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# THE TIMES

## USA

### 50 dream holidays in America

**Aaron Millar**

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#### The west

##### 1. Mount Rushmore’s 75th

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial in the Black Hills of South Dakota. These enormous rock-sculpted faces of America’s foremost presidents — Washington, Jefferson, Roosevelt and Lincoln — make up one of the most popular tourist spots in the country, but they’re surrounded by a region few Brits explore. Spend time here discovering the rich fossil beds of Badlands National Park, the underground labyrinth of Wind Cave National Park and, in September, the spectacular annual buffalo round-up in Custer State Park.

**Details** A 14-night trip to South Dakota and Wyoming, including flights, accommodation and car hire, costs from £1,849pp (01342 886849, [americansky.co.uk](http://americansky.co.uk))

##### 2. Utah’s big five

Delta is launching the first direct service from London to Salt Lake City in May, making it easier to reach the searing red rock gorges of Utah’s “mighty five” national parks: Canyonlands, Arches, Capitol Reef, Bryce Canyon and Zion.

**Details** A 14-night trip taking in all five national parks and including flights, car hire and room-only accommodation costs from £3,950pp based on two adults and two children sharing (020 8682 5030, [scottdunn.com](http://scottdunn.com))

##### 3. Vegas Top Gun

This August is the 50th anniversary of Caesar’s Palace, the iconic Las Vegas hotel and casino, and a £52 million modernisation plan was announced on New Year’s Day. However, there’s another reason to come to Sin City. It’s 30 years since the film *Top Gun* was released and Vegas’s Sky Combat Ace, where a pilot joins you at the helm of a dual-control plane, is the best chance you’ll have of living out those Maverick dogfight fantasies.

**Details** Doubles cost from £100 a night (001 866 227 5938, [caesarspalace.com](http://caesarspalace.com)). Air combat experiences cost from £540pp (00 1 888 494 5850, [skycombatace.com](http://skycombatace.com))

#### 4. Grand Canyon in peace

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the national park service this year, why not see one of America's most popular landscapes in a way that few people experience? A new guided group trip from Grand American Adventures hikes from the crowded south rim of the Grand Canyon across the canyon floor to the remote north rim, and back again. Away from the crowds you'll have the waterfalls, wildlife and perfect sunsets of the inner canyon to yourself.

**Details** The eight-day trip costs from £1,619pp, including one night in a hotel, all camping equipment, transfers and meals. Flights to Phoenix, Arizona, cost extra (0333 0038249, [grandamericanadventures.com](http://grandamericanadventures.com))

#### 5. Colorado ranch

Classic Nineties comedy *City Slickers* is celebrating its 25th anniversary this summer, an ideal excuse for work-weary urbanites to follow Billy Crystal's lead and seek renewal among the cowboys of the Wild West. Elk Mountain Ranch, in Colorado, offers cowboy fun in family-friendly, rustic conditions — a perfect introduction to life on the range. Enjoy trail rides, trap shooting, a square dance, children's rodeo and cookouts under the stars.

**Detail** Seven-nights' full board, including flights, costs from £2,819pp (020 3588 6130, [westernoriental.com](http://westernoriental.com))

#### 6. Wild West for families

This new group holiday for families features the Native American culture of the southwest. Highlights include seeing 1,500-year-old petroglyphs and a night under the stars in a traditional Navajo hogan. There's also hiking in the Grand Canyon and Zion national parks, exploring Monument Valley with a Navajo guide and a floating trip down the Colorado River.

**Details** From £3,199 an adult and £2,799 a child aged over seven, including flights, transport, B&B, activities and some meals, leaving on July 23 and August 6 (01962 737560, [familiesworldwide.co.uk](http://familiesworldwide.co.uk))

#### 7. Utah's huge ski resort

Park City Ski Resort is renowned for having some of the best snow conditions on the planet — and this year it's even more impressive. After the purchase of the neighbouring Canyons ski area, and the introduction of a new lift to link the two venues, Park City is the largest ski resort in North America. About 7,300 acres of perfect powder mean you can ski every day of your holiday and not repeat a run.

**Details** A seven-night trip to Park City, including flights, transfers and B&B in the Waldorf Astoria costs from £2,905pp (020 8682 5030, [scottdunn.com](http://scottdunn.com))

#### 8. Jackson Hole in winter

There are two reasons to visit Jackson Hole, Wyoming, this year. It's the 50th anniversary of the notoriously steep but stunning Jackson Hole ski resort and it's also the jumping-off point for two of America's most popular national parks: the Grand Tetons and Yellowstone. Less than 5 per cent of the almost seven million annual visitors to the parks come in winter, so you'll have them to yourself.

