



CAMPSPOT

# Outdoor Almanac

Road Trips and Retreats WINTER/SPRING  
2022-2023



The ultimate camping magazine  
for outdoor enthusiasts

SPECIAL CONTENT CONTRIBUTIONS PROVIDED BY

The  
Weather  
Channel

ISSUE 02

# A Welcome Letter From the Editor

As the seasons change and we move into the quieter half of the year, we often have more time to reflect and take stock. Which is nice. Really, it is. But when the holiday lights are stored back in the garage and the cold creeps into our bones, even the most winter-obsessed of us can start to feel a little cooped up.

Which is why planning ahead is so important. Just as gardeners plant seeds and are bolstered by the promise of what is to come, so too can we take care to make plans for what is ahead. Whether you arrange a short winter getaway in the mountains or on a beach, or work out the finer details of your annual family reunion at a camp resort, that plan is how we're able to look forward to the good times ahead.

In a chaotic and stressful world, plans are our reprieve. The daydreams that get us through. Because when we're planning, we're invested in tomorrow. In the road ahead and the time we get to spend together. And when we're packing up—when we're camping—we realize what it is we really need. The essentials. Family. What you can fit in a few bags. Your child's favorite stuffed animal. Marshmallows. A cast-iron skillet. The license plate game. When we're camping, we're getting back to the basics. We're retreating from the din of society and finding safe haven in the great outdoors and the campgrounds offering tucked-away corners, epic adventures, stunning scenery, and even luxury accommodations.

Whether you're planning for your cross-country RV trip, snowbird escape (like the ones listed on page 38), hiking adventure with Fido, or next summer's trip to a camp resort with your kiddos, the Campspot Outdoor Almanac is full of the information you need to plot out the ultimate road trips and retreats—no matter the season.



*Ellie C. Burke*

**Ellie Burke**  
CONTENT & SEO MANAGER



**CAMPER STYLE:**  
Glamer

**NEXT ROAD TRIP:**  
Virginia Beach, VA,  
to Asheville, NC

**BUCKET LIST CAMPING  
DESTINATION:** Cottonwood  
Camping and RV Park

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If you'd like to have our next issue delivered straight to your door, visit:

[campspot.com/about/outdoor-almanac](https://campspot.com/about/outdoor-almanac)



# The Latest Camping Trends



## Campspot Camper Behaviors

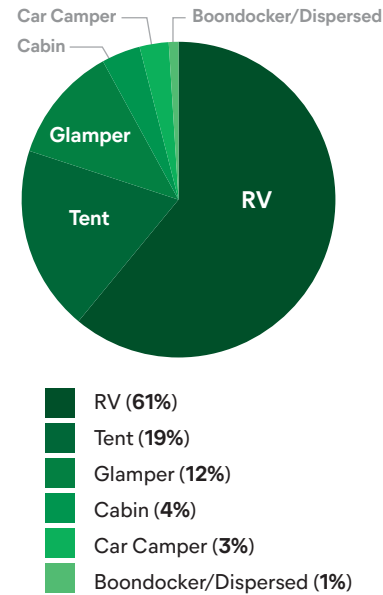
**76%**

of Campspot campers have children

### CAMPING TIME IS FAMILY TIME

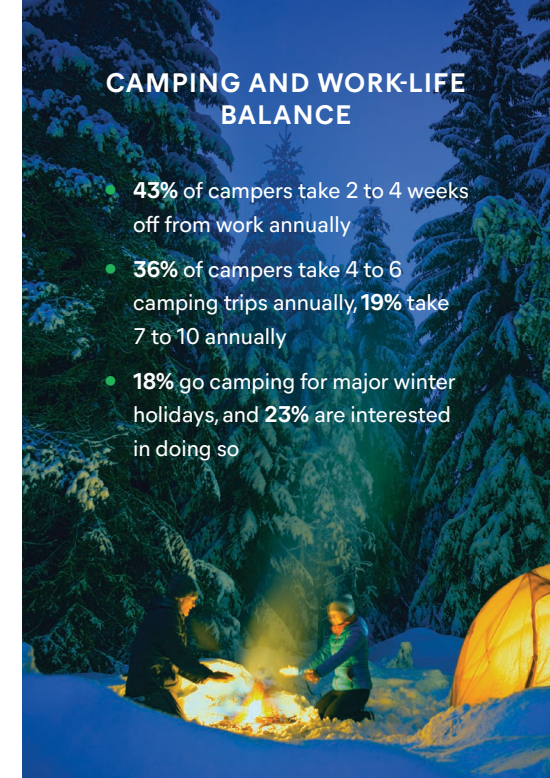
- Of those who have kids, **43%** have adult children (19+)
- Family vacation time is the most popular reason Campspot campers go camping, with **23%** citing it as their primary reason

### TYPES OF CAMPERS



### CAMPING AND WORK-LIFE BALANCE

- **43%** of campers take 2 to 4 weeks off from work annually
- **36%** of campers take 4 to 6 camping trips annually, **19%** take 7 to 10 annually
- **18%** go camping for major winter holidays, and **23%** are interested in doing so



### LOCAL EXPLORING

- When campers have to tighten their overall spending budget, **35%** take trips closer to home as a result
- **30%** of campers prefer to stay in their general region when it comes to camping, and **10%** prefer to stay in their state
- **43%** said they changed their travel plans to be more local due to 2022 gas prices

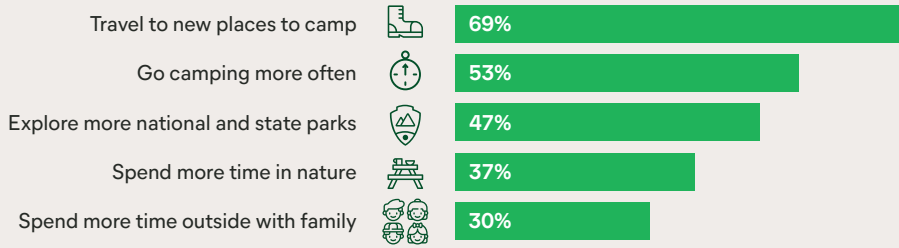
**48% of campers are open to traveling across the country**



### LONG DISTANCE TREKS

- Of the different types of campers, RV campers are most willing to travel long distances, with **39%** reporting they'll travel any distance if they have time
- Only **7%** of campers took a flight for a camping trip in the last three years

## TOP 2023 CAMPING GOALS



## TOP REGIONS CAMPERS ARE MOST EXCITED TO VISIT IN 2023

- 1 Yellowstone National Park
- 2 Colorado
- 3 Utah
- 4 Alaska
- 5 Yosemite National Park

## WHAT'S ON CAMPERS' HOLIDAY WISH LISTS

- 1 Grill
- 2 Tent
- 3 Generator
- 4 Camp stove
- 5 Hammock

## Trending on Campspot

### TOP CAMPGROUNDS FOR LONG-TERM WINTER STAYS



Nearly  
200,000

Total Campsites on Campspot

488

Campgrounds Added to Campspot Marketplace in 2022  
(As of August 1)

400,000+

Total Campspot App Users

On Campspot, a reservation is made every 10 seconds.

## FAVORITE WINTER ACTIVITIES



Tubing



Hiking



Snowmobiling



Downhill skiing



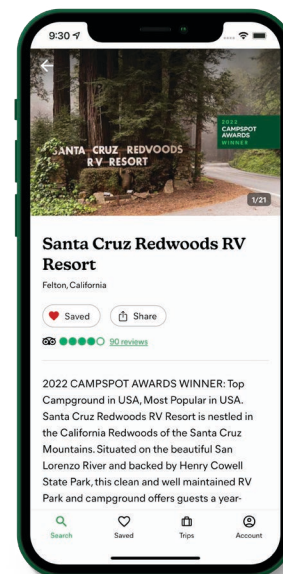
Ice skating

## TOP STATES CAMPERS ARE MOST INTERESTED IN VISITING IN 2023

- |                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| 1 Colorado       | 6 Wyoming    |
| 2 Montana        | 7 California |
| 3 Tennessee      | 8 Michigan   |
| 4 Florida        | 9 Oregon     |
| 5 North Carolina | 10 Utah      |

## MOST SAVED PARKS ON CAMPSPOT (YEAR-TO-DATE 2022)

- 1 Santa Cruz Redwoods RV Resort
- 2 Sun Outdoors Rocky Mountains
- 3 Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park™: Golden Valley
- 4 Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park™: Tower Park
- 5 Sun Outdoors Coos Bay
- 6 Carolina Pines RV Resort
- 7 Yellowstone Hot Springs
- 8 The Oasis Campground
- 9 Camp Fimfo Texas Hill Country
- 10 Sun Outdoors Paso Robles



## TOP DESTINATIONS FOR WINTER & SPRING CAMPING



### Palm Creek RV Resort

Casa Grande, AZ



### Sun Outdoors Sarasota

Sarasota, FL



### Oak Alley RV Resort

Webster, FL



### Leaf Verde RV Resort

Buckeye, AZ



### Keystone Heights RV Resort

Keystone Heights, FL



### Brialee Family Campground

Ashford, CT



### Nevada Treasure RV Resort

Pahrump, NV



### Mutton Creek Marina & Campgrounds

Greenfield, MO



### Bonelli Bluffs RV Resort & Campground

San Dimas, CA



### D&R Rivercity RV Resort

New Braunfels, TX



### Cold Springs Camp Resort

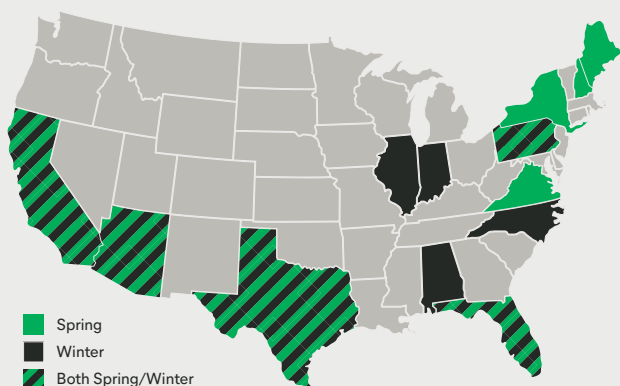
Weare, NH



### Oak Forest RV Resort

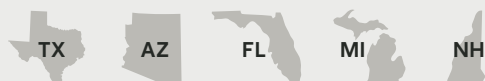
Austin, TX

## MOST POPULAR STATES FOR WINTER & SPRING CAMPING



### TRENDING STATES

(States with the largest year-over-year change in number of site night reservations)



## KEY DATES

DEC 18-26

Hanukkah

DEC 21

Winter Solstice

DEC 25

Christmas

DEC 26 - JAN 1

Kwanzaa

DEC 31

New Year's Eve

JAN 1

New Year's Day

JAN 14-16

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Weekend

FEB 14

Valentine's Day

FEB 18-20

Presidents' Day and Washington's Birthday Weekend

MAR 12

Daylight Saving Starts

MAR 17

St. Patrick's Day

MAR 20

Spring Equinox

APR 9

Easter

APR 15 - 23

National Park Week

APR 22

Earth Day

MAY 5

Cinco de Mayo

MAY 14

Mother's Day

At the time of this report, Kwanzaa, Christmas, and Christmas Eve are the holidays most in demand on Campspot during the winter and spring seasons.

