Road Trip: Orlando, Florida, to Los Angeles, California

Your Trip Dates: July 10-15, 2021

Your Route: Orlando, Florida → New Orleans, Louisiana → Austin, Texas → El Paso, Texas → Tucson, Arizona → Los Angeles, California



What an adventure you're about to have! Your southern route across the United States will take you to some of our country's most vibrant cultural centers and magnificent natural attractions, and you'll get to enjoy hundreds of miles of scenic landscapes along the way. When you look back on 2021, we hope your road trip shines brightly as a highlight of this unforgettable year.

Ready to hit the road?

DAY ONE (Saturday, July 10) Orlando, Florida, to New Orleans, Louisiana



Your drive time: Approximately 9 hours



Roadside palm trees, Florida

You're beginning your trip with a drive through the Sunshine State, and we hope you'll have great weather along your way. Start your day at **Keke's Breakfast Café**, a highly reviewed local chain that serves up deliciously prepared comfort foods. Keke's has several locations throughout central Florida, so if the one listed below isn't convenient to your starting point, <u>click here</u> to find a different location.

Keke's Breakfast Café - MetroWest

2433 South Hiawassee Road, Suite 130 Orlando, FL 32835 407-298-3684

Whether you're in the mood for waffles, stuffed French toast, poached eggs, or oatmeal with fruit, you'll find something to whet your appetite at Keke's. Try the loaded redskin home fries with savory ham, bacon, and cheddar.

Afterward, it's time to roll! Head north on the Florida Turnpike and start making your way toward California. In Tallahassee, stop for lunch at **Leola's Crab Shack**.

Your route: Keke's Breakfast Café - MetroWest to Leola's Crab Shack

Leola's Crab Shack

1911 South Adams Street Tallahassee, FL 32301 850-575-0395

Get your first taste of Gulf cuisine at this Black-owned seafood joint, named for owner Eric McKinnon's mother. There's nothing fancy about Leola's, but man is the food good. McKinnon's specialty is whole crabs marinated in garlic sauce, but you can also find conch fritters, gator tail, fried oysters, and other favorites from the Florida coast.

From here, continue west along I-10. You'll gain an hour on this leg as you cross into Central Time Zone after Tallahassee. Take Exit 35 in Spanish Fort, Alabama, toward US-98 West and stop to stretch your legs at **Meaher State Park**.

Your route: Leola's Crab Shack to Meaher State Park

Meaher State Park

5200 Battleship Parkway East Spanish Fort, AL 36527 251-626-5529

Entrance fee: \$2/person

Tip your toes in the wetlands of North Mobile Bay in the middle of the secondlargest delta in the contiguous United States. Here, a collection of meandering rivers converge into an expansive estuary that attracts numerous species of birds, fish, and other wildlife. Take a quick jaunt over the water on the park's 300-foot fishing pier, or get a closer look at the delta's rich wetlands by venturing out on the park's boardwalk.

Afterward, continue west for your last leg of the day to New Orleans, Louisiana.

Your route: Meaher State Park to Hotel Peter and Paul



Hotel Peter and Paul honors its history with thoughtfully decorated guestrooms that borrow aesthetic influences from Europe and New Orleans alike.



Check-in: <u>Hotel Peter and Paul</u> 2317 Burgundy Street
New Orleans, LA 70117
504-356-5200

Hotel Peter and Paul is the result of a four-year restoration of the former St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church and School. The site is steeped in history, from the splendid Henry Howard-designed buildings to the school's appearance in *A Confederacy of Dunces* to its author's (possibly apocryphal) three-person funeral in the church. The former schoolhouse, rectory, church, and convent have each been carefully restored and repurposed for new congregants. Each building has its own inspiration and narrative, with the resulting restoration ensuring that no two guest rooms are exactly alike.

Once you've settled in to your room, head out to dinner for an indulgent take on Cajun cuisine.

Your route: Hotel Peter and Paul to Heard Dat Kitchen

Heard Dat Kitchen

2520 Felicity Street New Orleans, LA 70113 504-510-4248



Award-winning Chef Jeff Heard and his daughter serve quality interpretations of classic dishes and daring new ventures into the uncharted territories of food, like bourbon shrimp pasta in a lobster cream sauce.

Finally, you can't visit New Orleans without a trip to the French Quarter, and you really haven't been to the French Quarter if you haven't experienced **Café Du Monde**, so head there next for a late-night dessert.