**Details** A seven-night trip to Jackson Hole, including flights and room-only accommodation, costs from £1,135pp (01273 224060, [skisafari.com](http://skisafari.com))

#### 9. Cycle Route 66

Most people dream of driving Route 66, but a new charity challenge from Discover Adventure swaps four wheels for two on a 335-mile cycle from the Grand Canyon to Las Vegas. Traversing the western rim of the Grand Canyon, the Hoover Dam and the shores of Lake Mead, with stops at historic Route 66 towns along the way, it provides eight days of some of the most beautiful and challenging road biking in the country.

**Details** Seven nights cost from £2,299pp, including flights, accommodation, most meals, bike rental and the services of a support team (01722 718444, [discoveradventure.com](http://discoveradventure.com))

## 10. Houseboat in Arizona

Why not swap wheels for water this year and explore America's premier houseboat destination: Lake Powell, in Arizona. With 1,960 miles of shoreline, sandy beaches, world-class fishing and a surreal backdrop of red rock pinnacles and bright orange canyons, perfect for hiking — there's plenty to keep the family entertained. Pilot your own boat, moor where you like and enjoy onboard sundecks, hot tubs and overboard slides straight into the water.

**Details** Economy houseboats for up to six people cost from £2,315 for seven days (00 1 888 896 3829, [lakepowell.com](http://lakepowell.com)). Fly to Denver and connect to Page, Arizona

## California

### 11. Los Angeles made easy

It's a great year to visit Los Angeles. New low-cost flights, launching this summer from Wow Air, will make reaching the City of Angels more affordable than ever. Plus a new Metro line opening in Santa Monica this spring will mean it's finally possible to ditch the hire car and still see every inch of this notoriously traffic-ridden city. Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Disneyland and Venice Beach are well-known highlights, but don't miss Catalina Island, 22 miles offshore, a car-free wildlife conservation area of quiet beaches and colourful clapboard houses.

**Details** Wow Air's Gatwick to Los Angeles flights cost from £139pp one way (0118 3218384, [wowair.co.uk](http://wowair.co.uk)). The newly renovated L'Ermitage Beverly Hills has B&B doubles from £280 (\$414) (00 1 925 203 3096, [viceroymhotelsandresorts.com](http://viceroymhotelsandresorts.com))

### 12. Explore Palm Springs

A groundbreaking design hotel, Arrive, opening in March, makes the perfect base from which to explore this A-list desert city of hot springs, mountain views and year-round sunshine. Set up by Ezra Callahan, the sixth employee of Facebook, Arrive plans to do away with traditional hotel services and replace them with everyday technology. Around town there are buzzy restaurants, great golf, striking architecture and glitzy Rat Pack-era history. Near by there are hot springs, hiking in Indian Canyons and the chance to explore the San Andreas fault. And the magnificent Joshua Tree National Park is less than an hour away.

**Details** Room rates have yet to be announced (001 760 507 1650, [arrivehotels.com](http://arrivehotels.com)). It's a two-hour drive from LA

### 13. Sport and culture in San Francisco

A new low-cost flight from Norwegian, launching on May 12, is set to make the City by the Bay a hot destination in 2016. American football fans should head over in the first week of February for the 50th annual Super Bowl, or plan a visit from September, when the next NFL season will begin. Culture buffs should wait until May, when the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art will reopen after a three-year expansion that will triple its gallery space and add more than 4,000 new works, making it the largest museum of its kind in the country.

**Details** Gatwick to San Francisco Oakland costs from £199 one way (0330 8280854, [norwegian.com](http://norwegian.com)). The boutique waterfront Hotel Zephyr has room-only doubles from £215

### 14. Surf in Santa Cruz

New British Airways flights from London to tech super-hub San Jose, launching on May 4, not only make Silicon Valley more accessible for business, they also open up one of the Golden State's best beach towns. Santa Cruz, only an hour to the south, is America's original surf city. Take the iconic Pacific Coast Highway in either direction and you'll find small seaside towns, windswept beaches, wineries, farm-to-table food and forests of giant redwoods.