# The Latest RV Camping Trends

BROUGHT TO YOU BY **RVshare**

## RV CAMPER DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

- RV rental rates stayed steady from 2020 to 2021, at **13%** of travelers. However, RVs are gaining popularity among younger demographics. **25%** of travelers aged 18 to 34 took an RV trip in the last 12 months, an increase of seven percentage points over the previous year.
- RV trips usually involve a group of people traveling together. Family (**35%**) and friends (**28%**) top the list of traveling parties.
- According to internal data, **40%** of RV renters are headed to a private or public campground when renting, followed by lake destinations and sporting events.
- 47%** of younger travelers (18 to 34) are eager to take an RV trip in the next 12 months. Half or more also want the convenience of an RV that is delivered and set up prior to their arrival.

Source: Phocuswright Inc., U.S. Consumer Travel Survey of 2,158 U.S. travelers aged 18+ conducted in April 2022 in partnership with RVshare.

## TRAVEL TRENDS AND RV CAMPER PREFERENCES

- What are people listening to?
  - 35%** are listening to curated playlists
  - 30%** are listening to local radio stations
  - 24%** prefer to chat with their family and friends
  - 17%** prefer to listen to podcasts
  - 14%** like audio books
- 50%** prefer to make homemade snacks or meals on their trips, and **26%** claim they prefer gas station/convenience store snacks. Only **15%** prefer fast food drive-thru.
- 56%** say their go-to drink on the road is water, **20%** prefer coffee/tea, and **13%** want soda
- 64%** of travelers prefer to park and eat if they stop for food
- The most popular roadside attractions:
  - State parks (**26%**)
  - Locations with water for a quick dip (**20%**)
  - Unique and local roadside attractions (e.g., the largest ball of yarn) (**16%**)
  - Hiking trails, historical markers, and diners or dives were at the bottom of the list, along with museums

Source: RVshare Travel Sentiment Survey, June 2022. Active RVshare customers in the past 60 days, 1,860 responses, ages 25-99.

RVshare is the world's largest online community for RV renters and owners, with over 100,000 RV rentals across the United States.



LEARN MORE:

**65%**  
of campers prefer to be drivers

**28%**  
prefer to be passengers

## TOP DESTINATIONS FOR RVERS

- 1 Grand Canyon, AZ
- 2 Las Vegas, NV
- 3 The Campsites at Disney's Fort Wilderness, FL
- 4 Yosemite National Park, CA
- 5 Ginnie Springs, FL
- 6 Zion National Park, UT
- 7 Daytona International Speedway, FL
- 8 Campland on the Bay in San Diego, CA
- 9 Okeechobee, FL
- 10 Moab, UT

Source: RVshare Internal Data, January to June 2022.

## TOP EVENT VENUES FOR RVERS

- 1 Daytona International Speedway, FL
- 2 Gorge Amphitheater, WA, for camping and concerts
- 3 Oshkosh, WI, for the largest airshow in the U.S.
- 4 Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park and Campground, FL
- 5 Las Vegas Motorspeedway, NV

Source: RVshare Internal Data, January to June 2022.



### DESTINATION SPOTLIGHT

## Montrose, Colorado

Located at 5,794 feet above sea level, this Western Colorado town is a perfect hub for outdoor adventure. In fact, their town motto is "Stay here. Play everywhere." Hang your hat in Montrose to explore Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, the San Juan Mountains, Grand Mesa, the Uncompahgre Plateau, and more.

## Ask an Expert

### What advice would you give someone who is interested in trying RVing, but scared of driving/towing a rig for the first time?



First, just know that anyone can drive an RV! You don't need a special license to drive or tow. That being said, driving can be intimidating, and there are two major things you can do that will help.

1. **Practice, practice, practice!** Find a big empty parking lot and take the RV for a spin. Practice turning and maneuvering until you feel confident in the driver's seat. You'll be surprised how quickly you warm up to being behind the wheel of an RV!
2. **Have the RV delivered.** That's right, you don't have to drive an RV in order to enjoy an RV camping trip. Many owners on the RVshare platform are happy to deliver the RV to your destination, and will even set it up at your campsite. This means all you have to do is show up, unpack, and start your adventure!



### Megan Buemi

Head of Content at RVshare  
rvshare.com | @rvshare

## Where to Camp



### Riverbend RV Park & Cabins

Open year-round, Riverbend RV Park & Cabins has everything you and your adventure crew need to plan an epic retreat, including a dog park and walk-in river access for fly fishing!

**BOOK YOUR STAY WITH CAMSPOT:**



## Average Monthly Weather

brought to you by The Weather Channel



	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
High	40°	41°	46°	57°	64°	74°
Low	18°	18°	23°	30°	37°	45°
Precip.	0.64"	0.51"	0.47"	0.68"	0.77"	0.82"



Enjoy the ad-free, weather-rich life. Learn more about The Weather Channel Premium.

## Fun Fact

Montrose was named for one of the characters in *The Legend of Montrose*, a novel by famed Scottish writer Sir Walter Scott ([citytowninfo.com](http://citytowninfo.com)).

## Where to Eat

**Camp Robber**  
1515 Ogden Rd.  
Montrose, CO 81401  
\$\$ | [camprobber.com](http://camprobber.com)

## Where to Explore

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park

South Rim  
9800 Hwy 347  
Montrose, CO 81401

North Rim  
7295 Black Canyon Road  
Crawford, CO 81415

The North Rim is closed to vehicles in the winter. Visit [nps.gov](http://nps.gov) for the latest information.

# How to Figure Out Your Camping Personality



CONTRIBUTED BY  
JEREMY PUGLISI

Vacation days are precious, and we all want to be happy campers when we pull into a campground. We often think that the journey to camping bliss begins when we hit the open road, but the journey really starts much earlier. It starts when we choose a campground and make our reservations using Campspot.

Researching new campgrounds is part of the fun for many people. But for others, the sheer number of options can be overwhelming. So how do you pick a campground that's right for you? It might help to stop and take a second to figure out your own unique camping personality.



## Serenity Now

Do you like a simple, back-to-nature camping experience that's focused on campfires and peace and quiet in the great outdoors? Then look for a relaxing campground surrounded by natural beauty like [Elkcamp Eastcreek](#) in Mineral, Washington.



## Adventure or Nothing

Or maybe you're looking to explore a national park or area that's known for rock climbing, hiking, or whitewater rafting. Then you should look for a clean, comfortable, and convenient basecamp for adventure like [The Outpost at New River Gorge](#) in Fayetteville, West Virginia.



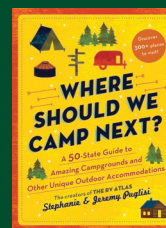
## In It for the Fam

If you're camping with kids, you might want to find a family-friendly campground filled with great activities and amenities like pools, playgrounds, waterslides, and laser tag, like [Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park™ Camp-Resort: Williamsport](#) in Williamsport, Maryland.

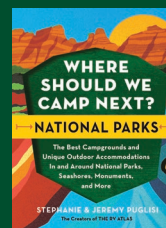


## The Luxurious Life for Me

Or maybe you want an RV resort that caters a bit more to adults who like to camp in the lap of luxury. [Carolina Pines RV Resort](#) in Conway, South Carolina, has a cocktail bar on-site and comfortable communal fire pits that are perfect for lounging under the stars.



Want to learn more about your camping personality and where to camp next? Check out *Where Should We Camp Next?: A 50 State Guide to Amazing Campgrounds and Other Unique Outdoor Accommodations*.



Jeremy Puglisi is the host of The RV Atlas podcast and co-author of the books *See You at the Campground: A Guide to Discovering Community, Connection, and a Happier Family in the Great Outdoors* and the bestselling *Where Should We Camp Next?: A 50 State Guide to Amazing Campgrounds and Other Unique Outdoor Accommodations*. His fourth book, *Where Should We Camp Next? National Parks*, will be published by Sourcebooks in April of 2023.

Scan this QR code to see Jeremy's titles on Campspot's list of must-read camping books.



# Road Trips and Scenic Drives



## Campspotter Road Trip Trends

**54%**

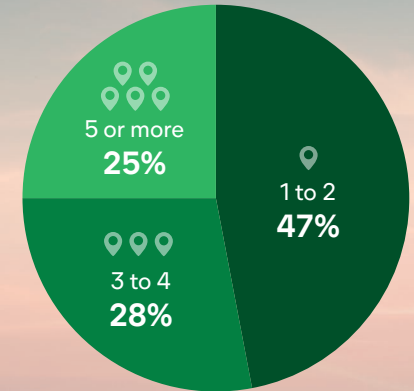
of Campspot campers are planning a road trip for 2023



- The most common reason Campspot campers take road trips is for the flexibility it affords them
- Following flexibility, campers enjoy how they have more control over their trips when they drive, as well as the process of driving and being on the road

- **37%** of Campspot campers are willing to travel any distance on a road trip if they have time, while **26%** prefer trips that are 6 to 10 hours in length
- After private campgrounds, public lands and hotels were the next most popular accommodation types for road trips

NUMBER OF CAMPGROUNDS PER ROAD TRIP FOR THOSE WHO STOP AT CAMPGROUNDS



**63% of road-trippers book their campground stays in advance**

TOP ROAD TRIP DESTINATIONS FOR 2023



ROAD TRIP ROUTE PREFERENCE

**56%**

Loop

**44%**

There-and-Back



Turn your road trip into an adventure. Roadtrippers is the #1 road trip planning tool that helps road travelers discover, plan, book, and navigate epic road trips. Roadtrippers has helped more than 18 million visitors plan over 38 million trips covering more than 42 billion miles.



