to August) Ben & Gerry’s offers free ice cream to anyone who has the patience to line up and wait for a cone (normally in mid-April). Starbucks, RedBull and many other companies often send employees out to the street level to offer refreshments and samples of new products a few times a year, generally in the summer and fall.

**Take A Walk:** Montreal is a relatively small island. It’s very easy to get around on foot or on a Bixi bike, especially if you stay in and around the downtown core. If you’re coming from further out, you can get to anywhere on the island by car within 30 minutes (in good traffic conditions). Walk around and take a look at all of the beautiful architecture, cobble stone streets, parks and lakes, all for free. Walk through

the Old Port or along the Lachine Canal and you won’t be disappointed.

**Put On Your Dancing Shoes:** Each Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday of the summer, enjoy free dance lessons (ballroom) with professional instructors at Parc Jean Drapeau.

**Tour The Public Markets:** Montreal’s markets are great for 2 reasons. First, they’re an easy way to find healthy, delicious and affordable food and beverages. Second, it’s probably the easiest way to get a glimpse of what life in Montreal is like from a local perspective. They’re also good locations for photography.

**Free Ice Skating/Skiing (Winter):** Parc Angrignon and Parc Mont Royal offer free cross-country skiing trails and skating rinks. Parc La Fontaine, in the always popular Plateau district has a free skating pond as soon as the temperature dips below zero. Ice skating is also available for free at Parc Jeanne-Mance, Lac Aux Castors (Beaver Lake), the Quays in the Vieux Port (Old Port) and Parc Du Mont Royal. Every neighbourhood in Montreal has a few smaller parks that open free skating rinks in the winter. You’ll generally see friendly hockey games going on or young kids sharpening their skating skills. Lastly, the Old Port sometimes offers night concerts.

**Tip:** If you’re in Montreal for the New Year, the Old Port is the best place to see the fireworks and festivities (grab a beaver tail dessert snack too).

## BEST EXPERIENCES IN MONTREAL

**(Parc) Mont Royal:** Like walking? Snapping pictures? Great views? Exercise? Mont Royal offers all of this and more. There are multiple entrances to this huge park. Hike all the way up the mountain to the giant cross that overlooks the city for an awesome view. Get an even better panoramic view of the city from the Chalet Mont Royal.

**When the weather warms up (April to October),** Montrealers also take to Parc Mont Royal for ultimate frisbee, volleyball, soccer, football, picnics, music and hookah. Go there on Sundays and dance barefooted to the rhythms of African drums being played (what we locals call tam-tams). If you get lost, it’s on Saint-Urbain street near the Sir George-Etienne Cartier statue.

**Stroll Through Old Montreal:** Old Montreal is one of the most historically rich parts of Montreal. It’s filled with great restaurants, museums, art galleries, a science centre, food trucks, clubs, a haunted house, zip lining, a man made beach, a gorgeous clock tower and a breath taking view. If you’re only in Montreal for a short stay, this is your best bet.

**Place D’Armes:** This is a small but beautiful square located near the entrance to the Old Port. It’s one of the premier and most important squares the city has to offer. It’s home to the Aldred Building, the Bank of Montreal’s first ever building, the New York Life Building and last but not least, the beautiful Notre

Dame Basilica. Entrance to the Basilica is 5 CAD for adults and 4 CAD for children. It’s open to the public as of 8 am. Go early in the morning to experience the impressive design and presence of the building peacefully.

**Musee Des Beaux-Arts/Museum of Fine Arts:** Free admission when only permanent exhibits are on display. Temporary exhibits cost 12 CAD. Anything considered to be fine art can be found at the MFA. In the past there have been Miles Davis and Jean-Paul Gauthier exhibits. You can also see industrial design, African themed and a variety of painting exhibits on display as well. It’s the perfect place to spend a cold or rainy day.

**Oratoire Saint-Joseph (Saint-Joseph’s Oratory):** This building needs no introduction. It is one of the most visited locations in Montreal and Canada. It provides yet another amazing view of the city’s skyline, and once again, it’s a great location for photography or romance (Snowdon metro). It’s definitely a must-see.

**Jean-Talon & Atwater Markets:** The city’s most popular markets open hundreds of stalls offering food (specialized grocers), drinks and local handmade crafts. Stop by for a snack and some people watching. Jean-Talon market is located in the middle of Little Italy (Jean-Talon metro). Atwater market is located in the southwest side of downtown in the Little Burgundy area (Lionel-Groulx metro).



Inside Notre-Dame’s Basilica



Beaver Lake - Near Mont-Royal Park

**Le Plateau:** This is hands down the trendiest and most artsy part of Montreal. It has captivating residential streets that take you back to a different time in the city (great for taking pictures). Neat restaurants and stylish boutiques are what characterize this cool part of the city.

**The Biodome:** This is literally a one of a kind structure that can't be found anywhere else in the world. It houses 4 separate ecosystems under the same roof (1 for each of the most animal friendly climates spanning from North through South America). You can get a ticket to the Biodome for roughly 15 CAD. For a bit more, you can get access to the Insectarium and Planetarium too. It's located in what was initially constructed as the Velodrome of the Olympic Games (Viau metro).

**Parc La Fontaine:** This park is ideal for anyone who likes staying fit. It has tennis courts, sand volleyball courts and lots of walking/running room. It's picnic friendly and offers free live shows and movies. **Hipsters love it!**

**Bike Around: Montrealers love biking.** Want to feel like a local? Rent a Bixi bike and go cruising around the city. Print out a map, plot out your destinations and get rolling. Alternatively, there are half-day guided bike tours that take you all over the city within 3-4 hours and the guides are very knowledgeable. It's perfect for anyone visiting Montreal in the summer time that isn't staying for very long. The downside to these

guided bike tours is that they aren't free.

- See Ça Roule Montréal or Fitz & Follwell Co for the city's best tours.

**Go Green At The Jardin Botanique (Botanical Garden):** Did you know Montreal's Botanical Garden is one of the largest in the world? It's been around for more than 80 years, has 10 distinct greenhouses, and only costs about 15 CAD. It's a gorgeous place to spend a sunny day.

**Get On A Boat:** If you're lucky enough to know someone who owns a boat, ask them to take you on a tour of the Old Port. You won't be disappointed. Otherwise, there are 45 minute – 60 minute boat tours of the harbour (a great location to see Canada day fireworks) or hour and a half long boat tours of the Lachine Canal (another part of Montreal that is overflowing with history).

**Insider Tip:** Montreal has 15% GST (goods and sales tax). Factor that into your spending.

**Insider Tip #2:** Tipping is a must in Montreal, your hosts & servers will be very appreciative. Don't know how much is enough? A good rule of thumb is to tip at least how much you pay in taxes (15%). It will always be written on your receipt (no need for a calculator).

### Article by Kyle Bernard

Follow him here:

[Website](#) [Instagram](#) [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#)

## There's always something happening in Montreal



### 1. TRADITIONAL QUEBEC & CELTIC MUSIC JAM SESSIONS

MAY 19, 2014 TO DECEMBER 31, 2017

Welcomes to our live and open session of traditional quebec and celtic music.

TYPE: Other music genres  
NEIGHBOURHOOD: Downtown



### 2. OFFTA - LIVE ART FESTIVAL

MAY 30 TO JUNE 8, 2016

Young artists invite you in theaters, on the streets and on the web to celebrate performing arts.