**Details** A seven-night trip to San Jose and Santa Cruz, including direct BA flights, room-only accommodation, car hire and surf

lessons, costs from £1,769pp (020 8742 8299, [americaasyoulikeit.com](http://americaasyoulikeit.com))

### 15. New lodge in Yosemite

This vast expanse of granite domes, enormous waterfalls and unsurpassed views across the Sierra Nevada mountains is widely regarded as the crown jewel of America's national park service. Opening this spring on the doorstep of the park, Rush Creek Lodge is a fresh take on the Yosemite experience, offering a resort-style stay but swapping beach and sea for mountains and trails. Zip lines, gold panning, fly fishing and a huge outdoor pool with hot tubs are set within its 20-acre woodland reserve.

**Details** Two-bedroom hillside villas cost from £200 a night (00 1 209 379 2373, [rushcreeklodge.com](http://rushcreeklodge.com))

### 16. Luxury volunteering

Hands Up Holidays offers family-friendly eco-luxury trips with a volunteering twist. Its new 11-night northern California holiday combines wine tasting in Napa Valley and private tours of San Francisco and Alcatraz with four days assisting at a local food bank or helping to restore coastal plants. With overnights at the iconic Fairmont hotel, panoramic views stretching across the bay area, and the boutique Bardessono spa hotel, in the heart of Napa wine country, this is a feel-good break in every sense.

**Details** 11 nights' B&B costs from £6,600pp, including transfers, guided tours and volunteering arrangements. Flights to San Francisco cost extra (020 7193 1062, [handsupholidays.com](http://handsupholidays.com))

### 17. New fly-drive

This fly-drive from Abercrombie & Kent is all about insider access. Split between Los Angeles, San Francisco, Napa Valley and Big Sur on the Pacific Coast Highway, it offers 12 days to discover the exclusive side of California. Enjoy private shopping in Beverly Hills with a fashion expert, chocolate-making at one of the oldest chocolatiers in the country, three Michelin star-dining in wineries not open to the public and a private sailboat tour of San Francisco's harbour at sunset.

**Details** 12 days costs from £6,450pp, including flights, car hire, most meals and guided tours (01242 547717, [abercrombiekent.co.uk](http://abercrombiekent.co.uk))

### 18. Disneyland Star Wars

Disneyland California is getting a Star Wars makeover this year. Expect prop displays from the new film, an exclusive new short film and *The Force Awakens* twists to popular rides. However, the best thing about Disneyland, versus Orlando's larger Disney World, is its location minutes from Huntington Beach — one of the coolest surf towns on the west coast and a perfect base for some real Californian family fun. While you're there, don't miss the new Harry Potter-themed area opening in nearby Universal Hollywood Studios this April.

**Details** A seven-night trip to Disneyland, including flights, room-only accommodation in Huntington Beach and a two-day ticket to the park costs from £1,660 an adult and £830 a child, based on four sharing (0131 5577540, [northamericatravelservice.co.uk](http://northamericatravelservice.co.uk))

### 19. Summer skiing at Mammoth Lakes

Mammoth Lakes in western California is known as a winter ski destination. What's not well known is that good snow conditions continue well into June and July, making it a perfect destination for an unusual spring break. Ski in the morning, play golf or mountain bike in the afternoon, and finish the day with a nice swim to cool down. They call it the Mammoth Trifecta and it's one of the few places where it's possible to have summer fun and winter snow in the same day.

**Details** A nine-night trip to San Francisco and Mammoth, including flights and car hire costs from £1,795pp (0800 3160194, [bon-voyage.co.uk](http://bon-voyage.co.uk))

### 20. Explore Lake Tahoe

Frank Sinatra's legendary Cal Neva Resort, on the northern shore of Lake Tahoe, was once the playground of celebrities, socialites and, legend has it, more than a few shady characters. Now it can be your playground, too. Completely revamped after a two-year renovation, but retaining all of Ol' Blue Eyes' Rat Pack charm, when it opens this spring the resort will feature a lake-view infinity pool, casino and spa. Make it your base to explore this spectacular region filled with hiking, fishing, skiing and world-class mountain biking.

**Details** Room-only doubles cost from £250 a night. (020 3684 3646, [calnevaresort.com](http://calnevaresort.com)). Fly to San Francisco for connections, or for the three-hour drive to Lake Tahoe

## **Pacific Northwest and Hawaii**

### **21. Alaskan national parks**

This new 12-night fly-and-drive from Discover the World takes you to the big hitters of Alaskan national parks. Visit the untamed icy barrens of Wrangell-St Elias, the largest park in the country, walk among the enormous glaciers of Kenai Fjords and see grizzlies, moose, caribou and wolves in Denali. Overnight stays are in authentic small-town inns, remote nature resorts and back-country lodges deep inside the national parks.