## TOP 5 DESTINATIONS FOR CAMPING

The most popular destinations were largely found in the west, where campers were drawn to the beautiful landscapes and open spaces.

- 1 Moab, UT
- 2 Sedona, AZ
- 3 Florida Keys, FL
- 4 West Yellowstone, MT
- 5 Tuscon, AZ



## TOP NATIONAL PARKS WHERE TRAVELERS PLANNED ROAD TRIPS

- 1 Grand Canyon National Park
- 2 Arches National Park
- 3 Zion National Park
- 4 Great Sand Dunes National Park
- 5 White Sands National Park
- 6 Mount Rushmore National Memorial
- 7 Yellowstone National Park
- 8 Mammoth Cave National Park
- 9 Hot Springs National Park
- 10 Badlands National Park
- 11 Crater Lake National Park



## TOP STATE PARKS WHERE TRAVELERS PLANNED ROAD TRIPS

- 1 South Yuba River State Park CALIFORNIA
- 2 Maquoketa Caves State Park IOWA
- 3 Cumberland Falls State Resort Park KENTUCKY
- 4 Hanging Rock State Park NORTH CAROLINA
- 5 Watkins Glen State Park NEW YORK
- 6 Palo Duro Canyon State Park TEXAS
- 7 Niagara Falls State Park NEW YORK
- 8 Letchworth State Park NEW YORK
- 9 Valley of Fire State Park NEVADA
- 10 Weeki Wachee Springs State Park FLORIDA
- 11 Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site ILLINOIS
- 12 Custer State Park SOUTH DAKOTA

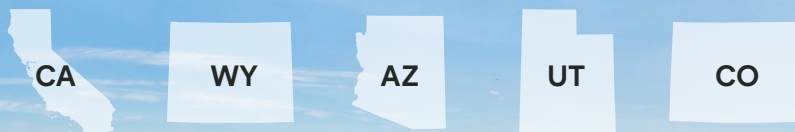


## WHO'S AT THE CAMPGROUND?

- 67% of campers are couples
- 19% of campers are families
- 14% of campers are solo



## TOP 5 STATES WHERE CAMPERS PLAN ROAD TRIPS



## HOW FAR DO ROADTRIPPERS TRAVEL?

AVERAGE ROUTE DISTANCE **1,223 miles**

AVERAGE DRIVING DURATION **20.5 hours**

## TOP 3 MODES OF TRAVEL ON A ROAD TRIP





## WINTER

### Florida East Coast

470 miles

Whether you start in the northern or southern part of the state, a drive along the east coast is a perfect way to say goodbye to the winter blues.

#### WHERE TO STAY



**Sun Outdoors Key Largo**  
Key Largo, FL



**Indian River RV Park**  
Titusville, FL



**Ocean Grove RV Resort**  
St. Augustine, FL



## SPRING

### New Orleans, LA, to Fredericksburg, TX

469 miles

With pit stops in Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Beaumont, Houston, and Austin, this route is a Cajun food-lover's dream. Be sure to drive the Willow City Loop just north of Fredericksburg for wildflowers galore.

#### WHERE TO STAY



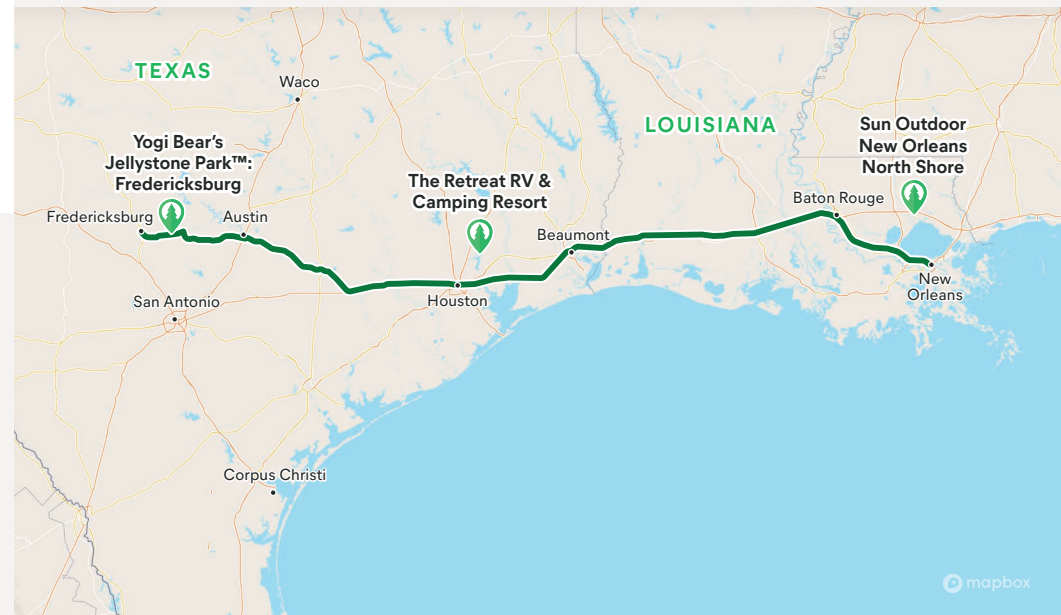
**Sun Outdoors New Orleans North Shore**  
Ponchatoula, LA

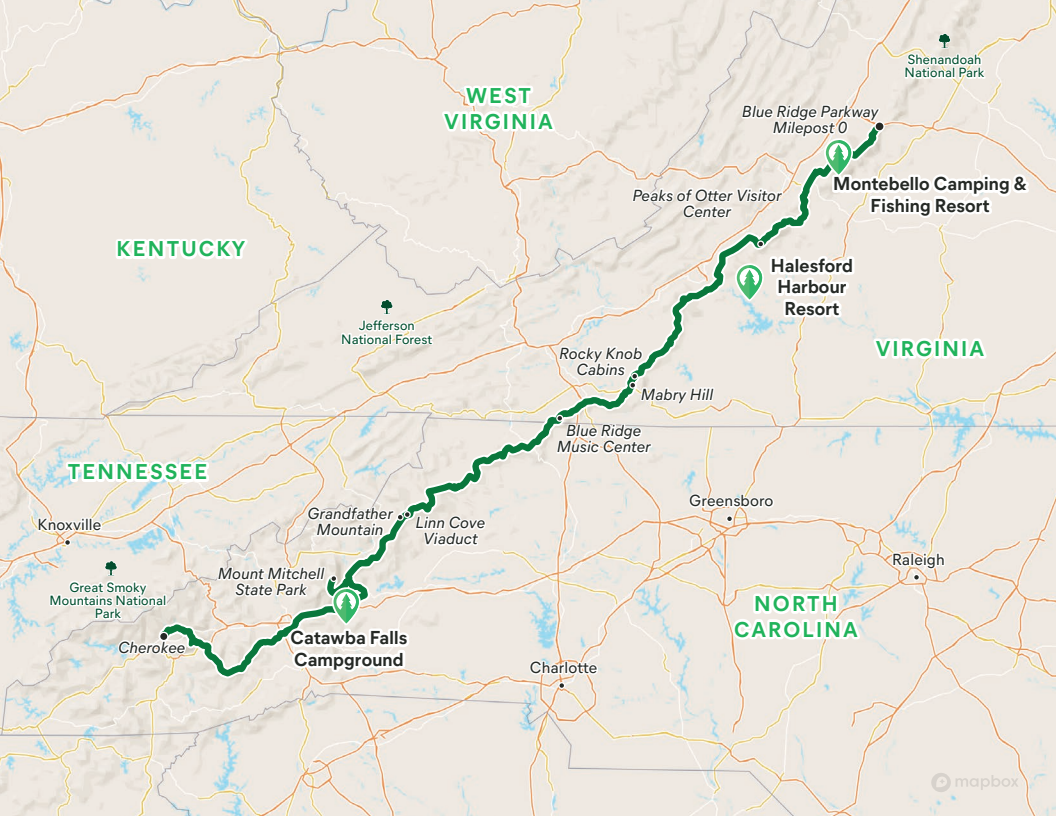


**The Retreat RV & Camping Resort**  
Huffman, TX



**Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park™ Fredericksburg**  
Fredericksburg, TX





SUMMER

## Blue Ridge Parkway

469 miles

An epic drive filled with stunning vistas of the Appalachian Highlands, this route is nicknamed "America's Favorite Drive" for a reason.

### WHERE TO STAY



**Catawba Falls Campground**  
Old Fort, NC



**Halesford Harbour Resort**  
Moneta, VA



**Montebello Camping & Fishing Resort**  
Montebello, VA

FALL

## Covered Bridge Tour in Indiana

35+ miles

Indiana has 31 covered bridges that are super quaint and historic. According to locals, Sim Smith Bridge is even haunted! Visit [coveredbridges.com](https://coveredbridges.com) for the full list of five driving routes.

