

Book a Trip

For more than a year, reading was our safest way to “travel.” Now that we’re turning a new page, consider a rich—and very real—escape. We’ve collected 62 novel (and nonfiction) destinations across all 50 states for you to visit this summer or dog-ear for the future. Plot an itinerary, and start packing.

TEXT BY ELENI N. GAGE

Explore a Big City

→ Go in search of the title character of Maria Semple’s 2012 hit *Where’d You Go, Bernadette* at the **Seattle** landmarks she visits: the Space Needle, the Rem Koolhaas–designed Central Library, and Microsoft’s headquarters in nearby Redmond (its visitors’ center also has self-guided tours).

→ Live out a library’s worth of book scenes in **New York City**’s Central Park. It’s where Holly Golightly rode a horse in *Breakfast at Tiffany’s*, Holden Caulfield watched the ducks in the lagoon in *The Catcher in the Rye*, and *Stuart Little* won a sailboat race in the Conservatory Water pond.

→ Revel in the atmosphere of Amy Tan’s *The Joy Luck Club* on Waverly Place—a vibrant, flag-festooned alley in **San Francisco**’s Chinatown that provided the name of one of her characters. Known as the Street of Painted Balconies, it’s home to Tin How, one of the country’s oldest Buddhist temples, and Mister Jiu’s, a Michelin–starred Chinese restaurant in an 1880 banquet hall.

Follow Their Trail

→ Bring some books inspired by history—whether it’s *Who Was Harriet Tubman?*, by Yona Zeldis McDonough, for kids; or a novel like Ta-Nehisi Coates’s *The Water Dancer* or Colson Whitehead’s 2017 Pulitzer winner *The Underground Railroad*—and set off to drive the 223-mile Harriet Tubman Byway. The three-state, self-guided trip starts in **Cambridge, Maryland**, near where Tubman is thought to have lived as a child, and stops at 45 sites as you head north, including the Corbit-Sharp House, home of Quaker abolitionists, in **Odessa, Delaware**; and white-steepled Independence Hall in **Philadelphia**, where the Declaration of Independence was signed. Download an online map or audio guide at harriettubmanbyway.org.

→ Love the *Little House* series? Drive the Laura Ingalls Wilder Historic Highway (aka U.S. 14), starting at her birthplace in **Pepin, Wisconsin**, now a museum with a just-like-you-pictured-it repro of the real Little House in the Big Woods (aka the Wayside Cabin). Forge ahead to **Walnut Grove, Minnesota**, where the Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum has preserved four buildings from the family’s time there, then head to the Ingalls Homestead in **De Smet, South Dakota**, to go on a covered-wagon ride or even camp in one.

CHECK IN

Read the room at one of these famous lodgings.

THE STRATER HOTEL, DURANGO, COLORADO

Louis L’Amour spent every August for a decade writing westerns in room 222 of this 1887 landmark.

SUN VALLEY LODGE, KETCHUM, IDAHO

Ernest Hemingway made it his home base in the fall of 1939, hunting and fishing in Sun Creek Preserve and penning parts of *For Whom the Bell Tolls*.

HOTEL MONTELEONE, NEW ORLEANS

It’s the first stop on the University of New Orleans “Writers’ Block” walking tour for lots of good reasons, among them: William Faulkner was a frequent guest, Tennessee Williams immortalized it in *The Rose Tattoo*, and Truman Capote’s mother went into labor with him here.

THE SEELBACH HOTEL, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

In *The Great Gatsby*, Daisy and Tom Buchanan exchange vows in the cobalt-and-gold ballroom of this gem, now called the Seelbach Hilton; literary lore says it’s also where F. Scott Fitzgerald met George Remus, a bootlegger who may have inspired the title character.



Visit an Author's Home

→ In **Red Cloud, Nebraska**, wander through the childhood house of *My Ántonia* author **Willa Cather** (complete with rose-printed wallpaper she put up herself), and join a guided tour of the never-plowed, 612-acre Willa Cather Memorial Prairie. Staying overnight? Rent the Cather Second Home Guest House (the place her parents moved into after she grew up) on Airbnb.

→ In **Jackson, Mississippi**, check out **Eudora Welty's** 1925 Tudor Revival landmark house and its famous gardens, which the legendary southern storyteller and her mother tended, growing more than 30 varieties of her favorite flower, the camellia.

→ And in **Lenox, Massachusetts**, see America's version of Downton Abbey: the Mount, **Edith Wharton's** Gilded Age mansion (including her personal library of rare books), Italianate formal gardens, and stables.