TYPE: Festivals  
NEIGHBOURHOOD: Downtown



### 3. RALLYE EXPOS

FEBRUARY 1 TO JUNE 30, 2016

A route to beautiful discoveries is being offered to friends of the visual arts and culture of Africa and the Creole countries.

TYPE: Celebration  
NEIGHBOURHOOD: Downtown



### 4. MONTREAL CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 23; MARCH 29; APRIL 30; JUNE 3 AND JUNE 9 TO 19, 2016

A celebration of the intimate art of chamber music in all its forms.

TYPE: Festivals  
NEIGHBOURHOOD: Downtown



### 5. SUGARING-OFF TIME

FEBRUARY 28 TO APRIL 4, 2016

Learn some secrets of the maple tree and the products that make it so popular.

TYPE: Science and nature  
NEIGHBOURHOOD: Hochelaga-Maisonneuve



### 6. MONTREAL DIGITAL SPRING

MARCH 21 TO JUNE 21, 2016

The city's reputation as a creative hub is buoyed by digital innovation.

TYPE: Festivals  
NEIGHBOURHOOD: Downtown



### 7. MONTREAL'S WHITE PARTY

MARCH 27, 2016

Electronic music, fashion, dance and design are at the forefront during this event that celebrates diversity and openness of mind.

TYPE: Festivals  
NEIGHBOURHOOD: Downtown



### 8. CINÉBAZAR

APRIL 2, 2016

This friendly club of film enthusiasts is the meeting point of sellers and seekers of movie treasures.

TYPE: Cinema  
NEIGHBOURHOOD: Plateau Mont-Royal and Mile End

# WORLD'S LARGEST BARBIE MUSEUM OPENS IN MONTRÉAL

Looking for somewhere to take the granddaughters?



Posted on February 29th, 2016 by Richard Burnett.

One of the best-loved dolls of all time now has her own museum at Les Cours Mont-Royal in downtown Montréal: Barbie Expo is the largest permanent exhibition of Barbie dolls in the world, and features over 1,000 Barbies, including Hollywood stars, unique one-of-a-kind Barbie dolls and glamorous outfits created by famous fashion designers.

Admission is free to the 5,000-square-foot Barbie Expo, which features Barbie dolls dressed by such world-renowned designers as Christian Dior, Versace, Givenchy, Donna Karan, Giorgio Armani, Ralph Lauren, Vera Wang, Oscar de la Renta and Herve Leger. Legendary show business designer Bob Mackie has also dressed 28 Barbie dolls on display at Barbie Expo.

"Since the first model released in 1959, Barbie has always kept up with the trends and her never-ending wardrobe is full of every style from classic silhouettes to quick come-and-go fads," says Valerie Law, Vice-President of Marketing for Soltron Group, which owns both Les Cours Mont Royal and Barbie Expo. "If you look back at Barbie throughout the years, you will

be able to see decades of the biggest trends styled in miniature proportions."

There are also entertainment industry Barbies of Marilyn Monroe, Audrey Hepburn, Elizabeth Taylor, Beyoncé, Jennifer Lopez, Farrah Fawcett, and Barbra Streisand, plus are two Barbies of Cher, dressed in her classic "Half-Breed" and "If I Could Turn Back Time" outfits. There is also an entire display dedicated to Lucille Ball, as well as a fashion-show display complete with photographers (with flashing camera bulbs!) and models on a moving runway.

For Hollywood film fans, there are Barbies inspired by "The Hunger Games", "The Wizard of Oz", "Twi-



light", "Grease", "Titanic", "My Fair Lady" and "Gone with the Wind". Custom-made, one-of-a-kind Barbie dolls include Kate Middleton, Marie Antoinette, Coco Chanel, Grace Kelly and Cleopatra.

Barbie Expo also celebrates diversity and features dolls of all sizes and skin colours.

"A lot of the dolls were donated by collectors and designers from all around the world, therefore we also wanted to give something back to the society," says Law, noting that admission to Barbie Expo is free. But the museum accepts donations for Make-A-Wish Québec. "We picked the Make-A-Wish Foundation as it is a good cause known worldwide and dear to our donors."

No visit is complete without posing for a few photos in a life-sized pink Barbie box.

"The haute-couture Barbie Expo is about fashion embodied by Barbie and Montréal is a fashion-forward city," says Law. "Since Les Cours Mont-Royal is located in the heart of downtown Montréal, and is the city's most prestigious shopping centre – offering designer brands, unique European fashions and exclusive boutiques – having Barbie Expo at our location is a perfect fit."

Barbie Expo is open during regular business hours, seven days a week. For more information, [visitexpo-barbie.ca](http://visitexpo-barbie.ca).



# Top 10 Small Town Getaways

- 1. Sevierville, TN** - Great Smokey Mountains National Park
- 2. Branson, MO** - Route 76 (“The Live Music Show Capital of the World”)
- 3. Astoria, OR** - Just a beautiful place to be evident by the number of Hollywood movies films there (The Goonies, Kindergarten Cop, Free Willy 1 & 2, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles III, The Ring 2, The Guardian, etc.)
- 4. Newport, OR** - NOAA Research vessels. Another very beautiful coastal city in Oregon
- 5. Jackson, WY-ID** - Tourist gateway for Grand Teton National Park, Yellowstone National Park, and National Elk Refuge
- 6. Key West, FL** - Ernst Hemingway House, Tennessee William House, Night Life
- 7. Kill Devil Hills, NC** - Home of the Wright Brother’s first flights and National Memorial
- 8. Spearfish, SD** - Near the Black Hills National Forest, known for its exciting outdoor adventures such as hiking, biking and rock climbing
- 9. Bennington, VT** - A quick getaway for many Boston and NYC residents looking to enjoy its surroundings of Green Mountain National Forest, especially popular in the winter, neighbor to many ski spots. Home to the Revolutionary War site, The Battle of Bennington Monument
- 10. Vineyard Haven, MA** - Martha’s Vineyard. Summer Destination, population goes from 17,000 to around 100,000. Beautiful beaches and nice weather

## In search of the top small town vacation hotspots

Why are people visiting these places is another question entirely. Infogroup used its verified business database of more than 15 million records to observe key economic features of small towns with a high concentration of hotels per 10,000 residents (p/10k). Here are the industries that showed a strong positive correlation:

- |                                 |                              |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Restaurants                  | 6. Museums                   |
| 2. Art Galleries & Dealers      | 7. Guide Services            |
| 3. Gift Shops                   | 8. Automated Teller Machines |
| 4. Candy & Confectionery Retail | 9. T-Shirts – Retail         |
| 5. Fishing Parties              | 10. Bicycles – Renting.      |

[Click here to learn more about Infogroup’s study](#)

