

EXCLUSIVE

MASSACRE ON THE TRAIL

The Shocking Tale of an Adventure Gone Very Wrong

Outside

LIVE BRAVELY

2014
SUMMER ESCAPES
Guide

21 PERFECT Weekends

Where to Find:

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WHERE TO GO NOW

DESTINATIONS 06.14



Padding the Roaring Fork in Aspen, Colorado

Operation Enduring Freedom

THERE ARE 14 WEEKENDS BETWEEN MEMORIAL DAY AND LABOR DAY. THESE GROUND-TESTED STRATEGIES WILL HELP YOU CONQUER EVERY LAST ONE.

by Kate Siber

Outsource the Planning

Sometimes you don't want to deal with logistics. The solution? Outfitted trips. Try one of these three new itineraries.

>Ride. Temperate weather, cool ocean breezes, and astounding topography make Santa Barbara, California, prime road-biking territory. Trek Travel's new four-day

tour includes shuttles, lodging, gourmet picnics, and plenty of wine tasting (\$2,199; trektravel.com). Ride beside the ocean, up into the Santa Ynez Mountains, and through vineyards before hitting the rooftop pool at Canary Hotel Santa Barbara, one of the most luxe places to stay downtown.

>Hike. If you want a gourmet snack at the end of your trek, try the three-day trip that Whole Journeys, the travel arm of Whole Foods, launched in the Aspen, Colorado, area in 2012 (\$995; wholejourneys.com). Set up camp at the Limelight (from \$139; limelighthotel.com), then hike mountains like 14,279-foot

Castle Peak and end your days with handmade cheeses at Avalanche Cheese Company or local spirits at Woody Creek Distillers.

>Multisport. Lake Tahoe has the two things you most want out of a summer weekend: mountains and lakes. On a four-day trip with REI Adventures, you'll paddleboard ultra-clear waters, hike up the Pacific Crest Trail for views of granite peaks and gem-blue lakes, and camp in a secluded forest in Donner Memorial State Park (\$895; rei.com). S'mores included.



Jackson Lake,
Grand Teton
National Park

pig farming and hog butchery (June 7, from \$25; blackvalleyfarm.com).

> Get your line wet. Most guides offer only half- or full-day fly-fishing lessons. Breckenridge Outfitters lets you sign up for two-hour lessons on the Blue or South Platte Rivers (from \$85; breckenridgeoutfitters.com). You can get a taste and still have time to hike, raft, or refuel at the Briar Rose Chophouse and Saloon.

Blow the Bank

One good way to screw the books is a weekend at the newly renovated **Shore Lodge** in McCall, Idaho, two hours north of Boise in the Payette National Forest. The 77 lodge rooms are nice, but the three-suite cottage, with a lakeside hot tub and private deck, is even better (from \$1,000; shorelodge.com). Invite friends and spend all day mountain biking on the lodge's rental Treks (\$55), sailing on Payette Lake, or savoring the view from your own private stretch of beach. Another favorite: Colorado's **Ranch at Emerald Valley**, which opened last summer just outside Colorado Springs. On the south end of Pike National Forest, it has easy access to great fishing, hiking, and horseback riding (from \$1,000

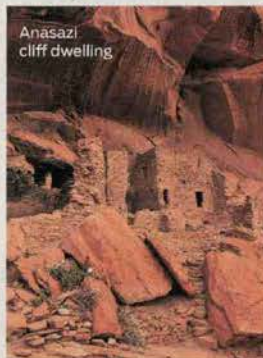
for two nights; broadmoor.com/ranch). Don't have quite that much cash but still want a taste of the good life? Aim for Moab Under Canvas, a luxury tented camp that opened in April, four miles outside Utah's Arches National Park. The collection of 40 tents includes 14 rustic teepees with cots, but the two secluded campaign-tent suites are worth the extra cost. You'll have your own king bed and wood-burning stove, but the best part is the deck, with civilization-free views of the park (from \$89 for a tent; \$395 for a campaign tent; moabundercanvas.com).

Drift Away

Float. Camp. Drink beer. Repeat. River trips are the ultimate escape, and a weekend is all you need to see these classic American waterways.

> Snake River. The easiest way to take in the impressive peaks of Grand Teton National Park is from a boat. On Oars' three-day trip, you'll kayak Jackson Lake and raft the Class II Snake past the Tetons' famed profiles (from \$539; oars.com). Star-soaked wilderness dinners and front-row views of the mountains included.

> Connecticut River. In recent years, a consortium of New Eng-

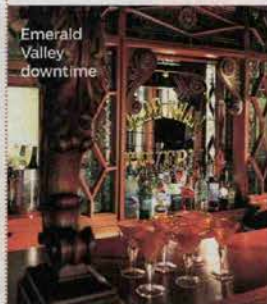


Anasazi
cliff dwelling

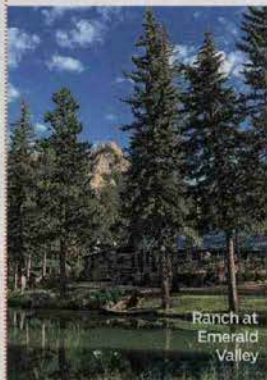
land nonprofits secured public access to campsites along a 280-mile stretch of the Connecticut through New Hampshire and Vermont and published a map with access points and portages (connecticutriverpaddlerstrail.org). The best weekend route: start in Hartford, Vermont, with a canoe from North Star Canoe Rentals, and float 18 miles past nesting bald eagles, a waterfall, a historic covered bridge, and four river islands with perfect camping sites (\$80 per person, including shuttle; kayak-canoe.com).

> San Juan River. The 26-mile stretch of the San Juan between Bluff and Mexican Hat in Utah passes Anasazi ruins, petroglyphs, sandstone canyons,

Weekend Escapes



Emerald
Valley
downtime



Ranch at
Emerald
Valley

beachy campsites, and one family-friendly Class II-III rapid. To DIY, reserve a permit from the Bureau of Land Management's Monticello office in February (\$10 per person; blm.gov), or take a guided three-day trip this summer with Wild Rivers Expeditions (from \$711; riversandrains.com).

Explore a City

On summer weekends, urbanites flee their environs, but there are plenty of reasons to reverse the migration: summer festivals, outdoor cafés, nightlife, and, increasingly, great ways to get outside.

> Denver. Stand-up-paddle down the Platte River with a rental from Confluence Kayaks (\$40; confluencekayaks.com), then stay at the 112-room railroad-inspired Crawford Hotel (from \$300; thecrawfordhotel.com), which will open in the city's historic train station in July.

> Memphis, Tennessee. The BBQ town is currently constructing a new crowd-funded park and urban bike path called the Hampline,