### WHERE TO STAY



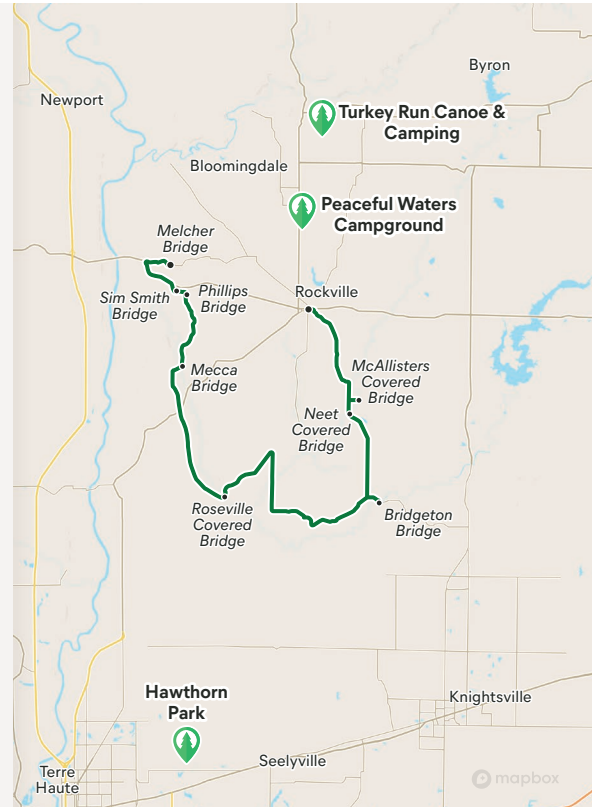
**Turkey Run Canoe & Camping**  
Bloomington, IN



**Peaceful Waters Campground**  
Bloomington, IN



**Hawthorn Park**  
Terre Haute, IN



## What are some of your favorite scenic routes across the United States?

### Route 100 VERMONT

This lesser-known scenic route stretches from the Massachusetts border up to Canada. The 211-mile road winds through quaint Vermont towns dotted with coffee shops, farm stands, ski resorts, and must-stop destinations like the Ben & Jerry's ice cream factory.



### Peter Norbeck National Scenic Byway SOUTH DAKOTA

This scenic byway is shaped like a figure-eight and winds through the rugged landscape of the Black Hills in South Dakota. It includes the 14-mile Needles Highway, where you'll want to take your time along the winding road and through the narrow Needles Eye tunnel. Watch for glimpses of Mount Rushmore in the distance as you drive.



### Scenic Byway 12 UTAH

Some of the most iconic red rock scenery in all of Utah can be found along this 123-mile scenic route that stretches from Capitol Reef National Park and Bryce Canyon National Park. Hike among the spires and chimneys in Kodachrome Basin State Park and enjoy the stunning views at Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.



### Pacific Coast Scenic Byway OREGON

Most folks think of California when planning a dreamy drive on the Pacific Coast Highway. Instead, escape the crowds and head north to drive the 363 miles of astonishing scenery along the Oregon coastline.



### Stephanie Puglisi

VP Content for Roadpass Digital (brands including Roadtrippers, Campendium, Togo RV, RVillage) and co-author of *See You at the Campground*, *Where Should We Camp Next?*, and *Where Should We Camp Next?: National Parks*. Stephanie also co-hosts the RV Atlas podcast.

[roadtrippers.com](http://roadtrippers.com) | [@roadtrippers](https://twitter.com/roadtrippers)

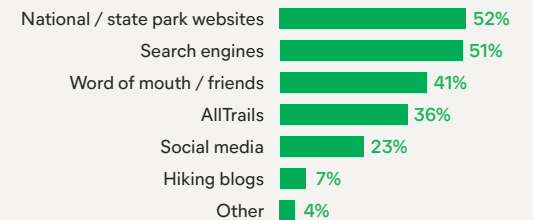
# Hiking



## Key Trends

- When it comes to hiking trail difficulty, **60%** of Campspot campers who hike prefer moderate or challenging trails
- **46%** of Campspot campers prefer campgrounds with hiking trails

## WHERE HIKERS GET INFORMATION ABOUT HIKING TRAILS



# Key Dates & Events



- JAN 21** **Winter Hike at Hocking Hills**  
Logan, OH | [hockinghills.com/calendar\\_of\\_events.html](https://hockinghills.com/calendar_of_events.html)
- FEB 4** **2023 Sun Country Snowshoe Run/Walk**  
Elum, WA | [krankevents.com/snowshoe-races/events-sr](https://krankevents.com/snowshoe-races/events-sr)
- FEB 10-13** **25th Annual Adirondack Mountain Festival**  
Keene Valley, NY | [mountaineer.com/mountainfest](https://mountaineer.com/mountainfest)
- FEB 28** **U.S. Snowshoe Day**
- APR 15** **MammothMarch Alabama**  
Oak Mountain State Park | [mammothmarch.com/alabama-2023](https://mammothmarch.com/alabama-2023)
- APR 26-29** **73rd Annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage**  
Great Smoky Mountains National Park | [wildflowerpilgrimage.org](https://wildflowerpilgrimage.org)
- APR 29** **MammothMarch Central Florida**  
Fort Christmas Historical Park | [mammothmarch.com/central-florida-2023](https://mammothmarch.com/central-florida-2023)

## Ask an Expert

### What are your top tips for hiking with infants and toddlers?

- 1. Invest in a good carrier.** There are many types of carriers that work for hiking. I am partial to a soft structured carrier for my babies and like to switch to a framed carrier when they are a little older. Find what works best for your situation.
- 2. Start close to home.** Try to find a trail near you when you're first starting out. I love checking AllTrails and adjusting the filters to what I am looking for. Choose an easy trail that you can test out and get your feet dirty on.
- 3. Just go.** You can probably think of a lot of things that will be hard about hiking with kids, but you'll figure it out once you hit the trail! Feeding your baby on the trail, changing diapers, and figuring out naps all come with practice and actually doing it.



### Hailey Terry

Outdoors enthusiast and mom of two  
[haileyoutside.com](https://haileyoutside.com) | [@haileyoutside](https://twitter.com/haileyoutside)



DESTINATION SPOTLIGHT

## Moab, Utah

Moab boasts that it's a "perfect location" as an adventure base, and it's no wonder. It provides hiking access to not only Arches and Canyonlands National Parks, but also the Colorado River, forests, a state park, and Bureau of Land Management land. If that wasn't enough, you can hike with dinosaurs outside of Moab on preserved dinosaur tracks ([discovermoab.com](https://discovermoab.com)).

### Where to Camp



#### Portal RV Resort and Campground

This full-service luxury RV resort offers both lodging and the largest RV sites in Moab. Located just a few minutes from downtown Moab, you'll be centrally located for all of your adventures and close to good eats.

**BOOK YOUR STAY WITH CAMPSPOT:**



### Average Monthly Weather

brought to you by The Weather Channel



	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
High	44°	44°	52°	65°	72°	85°
Low	22°	21°	27°	36°	43°	51°
Precip.	0.76"	0.65"	0.66"	0.70"	0.77"	0.82"



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### Fun Fact

Over 50 movies have been shot in the Moab area, including *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, *Thelma and Louise*, and *City Slickers II* ([discovermoab.com](https://discovermoab.com)).

### Where to Eat

**Moab Diner**  
189 S Main St.  
Moab, UT 84532  
\$ | [moabdiner.com](https://moabdiner.com)

### Where to Explore



#### Dead Horse Point State Park

Known for the widely photographed scenic vistas at 2,000 feet above the Colorado River, the overlook at Dead Horse Point State Park is a must-see (and worth looking past the grim name).



# Ultimate Retreats

## Ask an Expert

What's your advice for campers looking to explore Alaska? Any must-see places or need-to-know tips?

Nothing can prepare you for your first experience in Alaska. It's a place that immediately makes you feel very small, yet very grateful. It's a destination where the wilderness swallows you up. This can feel a bit overwhelming at first, but if you come prepared, educate yourself, and embrace the Last Frontier, you will never be the same!

Top tips:

- 1. Be wild animal-aware!** Visiting Alaska grants you an amazing opportunity to catch a glimpse of bears, moose, wolves, caribou, eagles, salmon, and the list goes on. It's exciting to see a wild animal, but just remember that they are exactly that, wild! Keep a safe distance away, don't separate from your group, and a good ole "hey bear" typically does the trick.
- 2. Keep your site clean!** Use the bear-safe receptacles to store trash, and don't keep food on your person or in your tent. Use a bear box or a bear bag to store your food. If you are in a dispersed camping situation, pick a tree that is at least 200 feet away from camp, and hang your bag at least 15 feet from the ground. Arming yourself with bear spray can bring comfort when camping in Alaska, but be sure to check camp guidelines and permissions prior to doing so.
- 3. Dress for the occasion.** Layers will be your best friend. Yes, Alaska can be very cold, but it can also be very hot, and very rainy. Always bring an extra pair of socks, and make sure your shoes are comfortable. I would recommend wearing pants when exploring the forests. Regional plants like Devils Club can cause skin reactions, and the locals will tell you the state bird of Alaska is the mosquito!

The last bit of advice I would share is to try EVERYTHING! Go see a glacier, eat some halibut, drink some local beer, play with an Alaskan husky, hike up a mountain, explore an old Gold Rush town. You are in Alaska, and it doesn't get much better than that!



### Taylor Champion

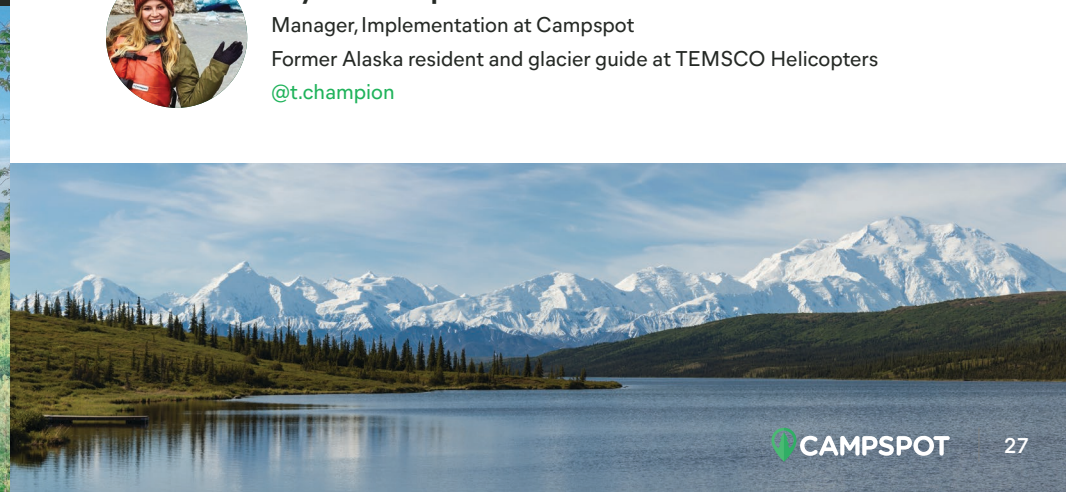
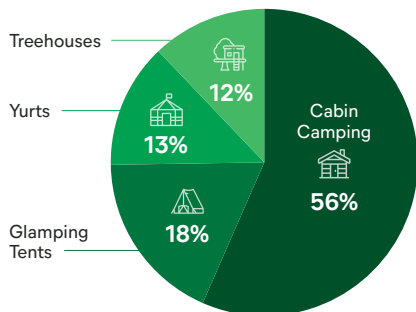
Manager, Implementation at Campspot