# Top 100 by State

34	AK	Ketchikan, AK Micro Area	46	NM	Deming, NM Micro Area
60	AK	Juneau, AK Micro Area	69	NM	Carlsbad-Artesia, NM Micro Area
88	AR	Forrest City, AR Micro Area	82	NM	Gallup, NM Micro Area
62	AZ	Payson, AZ Micro Area	14	NV	Winnemucca, NV Micro Area
79	AZ	Show Low, AZ Micro Area	33	NV	Elko, NV Micro Area
29	CA	Ukiah, CA Micro Area	40	NY	Oneonta, NY Micro Area
39	CA	Crescent City, CA Micro Area	94	NY	Malone, NY Micro Area
80	CA	Eureka-Arcata-Fortuna, CA Micro Area	32	OH	Port Clinton, OH Micro Area
89	CA	Sonoma, CA Micro Area	42	OH	Sandusky, OH Micro Area
11	CO	Craig, CO Micro Area	20	OK	Elk City, OK Micro Area
12	CO	Breckenridge, CO Micro Area	43	OK	Woodward, OK Micro Area
16	CO	Edwards, CO Micro Area	55	OK	Weatherford, OK Micro Area
19	CO	Glenwood Springs, CO Micro Area	68	OK	Guymon, OK Micro Area
21	CO	Steamboat Springs, CO Micro Area	98	OK	McAlester, OK Micro Area
50	CO	Durango, CO Micro Area	3	OR	Astoria, OR Micro Area
86	CO	Fort Morgan, CO Micro Area	4	OR	Newport, OR Micro Area
6	FL	Key West, FL Micro Area	24	OR	Brookings, OR Micro Area
49	GA	Cordele, GA Micro Area	63	OR	Hood River, OR Micro Area
97	GA	St. Marys, GA Micro Area	77	OR	Klamath Falls, OR Micro Area
90	HI	Kapaa, HI Micro Area	8	SD	Spearfish, SD Micro Area
38	IA	Spirit Lake, IA Micro Area	31	SD	Pierre, SD Micro Area
67	IL	Effingham, IL Micro Area	45	SD	Mitchell, SD Micro Area
53	KS	Liberal, KS Micro Area	96	SD	Aberdeen, SD Micro Area
78	KS	Salina, KS Micro Area	1	TN	Sevierville, TN Micro Area
81	KS	Hays, KS Micro Area	13	TX	Pecos, TX Micro Area
83	KS	Dodge City, KS Micro Area	23	TX	Port Lavaca, TX Micro Area
84	KS	Junction City, KS Micro Area	25	TX	Fredericksburg, TX Micro Area
10	MA	Vineyard Haven, MA Micro Area	41	TX	Sweetwater, TX Micro Area
18	MI	Sault Ste. Marie, MI Micro Area	58	TX	Vernon, TX Micro Area
52	MI	Ludington, MI Micro Area	59	TX	Bay City, TX Micro Area
65	MI	Houghton, MI Micro Area	61	TX	Dumas, TX Micro Area
72	MI	Escanaba, MI Micro Area	71	TX	Snyder, TX Micro Area
2	MO	Branson, MO Micro Area	91	TX	Kingsville, TX Micro Area
74	MO	Fort Leonard Wood, MO Micro Area	26	UT	Summit Park, UT Micro Area
51	MS	Grenada, MS Micro Area	76	UT	Cedar City, UT Micro Area
95	MS	Vicksburg, MS Micro Area	85	UT	Vernal, UT Micro Area
37	MT	Bozeman, MT Micro Area	100	UT	Price, UT Micro Area
66	MT	Kalispell, MT Micro Area	9	VT	Bennington, VT Micro Area
7	NC	Kill Devil Hills, NC Micro Area	54	VT	Rutland, VT Micro Area

# Travel tidbits you might need to know

## Top 10 Romantic Hotel Chains

There are few things more romantic than vacationing with the one you love, but the wrong hotel room can kill the mood. According to a new survey, staying at a Kimpton Hotel will increase your chances of romance while on vacation.

The world's first travel-dating website, [MissTravel.com](http://MissTravel.com), surveyed members to determine America's most romantic hotel chain. Results revealed singles voted the Kimpton Hotel chain the top choice for a romantic getaway.

Rank - Chain - Number of Votes

- 1 Kimpton - 10,724
- 2 Hyatt - 9,145
- 3 Hilton - 7,897
- 4 Marriott - 4,718
- 5 Omni - 3,421
- 6 Intercontinental - 2,573
- 7 W - 2,144
- 8 Raddison - 1,844
- 9 Sheraton - 1,286
- 10 Westin - 643

I just recently wrote an article on the brand new [Kimpton Schofield Hotel](#) in Cleveland for [Properties Magazine](#), and I can see why it got so many votes. If you're coming to Cleveland, you'll want to give it a try.



## William Shatner we'll miss you

It appears that we won't be seeing William Shatner on Priceline commercials in the near future. They've just created an arsenal of Onion-styled 45 second spots that highlight the dangers of not planning your vacation correctly.

Showing what can happen when you think travel is too expensive, the subjects of these videos suffer in multiple ways. If they had only used Priceline.

Priceline's YouTube channel is full of them if you want more... Click to view below.



## Say it isn't so

One thing I need when I travel is a large desk for editing photos and video, and for writing my articles. It's always been that way - back while I was a card-carrying corporate road warrior and now even as a freelancer.

It broke my heart when I read recently that Marriott, and maybe more hotels as well, have decided that millennials prefer to work in social environments (i.e. a busy lobby) than in private. To that end, they are eliminating large desks in most of their rooms, with the hope travelers will work downstairs.

Could it be they are taking a cue from Las Vegas where they don't put coffee makers in the rooms because they want you downstairs gambling and ordering drinks? Hmmm.



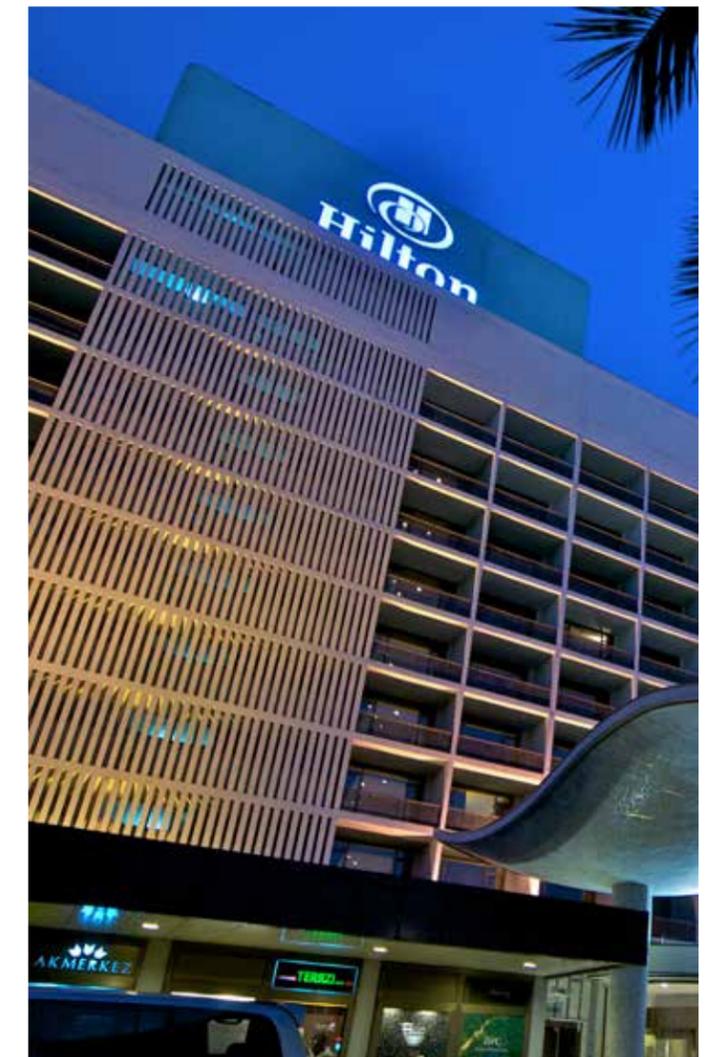
## Hilton tries being unpopular

In a move sure to irritate, Hilton is instituting a \$50 cancellation fee for anyone (other than Hilton Honors members) who places a reservation and then subsequently cancels it - even weeks or months in advance.

