

8 All-American Drives With Google Maps

Parents teamed up with Google Maps to create family-friendly road trips to some of the app's most-searched summer destinations and attractions. With low gas prices and loads of fun places to stop, there's never been a better way to see the country.

By Karen Cicero from [Parents Magazine](#)

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How Our Maps Work

Each route is a loop, so you can begin at any point and follow the path in either direction. Don't get hung up on the listed order; you can customize to suit your family. Ending up at the starting point is ideal if you're flying in and renting a car. Look for our suggested pit stops on the maps, plus lodging and activities for your overnight stays.

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Courtesy of South Dakota

Monumental Vacation

781 miles; 13 hours of driving

1. Estes Park, Colorado (3 nights) Use this Colorado town as your base camp for Rocky Mountain National Park. There, kids can take advantage of Junior Ranger programs and go on short family-friendly trails like the Lily Lake Trail and the Sprague Lake Trail. Families with older kids who could handle six miles round-trip shouldn't miss Bridal Veil Falls, which starts at an historic Ranch and winds through several smaller waterfalls until you reach the main attraction. [Stay at Fall River Village.](#)

2. Cheyenne, Wyoming (1 night) Take a Cheyenne Street Railway Trolley Ride through the historic district. Visit Children's Village with a vegetable garden, windmill, prairie plantings, puppet theatre and more. If you're in town in late July—when the city holds its Frontier Days—you'll be able to check out the world's largest rodeo. [Stay at Townplace Suites Cheyenne Southwest/Downtown Area.](#)

3. Black Hills, South Dakota (2 nights) You're here to see the Mount Rushmore National Memorial, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2016. Thirty-minute summer ranger programs are ideal for kids. Come in the late afternoon and stay for the evening lightening ceremony in the outdoor Amphitheater. While you're in the area, also drive along the 18-mile wildlife loop at Custer State Park where 1,300 bison call home. The park's Sylvan Lake also offers family-friendly hiking. [Stay at State Game Lodge at Custer State Park.](#)

4. Sterling, Colorado (1 night) Stop by Overland Trail Museum, where kids can explore a one-room school house, look at vintage toys, and learn about what life was like for the first settlers of the area. End your trip on a relaxing note at North Sterling State Park; it offers 38 picnic sites (many of them shaded), the Cottonwood Cove Swim Beach, and a playground. [Stay at Best Western Sundowner.](#)