



To the
BEACH
or the
MOUNTAINS

FROM SANDY EXPANSES TO PANORAMIC PEAKS,
HERE ARE 12 SPOTS THAT WILL
INSPIRE YOU TO TAKE THOSE VACATION DAYS.

by **KATIE JAMES WATKINSON**
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the BEACH



ASBURY PARK, NEW JERSEY

Take what you know about the classic boardwalk town—wide beach, old-school shops, Ferris wheel—and, as they say in Jersey, *fulgeddaboutit*. Just over an hour from New York City, Asbury Park is a trendy shore town with Fran's Snook in sight. At the Asbury (from \$250 a night), urban cool (modern fixtures) meets beach chill (poolside food truck). There's the mural-splashed Asbury Park Boardwalk that practically Instagrams itself, and at the revamped Asbury Lanes, music makes bowling totally lit. Start your morning with pork roll, egg, and cheese sandwiches at Frank's Deli and Restaurant. After an afternoon of sun and surf, reunite with Indy, Blinky, Pinky, and Clyde at the vintage arcade at Silverball Museum. For dinner, try pizza at Porta, Cuban at Cubecahn, or Korean tacos at Nogo. Then have rock and roll as a nightcap at the gloriously gritty Stone Pony, a Jersey institution where Bruce Springsteen and Bon Jovi performed in their glory days.



HILTON HEAD, SOUTH CAROLINA

Rich scenery, a spectacularly slow pace of life—Hilton Head has all the vacancy feels. Check into Montage Palmetto Bluff (from \$455 a night) and snag a hotel bike to meander the 60 miles of paths and tree-lined trails. Cheers for stretchy waistbands: Hilton Head has over 250 restaurants, from pet-friendly to haute cuisine. Don't miss the Old Oyster Factory, where hush puppiesopped alongside tuna poke on the menu and somehow it just works. Spend an afternoon on Daufuskie Island—a mostly car-free refuge reachable by ferry—and ride horseback on the sand with Daufuskie Island Trail Riders. If the golf course is your sanctuary, 23 championship courses will help you trade Zoom for zen. Beach purists can hit 13 miles of Atlantic Ocean shores. After a morning of kid-centric scavenger hunts at the Coastal Discovery Museum, recharge with surf and turf at Skull Creek Beachhouse.

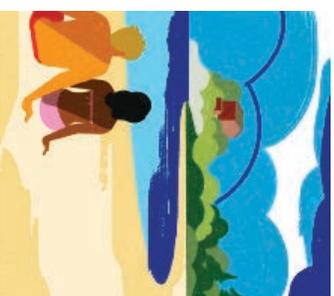
DESTIN, FLORIDA

Being out on the water is a way of life in this picturesque Panhandle town. Ask any of the 100-plus charter captains, like Brandy Miles-Kitchens of the 5th Day, who'll take you deep-sea fishing. Haul your catch to Brocton's to have it seared, fried, or blackened to your liking. Landlubbers can stick to the Gulf, a beach bar on nearby Okaloosa Island. Order baskets of shrimp at Dewey Destin's Seaford Restaurant and key lime saltwater taffy at CandyMaker. For activity, the Henderson Beach State Park has wildlife-filled nature trails. Stay at the adults-only Henderson Park Inn (from \$402 a night) or the family-friendly Henderson (from \$410 a night).



MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

Nestled between the shores of Lake Superior and the base of Marquette Mountain, this city has both beach and mountain vibes in spades. Scenic vistas and rugged trails will delight the nature obsessed, while beach burns can take their pick of 83 lakeshore miles (we recommend McCarty's Cove). Book an Airbnb and get exploring: Trek the Thomas Rock Scenic Overlook trail for panoramic views of Big Bay, or jump off the 15-foot Black Rocks in Presque Isle Park for a guaranteed adrenaline rush. Did we mention



there are more than 300 waterfalls in the state, and a whopping 77 in Marquette County? Prioritize Morgan Falls (arguably the most beautiful) and Yellow Dog Falls (a remote gem with rapids). Balance out all that adventure with farmhouse ales at Barrel + Beam and bourbon BBQ short ribs at the Delft Bistro, a cinema turned downtown eatery that screens films while you chow down.