Your route: <u>Heard Dat Restaurant to Café du Monde</u>

Café du Monde - French Market

800 Decatur Street New Orleans, LA 70116 504-587-0833



Chicory coffee and beignets at Café du Monde.

Quaintly described by the owners as a traditional coffee shop, this world-renowned institution has served up chicory coffee and beignets — square French doughnuts piled with powdered sugar — since it opened in 1862.

Afterward, return to your hotel for a long-awaited night of sleep.

Your route: Café du Monde to Hotel Peter and Paul

We hope you enjoyed your first day on the road and tonight's taste of New Orleans!

DAY TWO (Sunday, July 11) New Orleans, Louisiana, to Austin, Texas



Your drive time: Approximately 7.5 hours



A McDonald's Egg McMuffin can't hold a candle to a melt-in-your-mouth Willa Jean biscuit sandwich.

You've got some miles to cover today, but you can still enjoy a bit more of New Orleans before you head out. In order to get to your Houston lunch destination in time, head out from your hotel by 7 a.m. and start your day with breakfast at **Willa Jean**, a contemporary bakery in the Central Business District.

Your route: <u>Hotel Peter and Paul to Willa Jean</u>

Willa Jean

611 O'Keefe Avenue New Orleans, LA 70113 504-509-7334 Willa Jean celebrates Southern sensibilities with fresh, local ingredients and delectable recipes. The modern elegance of the dining room lends its charm to the restaurant's haven of Southern-inspired dishes and sets the stage for the playful, nostalgic nature of the ever-evolving menu.

In the interest of time, take your breakfast to go so you can get on your way to Houston.

Your route: Willa Jean to Lucille's



Lucille's

5512 La Branch Street Houston, TX 77004 713-568-2505

Note: The restaurant closes at 3 p.m. on Sundays.

Classically trained Chef Chris Williams follows in the gastronomic and entrepreneurial footsteps of his grandmother, an educator, culinary innovator, and successful business owner, and when he decided to open a restaurant of his own, he chose to name it in her honor. Today, Lucille's specializes in well-refined Southern cuisine with infusions of international techniques and flavors, and the kitchen staff pay homage to their namesake by replicating some of her most famous recipes while embellishing others to create innovative takes on Southern food classics.

When you're ready to roll, head out for your last long leg to Austin. Just before you reach your RV park for the night, stop for groceries at **H-E-B**. Tonight you get to try out your RV's lodging accommodations, so why not go all in and cook your own meal in your rig as well?

Your route: <u>Lucille's to H-E-B</u>

H-E-B

6607 South IH-35 Austin, TX 78744 512-441-9266

From here, you're just a few minutes away from your home for the night.

Your route: H-E-B to Austin Lone Star RV Park



Check-in: Austin Lone Star RV Park
7000 South IH-35 Frontage Road
Austin, TX 78744
844-725-4402

While you're here, you can take a dip in the onsite swimming pool, play billiards in the clubhouse, work out in the fitness center, and more. Tonight's your night to stay in and relax, so enjoy the low-key evening.

We hope you enjoyed your travels across Louisiana and Texas today!

DAY THREE (Monday, July 12) Austin, Texas, to El Paso, Texas



Your drive time: Approximately 8.75 hours



Downtown Austin, Texas

You haven't really gotten to see Austin yet, so take a little time this morning to see Texas' capital city and take in a bit of its culture. Start with breakfast at Juan in a Million, a popular Mexican breakfast and lunch joint.

Your route: Austin Lone Star RV Resort to Juan in a Million

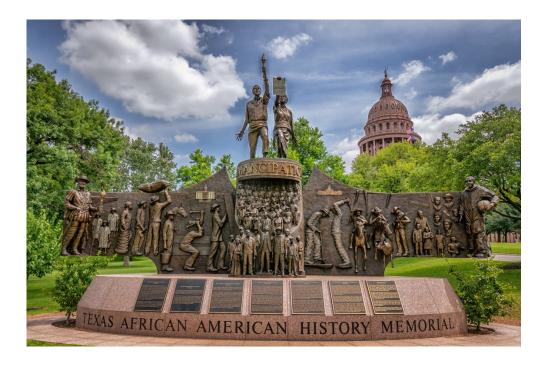
Juan in a Million

2300 East Cesar Chavez Street Austin, TX 78702 512-472-3872

Juan and Myrna Meza opened Juan in a Million in July 1980, and from day one, they've prioritized good food made from homemade recipes, served with a smile and a hearty handshake. Customer favorites include the Migas plate, Con Queso Breakfast and the famous Don Juan Taco — a heaping plate of bacon, potatoes, eggs, and cheese on a warm tortilla.