If you cancel the day of your arrival, or are a no-show, you'll be billed one full night's stay.

The new \$50 cancellation fee is being rolled out at about 20% of their Hilton, DoubleTree and Embassy Suite locations.

Business sure must be good for Hilton that they can risk alienating customers this way.



# Photo tip of the month



Taking great photos at night is not hard when you convince yourself of one thing. There's no way you can hand-hold a shot like this. Either use a tripod or set your camera on a fixed object for the length of the exposure.

Ice Hotel - Quebec, Canada



# CAMPING OR RV'ING

## HOW TO GET STARTED AS A SENIOR

(First part of a multi-part series for the first time camper)

By Doug Bardwell

If getting outdoors is your goal, and it should be, there are so many more choices than traveling and staying at hotels or motels. While many claim that anything other than a pillow-top mattress at the Hilton is "roughing it," nothing could be further from the truth. Both camping and RV'ing offer varying degrees of comfort, from essential to luxurious – a.k.a. "glamping" (or glamorous camping.)

A quick search on Google reveals no less than 6-million results for ways to enjoy life in the woods or on an African savannah with a tent for a roof, but full comfort beds, showers, toilets and sometimes even full kitchens. My glamping setup in Zimbabwe included two full-size beds, a soaking tub, a shower, a toilet, a six-drawer dresser, an armoire, and two recliners. (See photo above.)

But the purpose of this article is to introduce you to the more "mainstream" methods of spending a night outdoors. Your choices will be determined by 1) budget, 2) convenience and 3) destination.

### Tent camping

If budget is your priority, camping – spending the night in a tent, may be the way to go. You can rent a tent that will sleep four people for three nights for \$35 or less. Be aware that while a tent is rated for four people, that usually means there won't be space on the floor for anything other than your sleeping bags.

As a rule, my wife and I always use a four-person tent, even though there are just the two of us. That leaves additional space in the tent for chairs, coolers, and other amenities.

With tent camping, there are two other considerations – backpacking and car camping. Backpacking involves strapping a tent to your backpack and hiking to your destination. While you can then camp anywhere in the world you can hike to, it also means you need to be able to carry "everything" you need with you. Forget even one item (like water) and you could end up hiking back only to start over. Not many seniors are up for the challenges of backpacking, so let's talk about the more common method – car camping.

With car camping, you can take as much gear as you want to be comfortable. Since you'll be parking your car right next to your tent site, you've got instant access to whatever items you've brought along. With car camping, the size and weight of your tent is no longer an issue. Assuming you can lift it out of your trunk, you can afford to take a spacious tent that will be a pleasure to use.

Things to look for are ease of setup – I only use tents which don't require a second person to assemble. Also look for high doorways. Since you'll be opening the tent with zippers, instead of door knobs, look for ones which are high enough to be comfortable and have zippers that slide easily.

Also, consider tents with sewn-in floors. You don't want bugs crawling into your sleeping area.

Here are two I've used extensively and love them both:

The [Big Agnes Tensleep Station 4](#) offers multiple configurations so you can adapt the tent to the weather and campsite.

The [Big Agnes Big House 4 person tent](#) offers a nice high doorway so hardly any stooping is required. You can also purchase a [vestibule as an add-on](#) for extra storage of your bikes, fishing gear, or whatever you wish to keep out of the moist night air. The vestibule does not have a sewn-in floor however, but the tent does.

While a tent will provide shelter overhead, the other consideration is sleeping comfort. A foam pad and a

Tensleep Station 4



Big House 4 Person



Big House 4 Person with vestibule

sleeping bag are the most basic choices – assuming you don't have back issues. Here again, you'll have all sorts of options with sleeping bags – from summer weight to those usable in zero-degree weather. A three-season bag is a decent choice for even those nights when the temps drop into the forties. If you get cold at night, this [Kelty Ignite DriDown bag](#) will keep you snugly warm.



Kelty Ignite DriDown

If you are looking for something completely novel, how about a sleeping bag you wear? This literally has arms, legs and you can walk around in it. Check out the [Selk'bag Patagon](#) for an extremely comfortable sleeping experience. I've used this a couple dozen times and slept very comfortably in 50° weather.



Want to sleep together as a couple? This highly rated bag called the [Big Creek 30° Doublewide](#) is especially made for two. Two separate sleeping pads slip into exterior pockets so you won't ever slip off the pads, no matter how much you move around.



For padding, I don't recommend an air mattress. Sleeping bags are typically made of shiny materials and you'll end up sliding off the air mattress unless it's really large. Foam pads can be obtained that conform to your body curves and make a much steadier foundation. They range in thickness from the lightweight 1" thick [Therm-a-Rest RidgeRest SOLite](#)



[pads](#) to the almost bedlike [4" thick orthopedic memory foam pads](#).

If you have back issues, or you're just looking for a more comfortable sleeping arrangement, a cot can be a surprisingly good choice. We first used cots in a glamping experience outside Salt Lake City, and both my wife and I awoke in the morning totally amazed at how well we slept through the night. We noted that the cots were [Alps Mountaineering Escalade](#) models and those are the ones we use now ourselves. ([See more in our video.](#))



Need a toilet to be comfortable? Two choices are the [5 gallon Coleman mini chemical toilet](#) or for real minimal needs, this [folding toilet seat](#) with drawstring bags would do in a pinch.



If you'd like to keep the toilet outside your tent, here's a great little [Pahaque Wilderness Teepee](#) tent for privacy that also doubles as a shower and changing room.



Disadvantages of tent camping: I only recommend tent camping if your weather is going to be pleasant. Setting up a tent in the rain isn't fun and packing away a rain soaked tent isn't either. If your tent is wet, you'll need to reset it up in your garage and let it dry or wait until the first nice day and reset it up outside so that it doesn't mildew



### Pop-up tent trailers

If there is no way in the world you would ever sleep on the ground, then RV's were made for you. In its most general description, an RV or "recreational vehicle" is a place to sleep on wheels. RV's run the gamut from under \$1,000 to upwards of \$250,000 and beyond. But, similar to tents, RV's of all sizes can be rented for \$20 per night and up.

When you begin to compare RV's, the least expensive type is typically the pop-up tent camper. This type normally has a fiberglass roof with canvas sidewalls and extensions that open up when you arrive at your campsite. Towing a pop-up can usually be handled by any but the smallest passenger cars and so they are extremely popular with the occasional camper.

Storage for all your gear is possible in the trailer itself, so your car or van is not loaded with camping equipment. When you arrive at the location you'd like to camp, you might unhook the trailer from your car or not, depending on whether you plan to go out exploring with your automobile or on foot.