**Details** The 12-night trip costs from £3,634pp, including car hire, transfers, guided tours and most meals, but not flights to Anchorage (01737 214291, [discover-the-world.co.uk](http://discover-the-world.co.uk))

### **22. National parks of the northwest**

This new 14-night guided group trip from G Adventures is a perfect introduction to the hip cities and dramatic landscapes of the Pacific Northwest. Travel from Seattle to Portland via five states and five national parks — from the volcanic cone of Mount Rainier and grizzlies of Glacier to the geysers of Yellowstone and the turquoise waters of Crater Lake. There is light hiking, great wildlife and a combination of hotels and camping throughout.

**Details** The 14-night trip costs from £2,299pp, including accommodation, transport, activities and some meals, with departures in July and August. Flights cost extra (0344 2722040, [gadventures.co.uk](http://gadventures.co.uk))

### **23. Sled dog race, Alaska**

The annual Iditarod sled dog race sees teams of mushers cross 1,000 miles of icy wilderness from Anchorage, Alaska, to the Bering Sea. It's one of the toughest competitions in the world and a new 11-night guided group tour from Artisan Travel will put you at the heart of the action.

**Details** The 11-night trip starts on March 2 and costs from £2,045pp, including transport, guided tours and some meals but not flights to Anchorage (01670 785085, [artisantravel.co.uk](http://artisantravel.co.uk))

### **24. Wine route, Oregon**

Oregon's reputation for pinot noir is on the rise with many experts now heralding the Willamette Valley, an hour south of Portland, as the new Napa. Home to more than 225 wineries, the region can also be explored emission-free on one of the state's electric car-touring routes. Base yourself in the Vintages Trailer Resort in the heart of the region, with a selection of plush classic caravans to choose from.

**Details** A seven-night trip to Oregon including flights, accommodation, three nights at the Vintages Trailer Resort and electric vehicle rental costs from £1,550pp (020 8742 8299, [americaasyoulikeit.com](http://americaasyoulikeit.com))

### **25. Hawaii adventure**

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and a new 14-night fly-drive trip from Audley Travel includes the chance to soak up some of that history. One of the most active and comprehensive multi-island itineraries around means there's plenty to keep all ages smiling: from whale-watching on Maui to mountain biking on Kauai. Accommodation is in boutique lodges

and small beachside resorts.

**Details** From £3,200pp, including flights, room-only accommodation, transfers, car hire and activities (01993 838000, [audleytravel.com](http://audleytravel.com))

## 26. Camping in Hawaii

Forget about crowded beach resorts, this new Hawaiian experience is about getting back to nature. Camping on laid-back beaches and within the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park — celebrating the centenary of its founding this year — means you'll be cooking with the sand between your toes and rolling out of bed into an emerald sea. The eight-day guided group tour of the Big Island includes snorkelling with sea turtles, rainforest treks and more.

**Details** Seven nights costs from £1,939pp, including flights, camping equipment and activities. Set departures run from April 7 (0333 9997959, [trekamerica.co.uk](http://trekamerica.co.uk))

## Central belt

### 27. Classic car Route 66

Do the classic American road trip in a classic American car. Covering all 2,448 miles of the Mother Road from Chicago to Santa Monica, via Missouri, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Nevada, this 14-day self-guided journey is a chance to see the heart of America from behind the wheel of one of its finest machines. Eat at historic roadside diners and stay in vintage Route 66 motels throughout. New cars for the 2016/17 season include a 1957 Thunderbird convertible, a black 1968 Impala and a 1955 Ford Crown Victoria.

**Details** The 14-night trip costs from £5,095pp, including flights, car hire and room-only accommodation (0800 316 0194, [bonvoyage.co.uk](http://bonvoyage.co.uk))

### 28. Indianapolis for petrolheads

It's the 100th running of the Indy 500 on May 29 and a citywide celebration of live concerts, parties and the debut of a \$100-million upgrade to the speedway makes visiting this spring a petrolhead's dream holiday. PrimeSport has a package that includes four nights at the luxurious Conrad Hotel, Tower Terrace hospitality race tickets, as well as admission to the drivers' meeting and VIP black-tie Indy 500 victory dinner.