Former Alaska resident and glacier guide at TEMSCO Helicopters

[@t.champion](#)

## Preferred Glamping Methods

### PREFERENCES OF CAMPSPOT CAMPERS WHO ENJOY GLAMPING



# Ultimate Camping Retreats

## FOR YEAR-ROUND ADVENTURE



**American  
Sunset RV &  
Tent Resort**  
Westport, WA



**Dark Sky RV  
Campground**  
Kanab, UT



**Joshua  
Tree RV  
Campground**  
Joshua Tree, CA



## FOR POWDER HOURS



**Black Bear RV  
Park**  
McCall, ID



**Whistler RV  
Park and  
Campground**  
Whistler, BC



**Angel Fire RV  
Resort**  
Angel Fire, NM



## FOR CURING WINTER BLUES



**Paradise by  
the Sea Beach  
RV Resort**  
Oceanside, CA



**The Hideaway  
Retreat**  
Navarre, FL



**Margaritaville  
RV Resort at  
Lanier Islands**  
Buford, GA



## FOR PEACE AND QUIET



**Point of  
Rocks RV  
Campground**  
Prescott, AZ



**Campfire  
Ranch on the  
Taylor**  
Almont, CO



**Santa Cruz  
Redwoods RV  
Resort**  
Felton, CA



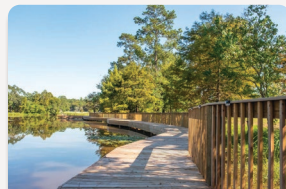
## FOR LONG-TERM LIVING



**Hide-A-Way  
Harbor RV  
Park**  
Astatula, FL



**Homestead RV  
Community**  
Weatherford, TX



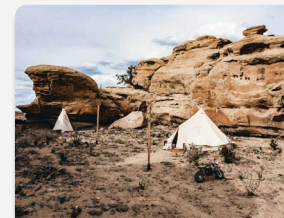
**The Retreat  
RV & Camping  
Resort**  
Huffman, TX



## FOR WOW-FACTOR GLAMPING EXPERIENCES



**Big Rock  
Creek**  
Saint Croix Falls, WI



**KitFox**  
Lamy, NM



**River Run  
Resort & Grill**  
Kingsclear, NB





Each passing month brings new reasons to travel, so if you are looking for an outdoor adventure in the new year that involves some epic animal sightings, here are a few destinations that are best visited in the first few months of 2023.



## Baby Seals at Año Nuevo State Park

CALIFORNIA

Año Nuevo State Park is home to one of the world's largest mainland breeding colonies of elephant seals. Between mid-December and the end of March, up to 10,000 seals turn up, covering every inch of the beaches in the state park. Female elephant seals give birth to pups from late December to early February, and bulls can be seen fighting for their mates. There are daily naturalist-led walks available for visitors to see the seals up close.

**Where to Stay:** [Santa Cruz Redwoods RV Resort](#), Felton, CA



## Wintering Bald Eagles at Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve

ALASKA

The Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve is home to the world's largest concentration of bald eagles and their critical habitat. It also sustains several natural salmon runs, including the "alluvial fan reservoir." The water in this large reservoir remains between 10 and 20 degrees above surrounding water temperatures, and this warmer water percolates into the Chilkat River, keeping it from freezing over in the winter. This open water and plentiful food supply of salmon attracts bald eagles to the area from October through February.

**Where to Stay:** [Oceanside RV Park](#), Haines, AK



## Bison at Yellowstone National Park

IDAHO, MONTANA, AND WYOMING

Yellowstone National Park, the world's first national park, is less crowded in winter, offering visitors views of steaming geyser basins and wildlife. During these cold months, bison are often seen making their way through the snow to warm themselves near geyser basins. There are between 2,300 and 5,500 bison living in two herds in the park, according to the National Park Service. As park roads are closed to the interior of the park, the only way to visit Old Faithful and other attractions in the winter is by guided snowcoach or snowmobile.

**Where to Stay:** [Valley View RV Park Campground](#), Island Park, ID

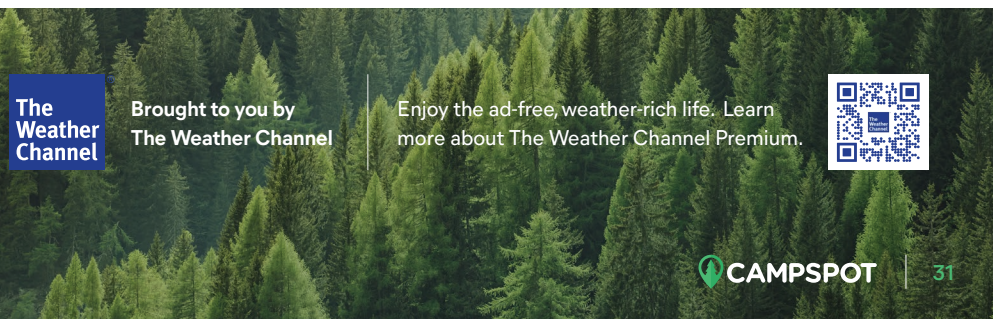


## Snowy Owls at Sachuest National Wildlife Refuge

RHODE ISLAND

Every year, some Northern American snowy owls will migrate to southern Canada and the northern half of the U.S. and can be spotted in the Northern Plains, New York, and New England. One great place to go looking for snowy owls is Sachuest National Wildlife Refuge in Rhode Island. Some banded snowy owls will return to the same wintering site year after year, and, according to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the birds can be fiercely territorial about their wintering territory, even engaging in combat with other owls to protect their space.

**Where to Stay:** [Meadowlark RV Park](#), Middletown, RI



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# Fishing



## Angler Trends

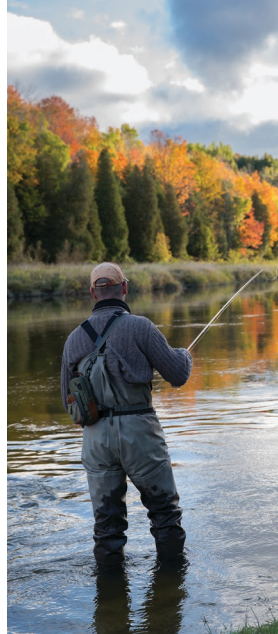
# 21%

of Campspot campers have tried ice fishing in the past, and 8% are interested in trying in the future

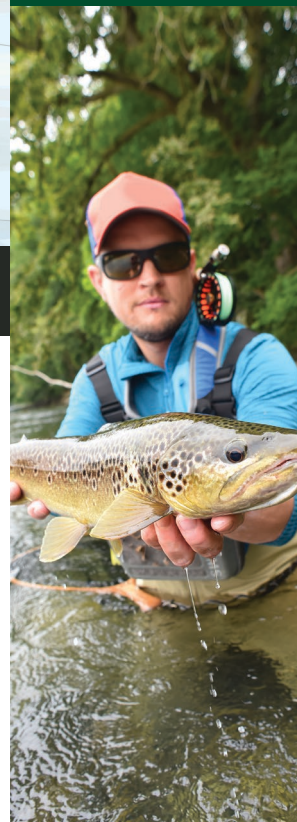
- Bait fishing is the most popular way Campspot campers enjoy fishing
- Of Campspot campers who fish, the most cited motivation for fishing was to relax, followed by spending time with kids and bonding with friends and family
- Of campers who fish and are interested in fishing amenities, 49% are most interested in having access to a body of water, and 9% are interested in access to bait and equipment rentals

## Key Dates & Events

- JAN 14-15** **Virginia Fly Fishing & Wine Festival**  
Doswell, VA | [vaflyfishingfestival.com](http://vaflyfishingfestival.com)
- JAN 27-29** **Burbot Bash**  
Flaming Gorge Reservoir, WY | [burbotbash.com](http://burbotbash.com)
- JAN 28** **The Brainerd Jaycees Ice Fishing Extravaganza**  
Gull Lake, MN | [icefishing.org](http://icefishing.org)
- FEB 3-5** **Atlanta Fly Fishing Show**  
Atlanta, GA | [flyfishingshow.com/atlanta](http://flyfishingshow.com/atlanta)
- MAR 1-5** **Houston Fishing Show**  
Houston, TX | [houstonfishingshow.com](http://houstonfishingshow.com)
- MAR 2-4** **Maine Fishermen's Forum**  
Rockport, ME | [mainefishermensforum.org](http://mainefishermensforum.org)
- APR 29** **Blue Ridge Trout & Outdoor Adventure Festival**  
Blue Ridge, GA | [blueridgetroutfest.com](http://blueridgetroutfest.com)



## Ask an Expert



### What's the best way to properly handle a fish?

When I bring a fish in, I try to stress two major concepts: keep them wet and keep them horizontal. I like to keep fish in the net as long as possible to reduce their exposure to the air and, in late summer, the heat. Rubber nets are preferred, as they support a fish without removing scales or slime.

When I do bring the fish out of the net, I try to support them as best as I can with my hands underneath them. It's important to remember that fish are built for being horizontal and having their bodies supported by water. If you're trying to get a photo, don't hesitate to dunk the fish once or twice for their own sake and for a great drip effect in your photo.



### Cavan Williams

Content Editor at Fishbrain  
[fishbrain.com](http://fishbrain.com) | [@fishbrainapp](https://twitter.com/fishbrainapp)

The first hard freezes of the season can often come early in a lot of northern states. This can give you early and safe access to the ice, but it also dictates where you want to drill.

## WHERE TO ICE FISH

### Early December

During the early season freezes that can happen in December, the water is still warm enough to focus on shallower weed beds and points on the lake similar to where you would fish pre-freeze.