After you've filled up, head over to the Texas Capitol Grounds for a look at the **Texas African American History Memorial**.

Your route: Juan in a Million to Texas Capitol Grounds



Texas African American History Memorial

110 West 11th Street Austin, TX 78701 512-305-8400

You likely know that President Biden recently signed a law making Juneteenth a federal holiday, but you may not know the background of the day or its Texas origins. On June 19, 1865, Union General Gordon Granger issued a general order in Galveston, Texas, that conveyed the news of the Emancipation Proclamation to Texas residents and freed all of the remaining enslaved people in the state. Texas was the last state with institutional slavery, and General Granger's announcement

effectively freed the last people bound by this system in the United States. This sculpture depicts the joyful event and also honors many of the contributions and achievements of African Americans in Texas. Take some time to walk the grounds and reflect on this sculpture and the significance it holds today.

When you're ready to roll again, head west for a trip toward the center of the Earth.

Your route: <u>Texas Capitol Grounds to Caverns of Sonora</u>



Crystal formations in the Caverns of Sonora. Not popcorn shrimp or tater tots ©.

Caverns of Sonora

1711 Private Road 4468 Sonora, TX 76950 325-387-3105

Tickets (available by walk-in): \$20/person

This limestone cave has been named one of the most beautiful in the world, including by the founder of the National Speleological Society, due to the abundance of calcite crystals found within. You can stop in along your journey west for a 1.25-mile tour of the cave and its intriguing formations. The cave averages 72 degrees and 98 percent humidity inside, and the tour traverses approximately 360 steps, so dress accordingly!

Afterward, head into town for some tasty Texas barbecue.

Your route: Caverns of Sonora to Pit Stop BBQ

Pit Stop BBQ

802 North Crockett Avenue Sonora, TX 76950 325-387-2626

You've got your choice of brisket, pulled pork, sausage, and smoked turkey here, plus sides and sharables like Sonora Spuds and BBQ Nachos. The restaurant consistently gets five-star reviews, so we hope you enjoy the Lone Star fare!

No road trip is complete without a goofy picture next to a weird tourist attraction, so on your next leg, pull over in Fort Stockton to check out 11-foot-tall **Paisano Pete**, the second-largest roadrunner in the world. Fort Stockton also has a Walmart and a Love's Travel Stop in case you need to stock up on supplies.

Your route: Pit Stop BBQ to Paisano Pete

From here, continue west for your last stretch of the day toward El Paso. You'll gain an hour on this leg as you cross into Mountain Time Zone.

Your route: Paisano Pete to Mission RV Park



Check-in: Mission RV Park
1420 RV Drive
El Paso, TX 79928
915-859-1133

After your long day on the road, you may want to take advantage of your RV park's pool or spa to relax your tired muscles. After you've caught your second wind, head out for a unique dinner in a railroad car.

Your route: Mission RV Park to Track One



Track One

1330 Buffalo Soldier Road El Paso, TX 79925 915-779-2170

Note: Buffalo Soldier Road was previously known as Robert E. Lee Road, so keep that in mind if you have any trouble with the above address. The restaurant seats diners until 9:30 p.m. on Mondays.

This establishment serves up American and Mexican fare, including the best wings in El Paso, in a row of three train cars.

Return to your RV park for a good night's sleep.

Your route: <u>Track One to Mission RV Park</u>

We hope you enjoyed your explorations across West Texas today!

DAY FOUR (Tuesday, July 13) El Paso, Texas, to Tucson, Arizona



Your drive time: Approximately 7 hours

After you get on the road this morning, stop in for breakfast at **Valentine's Bakery**.

Your route: Mission RV Park to Valentine's Bakery

Valentine's Bakery

11930 Picasso Drive El Paso, TX 79936 915-856-8720

This Mexican bakery cooks up made-to-order breakfast burritos, Mexican sweet bread, cinnamon rolls, empanadas, and more. