

Food & Travel

WINTER 2026

MAGAZINE



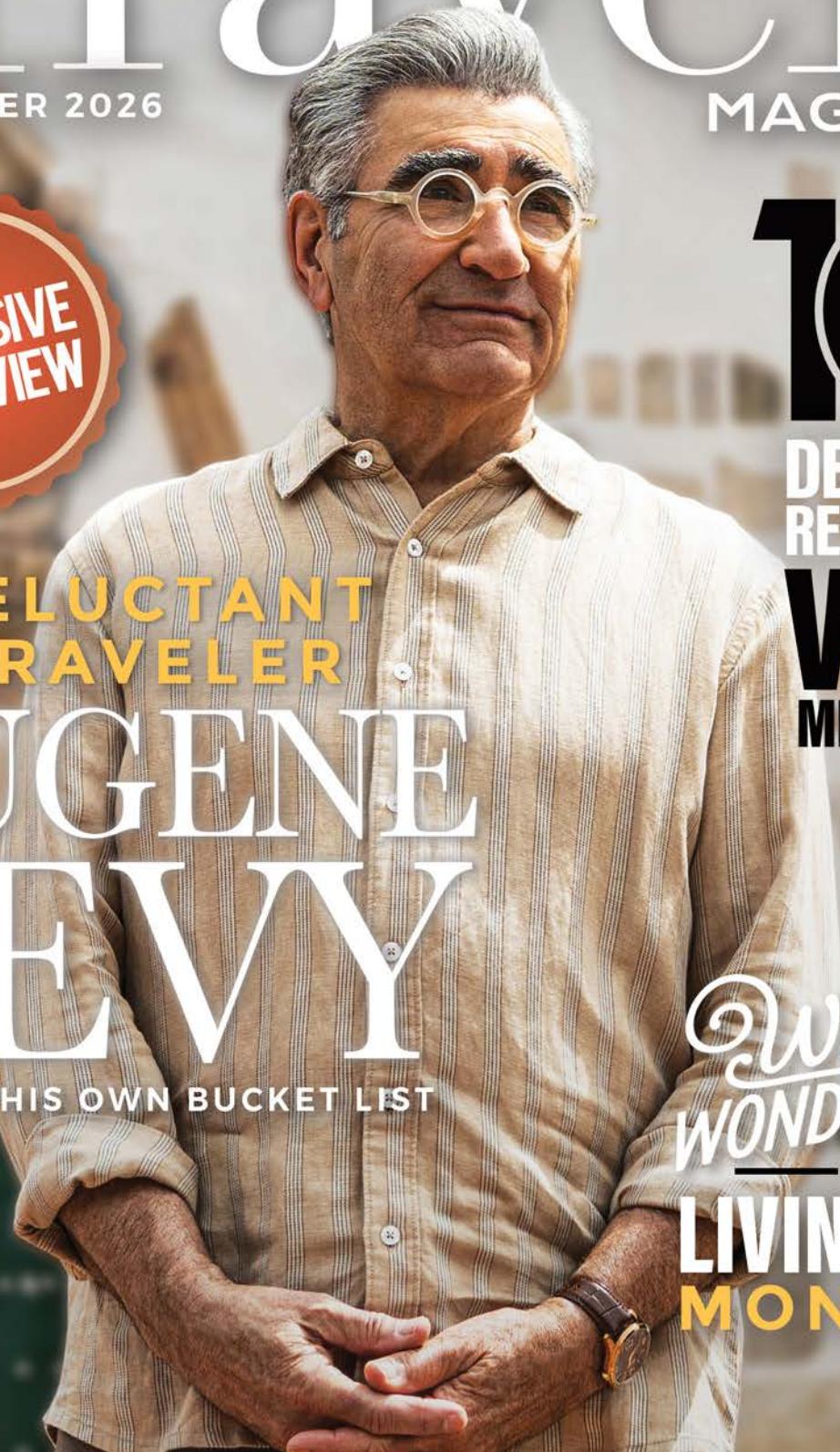
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KICKING HIS OWN BUCKET LIST

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DELICIOUS
REASONS TO
VISIT
MISSISSIPPI

Winter
WONDERLAND
IN
LIVINGSTON
MONTANA





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WINTER 2026

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GATEWAY TO THE FINGER LAKES

Discover the best kept secret in Upstate New York

Set in rolling hills and framed by the Susquehanna River, Tioga County is the kind of place you don't plan on being amazed by, but end up talking about for years. Wander into small villages, eclectic shops, art-filled corners, festivals, antique centers, restaurants, farm stores, historic inns, and wide open parks that make connecting with nature easy. The heart of the county is the Village of Owego, the Coolest Small Town you've never heard of. As America marks 250 years, this is a place where heritage is lived everyday. Delightful, genuine, and quietly unforgettable. That's Tioga County.

Uncover more about Tioga County at experiencetioga.com



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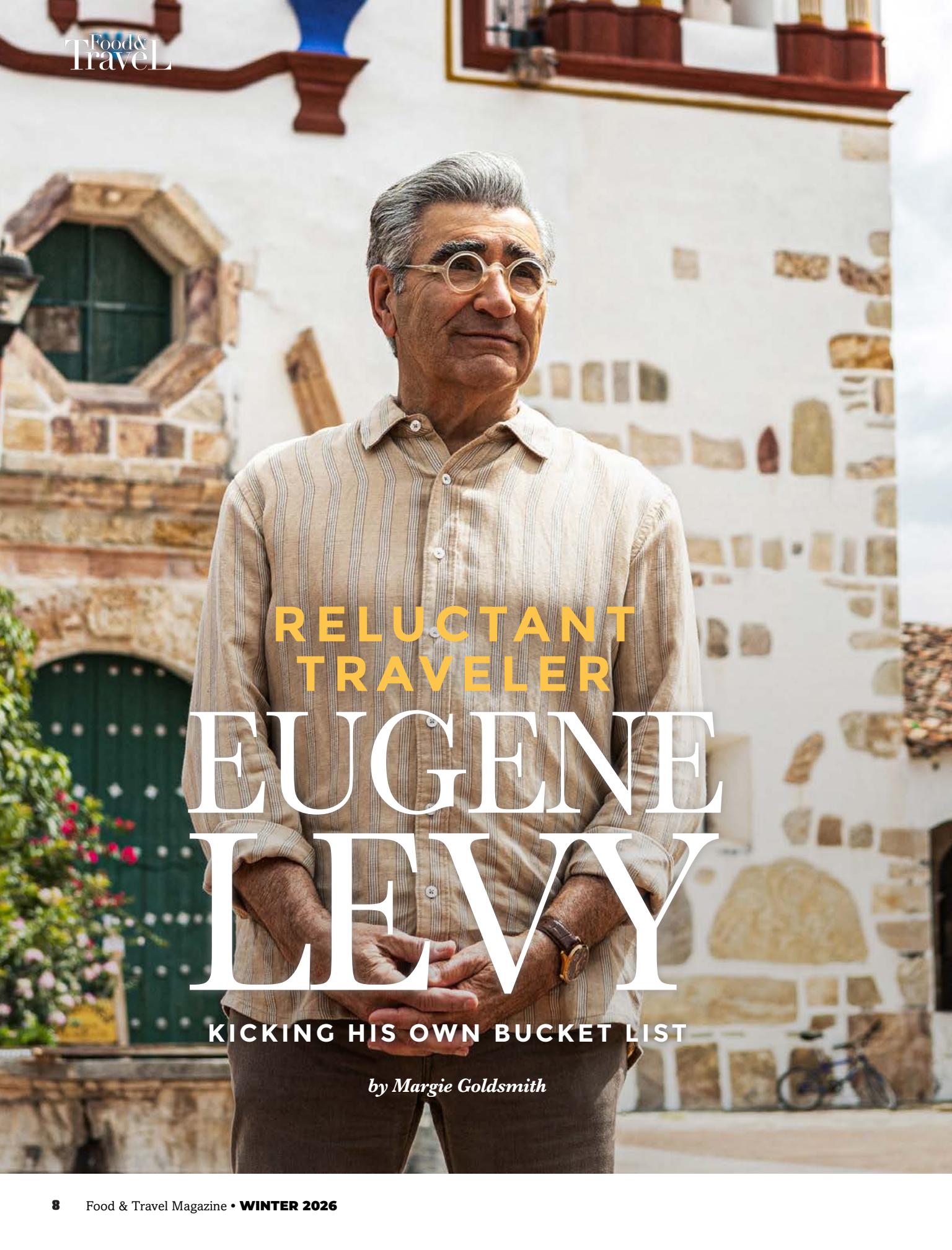
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LEVY

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RELUCTANT TRAVELER EUGENE LEVY

KICKING HIS OWN BUCKET LIST

by Margie Goldsmith



apple tv+



Eugene Levy in Oaxaca, Mexico for the third season of "The Reluctant Traveler With Eugene Levy,"
Photo courtesy of Christina Belle



Eugene Levy, considered "Canada's National Treasure," is also one of Hollywood's most popular comedic actors. He has appeared in over 60 television shows and motion pictures, including *Schitt's Creek*, *Best in Show*, *Waiting for Guffman*, *For Your Consideration*, *A Mighty Wind*, *Finding Dory*, *Splash*, *Armed and Dangerous*, and countless others. He won a New York Film Critics Circle Award and Grammy Award® for *A Mighty Wind* and a Golden Globe® nomination for *Best In Show*. *Schitt's Creek* swept the Canadian Screen Awards, winning nine of ten categories. From the Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television, Levy received the prestigious Legacy Award (along with co-star and long-time collaborator Catherine O'Hara). He won two Emmys® as a writer for SCTV.