### Later in the Season

As winter progresses, though, the warmer water will be deeper and so will the fish. By late December, you should be focusing on potholes, drop-offs, and deep rock outcroppings as the baitfish will have moved here to cope with the below-zero temperatures above. Your fishing depths are completely dependent on how deep the lake you're fishing is. Navionics depth charts on the Fishbrain App are perfect for identifying exactly where these features are.

## DESTINATION SPOTLIGHT Lakeville, Maine

Located in the eastern part of the state, this small town is 2.5 hours north of Acadia National Park and, as its name suggests, offers plenty of lake access—perfect for swimming, fishing, and outdoor adventures, no matter what time of year you visit.

### Where to Camp



### Wild Fox Cabins & Campground

This pet-friendly campground is situated right on Junior Lake. Available activities include swimming, canoeing, kayaking, birdwatching, and boat camping on islands in the lake. In winter, guests can partake in snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and ice fishing—with guides available.

**BOOK YOUR STAY WITH CAMPSPOT:**



### Fun Fact

Despite only being 65.79 square miles in size, Lakeville affords access to 10 different lakes.

### Where to Eat

**The Forester Pub**  
204 West Broadway  
Lincoln, ME 04457  
\$\$ | [theforesterpub.com](http://theforesterpub.com)

### Where to Explore



### Junior Lake

This lake is 3,866 acres and one of the interconnected lakes in the area. Anglers will be delighted to find both warm and cold water varieties of fish at this year-round premier fishing destination in the Northeast.

### Average Monthly Weather

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	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
High	33°	27°	30°	39°	51°	64°
Low	18°	9°	10°	20°	32°	42°
Precip.	4.93"	3.77"	3.28"	3.98"	3.63"	3.33"



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# National Parks



## Ask an Expert

### What are Yellowstone National Park's must-see spots?

My first visit to Yellowstone National Park was with *Black People Who Hike* during their National Park Tour. A three-day trip focused on restorative healing, community, and exploring these must-see places! If you are cramped for time like we were, Yellowstone can seem a bit overwhelming, spanning more than 3,400 square miles from Montana to Wyoming. This short list of must-see destinations will make your trip planning easy!

- **Geothermals:** Old Faithful and Grand Prismatic are two of the most famous and recognizable geothermal features in the park. Getting its name from its predictable eruptions, Old Faithful still erupts in regular intervals of about 90 minutes or so and is quite the sight to see in person! Less than seven miles down the road is the famed blue pool known as Grand Prismatic Spring which, though now dormant, used to be an active geyser that erupted at heights of almost 300 feet!
- **Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone:** The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River is a must-see when coming to Yellowstone to witness the sheer beauty and power of the Yellowstone River. There are several trails one may take to experience this area, but I recommend starting at the North Rim and making your way to the iconic Artist Point.
- **Wildlife Viewings:** Hayden Valley is teeming with wildlife that is easily spotted while driving, with ample turnoffs to enjoy the many animal sightings you will undoubtedly see from bald eagles to bison!



**Joshua Walker** @joshoutrippin

*Black People Who Hike* Brand Ambassador and LA-based Travel Blogger  
[blackpeoplewhohike.com](http://blackpeoplewhohike.com) | [@blackpeoplewhohike](https://www.instagram.com/blackpeoplewhohike)

## Key Trends

# 79%

of Campspot campers have been to a national park

- 20% of Campspot campers visited a national park for the first time in the last year
- 79% of Campspot campers have plans to visit a national or state park within the next year
- 33% of Campspot campers prefer to camp outside of the park



*Black People Who Hike* is an organization that works to empower, educate, and re-engage black people to the outdoors through wellness campaigns, health advocacy, and community-based activities including hiking, camping, kayaking, rock climbing, and yoga. To learn more, visit [blackpeoplewhohike.com](http://blackpeoplewhohike.com).



# Campspot Campers' Favorite National Parks



**1**  
Yellowstone National Park



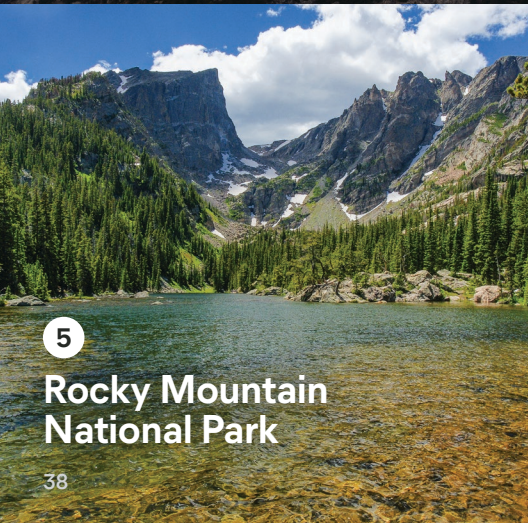
**2**  
Great Smoky Mountains National Park



**3**  
Yosemite National Park



**4**  
Grand Canyon National Park



**5**  
Rocky Mountain National Park

Yellowstone National Park is the national park that Campspot campers most want to visit in 2023.



## DESTINATION SPOTLIGHT Yellowstone National Park

Located in three different states (largely Wyoming with little bits in Montana and Idaho), Yellowstone National Park is a massive 3,472-square-mile adventure zone. The park is home to over 10,000 hydrothermal features—geysers, hot springs, mud pots, and fumaroles. Yeah, we had to look up what that last one meant and...um, wow?! ([yellowstone.org](http://yellowstone.org)).

### Where to Camp



#### Yellowstone Hot Springs

Located only eight miles from Yellowstone's North entrance, this Campspot award-winning campground offers a soaking experience in hot springs surrounded by stunning mountain views. Stay at a tent or RV site, or in one of the campground's four cabins.



**BOOK YOUR STAY WITH CAMPSPOT:**

### Average Monthly Weather

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	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
High	22°	23°	26°	35°	41°	51°
Low	3°	1°	1°	8°	17°	26°
Precip.	2.35"	1.80"	1.70"	1.90"	2.28"	2.35"



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### Fun Fact

Yellowstone National Park was the world's first national park! ([visitbigsky.com](http://visitbigsky.com))

### Where to Eat

Running Bear Pancake House  
538 Madison Ave  
W. Yellowstone, MT 59758  
\$\$ | [runningbearph.com](http://runningbearph.com)

### Where to Explore



Grand Prismatic Spring  
This is the largest hot spring in the United States and probably the most quintessential Yellowstone sight to see, known for its enormity and gorgeous colors.

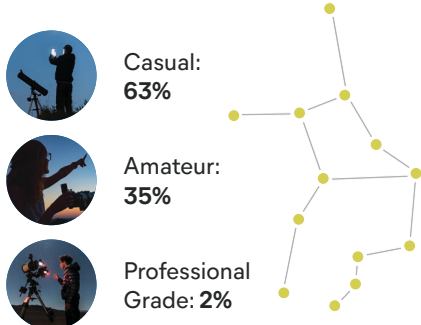
# Stargazing



## Key Trends

15% of Campspot campers go camping for celestial events like super moons and meteor showers, and 35% said they were interested in camping during celestial events

### CAMPSPOTTER STARGAZERS EXPERTISE LEVEL



### KEY CELESTIAL DATES

According to [in-the-sky.org](http://in-the-sky.org)

DEC 14	Gemini Meteor Shower
DEC 21	Winter Solstice
MAR 15	γ-Normid Meteor Shower
MAR 20	Spring Equinox
APR 20	Hybrid Solar Eclipse
APR 23	Lyrid Meteor Shower
APR 24	π-Puppis Meteor Shower
MAY 6	η-Aquariid Meteor Shower



### FULL MOON AND CONSTELLATION GUIDE

According to [constellation-guide.com](http://constellation-guide.com) and [fullmoonology.com](http://fullmoonology.com)

Month	Constellation to Spot	Full Moon
DEC	Perseus	Cold Moon (12/7)
JAN	Orion	Wolf Moon (1/6)
FEB	Canis Major	Snow Moon (2/5)
MAR	Canis Minor	Worm Moon (3/7)
APR	Leo	Pink Moon (4/6)
MAY	Virgo	Flower Moon (5/5)



## Ask an Expert

**TAXA habitats are built in Space City and designed by a NASA architect. How do they make stargazing easier?**

Stargazing? Habitat design? Yes. We thought about that. We like looking up. All our habitats have red LED lights inside and out. Stargazers (and hunters and pilots) know we do that so that we can read star maps without our pupils dilating—making it easy to refer back and forth to the map so we can name the constellations with no adjustment time. Also, red lights make a great night light for sleeping kids and a great safety feature on the outside—marking the entry steps in a way that causes no light pollution at your campsite!



### Garrett Finney

Founder of TAXA Outdoors

[taxaoutdoors.com](http://taxaoutdoors.com) | [@taxaoutdoors](https://twitter.com/taxaoutdoors)



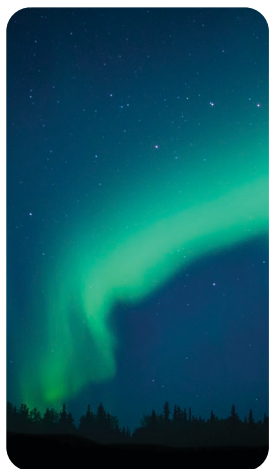


## Mauna Kea, Hawaii

Mauna Kea on the island of Hawaii is ideal for stargazers to observe not just the night sky, but also the universe at large. However, it's one of Hawaii's most sacred places. Mauna Kea is a great place for astronomical observation because its summit is about 14,000 feet above sea level, the air is cool and dry, and there is minimal threat of light pollution. It's also situated near the equator, giving it a unique view of the stars. Stargazers can see part of the northern sky from the Southern Hemisphere, but not as far as the region around the North Pole.

### Closest Campground on Campspot:

[Hawaii's Best Campspot](#), Naalehu, HI



## Denali National Park, Alaska

In the night sky in Denali National Park, there's a good chance you'll see the glow of green, blue, and red dancing lights. Known as the northern lights, or aurora borealis, the celestial light show is an illustration of how the sun's weather affects Earth's skies. The surface of the sun is home to magnificent storms. It's constantly blowing streams of charged particles (also known as solar wind) through the solar system. When charged, the electrons produced by solar winds meet gases in the upper atmosphere, which causes a reaction that creates a neon light.

### Closest Campground on Campspot:

[Cantwell RV Park](#), Cantwell, AK



## Death Valley National Park, California

Death Valley National Park is the largest International Dark-Sky Association (IDA)-designated dark sky park in the United States. It holds the record for the hottest temperature recorded on Earth and is also the driest place in North America. The arid climate makes this park one of the best places to see the stars. This park has no closing time, so bring your binoculars to explore the skies for yourself.

### Closest Campground on Campspot:

[Nevada Treasure RV Resort](#), Pahrump, NV



## Cherry Springs State Park, Pennsylvania

Cherry Springs State Park in Pennsylvania works to stay in the dark. The 82-acre, gold-tier dark sky park is nestled in the Susquehannock State Forest. Stargazers have a sprawling area to set up camp and see the stars. Cherry Springs is unique in that it's far enough north that there are occasional sightings of the aurora borealis. Visitors also have a chance to see the Milky Way from horizon to horizon.

### Closest Campground on Campspot:

[Trout Run Camp Resort](#), Wellsville, NY



## Wood Buffalo National Park, Canada

Wood Buffalo National Park spans more than 17,300 square miles of protected land and night skies. It's located on the border of Alberta and the Northwest Territories and is one of the least-traversed wilderness areas in North America. It's the largest dark sky preserve in the world, designated by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Cold, clear winter nights offer the best viewing opportunities.

### Closest Campground on Campspot:

[Moose Lake Gospel Camp](#), Bonnyville, AB

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DESTINATION SPOTLIGHT  
**Naalehu, Hawaii**

While Naalehu is Hawaiian for “the volcanic ashes,” this is one of the most green and beautiful places you could hope to explore. It’s located on the southern tip of the island of Hawaii, and with nearby parks, beaches, lookouts, and forest preserves, it’s a perfect spot for a Hawaiian retreat.

**Where to Camp**



**Hawaii’s Best Campspot**

Located on a macadamia nut orchard, Hawaii’s Best Campspot boasts rolling grassy areas and a panoramic ocean view in some areas of the property. At night, the dark skies above provide campers with epic stargazing opportunities.



**BOOK YOUR STAY WITH CAMPSPOT:**

**Average Monthly Weather**

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	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
High	77°	75°	75°	75°	75°	76°
Low	56°	54°	54°	55°	56°	58°
Precip.	2.11"	2.69"	1.82"	2.54"	1.30"	1.43"



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**Fun Fact**

Naalehu is home to the southernmost post office in the United States.

**Where to Eat**

**Punalu’u Bake Shop and Visitor Center**

95-5642 Mamalahoa Hwy  
 Naalehu, HI 96772

\$\$ | [bakeshophawaii.com](http://bakeshophawaii.com)

**Where to Explore**



**South Point (Ka Lae) and Green Sand Beach**

One of the four green sand beaches around the world, South Point (Ka Lae) and Green Sand Beach is worth the half-hour drive down from Naalehu for swimming, sunbathing, and hiking.

# Camping Recipes



**Key Trends**

**72% of Campspot campers are interested in becoming more adventurous outdoor cooks**

- **44%** of Campspot campers want to try new recipes outdoors
- **23%** of Campspot campers want to learn new cooking skills for outdoor cooking



# Foil-Baked Sweet Potatoes With Fillings

SERVES 4



From *The Family Camp Cookbook: Easy, Fun, and Delicious Meals to Enjoy Outdoors* by Emily Vikre



You know what's even better than a baked potato? A baked sweet potato. Our family straight up lives off sweet potatoes. If you took away sweet potatoes, you would remove somewhere in the realm of 75 percent of the bulk of our diet. And while they seem boldly flavored—certainly compared to something mild and starchy such as a russet—their sweet creaminess actually works as the perfect foil to all sorts of other flavors. Just make sure you get enough salt and fat in there because salt + fat + sweet potatoes = a party. I'm giving you two topping options, but honestly, you could go wild with almost anything your heart desires (bacon, for example, or taco toppings, chili, barbecued chicken, the list goes on). Wrap your sweet potatoes well in foil and you can bake them in the embers of a campfire. They do take a bit of time to cook through, so this is a dinner to make when you have planned ahead, everyone has fun in-camp activities, and you have a box of wine at your side.

## INGREDIENTS

### For the Sweet Potatoes

- 4 medium sweet potatoes, washed
- Aluminum foil
- Butter or olive oil
- Salt

### Topping Option 1 (Not Vegetarian)

- 1 tablespoon (15 ml) olive oil
- 1 yellow onion, chopped
- 8 ounces (225 g) pre-cooked andouille sausage, cut into cubes
- A few handfuls of baby spinach (around 4 ounces [115 g])
- Salt
- Sour cream (optional)

### Topping Option 2 (Vegetarian)

- ¼ cup (59 ml) olive oil
- 1 yellow onion, thinly sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
- 1 15-ounce (428 g) can chickpeas, drained
- 1 teaspoon turmeric
- 1 teaspoon sweet paprika
- 1 pinch red pepper flakes (if you like a little heat; omit if you don't)
- Salt
- Plain full-fat yogurt
- Chopped cilantro

## MAKE IT

Poke each sweet potato all over with a fork. This makes little holes in the skin to let steam escape and prevent exploding. Wrap each sweet potato in 2 or 3 layers of aluminum foil, sealing each layer well by rolling the edges over themselves. Nestle your sweet potatoes into the embers of your campfire (either of a campfire that has burned low or along the outer edges of a fire). Allow them to bake there, turning occasionally, until they are soft throughout. This will take around 45 minutes for medium-sized sweet potatoes, but it really depends on the heat of your embers and the size of your potatoes.

Remove from the embers (wear heat-resistant gloves or use tongs), open the aluminum wrapping, and let the potatoes cool for a couple minutes until you can handle them enough to slice them open down the middle. Slightly smash up the potatoes in the skins, sprinkle with salt, and either drizzle with olive oil or add a little bit of butter before adding your chosen topping.

### For Topping 1

1. Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat, then add the onion. Cook until well browned, about 5 minutes.
2. Stir in the chopped andouille sausage and cook for a couple more minutes, stirring occasionally, until the sausage has started to brown on its sides. At the last minute, stir in the spinach and cook until it has just partially wilted, only 30 or so seconds. Season with salt if desired.
3. Scoop the sausage mixture into the sliced-open sweet potatoes. Top each with an additional dollop of sour cream, if desired.

### For Topping 2

1. Heat the olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat, then add the onion. Cook until the onion is softened and browning around the edges, about 3–5 minutes. Stir in the garlic, chickpeas, and spices and sprinkle with a bit of salt. Cook, stirring occasionally to make sure everything is cooking evenly, for about 10 minutes until everything has nicely browned and looks caramelized. Taste and add more salt if needed.
2. Scoop the chickpea mixture into the sliced-open sweet potatoes. Top with a dollop of plain yogurt and sprinkle generously with chopped cilantro.







# Maple Syrup Old Fashioned

SERVES 1



From *Camp Cocktails: Easy, Fun, and Delicious Drinks for the Great Outdoors* by Emily Vikre

My husband Joel's grandparents were the stuff of legends. His grandfather was an experimental airplane test engineer who rarely spoke, and his grandmother was a chain-smoking, chain-talking force of nature who was still teaching water aerobics at age ninety. When she was finally stuck living in a nursing home, she started a thriving business making and selling beaded jewelry to all the ladies in the home. In their early retirement, they were masters of car camping, traveling all over the country in a Lincoln Town Car with a closet bar across the back seat to keep their polyester leisure clothes from wrinkling. They had a sleek leather suitcase that held the essentials for their daily Old Fashioned. They really knew how to live.

## INGREDIENTS

- ½ teaspoon maple syrup, or more to taste
- 2 dashes Angostura bitters
- 2 ounces (60 ml) rye whiskey or bourbon
- Orange-peel coin, for garnish

## MAKE IT

Stir the maple syrup, bitters, and whiskey together in your cup. Taste and add another ½ teaspoon of syrup if desired. Squeeze the orange-peel coin, peel side facing down, over the cocktail to spritz orange oil over the cocktail. Add a piece or two of ice to your cocktail, give another stir, and enjoy.



## Key Dates & Events

- DEC 2-4** **Siesta Beach Seafood & Music Festival**  
Siesta Key, FL | [paragonfestivals.com/music-festivals](http://paragonfestivals.com/music-festivals)
- JAN 13-16** **Napa Truffle Festival**  
Napa, CA | [napatrufflefestival.com](http://napatrufflefestival.com)
- FEB 23-26** **South Beach Wine & Food Festival**  
Miami Beach, FL | [sobewff.org](http://sobewff.org)
- MAR 1-5** **Charleston Wine and Food**  
Charleston, SC | [charlestonwineandfood.com](http://charlestonwineandfood.com)
- MAR 11-12 & 18-19** **Highland County Maple Festival**  
Highland County, VA | [highlandcounty.org/maple-festival](http://highlandcounty.org/maple-festival)
- APR 5-8** **Taste of Vail**  
Vail, CO | [tasteofvail.com](http://tasteofvail.com)
- APR 29** **Thirsty Orange Brew Extravaganza**  
Johnson City, TN | [thirstyorange.com](http://thirstyorange.com)



## Ask an Expert

**What are a few hand-held lunch ideas that are good for eating away from the campsite?**

I'm a big fan of solving the lunch-on-trail quandary with a Norwegian classic, the matpakke (there's a recipe for them in the lunch chapter of *The Family Camp Cookbook*). These are basic open-faced salami and cheese sandwiches that you wrap up to take with you and eat on the go. It seems simple—and it really is simple—but they are always delicious. Things become traditional for a reason. Just add a piece of fruit and some nuts or chocolate on the side, and you are ready to rumble.

I also rely on a lot of wraps. Tortillas are the perfect portable food vehicle. I usually don't pre-make the wraps though. I'll bring tortillas, some fillings, and a camping knife in a pack, so we can slice cheese, turkey, and avocado (for example) and stuff them in a tortilla right before eating.