In either case, four fold down legs with adjusters allow you to level the trailer if you park on a hillside. You don't want your orange juice sliding off your breakfast table. After leveling, you'll unhook the roof of the camper from the body and either lift it up or crank it

up (some are even electric.) Once the roof is up, the sidewalls will automatically extend into position. In most popups, the only thing left to do is to slide out the beds at either end if so equipped and maybe snap in the door. After you've done it once, you'll be able to set up camp in under 30 minutes.

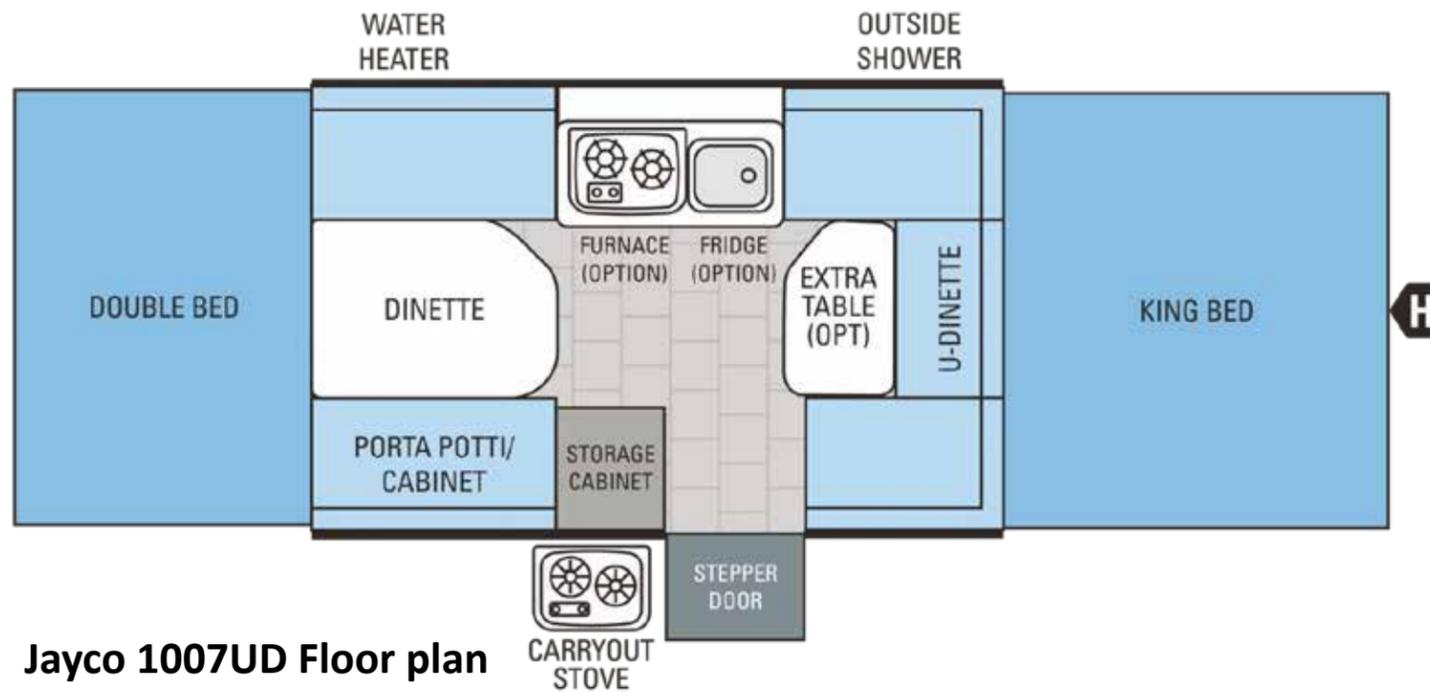
### Six things to compare

When comparing RV's of any type, you'll want to look at how each of these areas compare for convenience and size: 1) kitchen; 2) dining; 3) sleeping; 4) toilet/shower; 5) heating/cooling; and 6) places to relax or enjoy your favorite pastimes.

Floor space is usually limited in pop-ups and large families might find themselves falling over each other if they spend a lot of time in a pop-up. While the ad says you can sleep up to eight people in some models, those eight people better get along extremely well if they need to spend an entire rainy day in the trailer. I'd definitely recommend a popup for families of four or five or less. Unlike larger RV's, there are no doors to separate the kids room from the adult space, it's just one contiguous space. For two seniors, they could be perfect.

So let's look at how the five comparables stack up for a pop-up:





**Jayco 1007UD Floor plan**

**Kitchen**

Typically, popups come with a two or three-burner stovetop and no oven. Some models allow the cooktop to be lifted out for outdoor cooking. There's no range hood, so consider making your greasy or smoky dishes outside. There is just about always a kitchen sink, small but usable. Refrigerators vary all over the map from a small ice chest to a gas powered mini-fridge. Storage for pots and pans will be limited. Consider a compact cooking set that you'll leave in the unit.

**Dining**

This area usually excels in a popup. Most all units have good-sized fold-down tables that also support a mattress when not in use. The extra beds make up the seat cushions for the table and can be quite comfortable. Tables can usually be lifted out of the camper easily if you prefer to dine al fresco.

**Sleeping**

Give this a B+ in most cases as well. The majority of today's popups come with 4" high-density foam mattresses. You just supply your own linens.

**Toilet/shower**

About 50% of popups do not come with toilets and probably about 90% do not have showers. The expectation is that you'll use the facilities available at your campground. That's all good until you decide to set up along the coast for a day at the beach. At that point you might want to consider the aforementioned [chemical toilet](#) and/or [portable outhouse](#) for showering and toilet needs. Even if the popup mentions

that it comes with a portable chemical toilet, consider privacy needs. You'll have to draw all the curtains and have everyone else leave the trailer.

An exception is this Jayco hard-walled trailer – the 12HDF model. It includes a toilet and a shower. A huge advantage of this particular model is the front deck which can be used to haul bicycles, lawn furniture, inflatable boats, extra coolers, whatever. (See photos and floorplan on facing page. ▶)

**Heating and cooling**

Tent campers are usually used from spring through fall and do not automatically include either heaters or a/c units. Most are optional. Furnaces usually mount in the floor cabinets and add \$200-400 to the price. Air conditioners usually are mounted on and cut into the fiberglass roof. Expect to pay \$300-600 more for an air conditioned unit.