Levy in the Sigrneil Seoul hotel at the Lotte World Tower in Seoul, South Korea
Photo courtesy of Ian Gavan



Levy in Seoul, South Korea
Photo courtesy of Ian Gavan

RELUCTANT TRAVELER EUGENE LEVY

Up until three years ago, award-winning actor/writer/producer Eugene Levy avoided travel, which he considered beyond his comfort zone. "My life was steady, predictable, and reassuringly repetitive," he says. Yet, in 2023, he agreed to host an original travel show, *The Reluctant Traveler*, for Apple TV+, which turned out to be a life-changing decision. Says Levy, "Even though the experiences were often uncomfortable, travel transformed me." Eugene Levy is currently starring in the third season of *The Reluctant Traveler*, eight episodes that send the iconic comedian to Austria, Canada, England, India, Ireland, Mexico, South Korea, and the United States.

Levy says, "The tough thing about starting this show was I had to be myself, and I'm not really an open person, so it was an emotional experience. But now that I'm considered something of a traveler, I've challenged myself to complete my own bucket list before actually kicking the bucket." His famous black eyebrows shoot up as he continues, "I did a lot of research, kept an open mind, and came up with a list of my own. I'd be a liar to say these experiences have not made my life richer, because you're only passing through once. I'm inching closer to being a more seasoned traveler, but I'm not there yet. However, my enjoyment in discovering and appreciating different countries and cultures has grown considerably."

Levy begins the new season of *The Reluctant Traveler* with a bucket-list journey to Mexico, a country visited by more Americans than anywhere else on the planet. He is not there to visit the typical touristy places such as Acapulco or Cabo San Lucas. He has arrived in Oaxaca to immerse himself in Mexico's Day of the Dead, a yearly festival which dates back to the Aztecs and embraces death as part of celebrating life. Along the way, he meets Rosario, the first female Mezcal maker to make the spirit the old-fashioned way: chopping up the agave plant, roasting it, pounding out the liquid, then adding spices, fruits, and a raw chicken. Levy makes a disgusted face and says, "Chicken is an ingredient in an alcoholic beverage? I prefer it Southern fried." Later, as he tastes the Mezcal, Rosario admits it's 61% alcohol. "I hope there's a smile on people's faces when they remember me," Levy says dolefully.

“

The tough thing about starting this show was I had to be myself, and I'm not really an open person, so it was an emotional experience.”

-EUGENE LEVY

His guide, Samuel, a fifth-generation Zapotec weaver, invites Levy to a family dinner but first sends him out alone to the market to buy raw chocolate and chapulines. Levy makes a face when he finds out that chapulines are grasshoppers. At dinner, Samuel encourages Levy to try the delicacy, and Levy refuses. "But they have so much protein," argues Samuel. Levy answers, "So does milk."

Levy loves classical music and, in another episode, travels to Vienna to attend the Philharmonic Ball. First, he must take dance lessons from his chosen partner. Admitting he is a terrible dancer, Levy says, "She better have two steel cleats on her feet." Before the ball, he assists the chef, who is making thousands of specialty desserts. Levy's job is to spread pink icing on a tiny cake, but as he tries, his cake tilts sideways. "Uh-oh," Levy says, "This one needs a priest."





In another episode, Levy decides to hit the open road through Louisiana's Cajun Country to New Orleans on a three-day RV road trip with a local guide. Says Levy as he tentatively enters the oversized vehicle, "RV stands for Recreational Vehicle, but I always thought it stood for Ruined Vacation." His guide, Will, explains that RVs always have names. What does Levy want to call it? "How about Nightmare?" suggests Levy. They decide on "Old Shaky."

Their first night's stop is in an RV Park. In Cajun Country, food is friendship, and for dinner they join a local crawfish boil. At first, Levy doesn't want to eat the crustacean but finally tries one and likes it. He also gets on stage and plays washboard with the band, a huge grin on his face. "There's an enormous sense of community with some of the friendliest people I've ever met," Levy says after they leave the party.

The next day, they stop for snacks, and Will asks Levy to buy him boiled peanuts. In the store, Levy tastes one, makes a horrible face, spits it out, and says, "Why do people in Louisiana boil their peanuts?" The shop owner says, "For the people who don't have teeth – and there's a lot of them."

The series is much more than Levy's ad-libbed quips and jokes. The last night of the RV excursion, roasting marshmallows over a campfire, Levy and Will share a heart-to-heart exchange about coming out – Will to his father, and Eugene's son, Daniel Levy, to Eugene. It is one of the season's most emotional highlights. Says Levy, "I discovered a sense of connection I hadn't expected, not to mention taking a vacation in an RV that I never would have considered a few years ago. My thing was always the sooner we get there, the better. But this was a great lesson in not getting there as fast as you would like, because there are always things to see along the way."

In another episode, Levy goes to Galway, Ireland, to share a Saint Patrick's Day adventure with his daughter, Sarah. He travels to Seoul, South Korea, to meet K-pop stars and dance with them. He flies to Rajasthan, India, to meet some cricket legends. Next stop: Vancouver to meet up with his friend, singer/songwriter Michael Bublé. Levy admits to Bublé, "My bucket list is to try everything once, because you never know when you'll get another chance, especially at my age." [He recently turned 79 years old.]

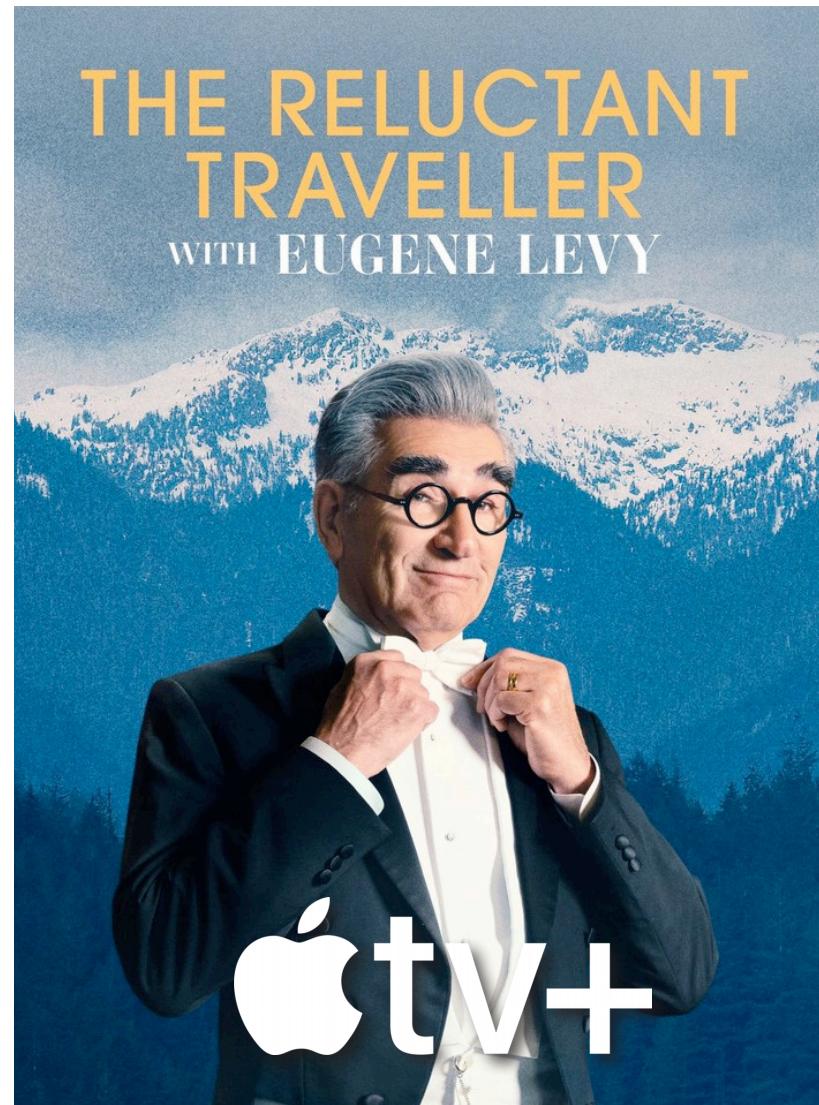
But Eugene Levy's most impressive trip is to London, where he is personally invited by the Prince of Wales for a private tour of Windsor Castle. As Levy somewhat nervously waits in



Will Edmond and Eugene Levy in Louisiana
Photo courtesy of Christina Belle

the quadrangle, Prince William arrives on a motorized scooter. Levy says, almost to himself, "He's certainly not afraid to roll with the times." So, what did Levy expect in meeting the prince? "I didn't know what to expect," he says. "But Prince William really set the tone. He made me feel a lot better and comfortable. Quite honestly, when he pulled up, I didn't even know how to address him. I mean, am I allowed to shake his hand? But again, it was how gracious he was, making it so informal and casual and conversational. He's charming and approachable."

First, the prince takes Levy on a private tour of Windsor Castle, the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world. Then, they walk with Prince William's dog through the gardens and finally adjourn to a nearby pub for a pint. Levy asks William what is most important to him, and the prince responds, "My family." Levy says, "We're all sweating the same stuff: work, health, and family; that's true even for a future king."



“
My bucket list is to try everything once, because you never know when you'll get another chance, especially at my age.”

-EUGENE LEVY

So, what was the takeaway from meeting the future king? Says Levy, “I came away with my own personal sense that this was going to be a reinvigorated monarchy, that the formalities might not be the same.”

What else did Eugene Levy learn about his quest? “I thought a bucket list was all about the big-time epic adventures, and sometimes that’s true. I’ve also found that even in the grandest of settings, it’s the little things that stay with you—the quiet conversations, becoming comfortable with things that are unfamiliar, and learning you don’t have to go to the ends of the earth to discover something new. I’d be a liar to say these experiences haven’t made my life richer, because they have.”