### Emily Vikre

Co-Founder and CEO of Vikre Distillery and author of *The Family Camp Cookbook* and *Camp Cocktails*  
[vikredistillery.com](http://vikredistillery.com) | [@vikredistillery](https://twitter.com/vikredistillery)

Want to check out *Camp Cocktails*, *The Family Camp Cookbook*, and other camping reads? Scan this QR code for Campspot's list of must-read camping books.





## All Day IPA

Style: Session IPA | ABV: 4.7%

Satisfies your tastes while keeping your senses sharp. Brewed with a complex array of ingredients. Balanced for optimal aromatics and a clean finish.

**ACTIVITY:** Snowboarding and hiking  
**FOOD:** Snack jerky and burgers on the grill



Aspen Acres  
Campground  
Rye, CO



## Rubaeus

Style: Raspberry Ale | ABV: 5.7%

Optimizing the flavor of fresh raspberries, Rubaeus is the perfect blend of sweet, tart, and refreshing.

**ACTIVITY:** Photography and birdwatching  
**FOOD:** Grilled veggie skewers and PB&J camper pies



Sun Outdoors  
Key Largo  
Key Largo, FL

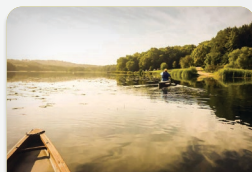


## 4 Giants and the Haze of Destiny

Style: Imperial Hazy IPA | ABV: 8.4%

This big and bold Imperial IPA is smoothed out by copious amounts of oats and wheat to create a delicious and inviting haze.

**ACTIVITY:** Ice fishing and foraging  
**FOOD:** Foil packet dinner with fish and mushroom



Bear Run  
Campground  
Portersville, PA



## KBS

Style: Bourbon Barrel-Aged Chocolate Coffee Stout | ABV: 12%

This bold imperial stout is brewed with premium chocolate and coffee, then aged in bourbon barrels that introduce powerful notes of vanilla, cocoa, and charred oak.

**ACTIVITY:** Stargazing and campfire storytelling  
**FOOD:** S'mores and campfire popcorn



Wisteria  
Event Site &  
Campground  
Pomeroy, OH



## DESTINATION SPOTLIGHT New Braunfels, Texas

Cited as one of the fastest-growing communities in the nation, New Braunfels is located between Austin and San Antonio and has German and Hispanic influences. This city also is known for its water attractions, including the world-famous Schlitterbahn Waterpark, the Comal and Guadalupe Rivers, and nearby Canyon Lake ([nbtexas.org](http://nbtexas.org)).

### Where to Camp



#### Camp Fimfo Texas Hill Country

A Campspot Award-winning campground in the categories of *Top for Families* and *Top Design*, Camp Fimfo has something for everyone, whether you're in an RV or seeking a glamping experience. They've got you covered on good eats and drinks with wood-fired pizza, house-made ice cream, camping-inspired cocktails, and a swim-up bar.



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### Average Monthly Weather

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	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
High	65°	64°	68°	75°	82°	88°
Low	42°	40°	44°	51°	58°	66°
Precip.	2.42"	2.14"	1.72"	2.49"	2.00"	3.63"



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### Fun Fact

New Braunfels has royal origins! This city was founded in 1845 by German Prince Carl of Solms ([nbtexas.org](http://nbtexas.org)).

### Where to Eat

Naegelin's Bakery  
"The Oldest Bakery in Texas"  
129 S Seguin Ave  
New Braunfels, TX 78130  
\$\$ | [naegelins.com](http://naegelins.com)

### Where to Explore



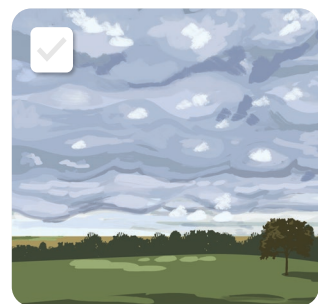
Several companies offer tubing experiences where you can spend the day enjoying the sun and water floating down the Comal and Guadalupe Rivers! Tube season tends to open in March.

*Pro Tip: Be sure to enjoy your beverages responsibly while camping—that includes what drinkware you select. Remember, anything non-glass and reusable is best.*

For many regions in North America, the change of seasons from winter to spring brings with it storms and showers. To help you make the most of your spring camping adventures, rain or shine, use this worksheet to learn about the clouds. Can you catch a glimpse of them all?

## Lenticular Clouds

Lenticular clouds are most common near or downwind of mountain ranges. Their “flying saucer” appearance is owed to the forced ascent of stable air over mountain ranges. As long as the ambient weather conditions (winds, humidity) are unchanged, the cloud won’t move, appearing to hover near the mountain range.



## Asperitas Clouds

This is one of the newest clouds to be formally recognized, and the first since 1951. Latin for “roughness,” these wavelike clouds are seen overhead after a thunderstorm’s gust front has passed. Look skyward (from a safe place in a thunderstorm) and you may see these asperitas clouds.

## Nacreous Clouds

Nacreous clouds, also known as “polar stratospheric” or “mother-of-pearl” clouds, occur in the Earth’s stratosphere at heights of 9 to 16 miles above the Earth’s surface. To see these smooth, iridescent clouds, you’ll have to be in higher latitudes (northern Canada, Norway, or Alaska), typically near sunset or sunrise.

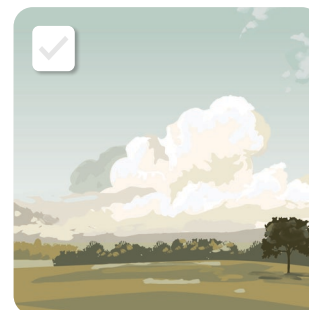
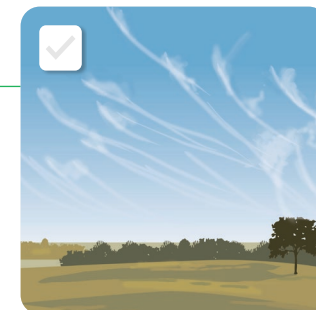


## Billow Clouds

These interesting clouds, resembling a horizontal series of cresting waves, require a key ingredient: wind shear. Essentially what you’re seeing in these cresting waves are stronger wind speeds at the top of the cloud, and lighter wind speeds at the bottom of the cloud. The horizontal circulations produced by these waves are areas of significant turbulence, and a major hazard for aircraft.

## Cirrus Clouds

Cirrus clouds are the thin, wispy, high clouds often seen on fair-weather days when lower clouds are not present to obscure them. Generally, these clouds are situated 20,000 to 30,000 feet above the ground. If you’re on a cross-country flight and you’re flying through clouds at cruising altitude, you’re likely flying through cirrus.

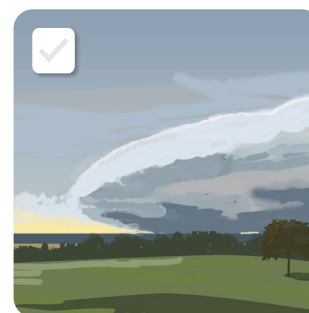
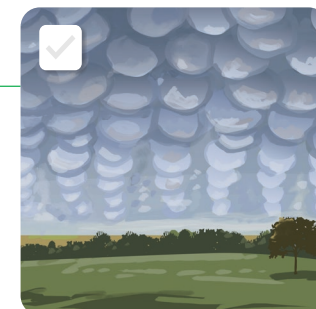


## Cumulonimbus Clouds

Cumulonimbus clouds are the tallest clouds in the atmosphere. They can stretch from bases just a few hundred feet above the ground to heights of over 50,000 feet. When a “parcel” of humid air starts to rise in an unstable environment, it keeps rising, and even accelerates, forming the giant heaping towers of billowing clouds that mark the presence of heavy rain showers and, often, powerful thunderstorms.

## Mammatus Clouds

These clouds, often seen behind departing thunderstorms, appear to “hang” from the sky, suggesting that perhaps they are formed by sinking air, rather than the rising air that produces most clouds. As frightening as they appear, mammatus clouds are not dangerous and do not produce severe weather.



## Shelf Clouds

Shelf clouds are produced when rain-cooled air from the base of a cumulonimbus cloud forms a gust front, forcing relatively warm, humid air ahead of it to rise and form a shelflike cloud formation. An approaching shelf cloud is your clue that strong straight-line winds may be approaching, and it’s a good idea to head indoors for shelter. Shelf clouds tend to form at the front edge of a thunderstorm and bulge outward.



## Riverbend RV Park & Cabins

Montrose, CO



## Wild Fox Cabins & Campground

Lakeville, ME



## Portal RV Resort and Campground

Moab, UT



## Yellowstone Hot Springs

Gardiner, MT



## Hawaii's Best Campspot

Naalehu, HI



## Camp Fimfo Texas Hill Country

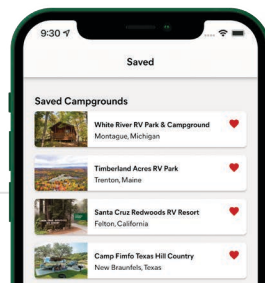
New Braunfels, TX



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### About the Campspot Data

The Campspot data noted throughout the Campspot Outdoor Almanac is taken from 2022 platform data (January 1 to August 1, 2022). This reflects over 2,016 active campgrounds and 1,763,124 reservations. Where noted, certain data points also use 2021 data to provide year-over-year results.

### A Note About Company and Product Mentions

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### About the Survey Data

In order to glean insights about the various aspects of people's camping experiences and gather information from campground owners, Campspot surveyed Campspot Marketplace customers in August 2022 with 1,556 respondents and Campspot software campground owners with 164 respondents.

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### Our Partners

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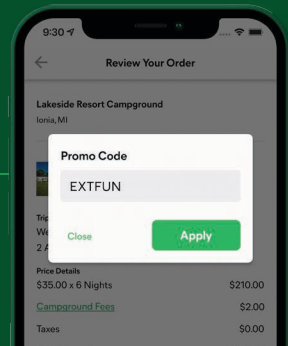
Are you a campground or RV park owner? Visit [software.campspot.com](https://software.campspot.com) to learn how Campspot's real-time, cloud-based campground management solution can help your business.

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Grand Rapids, MI 49503

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