**Places to relax or enjoy your hobbies**

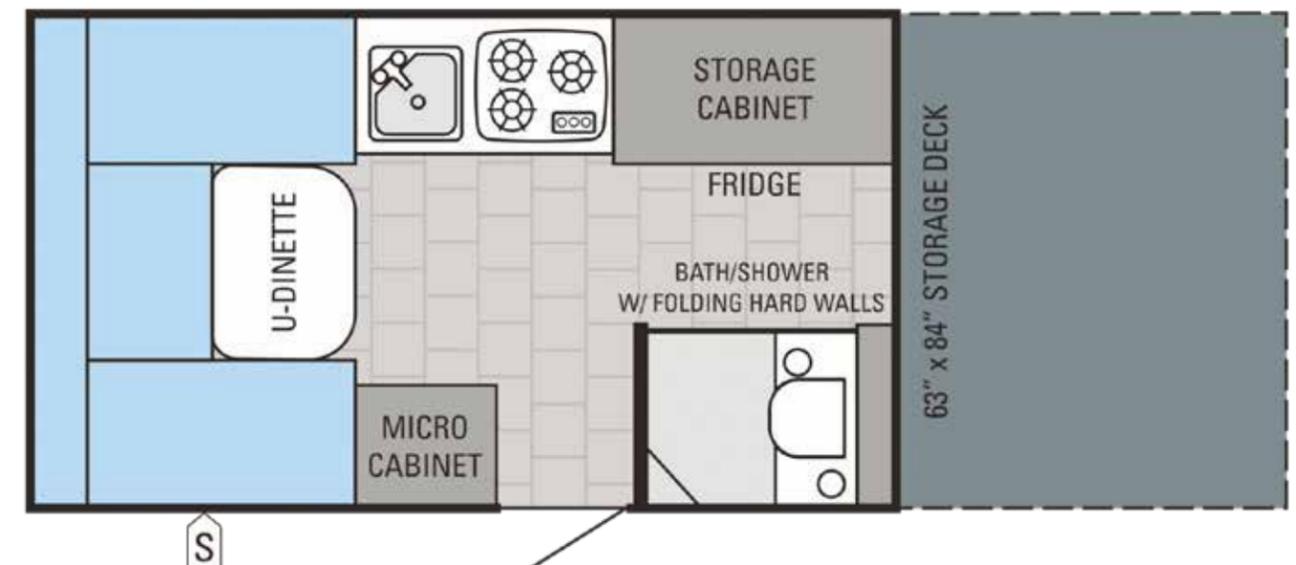
Unless your hobby is reading in bed, you'll be spending most of your time sitting at the dining table. That works for dozens of hobbies, but if you need more room, forget it. But let's be serious, we are camping because we want to be outside, enjoying Mother Nature. Right?

If you want another, portable living room to watch TV and sit back in your Barcalounger, you'll be happier in a larger RV, which we'll be covering next month.

[Click here to subscribe and get a once-per-month email when the next issue is available.](#)

**Jayco 12HDF  
hard sided pop-up**

[Learn more in this short video](#)



## REI Sets Out to Help Adventurers Go Deeper Into National Parks in Centennial Year



### Multi-million dollar, multi-year partnership aims to inspire deeper experiences; co-op unveils new digital national parks guide and Milepost podcast series

REI announced that to celebrate the 100th birthday of the National Park Service, it has focused its multi-million dollar partnership with the National Park Foundation on helping people to go deeper into the National Park System. The effort sets out to diversify access to national parks for new visitors and unlock new experiences for those who already know and love them.

To kick-off the centennial, the co-op unveiled a new, dynamic digital trail guide to the national parks at a gathering of industry partners in Salt Lake City, inviting lovers of the outdoors to share their expertise. The crowdsourced app, called the REI Co-op Guide to the National Parks, is powered by the collective knowledge of the outdoor community and puts their shared wisdom about deeper park experiences into the hands of America's adventurers.

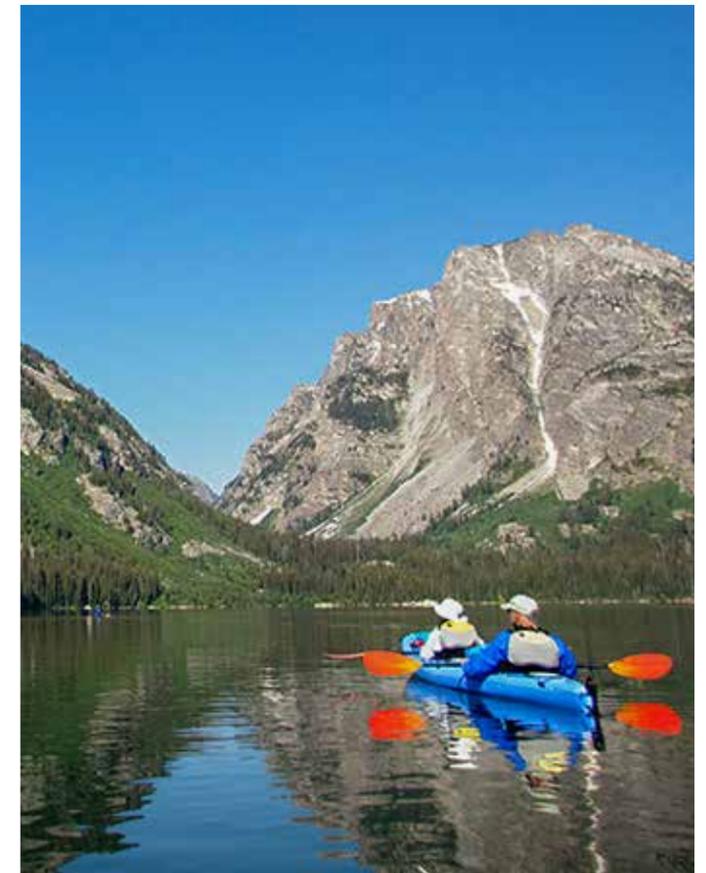
Now available on Android and iOS platforms, the app helps you find and share content about hidden trails, unknown viewpoints and idyllic spots to enjoy life outside.



The guide has been developed to enable deeper experiences across the park system, while alleviating strain on the highly trafficked places. The tool was developed by the creators of Mountain Project, an app used by millions of climbers who record and share their favorite climbing routes in near-real time.

“This centennial, we should take full advantage of the freedom we have to explore our nation’s most inspiring natural, cultural and historical places,” said Jerry Stritzke, REI president and CEO. “REI members are an incredible, ready-made network of guides and advocates. Together, we can better protect and promote broader enjoyment of these amazing national assets for the next 100 years. I hope our members will share their passion by inviting new people to experience the parks in new ways.”

Building on #OptOutside, which invited people to share their passion for a life outdoors, REI is also presenting a new podcast series, Mileposts, in partnership with the creators of the Dirtbag Diaries. The co-op will co-create a series of eight podcast episodes relating stories of transformational experiences in the national parks. The first episode will launch later in January and more information on the podcasts can be found on the [REI blog](#).





## New Ferris Wheel set to delight

All 42 gondolas are enclosed, temperature controlled and have superior, high-tech safety glass to ensure optimum climate inside and prevent condensation. Each gondola will also contain an entertainment system with video screens that will play various Navy Pier information during the ride. Other updated features include leather cushioned seats, one VIP gondola with special amenities, and larger capacity for each ride offering an additional 180 passengers per ride compared to its predecessor.

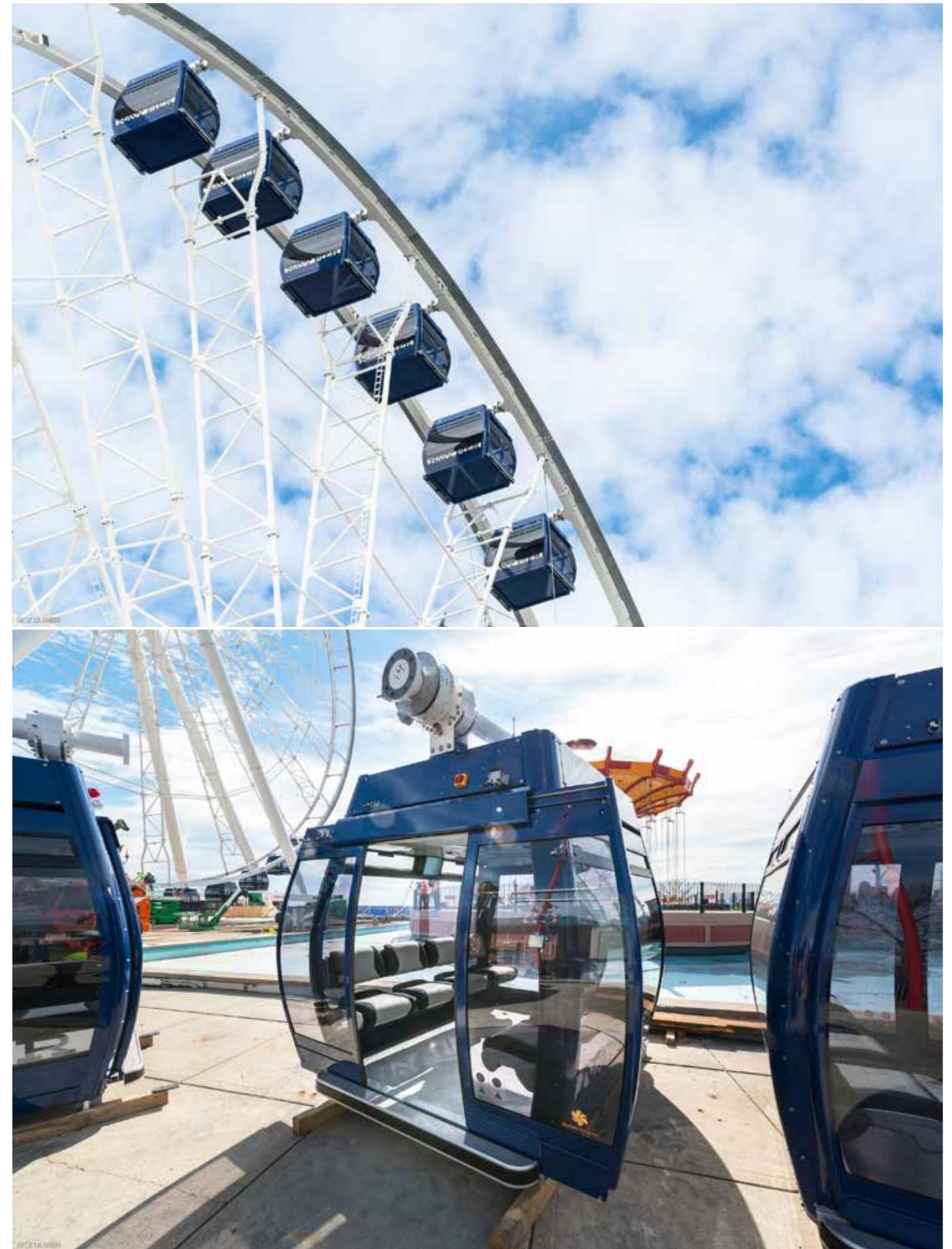
Following the completion of the gondola installation, significant testing and engineering work will promptly begin.

Navy Pier is continuing installation of a nearly 200-foot Ferris wheel that will be ready for operation in time for the 2016 Centennial Celebration this summer. The previous wheel, which was installed in 1995, conducted more than 16.9 million rides and created countless memories for Pier guests and visitors throughout its 20-year history. The new wheel is anticipated to break that record as it features a larger capacity (180 more passengers per ride) and will operate year-round.

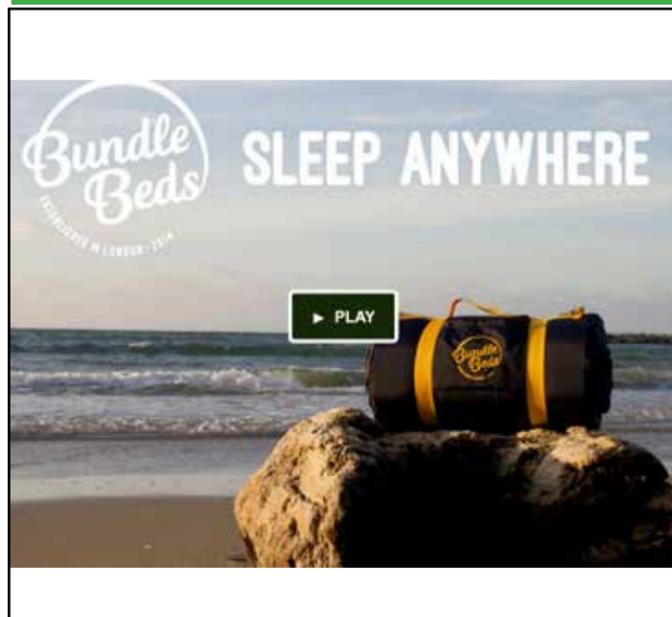
The new Ferris wheel is a key element of the Pier's Centennial Vision—a reimagining of Navy Pier to mark its 100th anniversary. Construction of the wheel is just the beginning of major news coming from the Midwest's number one leisure destination.

### About Navy Pier

Located on Lake Michigan, Navy Pier is the top-attended leisure destination in the Midwest, stretching more than six city blocks and welcoming more than 8 million guests annually. Originally opened in 1916 as a shipping and recreation facility, this Chicago landmark showcases more than 50 acres of parks, restaurants, attractions, retail shops, sightseeing and dining cruise boats, exposition facilities and more. In 2016, Navy Pier celebrates its 100th anniversary with a series of special events and programming, the grand opening of its new Ferris wheel and ongoing pier-wide redevelopment efforts as part of the Centennial Vision. Navy Pier, Inc., a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization, maintains and oversees Navy Pier and its redevelopment into a bolder, greener and more contemporary urban space. [www.navy pier.com](http://www.navy pier.com)



# Kickstarter's worth a look



London, UK Product Design

A brand new roll out camping bed... Bundle Beds give you the comfort of your own bed, rolled out in seconds, wherever you choose.



Austin, TX Product Design

The biēm Butter Sprayer goes from butter stick to butter spray in seconds! The first & only sprayer that sprays 100% Real Butter.



Chicago, IL Technology Project We Love

Monument stores and automatically organizes your photos by time, location, faces and what's in them. End your photo mess!