**Details** Four nights' B&B starting May 27 costs from £2,610, including VIP events but not flights to Indianapolis (001 800 591 9198, [primesport.com](http://primesport.com))

### 29. Shop Minneapolis

For a super-sized shopping trip head to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where a \$350-million expansion has made the Mall of America, already the largest shopping centre in the western hemisphere, an even crazier tax-free shopaholic heaven. There are 570 stores, 50 restaurants, an aquarium, the longest indoor zip-line in America and a huge theme park, with a new \$20-million dollar ride — all under one roof. Combine your stay with a road trip through the region, exploring the towns of the Great Lakes.

**Details** A 12-night trip to Minneapolis and the Great Lakes including flights, car hire and room-only accommodation costs from £2,145pp (020 3642 9668, [myamericaholiday.co.uk](http://myamericaholiday.co.uk))

### 30. Coast to coast by train

It's the ultimate American rail journey: 21 days from New York City to San Francisco via Washington DC, Chicago, the Midwest, New Mexico and the Grand Canyon. Take the Rio Grande railroad over the dramatic peaks of the Rocky Mountains, hop on the historic steam-powered Silverton train past old mining towns and watch the endless prairies of the Great Plains roll past your dining car window. This trip will fill your photo album with sights from the Statue of Liberty and the White House to Hollywood

Boulevard and the Golden Gate Bridge.

**Details** The 20-night trip costs from £3,395pp, including flights, accommodation, tours and train tickets. Set departures run April through October (01904 527181, [greatrail.com](http://greatrail.com))

### **31. Storm chasing in the Midwest**

Tornado Alley stretches across Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas and Nebraska and is America's most prominent twister strike zone and the home of some of the world's most spectacular storms. If you're looking for an adventure with a difference this year, join a team of experts to hunt down some gargantuan Midwest weather. Dinner-table bragging rights are included.

**Details** A nine-night storm-chasing trip to the Midwest including room-only accommodation, guides and equipment but not flights to Dallas or Denver, costs from £1,850pp. The trip starts in Dallas on May 6 and 27 and Denver on June 10 (020 8090 2490, [weatherholidays.com](http://weatherholidays.com))

### **32. Isle Royale park**

To celebrate this year's 100th anniversary of the national park service most people will visit the big-name parks. But why not try one of the smallest and least-visited instead? Isle Royale, in the middle of Lake Superior, has wolves, moose and some of the finest kayaking in the country. The park has just a few thousand visitors a year. Stay in Rock Harbor Lodge, the only accommodation on the island.

**Details** Doubles from £195 per night (001 866 6442003, [rockharborlodge.com](http://rockharborlodge.com)). Fly to Thunder Bay airport in Ontario, Canada, and drive 50 miles south to Grand Portage, Minnesota, for ferries to Isle Royale (open April 16-October 31)

## **The Deep South**

### **33. Music and Mississippi**

Combine a Chicago to Memphis road trip with some Mississippi River cruising aboard the grand *American Queen*, an authentic 19th-century paddle steamer. This new 14-night group tour will appeal to music fans searching for some southern spoiling. Highlights include visits to Nashville's Country Music Hall of Fame, exploring the birthplace of jazz in New Orleans and floating gently down *Ol' Man River*, soaking up scenic southern towns en route.

**Details** Seven nights' B&B and seven nights' half board costs from £3,399pp, including flights and tours, for set departures from April 26 (01293 762415, [hayesandjarvis.co.uk](http://hayesandjarvis.co.uk))

### **34. Foodies' New Orleans**

Created in conjunction with *Saveur* magazine, one of America's most popular foodie titles, this new culinary tour through New Orleans offers private, behind-the-scenes access to one of the tastiest cities on earth. Savour the classics of creole and cajun cooking, discover the secret recipes of southern fried chicken, sample the best biscuits this side of the Mississippi and then head off to the swamps for a spice tour — the essential ingredient for any New Orleans dish.

**Details** A three-night private tour costs from £2,425pp, based on a group of four, including all meals, activities, guided tours and transfers but not flights (001 866 551 9090, [butterfield.com](http://butterfield.com))

### **35. New Graceland hotel**

Elvis's iconic Memphis home is about to get all shook up. The Guest House, a new 450-room resort hotel annexed to The King's former mansion, will open its doors in October. With multiple bars, restaurants, a huge outdoor pool and a 464-seat theatre, every aspect will reflect the grandeur of Elvis's style.