BRING CHILDREN'S CLASSICS TO LIFE

Read stories, see book illustrations (hello, ***Very Hungry Caterpillar***), and let kids make their own at the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, in **Amherst, Massachusetts**. Splash with Ramona Quimby and Henry Huggins in the Beverly Cleary Sculpture Garden's spray fountain; it's inside **Portland, Oregon's** Grant Park, a quick walk from real-life Klickitat Street. Or hoist yourself up into a New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad car, tricked out like the home of the Alden siblings in the ***Boxcar Children*** series, at the Gertrude Chandler Warner Boxcar Children Museum, in **Putnam, Connecticut**.



Live a Love Story

→ Bike or drive the 37 miles between all six covered bridges in and around **Winterset, Iowa**; they're the ones photographer Robert Kincaid was shooting when he met Italian war bride Francesca in ***The Bridges of Madison County***, by Robert James Waller. (For details, go to madisoncounty.com.)

→ Picnic under the *Free Basket* sculpture at the **Indianapolis** Museum of Art, like the teen soul mates in John Green's YA sensation ***The Fault in Our Stars***.

→ Stroll Flirtation Walk, the world's longest porch, at the Grand Hotel on **Mackinac Island, Michigan**, the location of *Some-where in Time*, the film version of Richard Matheson's time-traveling ***Bid Time Return***.

Go Back to School

→ Take a self-guided tour of Bennington College, in **Bennington, Vermont**. Class of '86 alum Donna Tartt started writing her blockbuster debut mystery, ***The Secret History***, there, and the setting is eerily similar.

→ Roam **Exeter, New Hampshire** (known to readers of John Irving's ***A Prayer for Owen Meany*** as Gravesend). It's home to Phillips Exeter Academy, the model for both Irving's Gravesend Academy and the Devon School in John Knowles's ***A Separate Peace***.

→ Climb on horseback with Daufuskie Trail Rides on carless **Daufuskie Island, South Carolina**, to visit the First African Baptist School, where Pat Conroy taught—it's the basis of his 1972 memoir, ***The Water Is Wide***.



See a Heart-Stirring View

→ In the 1988 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *Beloved*, by Ohio native Toni Morrison, the Ohio River symbolizes the border between slavery and freedom, death and life. The Twin Lakes walking paths in **Cincinnati's** Eden Park follow a sweeping stretch.

→ The family in Kauai Hart Hemmings's novel *The Descendants* inherits pristine land on **Kauai** from their ancestors: the Hawaiian royal family. See the region's splendor on a Kipu Ranch Adventures ATV tour.

→ Louis, the sweet and silent avian protagonist of E. B. White's *The Trumpet of the Swan*, finds his forever mate in the Red Rock Lakes of **Montana**, a real nesting ground for trumpeter swans. Spot lovebirds yourself at Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge.

→ As depicted in *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, Maya Angelou sought refuge on the banks of Lake June in her hometown of **Stamps, Arkansas**. Find a bench and some peace in the park that's now named for her.

Relive Adventures

→ Burn rubber like gonzo journalist Hunter S. Thompson and DIY the daredevil drive to Red Rock Canyon, **Nevada**, and back from *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*.

→ Walk the Zora Neale Hurston Dust Tracks Heritage Trail, in **Fort Pierce, Florida**, following historical markers past her home, the library and parks she frequented, and the church that held her funeral. Then zip two hours north to her hometown of Eatonville—the first incorporated all-Black city in the U.S., the setting of her novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, and the site of the Zora Neale Hurston National Museum of Fine Arts.

→ Kya, the heroine of nature writer Delia Owens's 2018 breakout debut novel (and upcoming film) *Where the Crawdads Sing*, spends her life boating in the south-coastal marshes of **North Carolina**. Her town, Barkley Cove, is made up, but the landscape is real. Whoosh through the saltwater grasses on a Marsh Cruises ride, leaving from Swansboro or Emerald Isle.



BASK IN NATURE

Soak up inspiration at six national parks.

ARCHES NATIONAL PARK

Make **Utah** your muse, as Edward Abbey did. His memoir, *Desert Solitaire*, captures his life as a ranger amid its magnificent rockscapes.

NATURAL FALLS STATE PARK

Aka Dripping Springs, in **Oklahoma**, it's home to the legendary plant from Wilson Rawls's coming-of-age, three-hankie *Where the Red Fern Grows*, and the waterfall from the movie version.

MEDICINE BOW-ROUTT NATIONAL FOREST

Trek **Wyoming's** Encampment River Trail to see the majestic mountain scenery Annie Proulx captures in her story "Brokeback Mountain" and her memoir, *Bird Cloud*.

PATERSON GREAT FALLS NATIONAL PARK

Ron Chernow's *Washington* calls a meal G. W., Alexander Hamilton, and the Marquis de Lafayette had here in 1778 "the most important picnic in history." BYO snacks to this oasis in **New Jersey**.

