

THE TIMES

The best thing to do in every US state in 2025

Our ultimate guide to America's newest hotels, theme parks and museums from Alabama to Wyoming (plus Washington DC). These are the hottest spots you won't want to miss



Why do you love the US so much? As someone who has dedicated her career to telling stories about the States, it's a question that I'm asked often — and it's one with many possible answers. The simplest is: you could visit 100 times and no two trips would be the same.

The US is a continent mustering its best impression of a country. In a decade of travels in this big, beautiful, complicated nation, I've hiked in snow-crowned mountains, chased the sun on Pacific Coast beaches, museum-hopped in titanic cities, and had the best meals of my life in small towns you could blink and miss.

The country's culture is every bit as diverse as its terrain and I relish cracking open a new slice of it each year. Most recently, a spry octogenarian taught me to flatfoot dance in the depths of Appalachia, while indigenous guides led me through the land that's set to become America's newest national park. I found one of the country's finest art museums in the depths of the Ozarks (Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, in Arkansas, if you were wondering), and drank old fashioned at breakfast in bourbon-soaked Kentucky. The only thing that no longer surprises me is how often the US surprises me.

This new year brings a renewed crop of reasons to visit — and with them, more fresh perspectives on a country that feels both warmly familiar and wonderfully exotic. Plan a 2025 trip to visit newly opened luxury hotels that are sure to become landmarks; attend art festivals on tropical islands; ride new rail routes; and celebrate pop culture anniversaries in style. Whether it's your first, or your 100th, a trip to the US is always one worth taking.

35. Oklahoma



An indigenous-inspired resort

There was a buzz about Oklahoma City in 2021, when the pioneering First Americans Museum opened, celebrating the history and contemporary culture of the state's 39 tribal nations. Now an ambitious new resort will provide a base for exploring the museum's inspiring exhibits (featuring everything from regalia to immersive retellings of the tribes' origin stories) and offer plenty of family fun. Spearheaded by the Chickasaw Nation, the new, family-focused Okana Resort — whose name comes from the Chickasaw words “oka” (water) and “inkana” (friend) — will open next to the museum this year. It will include a massive indoor and outdoor waterpark (complete with 15 slides, a water coaster and a swim-up bar for adults), zip lines and laser tag, a spa and restaurants

ranging from a cheerful burger bar to a Mexican street-food spot. You'll be located on the Oklahoma River, a quick drive from the city's Stockyards, the world-class Oklahoma City Museum of Art and the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum. It's the ultimate offbeat Wild West city break — or a stellar stop on a Route 66 itinerary.

Details Room-only doubles from £195, including waterpark passes (okanaresort.com). Fly to Oklahoma City via Dallas