


The Great American Road Trip

Roam the Roads From
Coast to Coast



Surrounded by Dramatic Landscapes: A Long Weekend to Discover Yosemite

SEDONA, ARIZONA → BRYCE CANYON, UTAH

Vivid red rock formations Sedona in northern Arizona
the most beautiful place in the southwest USA

Surrounded by a dramatic landscape of vivid red rock formations, Sedona in northern Arizona is one of the most beautiful places in the southwest USA. It's a great place to enjoy the outdoors, with miles of hiking and biking routes, but has a spiritual side too. Add in fantastic places to eat, local wines and plenty of sunshine and you've got all the ingredients for a perfect weekend in Sedona – and being close to Flagstaff and the Grand Canyon makes it an easy add-on to a US road trip. So here's how I'd spend my perfect 48 hours in Sedona.

Start your weekend in Sedona with one of the town's famous vortex sunsets. Vortexes are a kind of spiritual hotspot, where energy flows radiate the Earth's power. They're said to promote healing and spiritual awareness, and many were sacred to the Native Americans who lived here. But whether you're a believer or not, Sedona's vortex sites are also some of the most scenic spots in town so make sure you check some out on your trip.

“Roads were made for journeys, not destinations.”

Airport Mesa is one of the closest vortexes to the centre of town, accessed via a parking lot near Sedona's tiny airport. The full Airport Mesa hike is 3.3 miles, but you can get great views even if you just follow part of the trail, with the red rocks glowing as the sun sets.

Then head to 89Agave Cantina for dinner – and one of their signature margaritas, featuring prickly pear or jalapeno-infused tequila. On the menu are Mexican favourites like enchiladas, tamales and chicken mole, with a street-side patio and colourful art-filled dining room. Start the day with a hike through Sedona's gorgeous landscapes. There are over 100 hiking trails so you can choose a length and difficulty to suit you. For many trails you'll need to pick up a Red Rock Pass (unless you have a US National Parks Pass). A one-day pass costs \$5 and you can get them from visitor centres or vending machines at the main trailheads.

Head north-west of Sedona for the 4.2-mile Devil's Bridge Trail, which takes you to a natural sandstone arch that's one of the most popular photo spots in Sedona. The first section's along a dirt road so if you have a 4WD you can drive along it and cut a couple of miles off. The



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rest of the route is fairly easy other than a bit of scrambling at the end. It's a popular hike, so be prepared to queue if you want to get a photo standing on the bridge.

Or follow the Red Rock Scenic Byway south of town to reach a selection of hiking trails. The Cathedral Rock Trail is one of the most popular hikes, a steep, rocky climb to reach a vortex site. It involves a bit of clambering so isn't great if you don't like heights, but the views are spectacular. The trail is just over a mile round trip and starts along the wonderfully named Back O' Beyond Road between Sedona and the village of Oak Creek. You can also get a close up view of some of Sedona's most famous rock formations on the Bell Rock Pathway Trail. This easy 3.6-mile trail runs around the base of Bell

Rock and Courthouse Butte. It starts just north of Oak Creek, so afterwards call in to the nearby Creekside Bistro for lunch, serving home-cooked American favourites with a view from the deck. If it's a hot day, head to Slide Rock State Park to cool off (entry \$10–30 per vehicle).

The park is home to a unique 80-foot-long natural waterslide. The chute has been worn into the sandstone and a combination of the gradient, the current and a layer of algae make it extra slippery. And there's also a series of pools for swimming where the creek widens out.

Or if you'd prefer a bit more luxury, Sedona has a selection of high-end spas where you can spend the afternoon being pampered. The Amara Sedona Spa* is only a short walk from downtown Sedona and offers a range of

massages, scrubs and facials, including their signature Rain Dance Massage using lavender, rosemary and sage oils. There's also a heated saltwater pool and hot tub where you can soak up the views. Finish the day with a pre-dinner stroll along Sedona's main street, where you'll find galleries, artists' studios and boutique shops mixed in with New Age crystal shops and spiritual healers. Don't miss the

Tlaquepaque Arts and Crafts Village for southwest art, pottery, jewellery and photography. There's also a brewery on site if you fancy a drink. Then have dinner at Mariposa, and seafood grilled over a wood fire. The next morning, start the day by checking out the view from the Chapel of the Holy Cross (if you don't mind an early start it's beautiful at sunrise).





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This unusual-looking structure perched among the red rocks looks a bit like a Bond villain's lair, but it's really a Catholic chapel from the 1950s. It was designed by sculptor Marguerite Brunswig Staude, who'd been a pupil of Frank Lloyd Wright, with two central beams forming the shape of a cross.

Then take a short road trip along the Red Rock Loop. This 8.5-mile route connects to Highway 89A west of town and is paved so you don't need a 4WD. It winds its way through terracotta-coloured hills with views of Cathedral Rock, Bell Rock and Butte.

Or if that sounds a bit sedate and you want to try something more adventurous, Pink Jeep Tours run off-road tours into Sedona's open-top jeeps. Their two-hour Broken Arrow* tour

is a best-seller, with exclusive access to remote trails where no other vehicles are allowed. Along the way you'll drive through desert landscapes and climb over rock formations past filming locations for classic Westerns.

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Then call into the Red Rock Cafe in Oak Creek for lunch. It's known for its friendly. Or if that sounds a bit sedate and you want to try something more adventurous, Pink Jeep Tours run off-road tours into Sedona's open-top jeeps.

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“Because the greatest part of a road trip isn’t arriving at your destination. It’s all the wild stuff that happens along the way.”





THE GREAT AMERICAN ROAD TRIP

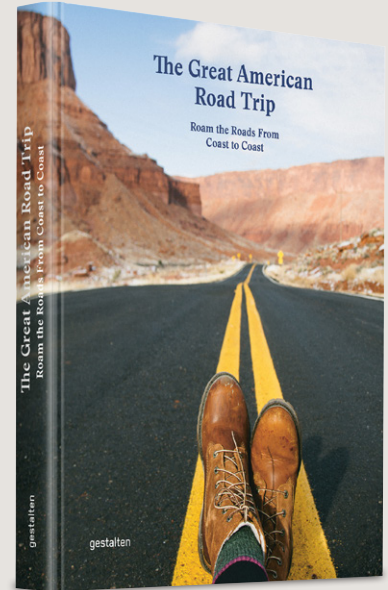
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NEW



SAMPLE COVER

More byways, less highways: embrace the freedom of the road and go on great American adventures.

When it comes to the great outdoors, the USA has it all: wild mountains, vast prairies, otherworldly canyons, barren deserts and tropical forests. And there is no better way to explore them than that all-American activity: the road trip.

The Great American Road Trip is a new appreciation of the grand tradition in the tracks of Jack Kerouac. The book leads beyond magnificent landscapes and seeks out the history, the culture, the food, and the people. Retrace the Underground Railroad. Follow the Blues Highway. Go on a pilgrimage to the best lobster shacks. *The Great American Road Trip* encourages readers to explore hinterlands, and to start an adventure that turns the mythical into the experienced. The road awaits.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Detailed itineraries for routes that cover all corners of the country, including the iconic and the little-known
- Weekend escapes and week-long adventures with specific themes: something for everyone
- Helpful tips and tricks to make the most of a road trip

AETHER (PRONOUNCED "Ē-THER")

was born in 2009, when founders Palmer West and Jonah Smith created something they couldn't find. Aether satisfies the desire for a men's collection that looks at home in the city but is built to withstand the outdoors.

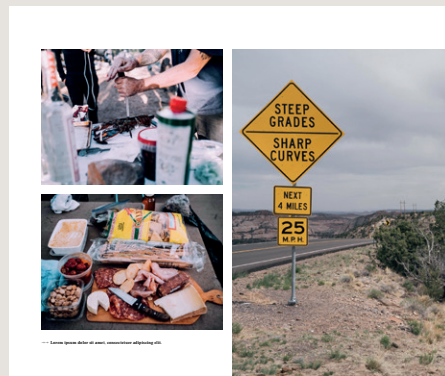
LAURA AUSTIN

is a photographer with wanderlust coursing through her veins. Having grown up in small-town Colorado and Vermont, she is now based in Los Angeles.



Canada's epic Powder Highway is world renowned for its unparalleled skiing. A great American version is this 550 mile route from Missoula, Montana to Libby, Idaho.

76 PROJECT TITLE



There's really nothing quite like the freedom of the open road. And there's nowhere on the planet more thrilling to traverse by car than the United States, a country that in many ways is the birthplace of the modern road trip.