**Details** A five-night trip to Memphis including flights and room-only accommodation at The Guest House costs from £1,125pp

### 36. Campervan convoy

A twist on the usual hotel-based group tours, this new escorted road trip through the Deep South puts each set of guests in their own private motorhome — perfect for campervan newbies or those looking for a little company on the road. The 27-day itinerary is also one of the most comprehensive around, crossing six states and 2,500-miles from the golden beaches of Florida and Alabama and the former plantations of Mississippi to the musical history of Nashville, Memphis, and the non-stop rhythms of New Orleans.

**Details** From £3,850pp for 27 days, starting September 15, including flights, four-berth campervan hire, site fees and guided tours (024 7767 0638, [worldwidemotorhomingholidays.co.uk](http://worldwidemotorhomingholidays.co.uk))

### 37. Southern charm

Traveleyes' tours challenge the way sighted travellers see the world through asking them to guide fellow blind holidaymakers while being guided themselves in an exploration of their other senses. This new ten-night group trip through the antebellum mansions, cobbled streets and grand plantations of Savannah, Georgia and Charleston, South Carolina, is an ideal way to experience the South's best-kept secrets.

**Details** Ten nights' B&B costs from £1,799 for sighted travellers, £2,999 for the visually impaired, including flights and guided tours (0113 887 4275, [traveleyes.co.uk](http://traveleyes.co.uk))

## Florida

### 38. Miami arts district

The inauguration of an entire arts and culture district in Miami makes it a great time to plan a city break. The Faena arts district, on Miami Beach, includes shops, restaurants, an arts institution and the new Faena Hotel Miami Beach. The 1950s art deco-inspired decor includes a Broadway-style theatre and the largest spa in North America.

**Details** Room-only doubles at the Faena Hotel Miami Beach cost from £510 per night (001 305 535 4697, [faena.com](http://faena.com))

### 39. Highway to the Keys

With some gorgeous new hotels, and the opportunity to explore two water-based national parks, the Florida Keys is perfect for a road trip. See crocodiles in the Everglades, snorkel with sea turtles in the Dry Tortugas and then come back for cocktails at the Amara Cay Resort, in Islamorada, and casual Floridian luxury at The Gates Hotel in Key West.

**Details** A seven-night trip to the Florida Keys including flights, convertible car hire and room-only accommodation in the above hotels costs from £1,500pp (01293 762404, [hayesandjarvis.co.uk](http://hayesandjarvis.co.uk))

### 40. Beach and fun in St Petersburg Clearwater

Surrounded by 35 miles of white-sand beaches, with the Gulf of Mexico to the west and Tampa Bay to the east, St Petersburg Clearwater is Florida at its laid-back best. New hotel openings, the world's first spin roller coaster at Busch Gardens and a new exhibition at the Dali Museum make 2016 a good year to visit.

**Details** Five nights, room only, including flights and car hire, cost from £999pp (0344 557 4321, [virginholidays.co.uk](http://virginholidays.co.uk))

### 41. Orlando attractions

Two new attractions make this summer a great time to visit Orlando. Universal's Skull Island: Reign of Kong promises a multisensory descent into a world of gargantuan beasts, topped off by the colossal ape himself, while SeaWorld will also open a first-of-its-kind spin-coaster, Mako — the tallest, fastest and longest rollercoaster in the city.

**Details** A seven-night trip to Orlando including Universal Studios park tickets and accommodation at Universal's Cabana Bay costs from £1,930pp based on two adults and two children sharing. Flights cost extra (001 877 801 9720, [universalorlando.co.uk](http://universalorlando.co.uk))

## East coast

### **42. History special**

As the US election looms, tour operator Tauck and celebrated film-maker Ken Burns have developed an 11-night itinerary to explore the historical context of freedom in the United States. Beginning in Philadelphia, where the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were signed, the route travels to civil war sites at Gettysburg, Richmond and Harpers Ferry, before finishing at the historic Willard Hotel in Washington DC.

**Details** 11 nights costs from £3,090pp, including transport, guided tours and most meals but not flights. Set departures are from April 21 to October 21 (0800 810 8020, [tauck.co.uk](http://tauck.co.uk))

### **43. World heritage Philadelphia**

This November Philadelphia will be inaugurated as America's first World Heritage City. From the Liberty Bell to Independence National Historic Park and the National Constitution Center, this city is the epicentre of American democracy and is filled with fascinating stories from the country's early history. The Internet Traveller has a seven-night road trip to Philadelphia and the surrounding Pennsylvanian countryside.

