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Five Must-See Pitstops for Your Next Road Trip

Pull off the highway, stretch your legs, and uncover something wonderfully wacky at these roadside attractions.

By **Erica Sloan** | October 29, 2020

America's quirkiest, most eccentric attractions are often hiding in plain sight —on the side of a well-traveled road or just off a highway exit in what might appear to be no-man's land. But if you know just where to look for these one-of-a-kind shops, secret gardens, and the like, you'll find that their charm and novelty is just the thing to punctuate miles of driving.

To rev up your next road trip, take a delightful detour at these spots.

The Fantastic Umbrella Factory in Charlestown, Rhode Island

Rain or shine, peel into the five-acre bohemian paradise that is the Fantastic Umbrella Factory, off U.S. 1, and find your Zen. A sprawling bamboo garden and a greenhouse brimming with tropical foliage offer a blissful respite in nature, and ample space to stretch your legs. If you're in search of a souvenir, you're in luck: The shops on site overflow with handcrafted items —"treasures for the funky soul"—from glassware to jewelry (but, go figure, not a single parasol). Stop by the South County Artisans Loft to meet up-and-coming makers and purchase their wares or refuel with a sandwich packed with local produce at the Small Axe Café.