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

Float the Colorado River on a rafting trip departing from this **Arizona** landmark; get a thrilling preview in Kevin Fedarko's *The Emerald Mile*.

MONONGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST

Hike the Falls of Hills Creek to admire the **West Virginia** landscape that fills the work of local poet Louise McNeill, and her memoir, *The Milkweed Ladies*.





Step Into a Scene

→ Harper Lee's father argued many a case in the **Monroeville, Alabama**, courthouse; she conjured it in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Now it's the Old Courthouse Museum, devoted to the seminal book.

→ Alva Vanderbilt built her summer estate, Marble House, in **Newport, Rhode Island**, as "a temple to the arts." Today it's a temple to the Gilded Age—and the moody setting for books like Renée Rosen's new novel *Social Graces*, and movies including *Amistad*, *27 Dresses*, and the Robert Redford–Mia Farrow version of *The Great Gatsby*.

→ L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* is about a girl desperate to get home to **Kansas**, but her town is never specified. That didn't stop tiny **Sedan**, on the Oklahoma border, from building its own yellow-brick road. Pull a Dorothy Gale and follow it!

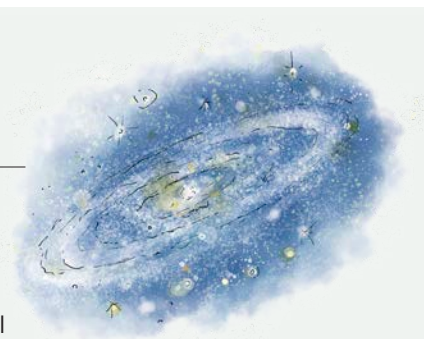
Get the Chills

→ **Chicago** has the dubious distinction of being home to America's first-known serial killer, as chronicled by Erik Larson in his 2004 thriller *The Devil in the White City*. A Chicago Hauntings bus tour retraces his old stomping grounds, including the Jackson Park Fairgrounds from the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, aka World's Fair.

→ **Savannah, Georgia**, is famous for John Berendt's true-crime blockbuster *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, about the murder trial of antiques dealer and preservationist Jim Williams. The expert guides from Savannah Heritage Tours take you to 22 homes he restored, many in the historic city center, as well as eerily beautiful Bonaventure Cemetery, where a voodoo priestess casts a spell on the DA who filed the charges in the book.

→ **Cape Girardeau, Missouri**, was the model for fictional North Carthage in Gillian Flynn's juggernaut *Gone Girl*. Download a map to sites from the book, including the Mississippi River, which Flynn has called "a major character" (and arguably the most trustworthy one), at visitcape.com.

→ Calling all **Stephen King** stans: **Bangor, Maine**, is called Derry in several of the living legend's horror classics. SK Tours of Maine takes you on a three-hour jaunt past the standpipe water tower from *It*, the graveyard where *Pet Sematary* was filmed, and places King has lived, including his current residence.



GO BEYOND HER BIO

Pay (over)due respect to three legendary women.

ADA BLACKJACK, an Inuit single mom, was the sole survivor of a 1921 Arctic expedition, an experience chronicled in *Ada Blackjack: A True Story of Survival in the Arctic*, by Jennifer Niven. You can visit her grave in **Anchorage, Alaska**. Locals are also pushing to rename Nome's Middle Beach, not far from her birthplace, as Ada Black-jack Golden Beach Park.

KATHERINE JOHNSON, one of the barrier-demolishing NASA "human computers" in the book and film *Hidden Figures*, appears in the "When the Computer Wore a Skirt" exhibition at the Hampton History Museum in **Hampton, Virginia**. From there, rocket over to her old workplace: the Virginia Air & Space Science Center.

SACAGAWEA was hands-down the most interesting person on the Lewis and Clark expedition. That's why the YA fiction classic *Streams to the River, River to the Sea*, by Scott O'Dell; and narrative history *Undaunted Courage*, by Stephen E. Ambrose, both highlight the Shoshone teenager who helped guide the group with her baby on her back. Learn more at the Knife River Indian Villages site, in **Stanton, North Dakota**; it includes the Awatixa village where she actually lived.

SUPPORT A WRITER'S BOOKSHOP

Brooklyn's Books Are Magic, co-owned by novelist Emma Straub, hosts events with debut authors like former employee Liv Stratman, whose romantic dark comedy *Cheat Day* is out now. Look out for co-owner Ann Patchett, the author of *The Dutch House*, at Parnassus Books in **Nashville**. Booked Up stocks "fine, rare, and scholarly books" in **Archer City, Texas**, the town its late owner, native son Larry McMurtry, fictionalized in *The Last Picture Show*. Beastly Books, in **Santa Fe**, owned by *Game of Thrones* overlord George R. R. Martin, stands next door to his indie movie theater, Jean Cocteau Cinema.