Was getting a chance to meet Prince William on his bucket list?” Levy says, “Well, that’s the bucket.” His eyebrows shoot up.” And as bucket lists go, this is going to be pretty hard to top – borderline impossible.” •

Winter Escape

IN PLAQUEMINES PARISH, LOUISIANA

Photos courtesy of Jackson Hill

Visitors come to Plaquemines Parish year-round to experience the best of Louisiana's coast – from world-class fishing and scenic byways along the Mississippi River to abundant birdlife, roadside farm stands, and unforgettable food. Our restaurants showcase the region's historic cuisine, pairing local produce with the freshest seafood straight from our waters.



While any time of year is a great time to visit, winter in Plaquemines Parish offers something truly special. With mild mornings, sunny afternoons, and cool, comfortable evenings, it's the perfect season to explore, without the heat or humidity of summer.

For anglers, winter is prime fishing season. The waters are teeming with redfish, speckled trout, and flounder. Local guides and marinas make it easy for both seasoned pros and first-timers to get on the water and reel in something memorable. Alongside the popular reds and trout, expect to encounter delicious sheepshead and black drum, favorites for the table.

Bird watchers and outdoor enthusiasts will also find winter ideal for exploring Woodlands Preserve, Fort Woods, or Fort Jackson. These scenic wetland trails are a birder's paradise. Starting in late October, migrating and wintering species like Sharp-shinned Hawks, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Cedar Waxwings, and Yellow-rumped Warblers arrive in abundance, making every walk a discovery.





Winter is also citrus season in Plaquemines Parish. Our fertile soil and temperate climate produce some of the sweetest, juiciest fruit in Louisiana. Stop by a roadside stand along Highway 23 to sample fresh-picked oranges, satsumas, and grapefruits, a true taste of the season.

Seafood lovers will feel right at home here. Plaquemines Parish is one of the most productive estuary systems in the world. Our oysters, shrimp, crabs, and fish supply restaurants and families across the state and nation. To experience the authentic flavor of our coast, dine in one of our local seafood restaurants, where the catch of the day often comes straight off the boat that morning.

Just a short drive from New Orleans, Plaquemines Parish sits where the mighty Mississippi River meets the Gulf of Mexico. Visitors will find lodging to fit every taste and budget, from rustic waterfront cabins and charming inns to historic plantation stays and comfortable hotels.

With peaceful wetlands, rich history, fabulous food, and a relaxed atmosphere, Plaquemines Parish is the perfect destination for a winter escape that's truly Louisiana.

Learn more at PlaqueminesParishTourism.com.

LOUISIANA'S DELTA COUNTRY

Plaquemines Parish



As the Mississippi River nears the Gulf of Mexico, orange groves and oyster boats mingle with marsh, swamps and barrier islands to create a unique setting for you to explore. Come experience world class fishing, fresh seafood, history and environmental tours in Louisiana's Deep Delta Country.



Visit PlaqueminesParishTourism.com
to start your adventure today!

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DELICIOUS REASONS TO VISIT MISSISSIPPI THIS WINTER



Winter is one of the most rewarding times to travel in

Mississippi. While temperatures can dip into sweater weather, the season is generally mild and ideal for exploring both outdoor and indoor attractions. It's also a time when many of the state's finest restaurants shift their menus toward comforting dishes like hearty gumbos, slow-braised meats, and inventive takes on Gulf seafood and locally sourced produce.



Siren Social Club

This year, winter dining comes with an added distinction: ten Mississippi restaurants have been included in the inaugural MICHELIN Guide American South, highlighting a culinary range that stretches from fresh Gulf seafood to refined farm-to-table cooking.



Elvie's

JACKSON & CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI

Jackson offers a wealth of cultural attractions, from nationally recognized museums and historic neighborhoods to a wide range of excellent eateries. This winter, the capital's profile rises even further with two MICHELIN-recognized restaurants, both located in the walkable Belhaven Town Center. **Elvie's** brings French-influenced standards made with a Southern sensibility. Just steps away, **Pulito Osteria** offers seasonal Italian fare, including handmade pastas and wood-fired pizza.

A short drive northwest of the city, **Sacred Ground Barbecue** in Pocahontas is known for smoked meats, house-made sausages, and sides that elevate traditional barbecue. It's a quintessential cold-weather stop—unpretentious, satisfying, and deeply tied to the region's heritage. Both Elvie's and Sacred Ground earned the Guide's coveted "Bib Gourmand" distinction for delicious food at affordable prices.



Elvie's



City Grocery

OXFORD

In Oxford, home to the University of Mississippi, winter is anything but quiet and serene. Ole Miss football and basketball keep the town buzzing, and its culinary scene rises to the moment. Two of the city's MICHELIN-recognized restaurants, **Ajax Diner** and **City Grocery**, anchor the city's lovely courthouse square, a local hub for eating, drinking, and shopping. Ajax is a local institution known for stick-to-your-ribs Mississippi classics served with the warmth of a community hangout. City Grocery, chef John Currence's flagship, balances refined Southern fare with big, bold flavors that thrive in winter's slower pace. Nearby, **Snackbar** blends Southern ingredients with global inspiration, offering dishes that are both comforting and inventive.

About 20 minutes down the road, **Taylor Grocery** has spent nearly half a century perfecting its signature fried catfish. The restaurant has live music (of the singer-songwriter variety) and occasionally the restaurant owner will join in the singing.

Taylor Grocery



COASTAL MISSISSIPPI

Along Mississippi's Gulf Coast, winter means cool days, clear skies, and exceptional seafood. Gulfport, Ocean Springs, and Biloxi each contributed a standout restaurant to the MICHELIN Guide, showcasing the region's casual coastal fare and elevated offerings.

In Gulfport, **Siren Social Club** celebrates oysters, Gulf finfish, and coastal flavors with a playful approach that matches the city's waterfront energy. **Vestige**, in Ocean Springs, continues to attract national attention for its globally influenced tasting menus built around seasonal Gulf ingredients, served with creativity and artistry.

In Biloxi, **White Pillars** ties the season together with its elegant take on fresh Gulf seafood and farm-to-table cooking. Housed in a restored 1905 mansion, the restaurant offers winter menus that highlight local farms, regional purveyors, and the Coast's signature catches. It's an ideal choice for travelers seeking a refined but grounded introduction to Mississippi's culinary identity.

Siren Social Club



A WINTER SEASON FULL OF FLAVOR

Together, these ten MICHELIN-recognized restaurants reflect what winter in Mississippi does best: serve comfort with craft, creativity rooted in place, and flavors shaped by seasons rather than trends. Wherever you ultimately travel, winter in Mississippi offers a culinary experience that is both grounded and surprising—an invitation to slow down, dig in, and enjoy tastes – and travels – that are truly unforgettable.

Learn more about dining in Mississippi at VisitMississippi.org/Flavors •





VISIT
MISSISSIPPI

BIRTHPLACE *of AMERICA'S MUSIC*

Cathead Distillery | Jackson, Mississippi

Bon appétit, y'all.

Farm to table. Locally sourced. Comfort food. In Mississippi, these aren't culinary buzzwords. They're our traditional way of doing things, drawing on recipes and practices that have crossed generations and continents. Come have a seat at our table, and experience the flavors of Mississippi. Learn more at VisitMississippi.org/Flavors.

#VisitMS





WINTER IN THE DELTA: DISCOVER SOUTHERN CHARM IN CLEVELAND, MISSISSIPPI

When winter arrives, it's easy to think of snow-covered cabins or big-city lights. But for a more relaxed and soulful seasonal escape, Cleveland, Mississippi offers something different—an inviting mix of small-town charm, rich culture, and comforting food, all set against the backdrop of the storied Mississippi Delta.



Located along the famous Blues Highway (U.S. Route 61), Cleveland makes for an ideal winter road trip destination. It may not have snow, but it more than makes up for it with warm hospitality, festive streets, and a deep connection to American music and art.

Music runs through the veins of this town. At the GRAMMY Museum Mississippi, interactive exhibits tell the story of how the Delta shaped blues, gospel, and rock ‘n’ roll. Just outside of town, Dockery Farms—often considered the birthplace of the blues—offers a quiet, reflective stop for music lovers. A drive through Cleveland reveals multiple Mississippi Blues Trail markers, each one linking visitors to the region’s influential musical roots.

Beyond music, Cleveland is also a center of craftsmanship. Nearby McCarty’s Pottery and Peter’s Pottery are both renowned for their one-of-a-kind handmade ceramics. Their pieces, known for organic shapes and rich glazes, make for thoughtful, locally made holiday gifts.

The town transforms during the holidays thanks to 50 Nights of Lights, a seasonal tradition that turns downtown into a glowing, walkable wonderland. With more than a million lights and a laid-back pace, it’s the perfect place for a peaceful evening stroll or a bit of festive shopping at local boutiques and galleries.

Food is another reason to visit Cleveland in the winter. Whether you’re after a relaxed brunch, a hearty Southern plate, or something more refined, there’s no shortage of options. Start your day at a cozy café or head to Leña for artisan wood-fired pizza with Delta-inspired ingredients. For classic Southern comfort, The Country Platter 2 serves up dishes like fried chicken, yams, and greens that warm you from the inside out.

When it’s time to rest, check into the Cotton House Hotel, a stylish boutique stay that blends Southern elegance with modern touches. Dine at Staple, the hotel’s signature restaurant, for updated takes on Delta favorites, then head upstairs to Bar

Fontaine, a rooftop bar with craft cocktails and sweeping views of the holiday-lit town.

Cleveland is easy to explore and even easier to fall into step with. It’s the kind of place where conversations with locals are as memorable as the meals, and where the season is celebrated with creativity and heart—not crowds.

If you’re looking to slow down and reconnect with the spirit of the season, Cleveland offers an alternative to the typical winter trip. It’s a destination that embraces tradition and community, inviting you to enjoy the holidays at a gentler pace—one song, one plate, and one twinkling light at a time. •

**Visit
CLEVELAND**
MISSISSIPPI

Plan your visit at visitclevelandms.com



THE SOUND OF THE DELTA BEGINS IN CLEVELAND MISSISSIPPI

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A Piece of *Paradise*



Paul's Antiques



Photo by Cave City Marketing



Alpine Slide

CAVE CITY, KENTUCKY

Nestled in south-central Kentucky, Cave City is more than a gateway to Mammoth Cave National Park, it's a destination with its own rhythm and charm. Families, solo travelers, thrill-seekers, and those craving quiet all find a piece of paradise here. From majestic limestone caverns to quirky attractions, cozy cafés, and new distilleries,



At its heart lies Mammoth Cave, the world's longest known cave system, with over 400 miles of mapped passageways and 53,000 acres of forested parkland. Descending into the cool, echoing chambers or hiking surface trails, visitors feel the slow, humbling power of nature's artistry. Each tour, whether a family trek or a reflective solo wander, connects you to something timeless beneath the Kentucky hills.

Above ground, Cave City pulses with fun. Mammoth Valley Park offers Kentucky's only Alpine Slide and the state's longest Twin Zipline, thrills that delight kids and adults alike. Play a game of Disc Golf while you're there! For a whimsical twist, Dinosaur World brings prehistoric imagination to life with more than 150 life-size dinosaurs, fossil dig, and gem mining. It's the kind of place where you can sip coffee while strolling among stegosaurususes. Pure Cave City charm.

The town's dining scene reflects its easygoing, welcoming spirit. Grab casual comfort at The Dog Pound, known for chili dogs and big flavor, or settle into hearty Southern fare at The Watermill Restaurant. Sports fans gather at Mammoth Valley Pub, a family-friendly spot owned by former Tennessee Titan Robert Reynolds. For pub bites and pints, try Pourter's Pub & Kitchen or Cave City Pizza, where locals linger over hand-tossed pies. Looking to cool off with some ice cream? Look no further than Cave City Creamery. Those seeking a mellow break can unwind at Ace Coffee, a cozy café ideal for planning your next adventure. Everywhere you go, hospitality feels personal and unpretentious. Good food served with hometown pride.



Inside Mammoth Cave



Cave City Mural
Photo by Cave City Marketing



Dueling Grounds Distillery



Dinosaur World

In recent years, Cave City has embraced Kentucky's bourbon tradition. Local bars like The Roxglass and The Dive pair with a new wave of craft distilleries bringing energy and history together. Balance Distilling Company, soon opening as Cave City Distilling, is reviving the legendary "Mammoth Cave Bourbon," a nod to the region's moonshine past and cave-country heritage. Down the road, Dueling Grounds Distillery crafts grain-to-glass small-batch bourbon from local wheat and corn, its name recalling Kentucky's frontier days. MB Roland Distillery, right next door, adds to the area's reputation as a rising star in Kentucky craft spirits. Together, they show a community ready to toast both tradition and innovation.

Cave City's magic lies in its refusal to fit a mold. A family might spend the morning at Dinosaur World, the afternoon flying the zipline, and the evening under the stars at a local campground or the nostalgic Wigwam Village Motel. Couples might hike the caves, sip small-batch bourbon, and share a meal at a local pub. Solo travelers might find peace wandering forest trails, coffee in hand, watching the world slow down. Whatever your rhythm, Cave City meets you there.

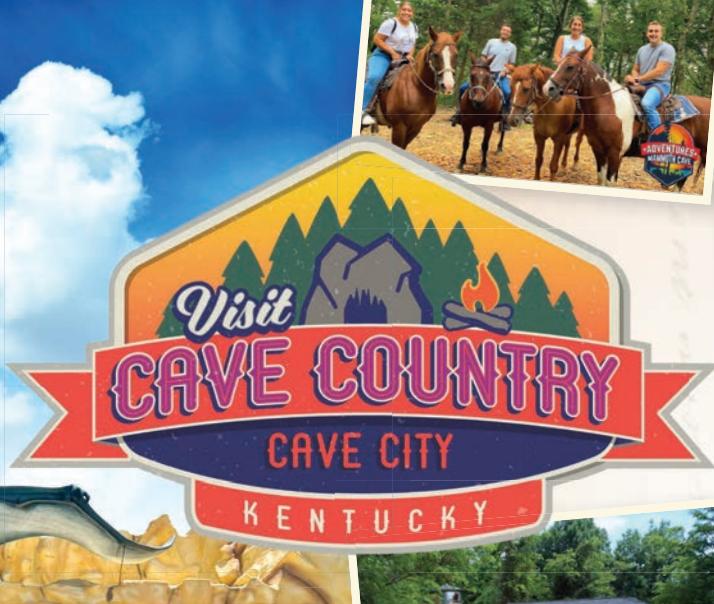
From the subterranean wonder of Mammoth Cave to the laughter echoing from the Alpine Slide, from chili dogs at a roadside diner to bourbon aging quietly in oak barrels - Cave City blends adventure, comfort, and authenticity. In a travel world filled with curated experiences, this Kentucky town stands out by letting you simply be yourself.

Whether you're chasing thrills or tranquility, history or hospitality, Cave City proves that paradise doesn't need to be far. Sometimes, it's right beneath your feet, and all around you. •



DINOSAUR WORLD

Home to Mammoth Cave National Park,
the world's longest-known cave system



Something For Everyone

Where Adventure, Beauty, and Culture Converge

This enchanting destination is renowned for its awe-inspiring caves and natural wonders. Sample local flavors at charming eateries and indulge in some retail therapy at unique shops. Cave City, KY, promises an unforgettable journey filled with wonder and discovery.



Explore **ELGIN**

**NON-STOP ADVENTURE
THIS WINTER AND SPRING**

Looking for that cozy winter-time weekend away? Or are you searching for a Spring Break holiday that has something for everyone? Experience a weekend getaway at Explore Elgin Area that includes activities, museums, music, nightlife, and delicious flavors from our many fine restaurants! Explore Elgin Area serves 11 communities located northwest of Chicago and just 20 minutes from O'Hare International Airport.





For your first day of a winter-time getaway, savor snow and indoor fun with a winter hike at Plank Road Taproom, a 7-acre property with trails around its woodland beer garden. Or spend the day at Villa Olivia, which has several hills for downhill skiing, snowboarding or snow tubing. Enjoy family fun ice skating at the Polar Dome Ice Rink, once a practice rink for the Chicago Blackhawks in the 1960s.



On day two, explore some indoor fun. Visit Gail Borden Public Library for some time in the Kids Corner or to enjoy one of the many exhibits and programs offered at this nationally acclaimed library. Schedule a family outing to the Escapade 360, Elgin's premier escape room, where you can choose from five different rooms to test your escape skills. All ages would revel in visiting Epic Air Trampoline Park or Adrenaline Monkey, an adventure and performance training facility offering ninja courses and vertical adventures.

If you are visiting near the Holidays, wander Downtown Elgin during Holly Days to see the holiday windows created by local artisans, discover family crafts and shopping, and taste all the flavors of a holiday pub crawl. Visit Goebbert's Farm for its spectacular holiday light show. Take in the Elgin Symphony Orchestra's holiday concerts or catch the annual Nutcracker performances.

Traveling to the Elgin Area for a spring or summertime trip? Spend the day visiting several architectural wonders, including the Muirhead Farm House, designed and built by Frank Lloyd Wright, and BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, a traditional Hindu place of worship that boasts beautiful architecture and is located on 27 acres.



If you are looking to spend a day outdoors, plan on hiking, biking or kayaking on the Fox River Water Trail, which offers nearly 40 miles of trails. Another favorite activity is playing a round of golf at one of our many courses throughout the area. Families will want to check out Santa's Village Amusement and Water Park, a Christmas-themed park that includes carnival rides, zoo animals and Santa Springs Water Park.



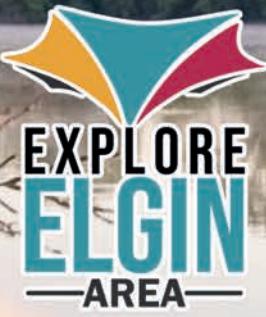
EXPLORE AUTHENTIC FOODS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

No matter when you visit, plan to spend your first night sipping cocktails and pizza made from their wood-burning oven at Mockingbird Bar + Garden. You can dine indoors and in a covered patio, perfect for every season, with a view of the Fox River Trail. Sample nearby Bleuroot for farm-to-table freshness all year round. After a busy afternoon, feast on fine food served at Buckingham Steak House inside the Grand Victoria Casino or plan a relaxing dinner at Old Republic Kitchen + Bar, which serves up American cuisine for all ages and live music on the weekends.

Embrace the authentic Mexican cuisine at El Patio in Elgin, which serves Marranda in a sizzling ceramic pig filled with charred meats and grilled vegetables. Sample tacos from one of the many taquerias and restaurants. Or try the delicate Mediterranean flavors found at Schwarma Stop before treating yourself to a traditional coffee, gelato and delicious crepes at its sister store, Stop N Dip. Indulge in the cuisine at Kubo Sushi & Sake Lounge, a restaurant offering traditional Japanese culture and food, with a slight Cali twist. The Elgin Area has something for everyone's palate, from Americana to fine dining!

Start planning your visit to the Elgin area by using the weekend itineraries here:

www.exploreelginarea.com/plan-your-visit/itineraries •



TIME *to Explore*

Experience the perfect weekend biking the Fox River Trail, sampling Elgin's culture, listening to live music or choosing your next adventure.



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CAPITAL CITY/LAKE MURRAY COUNTRY

FOUR CHEFS. FOUR COUNTIES.

One Delicious Region

Capital City
Lake Murray
Country





Visitors come for lake life, fishing and golf, and the buzz of the state's capital city. What many discover only after dinnertime is that this region has quietly become one of the Southeast's most exciting culinary destinations. National publications have taken notice, including a recent nod from Food and Wine Magazine as one of the Best New Food Destinations. Local chefs have been named South Carolina Chef Ambassadors, and others have competed on national stages like the World Food Championships. Across four counties, creativity, community, and local flavor converge into something memorable.

Within this rising food landscape, four chefs help tell the story. Each represents a distinct corner of Capital City/Lake Murray Country, proving why this is a place worth traveling for, fork in hand.



NEWBERRY COUNTY: CHEF JOHN WORTHINGTON, FIGARO THE DINING ROOM

In downtown Newberry, Chef John Worthington of Figaro The Dining Room cooks with one clear philosophy: respect for ingredients and respect for the craft. His menu is built on partnerships with local farmers and a belief that ingredients with real roots carry deeper meaning. Figaro's Quality Beef has become both a signature and a promise to guests, reflecting the effort it takes to source high-quality products for a small town restaurant.

As South Carolina's food scene gains national momentum, Worthington sees Newberry rising with it. Young talent, strong agricultural ties, and travelers discovering remarkable dining in unexpected places all play a role. Figaro stands as evidence that Newberry belongs in that conversation.



RICHLAND COUNTY: CHEF CHRIS WILLIAMS, ROY'S GRILLE

In Irmo, Chef Chris Williams infuses Roy's Grille with soulful energy shaped by the woman who inspired him to cook: his grandmother. Her influence appears in his Lowcountry-and-Gullah-forward style, layered with Asian, Caribbean, and Italian elements that make each plate feel both familiar and inventive.

Barbecue remains his calmest ritual and signature passion. For four consecutive years, Williams represented Team Lake Murray Country at the World Food Championships, a milestone that strengthened his belief in the region's culinary depth. He credits its growth to the chefs and home cooks who nourish their communities day after day.



SALUDA COUNTY: CHEF BRANDON VELIE, JUNIPER

In Ridge Spring, Juniper brings farm-to-table energy to Main Street. Chef Brandon Velie transforms seasonal ingredients from Saluda County and surrounding farms into dishes that feel just as fitting in the state's finest dining rooms. Many vegetables arrive freshly picked for the day's menu, inspiring weekly creations that showcase the abundance of the Midlands.

A Maryland native, Velie sharpened his craft through the Marine Corps and kitchens across the Southeast before he and his wife Jeanne chose Ridge Spring as home. His commitment to local sourcing has earned him recognition as a South Carolina Chef Ambassador and positioned Juniper as a destination restaurant. Under Velie's leadership, Ridge Spring shows how small towns can offer bright, soulful, and inventive dining that captures the heart of the region.



LEXINGTON COUNTY: CHEF ROBBIE ROBINSON, CITY LIMITS BBQ

In West Columbia, City Limits Barbecue brings a weekend rush of smoke, slow heat, and anticipation. Chef Robbie Robinson blends Texas brisket with South Carolina spirit, creating plates that feel rooted in tradition yet distinctly his own. What began as a food truck quickly grew into a brick-and-mortar favorite, now known for tender meats, rotating sides, and two uniquely crafted menus each weekend.

Formerly an accountant, Robinson returned home after time in Houston sparked his love for Texas pit culture. His vision filled a gap in the Midlands and earned national attention, including recognition from The New York Times and the James Beard Foundation. City Limits shows how one bold idea, executed with skill and intention, can become one of the region's most celebrated dining experiences.

The story of Capital City/Lake Murray Country is written through the kitchens of these chefs. Each shapes the identity of their county while contributing to a shared pride across the region. Travelers come for lake days, golf, and city life. They return for meals that transform a visit into something unforgettable.

FOUR CHEFS. FOUR COUNTIES.



Chris Williams
Roy's Grille
Richland County



Brandon Velie
Juniper
Saluda County



Robbie Robinson
City Limits BBQ
Lexington County



John Worthington
Figaro the Dining Room
Newberry County

ONE Delicious Region

One of the Southeast's most talked-about culinary destinations.
Plan your foodie getaway at LakeMurrayCountry.com

Capital City
Lake Murray
Country



DISCOVER
South Carolina

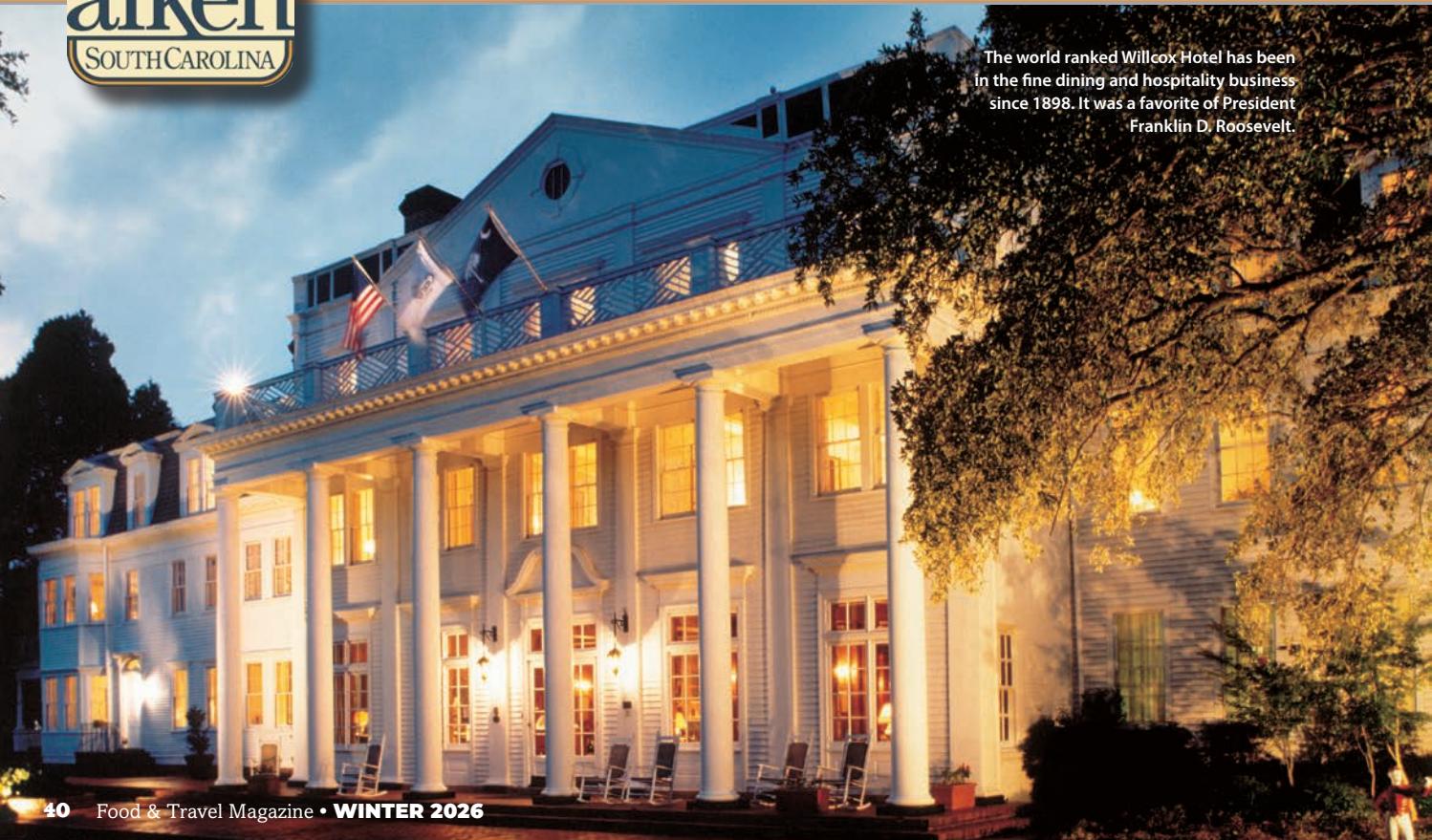
WHERE TRADITION MEETS TIMELESS CHARM

Nestled in the heart of South Carolina, Aiken is a captivating destination where history, culture, and Southern hospitality come together in perfect harmony. With roots dating back to the early 19th century, Aiken's story is one of elegance, equestrian spirit, and enduring vitality—a place where time-honored traditions meet modern appeal.



AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA

The world ranked Willcox Hotel has been in the fine dining and hospitality business since 1898. It was a favorite of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.





A LEGACY OF HOSPITALITY

Since 1835, Aiken has been welcoming travelers seeking relaxation and rejuvenation. Founded along America's first railroad, it was envisioned as a resort retreat for those escaping the summer heat. Visitors from Charleston and beyond soon discovered its cool breezes and the healing waters of Coker Spring. Word of Aiken's charm spread quickly, drawing Northern guests who spent their winters in the region's mild climate—a tradition that continues today.

THE WINTER COLONY: A GILDED AGE RETREAT

By the late 1800s, Aiken had become a seasonal haven for America's Gilded Age elite. Families such as the Astors, Vanderbilts, Roosevelts, Hitchcocks, and Whitneys brought with them a refined lifestyle centered on equestrian pursuits and gracious living. Their influence shaped Aiken's enduring character, earning it the titles "Queen of Southern Resorts" and "Sports Center of the South." Polo, foxhunting, golf, and elegant social gatherings became the foundation of the city's distinguished heritage.



Horse races occur each March:
-Thoroughbred Races, Harness Trotter
and Pacer Races, and Steeplechase
Races. Polo games are played each
Sunday following the races.

A SPORTING HAVEN THEN AND NOW

Today, Aiken remains a premier destination for equestrian and golf enthusiasts alike. Located just 18 miles from Augusta National Golf Club—home of the Masters Tournament—Aiken features ten area courses recognized by Golf Digest as among the nation's best small-town experiences. With more than 40 polo fields and three major equestrian parks hosting year-round events, Aiken's love of horses runs deep. Over 70 miles of scenic trails weave through the city's natural beauty, preserving its place as one of America's leading equestrian centers.



Aiken is vibrant and comes alive downtown each evening.



