



### Ready to get away? 5 top ideas for fun new adventures

(BPT) - If visions of sunny days, blooming flowers, and warm breezes get you excited to go to new places and do fun things, you may want to shake off the winter blahs by planning a getaway or event with family and friends. To help with your vacation planning, National Geographic offers books with something for everyone.

Here's a look at the vacation inspiration you'll find inside these fun books.

**1. Visit a national park**

Did you know April 20-28 is National Park Week? To celebrate the occasion, entrance fees to National Parks are waived on April 20, so plan ahead to take advantage of the free admission.

National Parks are an American treasure that could take a lifetime to fully explore. Why not start now? Three helpful books, Complete National Parks, Atlas of the National Parks, and Yellowstone National Park Trail Map, provide valuable information about parks near you and throughout the country—just waiting for you to visit.

**2. Plan a unique vacation**

A vacation along the road less traveled may be just what you need this spring. If you're the type of person who doesn't want to go to the same places that every other tourist visits, and you love uncovering hidden gems in the U.S. and around the world, Here Not There is the ideal book for you.

You'll appreciate travel guidance that finds you lesser known locales to discover—which can also help you avoid excessive crowds and costs. For example, you may choose to visit San Antonio, Texas, instead of Venice, Italy, for a city full of colonnades, canals, and carnivals. You could discover that Cleveland, Ohio, offers theater performances rivaling what you can find on Broadway, or that a wa-

ter-filled excursion through New York's Thousand Islands offers beauty to match Germany's Rhine River.

**3. Get your pedals turning with ultimate cycling experiences**

Geared for everyone from casual enthusiasts to expert riders, this vibrant book offers a wide variety of routes that are suitable for every type of cyclist. In 100 Bike Rides of a Lifetime you'll discover quick jaunts in your own neighborhood, challenges that belong on every cyclist's bucket list and more.

This handy guide also provides essential information such as the best times to ride, great spots to refuel, cultural highlights along each route, where to stay, and how to relax post-ride.

**4. Try a tasty new treat in every state**

Ever wanted to eat your way across the country? Now you can, with help from 50 States 1,000 Eats. You'll find must-have diner breakfasts and food trucks to can't-miss farm-to-table diners and apple farms with the best cider—with flavors and food experiences for every type of traveler.

Whether you just love going on road trips or you're an avid foodie, you can explore the best dishes in every state, check out expert advice on where to find top meals at local eateries, learn how to schedule your trips around popular food festivals and read about inspiring activities to pair with your favorite dishes.

**5. Optimize your staycation with incredible barbecue**

Staying at home for your next vacation? Gather friends and family for some good eats with the help of Big Moe's Big Book of BBQ. Learn about the best kinds of wood, premium grills, and how to concoct the tastiest rubs and sauces. Pitmaster Moe Cason, winner of over 250 barbecue competitions, shares 75 family-favorite recipes for perfect barbecue classics.

Ready to make your spring plans? Find all these books and more at Books.Disney.com.

## Tour Bluegrass State Museums to Explore History and Culture

(StatePoint) If you're the type of traveler who loves getting to know a region's people and culture, then look no further than Kentucky's museums.

Beyond the world-famous National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, the International Museum of the Horse in Lexington, and the Newport Aquarium in Northern Kentucky, are these lesser-known but just as amazing museums:

**Roots 101 African American History Museum**

Located in the heart of downtown Louisville with a view of the Ohio River, the Roots 101 African American History Museum gives visitors a comprehensive look into what it means to be Black in Kentucky, and the United States. Thought-provoking exhibits cover wide-ranging topics on cultural identity such as civil rights, music, representation in the media and much more, and will leave an impression on you long after your visit. The museum also regularly hosts live performances, community events, lectures and other educational programming.

**Owensboro Museum of Fine Art**

Since 1977, Owensboro Museum of Fine Art has connected people to the culture of artistic expression. More than 4,000 individual pieces representing diverse time periods, genres and mediums are on display in this free admission museum. In one afternoon you can view both paintings from the 1500s and ceramic pieces created by Pablo Picasso. The museum houses a Regional Art Market offering works for sale by artists and craftsmen from Kentucky and surrounding states, and hosts annual events like the Bronze Buffalo Festival and Art by the Stars Gala, KALEIDOSCOPE KAVE, a computerized digital gallery, and the Young at Art Gallery, offering

hands-on children's activities.

**Kentucky Science Center**

Wandering around downtown Louisville? Walk on down to the Kentucky Science Center. There you'll find three floors dedicated to fun and interactive STEM exhibits for kids and kids-at-heart, aged 2 through 99.

**American Cave Museum**

Not so much a museum as an immersive experience, the American Cave Museum is nestled beneath the charming town of Horse Cave. Delve into the captivating world of caves through interactive exhibits, fascinating displays, and an unforgettable elevator ride down into the belly of Hidden River Cave. Take in spectacular cave formations such as dripstone chandeliers, stalagmites and flowstone formations sculpted over millions of years. Learn about the importance of karst geology and the vital role that cave ecosystems play in groundwater systems.

**Behringer-Crawford Museum**

The unique arts, heritage and culture of Northern Kentucky are on display at the Behringer-Crawford Museum in scenic Devou Park in Covington. With its wide array of exhibits, there is something to pique everyone's interest, such as centuries-old fossils and artifacts from the area's Indigenous communities, as well as a replica of the Roebling Bridge, which connects Covington to Cincinnati. Families can explore NaturePlay@BCM, a free and contained handicapped-accessible green space. The area includes kid-sized log cabins and caves, a wooden replica of a flatboat, a cruise line swing, walkways imbedded with animal tracks, and gardens planted with native plants and shrubs.

Visit kentuckytourism.com to learn more and get inspired.

With more than 60 museums statewide, there is no shortage of fun, interesting and engaging ways to explore the Bluegrass State.



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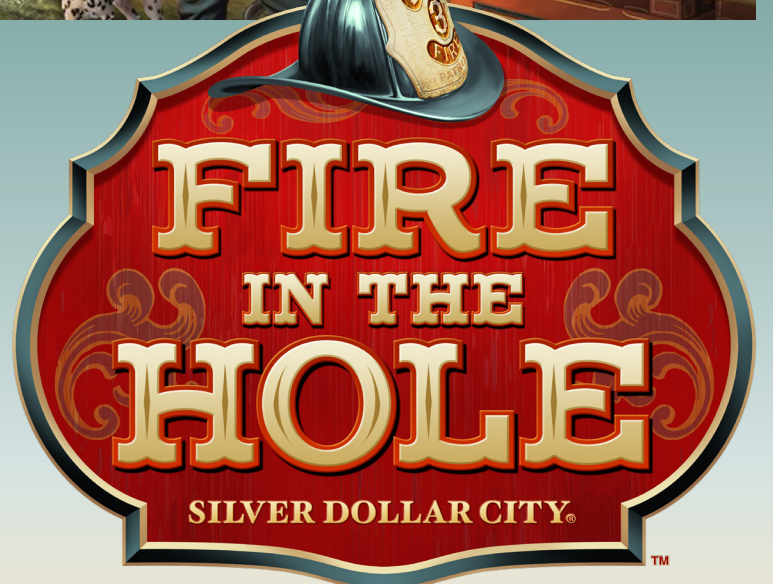
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