

# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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## Four Scenic Road Trips Tailored for This Spring

With the help of seasoned roadtrippers, we've designed four driving itineraries in the U.S. with highlights that maximize the season, from a wildflower bonanza in California to an arty desert campground in Colorado

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**WE ASKED** four road-trip vets to help stitch together itineraries optimal for spring. Each one is designed for a particular type of traveler—an outdoors aficionado, an art lover, a dedicated chowhound and a history buff who doesn't mind a little mud—but they're all rich enough for roadtrippers of all stripes.

### History, Birding and Whale-watching in New England

*New Haven, Conn., to Bar Harbor, Maine: 672 miles*

Unlike tourist-filled summah and leaf-peeper-choked fall, spring in New England has thinner crowds, lower hotel rates and the seafood—the sweetest hard shell lobster, the plumpest quahogs and pinkest wild shrimp—is at its prime. Start with a visit to New Canaan, Conn., modernist Glass House, designed by architect Phillip Johnson in 1949 (reopening in April) followed by a two-hour coastal drive to Newport, R.I., where tours of the Touro Synagogue, America's oldest, built in 1763, are set to resume in April. “With memories of the season's nor'easters and blizzards in the rear-view mirror, New England's spring is long awaited and gloriously underrated,” said Patricia Shultz, author of “1,000 Places to See Before You Die” and the forthcoming “Why We Travel.”

Stop to gawk at Newport's lavish “cottages” built by the Vanderbilts and their gilded age neighbors flanking the city's strollable Cliff Walk, including the 20-room Chanler at Cliff Walk where guests can overnight in tycoon style.

Venture inland to Massachusetts' vast Brimfield Antique and Flea Market kicking off in May or head to Gloucester to join one of the whale-watching tours, which generally start up in mid April. Make no mistake, spring is muddy in New England, a problem remedied by nabbing a pair of galoshes at Freeport, Maine's L.L. Bean's flagship, especially handy if you want to forage for wild morels and fiddleheads.

Continue Down East into Rockland's Farnsworth Art Museum,—a favorite of Wyeth lovers—which reopens in mid March. Maine's Maple Sunday, in late March, sees more than 75 producers statewide open their doors for a day of sticky-fingered demos and tastings. Chowder huts and lobster shacks can be found from Bangor to Bar Harbor, but for some of New England's best pies, drive past Bar Harbor way down east to Helen's in Machias, where fresh spring fruit like strawberries and rhubarb are piled high and buried under a snowbank-size portion of whipped cream.

Circle back to Bar Harbor to wind down your road trip at Acadia National Park, whose Loop Road opens April 15, and welcome back the flocks of spring migrants, including loons, warblers and bluebirds. Better still, make a sport of it and bring along your own checklist.