PACIFIC CITY, OREGON

When summer arrives in the Pacific Northwest, in-the-know Oregonians descend on this unassuming beach town less than two hours from Portland. Here, it's all about living large outdoors: fishing, surfing, kayaking, crabbing. Admire views of Nehalem Bay while hiking the NeahKahnie Mountain trails, or stay in the car and drive the 40-mile Three Capes Scenic Loop in Tillamook to four of awe-inspiring spots: Cape Meares, Cape Lookout, and Cape Kiwanda. Have dinner at the Riverhouse Nestucca, an unassuming cottage serving elevated seasonal seafood, like Pacific coho with potato gnocchis. Hit the boy in an Airstream trailer at Hort's Camp (from \$329 a night with a 2-night minimum), then launch directly from Pacific City Beach on a dory boat excursion. The traditional flat-bottom vessel makes it easy to fish for salmon, rockfish, and lingcod. To relax, hang at the beachfront Pelican Brewing Company—pale ales for parents, soda for kids, fish and chips for all.

Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts

I GREW UP IN THE BRONX, so my beach was always Orchard Beach, which was a train ride away. When I was around 13, I was invited to go to Martha's Vineyard for the first time with a friend. My dad wanted me to experience the world of the Vineyard, because he knew that many of the beaches there—like Oak Bluffs and Inwells Beach—have strong ties to the African American community.

I remember thinking, "What is this magical island you take a ferry to and then go to a beach where everyone looks like you?" You really do become obsessed with the place. It calls to me—I'll stay for a week and never want to leave.

One of our rituals is pulling up our beach chairs on the sand and watching people jump off the jaws Bridge. That's not the bridge's real name, but everyone calls it that because jaws was filmed on the Vineyard, and the shark terrifyingly swam under it. There are big No Jumping signs, but it's a rite of passage to jump off it. I did it when I was younger, and my kids have followed suit. Since they were babies, we've gone to the jaws Bridge to watch people jump. We sit in our chairs in the sun and I sip rosé. It really is an amazing setup. On an amazing island. In my happy place.

—*Sunny Hostin is a cohost of The View. Her novel Summer on the Bluffs, the first in a series of three, is available now.*

the MOUNTAINS



TUCSON, ARIZONA

This Southwestern stunner has a reported 350 days of sunshine a year. Stay at the chic Joshua Tree House (from \$285 a night with a 2-night minimum) and zone out in the pool or cactus garden. If you require more serenity, book a Balance-Restoring CBD Wrap at SpaWell at El Conquistador Tucson, or knock back a few mezeal bowl tois at Portal Cocktails. For culture, visit MOCA Tucson; for adventure, go horseback riding with Spanish Trail Outfitters. Places like Barrio Chorro—with dishes like the carne asada tortomano, a sandwich with house-baked Azteca bread—have helped make Tucson the first UNESCO City of Gastronomy in the country. Cap the trip at 9,000 feet in the Santa Catalina Mountains, where the Mt. Lemmon SkyCenter's stargazing programs let you take in far-off nebulae.



NORTHERN CATSKILLS, NEW YORK

Go for the day, stay for a week. New York's Catskill Mountains are just two hours north of N.Y.C. but full of small towns, breweries, ski resorts, and trails. Zero in on the Northern Catskills (Greene County), where you'll find a sleepaway camp for adults, a.k.a. the Getaway (from \$179 a night). Have oneierts at Catskill Mountain Country Store, then hike Overlook Mountain Trail. Craft beer is the culture here, so dedicate a day to the region's hops, moving from Woodstock Brewing to Tutthilltown Spirits to Catskill Distilling Company. Book a wade trip with fly-fishing outfitter Esopus Creel. For those with kids, there's the new Legoland, set to open this summer. In the eve, sommelier Cordelia Schreiber takes oenophiles around the globe (Spanish Tempranillo, Italian Montepulciano) at Ze Windham Wine Bar.

ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

Reasons to love Asheville: rich history, localvore eats, grass-roots music. Reasons to dislike Asheville: not applicable. Check into the Foundry Hotel (from \$286 a night), set in a restored steel factory. Two miles away is the Biltmore Estate, George Washington Vanderbilt's former digs with a sprawling manor, gorgeous gardens, and sweeping views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Back in town, seek out the S&W Market, a new food hall with barrel-aged beer from Highland Brewing Company and fried chicken sandwiches from Mehervan Irani. A James Beard-nominated chef, The Folk Art Center showcases local crafts—pick up handmade scarves, bowls, vases, and more at the shop. Enjoy short-rib hash for dinner at Bernie on Eagle, then mingle with hip locals at Salvage Station, an outdoor venue that features music genres from soul to rock.



BIG SKY, MONTANA

Big Sky has finally reached star status, thanks to more direct flights from major U.S. cities and new multimillion-dollar ski lifts. Book a rental through Big Sky Resort, or plan your winter at the upcoming slopeside Montage Big Sky. Zip-lining, rock climbing, golf, fishing—you name it. Big Sky has it going on during summer. Writer powder hounds can chase 40-plus inches of snowfall, then head to Westward Social for après-ski. In town, shop at Montana Supply and A+O Jewelry. Tips slip has comfort food (fried chicken is King), live music (a full lineup of local talent), and just the right hint of kitsch (vintage skis and Montana memorabilia line the ceiling and walls). The West Entrance to Yellowstone National Park is about an hour away. Tap Yellowstone Adventure Tours for a bucket-list wildlife safari, guided snowshoeing, or tour of hot springs and geysers.

JACKSON, WYOMING

This mountain meiastroy by the Teton Range, boasting equal parts Western chill and modern luxury, attracts a year-round crowd. Start each day at Persephone Bakery for out-of-this-world croissants. In winter, hit the slopes of Snow King and Jackson Hole Mountain Resorts (expert skiers will like Corbet's Couloir; others might try Rendezvous Bowl). Summer is for white-water rafting, horseback riding, hiking, and biking. And don't forget: All of Yellowstone lies at your doorstep. The Cloudveil (from \$649 a night) recently opened on the historic town square, and its rooftop terrace sets the standard for après-ski. Dine at the mountainside Old Yellowstone Garage, and keep the night going with whiskey and live music at Million Dollar Cowboy Bar.



Mt. Monadnock, New Hampshire

TWO OF THE MOST difficult events in my life happened within a month of each other: My marriage ended, and my mother died. I knew I'd survive my losses, but at the time, in my mid-30s, I had no idea how. I did know I needed some time, some quiet, to be with myself and try to come to terms with what had happened. And so, a few days after my mother's death—the week I left the New Hampshire home I'd shared with my husband and three children—I climbed a mountain.

For any serious climber, New Hampshire's Mt. Monadnock isn't that big a deal. It's a day hike, four hours up and three hours down at most. But for me, those hours offered a quiet space to take in what had happened, as well as time to leave it behind—on the steeper, rockier parts of a trail all you can do is breathe hard and put one foot in front of the other. Looking back, I think I viewed Mt. Monadnock as a symbol: If I got to the top, as I knew I could, that would be a sign I'd be OK. I did, and I am.

Every fall since that year, I've climbed Mt. Monadnock—sometimes with a friend, sometimes alone. For a few years, I made the ascent with my second husband, Jim. When he died five years ago, I marked my loss, once again with a long, hard climb.

A walk on the beach is easier on the knees, of course. But here's the thing about mountains: They present you with a clear and absolute destination—the top. And there another one—the bottom. For me, a mountain is where a person can bring sorrow or celebrate joy. Every time I reach the top again, I remind myself: I am a survivor.

—**Joyce Maggard** is the author of the memoir *At Home in the World* and the novel *Labor Day*. Her new novel, *Count the Ways*, is out this month.