**Details** Seven nights' room-only costs from £999pp, including flights, car hire and a city pass (01737 646416, [theinternettraveller.com](http://theinternettraveller.com))

### **44. Election in Washington DC**

Be a part of history in the US capital this November for the big night of one of the most interesting elections in recent years. As the votes are counted, election parties ring through the city's bars and restaurants with plenty of time in the day to soak up the political sights, including the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial and the White House itself.

**Details** A five-night trip to Washington DC over the election results night, including flights and room-only accommodation, costs from £769pp, departing November 5 or 6 (0844 80 444 80, [purelycapitalregionusa.co.uk](http://purelycapitalregionusa.co.uk))

## New York and New England

### **45. Cool New York**

The Big Apple is the city of cool, so where better to stay than the New York Edition, which launched last year in the city's iconic Clock Tower Building. Inspired by the city's turn-of-the-20th-century private clubs and gilded mansions, the interiors are an elegant combination of heritage restoration infused with modern design. Being right on the doorstep of the up-and-coming NoMad district makes this a perfect base for an indulgent Big Apple break.

**Details** Doubles cost from £490 per night (001 212 413 4200, [editionhotels.com](http://editionhotels.com))

### **46. History in the Hudson valley**

A new holiday from ACE Cultural Tours explores the wealth of 18th and 19th-century properties found throughout New York City and the Hudson River Valley. Led by art historian Ian Cox, this is a rare opportunity to nose around some stunning homes, including Springwood House, the childhood estate of President Roosevelt, and the Joseph Raphael De Lamar House — one of the best preserved "gilded age" mansions of the Upper East Side.

**Details** The 11-night trip leaves on October 10 and costs from £4,395pp, including flights, accommodation, most meals, tours and

activities (01223 841055, [aceculturaltours.co.uk](http://aceculturaltours.co.uk))

#### **47. Ben & Jerry's in New England**

This new guided family adventure through New York, Niagara and New England includes getting splashed by the biggest waterfall in the States, spotting whales off the coast of Maine, braving the swinging bridges of Ausable Chasm, hiking in the White Mountains and the chance to see how some of America's favourite ice cream is made on a visit to Ben & Jerry's ice cream factory.

**Details** The 11-night trip costs from £2,499 per adult and £2,299 per child (minimum age 8), including flights, accommodation and some meals (01252 883902, [explore.co.uk](http://explore.co.uk))

#### **48. Foodie New England**

Take advantage of Norwegian's new low-cost London Gatwick to Boston route, launching on March 27, to take a three-state foodie-focused tour across New England. Sample the legendary pizzerias of Boston's Little Italy, stop by the birthplace of the hamburger at Louis' Lunch in Connecticut and then top it all off with clam chowder and fresh lobster on Cape Cod.

**Details** A ten-night trip to Maine, Connecticut and Massachusetts, including flights, car hire and room-only accommodation costs from £1,232pp (0208 742 8299, [americaasyoulikeit.com](http://americaasyoulikeit.com))

#### **49. Leaf peeping by train**

See the golden hues of New England on a group leaf-peeping train trip across Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine. Highlights include taking the North Conway Scenic Railroad past sheer bluffs, steep ravines and panoramic mountain vistas and heading to the summit of Mount Washington — the highest peak in the northeast — on the 1869 Mount Washington Cog Railway, the first cog railway built. Time in Salem, home of the infamous 17th-century witch trials, Martha's Vineyard and Cape Cod is included.

**Details** A nine-night trip including flights, room-only accommodation, tours and train tickets costs from £1,995pp in September and October (01904 527181, [greatrail.com](http://greatrail.com))

#### **50. Maine for families**

This small island park in Maine is perfect for families seeking an easy introduction to the American outdoors: safe and sandy beaches, tide pooling on the rugged Atlantic coast, easy biking and hiking trails and colourful New England villages, well stocked with children-friendly fun, on its doorstep.

**Details** A seven-night trip to Maine, with four nights in Acadia national park, including return flights to Boston, car hire and room-only accommodation costs from £2,199 for a family of four sharing (0844 80 444 80, [purelynewengland.co.uk](http://purelynewengland.co.uk))

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