Aiken's entertainment district, for food, drinks, and music is 'The Alley'



Banksia, One of the Gilded Age mansions, is available for touring. The City gives trolley tours each Saturday to view the Winter Colony mansions and the historic equestrian district.

DOWNTOWN AIKEN: CHARM WITH A CONTEMPORARY TWIST

Downtown Aiken blends history with modern vibrancy. Shaded by century-old oaks, its walkable streets lead to boutiques, art galleries, and inviting restaurants. The iconic Willcox Hotel—welcoming guests since 1898—continues to embody Aiken's tradition of gracious hospitality. For an evening out, The Alley is the heartbeat of downtown life, where bars and eateries spill onto brick walkways as live music fills the air beneath strings of glowing lights.

BOUTIQUES, ART, AND LOCAL TREASURES

Aiken's downtown is rich with creativity and charm. Locally owned boutiques, antique stores, and galleries showcase Southern craftsmanship and unique finds. From fine art and fashion to one-of-a-kind keepsakes, shopping in Aiken is a celebration of community and local artistry.

A TASTE OF AIKEN: DINING AND NIGHTLIFE

Aiken's culinary scene perfectly captures its blend of sophistication and warmth. At Whiskey Alley, inventive cocktails and locally inspired dishes set the stage for lively evenings beneath twinkling lights in The Alley. Nearby, The Wildemount Aiken brings fine dining to Park Avenue with chef-driven creations made from scratch using fresh, high-quality ingredients. From cozy cafés with magnificent baked treats to craft beers from Good Girl Brewery Co. and an array of international cuisines, every taste of Aiken comes with a side of genuine Southern hospitality.

STAY A WHILE

Whether you prefer a historic inn, a charming bed-and-breakfast, or a trusted national hotel, Aiken offers accommodations for every traveler. From romantic escapes to family getaways, guests are greeted with comfort, style, and the city's signature warmth.

EXPERIENCE AIKEN

Aiken is more than a destination—it's a feeling. It's the sound of hooves on a misty morning, the laughter of friends downtown, and golden sunlight streaming through ancient oaks. It's a city that invites you to slow down, take it in, and stay awhile. Discover why visitors return year after year—and why Aiken continues to capture hearts with its history, hospitality, and timeless Southern charm.

For more information, visit VisitAikenSC.com.

You're Invited

AIKEN STEEPELCHASE

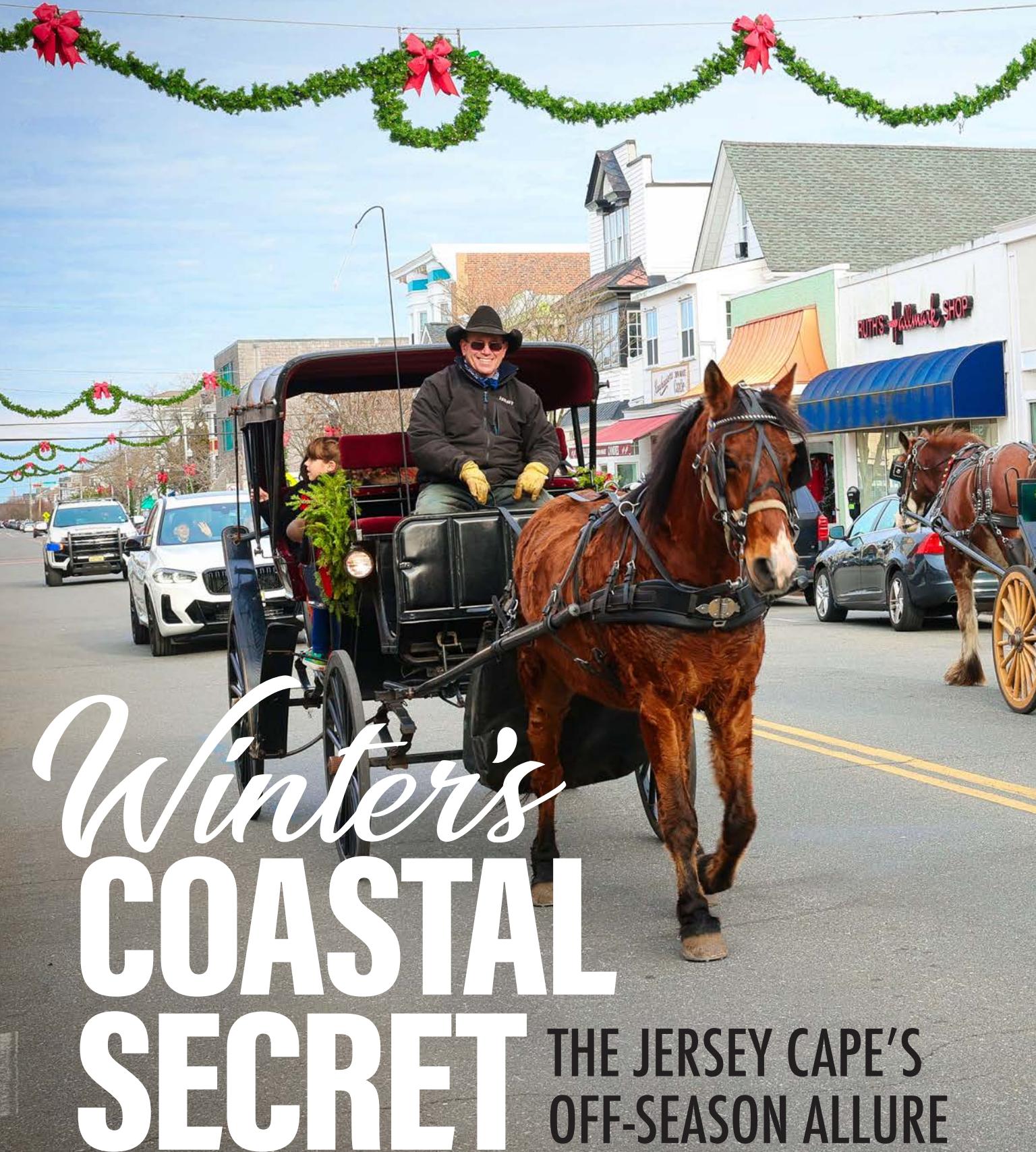
Join us for steeplechase fun on March 21, 2026

Photo Credit: A.P. Gouge



For a full event schedule, go to:
VisitAikenSC.com

DISCOVER
South Carolina



Winter's COASTAL SECRET

THE JERSEY CAPE'S OFF-SEASON ALLURE



Escape

TO THE JERSEY CAPE

Winter at the Jersey Cape is not about hibernation—it's about rediscovery. Picture yourself wrapped in a warm scarf, strolling along a windswept beach with only the gulls for company. The summer buzz gives way to peaceful walks, intimate dinners, and the kind of quiet that invites reflection and reconnection.

Local businesses embrace the season with open arms—and open flames. Fire pits and fireplaces are the heart of many gathering spots, offering a cozy place to sip wine, share stories, or simply warm your hands after a beachcombing adventure. Whether you're savoring a fresh seafood dinner at your favorite summer haunt or indulging in a spa day, the off-season offers a different kind of luxury: space, calm, and comfort.

If you've been dreaming of a romantic getaway, Cape May is calling. Often named one of the most romantic towns in the Mid-Atlantic, this Victorian gem is even more enchanting in winter. Gas lamps cast a golden glow on gingerbread-trimmed B&Bs, and horse-drawn carriages clip-clop through quiet streets. Couples can enjoy wine tastings, lighthouse climbs, and spa treatments before cozying up with cocktails by the fire at the Brown Room in Congress Hall. For an overnight stay, many of the city's B&Bs offer fireplaces, plush comforts, and warm hospitality that feels like a hug from the past.

When the summer crowds retreat and the ocean breeze turns brisk, the Jersey Cape reveals a quieter, cozier side—one that's perfect for a winter escape. Bordered by the Atlantic Ocean and Delaware Bay, this coastal haven transforms in winter into a tranquil retreat—where the crackle of fireplaces warms the soul, empty beaches invite quiet reflection, and time seems to slow just enough to truly savor the season.



One of the best-kept secrets of winter travel? The savings. With off-season rates slashing prices by up to 35% on platforms like Hotels.com, now is the time to book that dream hotel or charming inn. These accommodations still offer top-tier amenities—think indoor entertainment, fine dining, and spa services—with the summer price tag.

Beyond the romance and relaxation, the Jersey Cape offers plenty for the curious and adventurous. Spend an afternoon at a local winery with friends or explore the frosty trails of Cape May Point State Park, where the lighthouse stands tall against a winter sky. Birdwatchers and photographers will find a haven where migratory birds gather to create a stunning natural tableau.

Culinary enthusiasts will also find plenty to savor. Many restaurants remain open year-round, offering seasonal menus that highlight local ingredients. In Cape May's Blue Pig Tavern delivers comfort food in a historic setting that's perfect for a winter's night.

Winter doesn't mean the fun stops. In March, the region's biggest winter shopping event brings the best of Stone Harbor and Avalon boutiques together for a retail celebration. Around St. Patrick's Day, North Wildwood and Sea Isle City host lively parades and festivities, while Cape May adds its own twist with Carney's Kegs and Eggs and the St. Paddy's Day Polar Plunge and 5K.