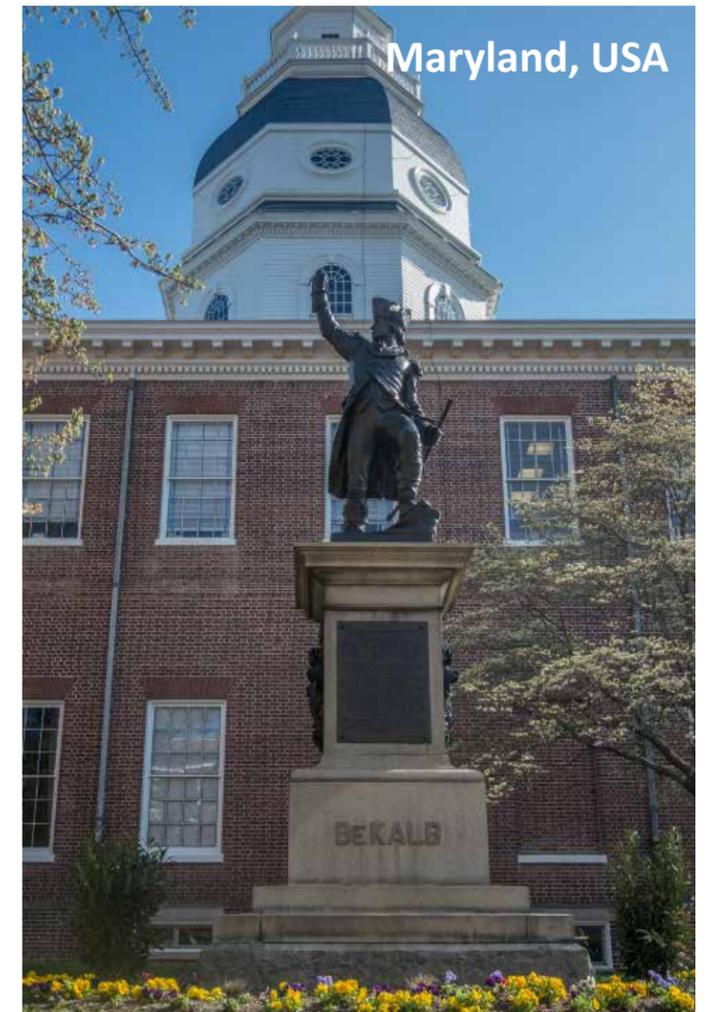


Melbourne, AU Product Design Project We Love

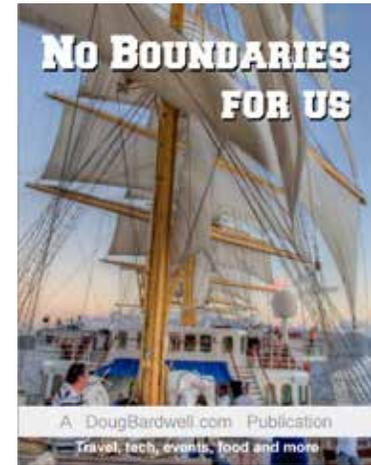
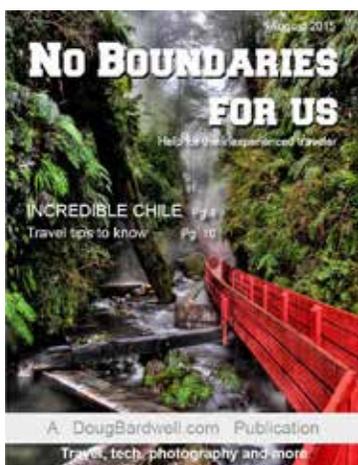
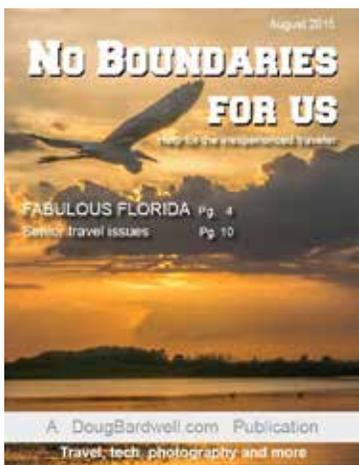
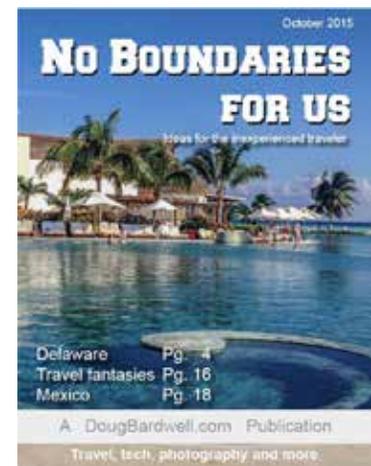
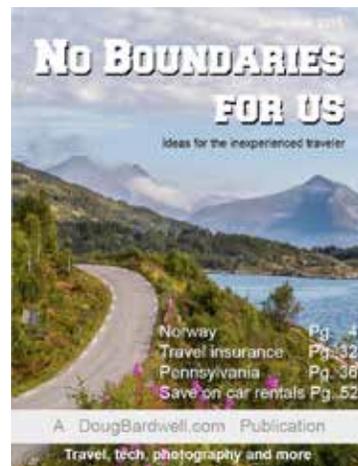
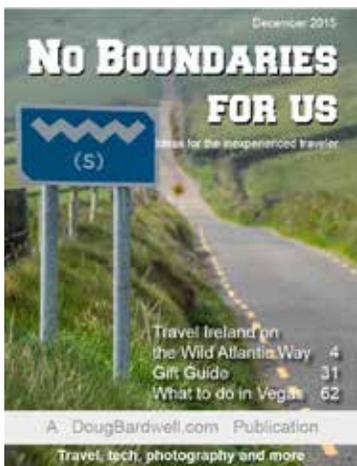
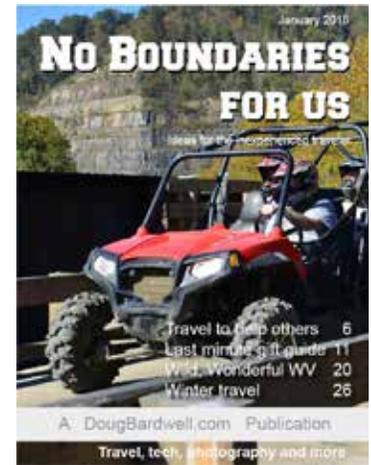
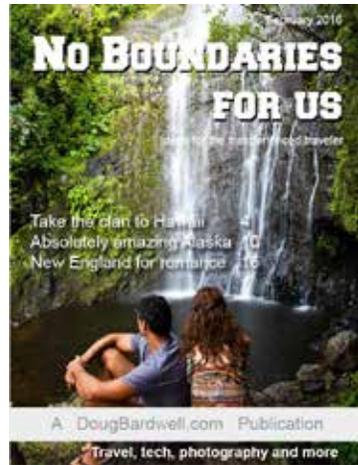
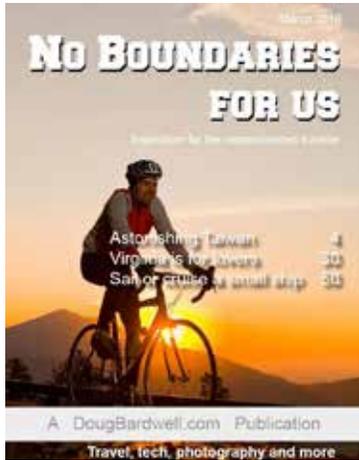
Bike bells generally look and sound a bit ugly. But why? What if they looked sexy and sounded like an angel playing a glockenspiel?

# Next month...

Subscribe for free and be the first to get next month's issue. Only one email per month when the issue is ready. Spoiler alert!!! Next month there will be a drawing for subscribers only. [Click here to subscribe.](#)



# PAST ISSUES



Please consider forwarding this issue to a friend if you think they might find it useful, and suggest they [subscribe](#). We guarantee to never spam them.