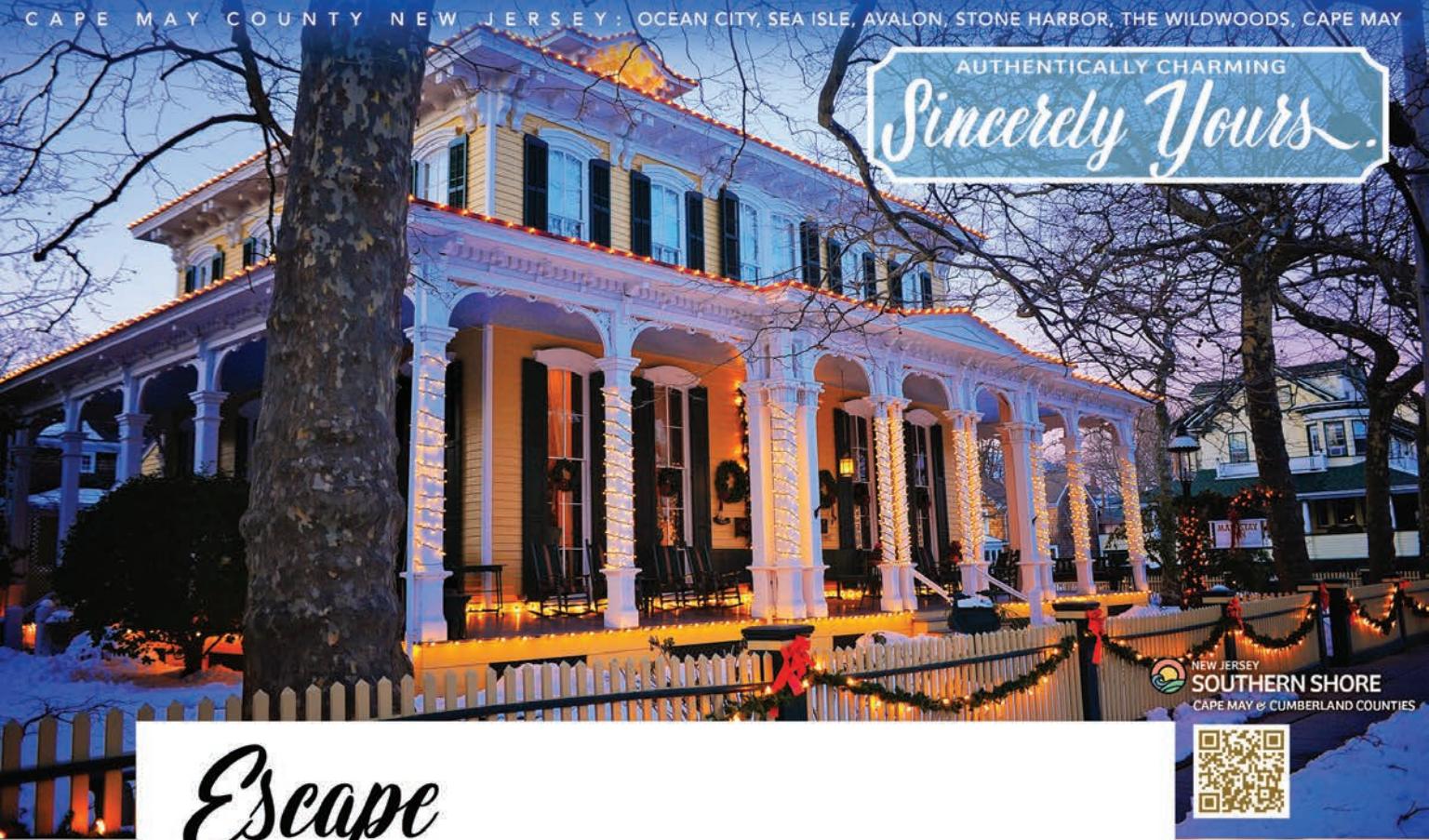
Wineries, breweries, and distilleries throughout the Jersey Cape offer tastings and seasonal events that blend local flavor with winter charm. At Cape May Winery, you can sip bold reds and crisp whites while enjoying the cozy ambiance of a tasting room designed for lingering.

Whether you're drawn to the timeless elegance of Cape May or the calm of quiet beaches, the Jersey Cape in winter is a destination that surprises and delights. It's a place where the cold brings people closer, the quiet feels luxurious, and every moment invites you to slow down and savor.

This winter, trade the ordinary for the extraordinary—discover the Jersey Cape's off-season magic. •



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NEW JERSEY
SOUTHERN SHORE
CAPE MAY & CUMBERLAND COUNTIES



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to a place that's real... and really charming. An area that stays vibrant long after summer. Quiet beach walks in the cool air, Quaint small towns filled with seasonal events for every interest, charming lodging, world class birding, active pursuits, and the freshest food from our local fields and waters.

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Escape
TO THE JERSEY CAPE

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ESCAPE TO A VIBRANT

Winter WONDERLAND



LIVINGSTON, MONTANA



Photo courtesy of Scott Johnson



Spirit of the North Sled Dog Adventures, Big Sky
Photo courtesy of Montana Office of Tourism and Business Development (MOTBD)



The Grill Dining

IMAGINE DAYS IN PRISTINE WILDERNESS AND COZY NIGHTS STEEPED IN CULTURE.

Looking for that ideal getaway exploring a natural wonderland while experiencing an authentically preserved historic western town brimming with cuisine, charming shops, and arts?

Book a trip to rejuvenate among the breathtaking vistas and rich arts and culinary culture of Livingston, Montana, the year-round and historic gateway to Yellowstone National Park.

Livingston is a picturesque town nestled on the Yellowstone River among four stunning mountain ranges. Historic downtown gives authentic Old West movie set vibes with brick storefronts and vintage neon signs, but with vibrant businesses humming with art and activities.

Winter is the ideal time to visit Yellowstone National Park and the surrounding wilderness areas. The crowds are gone, lodging and restaurants are relaxed and quiet, and wildlife is performing their seasonal rituals. It's like your own private winter wonderland snow globe. Locals' favorite winter recreation includes: cross-country skiing or snowshoeing, dog-sled rides, ice skating, and soaking in outdoor Paradise Valley Hot Springs.

Hungry after an invigorating day outdoors? Livingston's culinary scene is exceptional; creative farm-to-table cuisine, elevated wild game dishes, indulgent Italian classics, European-style bakeries, rustic steak and burger joints, ethnic food, vintage cafés, a dozen small coffee shops, diverse bars, and two breweries. Sample as many dishes as possible during the annual Winter Restaurant Week, and enjoy seasonal and holiday specials at unique eateries and gourmet markets.

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Photo courtesy of William Campbell

Livingston hosts 50 old-fashioned holiday events and markets ranging from; Holiday Lights festival, Skate with Santa, Craft and Arts Markets, Christmas Stroll, Santa's Village, and live Holiday Vaudeville Theatre. There's live music nearly every night, and literary and arts events weekly. Step back in history at Livingston's Yellowstone Gateway history museum.

Treasure hunt in downtown boutiques to score vintage, handcrafted and upcycled bespoke goods, records and books, handmade jams, gifts and toys galore, snazzy western wear and practical winter gear, unique art – and you will likely meet the business owner or maker in person, as all downtown businesses are small, independent and locally owned.

Lodging options are diverse, ranging from the historic downtown Murray Hotel – Anthony Bourdain's pick for top ten hotels in the world – to luxury lodging, family budget options, and small Western-themed motels.

Enjoy Montana's legendary big sky at night with stories around a campfire, star gazing, boogieing to live music, and a Montana must – soaking in hot springs. Come explore Livingston, where you choose your own adventure!

**Come explore Livingston, where you choose
your own adventure!**

- Day-trip to Yellowstone National Park to experience wildlife and epic natural wonders
- Indulge in a rich culinary scene with creative farm-to-table cuisine, rustic and ethnic eateries, and award-winning fine dining
- Cross-country ski in the canyons of legendary Paradise Valley, then relax in scenic outdoor hot springs
- Swap stories with locals at open mic, karaoke, bingo, and trivia nights at our two local breweries, dozen coffee shops and bars
- Book a dog sled or sleigh horse ride in a winter wonderland
- Treasure hunt at unique bespoke and antique shops and art galleries in historic downtown
- Enjoy a cornucopia of local festivals, theatre productions, and holiday events alongside locals
- Livingston like a local in our quirky Western town and make memories to last a lifetime •

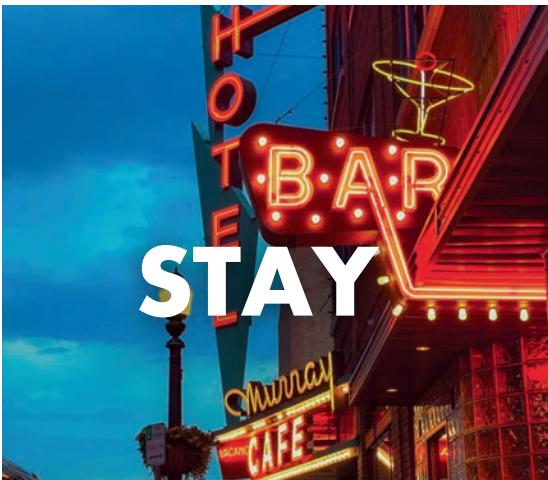
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FOR VACATION INSPIRATION, ITINERARIES, EVENT AND AMENITY LISTINGS.



Make Memories to Last a Lifetime
in a Small Town Winter Holiday Wonderland

LIVINGSTON, MONTANA



STAY



EXPLORE



PLAY



EAT &
DRINK

30 Holiday Events | 50 Restaurants & Bars | 20 Art Galleries | 2 Hot Springs
55 Miles to Yellowstone Park | 10 Music Venues | 6 Bookstores
2 Breweries | 3 Theatres | 50 Shops & Markets | Endless Trails & Adventure



Pick Your Path
to Winter
Paradise



ExploreLivingstonMt.com

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

FANTASTIC FOODIE FINDS



A gorgeous array of diverse, fresh tastes
on a Culinary Culture Tour
Photo courtesy of Culture Generation

Experience the depth of cultural culinary gastronomy in Seattle by leaving time to explore tours and tastes that are beyond the ordinary. Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA) is the premier gateway to explore the Pacific Northwest. When in the area, be part of Seattle's culinary tapestry of cultural tastes on a tour.

TASTE YOUR WAY AROUND SEATTLE'S OFF-THE-BEATEN TRACK CULINARY EXPERIENCES

Bellevue Bites Food Tour
Photo courtesy of Savor Food Tours



Savor Food Tours

INSIDER'S BREAKFAST & CULTURE TOUR—PIKE PLACE MARKET

Start your morning with a behind-the-scenes tour of Pike Place Market before it opens. As 200+ vendors set up, you'll experience the market's peaceful, early-day vibe and hear stories directly from the people who make it thrive. With extra time to chat with popular fishmongers, learn about their favorite market things. This early morning tour offers a rare, intimate look at one of the nation's longest-running markets.

BITES OF BELLEVUE TOUR

This six-stop culinary tour offers a progressive lunch with tastings and chef stories at four restaurants. Limited to 12 guests, it begins early afternoon on weekends from spring through the holidays. Highlights include Bellevue culinary icons John Howie and Bobby Moore, Frans Chocolates, and hidden gems like Matcha Magic and Monsoon. The tour reflects Bellevue's rich diversity, making the city a rising cultural culinary hotspot.



Tastes of Chinatown's International District

TOUR DELICIOUS CUISINES— SINK INTO THE AREA'S RICH STORYTELLING

Imagine tasting the most mouthwatering dishes, representing a diverse range of cooking styles and cultural flavors from Seattle's International District in Chinatown. Guides will take you to places you might otherwise have missed. Taste new foods while discovering the authenticity of the area.

Wing Luke Museum's food tours have a deeper history that many may not know. Founded in 1985 by Violet Mar as Chinatown Discovery Tours, the program was created to deepen understanding of the community and break down stereotypes. Each tour blends delicious tastings with meaningful stories that celebrate the district's heritage.

Seattle Cultural Food Tours

WHERE EVERY BITE TELLS A STORY—
EVERY STREET CORNER ECHOES HISTORY

Step beyond Seattle's iconic skyline and taste the true flavors of Seattle with a customized tour exploring the city's historic Central District—a vibrant neighborhood celebrated for its rich cultural heritage and inspiring community spirit.

"This neighborhood walking food tour is like going to Grandma's house on a Sunday; everybody eats, our guests and local businesses benefit financially," said Angela Smith, Tour Operator and Community Builder. "It's a practice of responsible tourism, exploring experiences not only in the downtown area, but in other parts of the city too."

Coffee Tab

LEARN TO CRAFT BEAUTIFUL LATTES

Known as the "Coffee Capital of America," Seattle is the perfect place to learn espresso skills or latte art. Get hands-on guidance from professional baristas in a warm, community-minded café setting. Learn how to steam milk properly and pour beautiful hearts and tulips. You'll impress your friends and loved ones with your new-found espresso-and-milk technique. Coffee Tab blends craft with purpose, helping young people build brighter futures through the art of making a better cup of coffee.



Learning about espresso with Coffee Tab
Photo courtesy of Coffee Tab



On a Culinary Culture Tour
with Christina Arokiasamy

Photo courtesy of Culture Generation



Soup ladeling

Photo courtesy of Alan Alabastro

Travel the World on Your Plate

EXPERIENCE A CURATED CULINARY
TOUR WITH THE CULTURE GENERATION

Less than 15 minutes from Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, head to Kent, where you can experience the tastes of the world on your fork on a culinary cultural tour. Culture Generation offers immersive food tours connecting to rich culinary traditions through authentic foods.

"We don't just offer tours; we build bridges through food. Our experiences take you beyond what's found in any travel guide—into the living heart of immigrant life. Each stop connects you to people, their kitchens, and their heritage, offering an authentic journey that feels as if you've traveled to their home country," says Culture Generation Founder, Christina Arokiasamy, Chef, Cultural and Culinary Ambassador. •

+ DISCOVER +

SEATTLE



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The Port of Seattle and Washington state have been the gateway to Alaska since the Gold Rush began in 1897. The

Seattle of today offers visitors stunning urban experiences, fantastic farm-to-table dining, and dozens of craft breweries and distilleries... and don't forget the coffee!



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VISIT
FRESNO
COUNTY

FRESNO COUNTY

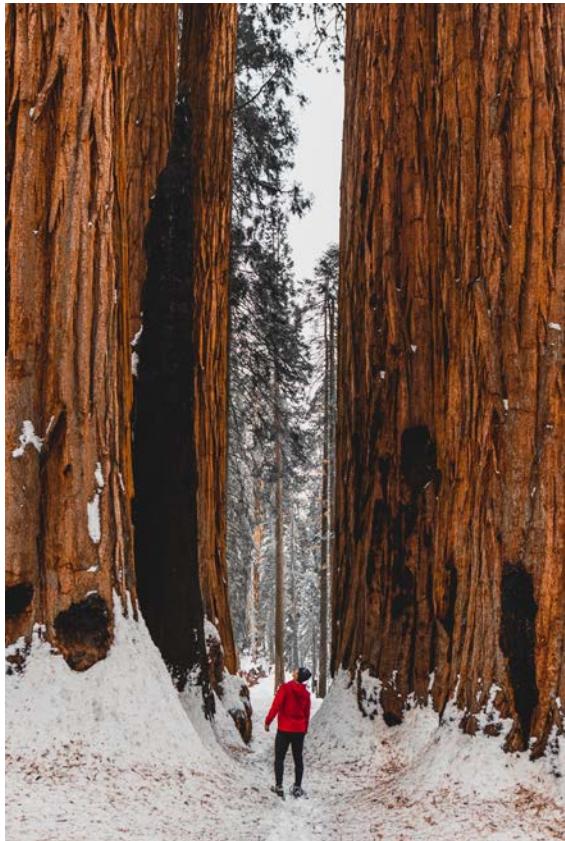
*Not What You Thought.
Just What You Needed*





You won't need a vacation from your vacation while you're in Fresno County. No large crowds, no high stress, just a different side of California that's worth the trip!

Snow or blossoms? Why choose? In Fresno County, winter looks like a day spent up in the snow and another day driving through colorful blossoms. Stretching across 70 miles, the Fresno County Blossom Trail is the early bloom of stone fruits and oranges from mid-February to late-March. It's a stunning reminder that the nation's food is grown by farmers in Fresno County. Take a self-guided tour to see the area in full bloom. If you love snow, head up to the Sierra Nevada mountains, a short drive from Fresno and Clovis, for skiing and snowboarding at China Peak. Or, for a view of the snowcapped mountains and snow-covered sequoias, drive up to Yosemite, Sequoia, or Kings Canyon National Park. Fresno is surrounded by all three national parks, which are only 90 minutes away. If you want to take it up a notch, check the times for sunrise and sunset to see the Sierras at their absolute best.



You're in the state's fifth-largest city, and with the mild climate, locals don't hibernate during winter. The sun is still shining, perfect for grabbing a pint at one of many local beer gardens and enjoying live music from local artists. In Clovis, raise a glass at Crow and Wolf Brewing Company, where they offer delicious stouts and seltzers. The brewery is family-friendly and dog-friendly. Looking for a truly spectacular experience without a high price tag? Consider a day at the zoo... yes, Fresno has a zoo that's about half the cost of other major zoos. The Fresno Chaffee Zoo has several interactive exhibits, including the Kingdoms of Asia and African Adventure, where you can see tigers, rhinos, elephants (oh my!), and more. If you want a more intimate experience, behind-the-scenes tours are available, allowing guests to feed a giraffe or participate in sea lion training.

When it gets down to it, you'll spend less time navigating theme-park apps or trying to make a reservation for a meal that will leave you hungry. The restaurants here aren't waiting for a tire company to tell them they have exceptional service and delicious food – they're serving it anyway. As the #1 agricultural producing county in the United States, Fresno County's food scene is unmatched. From luxury dining to hole-in-the-wall spots. You're getting your food as fresh as it comes. If you want a traditional farm-to-fork experience, Heirloom is a local favorite that uses ingredients sourced from Fresno County farmers. Stop in any time of year for one of their staple dishes, like the mushroom taquitos, or try a seasonal menu item featuring in-season produce. If you're wondering, you can get great barbecue in California when you stop in at MEGA Texas Barbeque. Named one of the Top 50 Barbecue Spots in the United

States by *Texas Monthly* and a celebrity favorite, their brisket is top-tier and even better when paired with their mac-and-cheese and bread pudding. Show up early if you want to get a taste; they frequently sell out.

Fly into the Fresno Yosemite International Airport, the only international airport in California's Central Valley, and was recently named one of the best small airports in the country. The airport has non-stop flights to 11 other major cities. Roadtrippers can hop on State Route 99; Fresno is about three hours from San Francisco, three hours from Sacramento, and four hours from Los Angeles. •





**FLAVORS YOU CAN'T FAKE,
FROM PEOPLE WHO DON'T PRETEND.**



Sunflower Farm
Stand



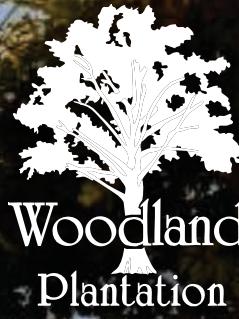
School House
Restaurant &
Tavern



Kings River Winery

SCAN ME





Just 40 minutes south of New Orleans, **WOODLAND PLANTATION** welcomes you to an antebellum retreat where rocking-chair verandas, warm hospitality, and exceptional cuisine define every stay.

At Spirits Hall, local flavors and refined cooking shine in a setting steeped in history.

Surrounded by the raw beauty of Delta country, Woodland sits at the edge of the Deep Mississippi Delta—where wide skies, winding bayous, and centuries-old culture shape daily life. It's a place where storytellers, fishermen, chefs, and naturalists all feel at home, and where some of North America's richest landscapes and most abundant fisheries wait just beyond the doorstep.

WHERE SOUTHERN COMFORT BECOMES AN EXPERIENCE



WoodlandPlantation.com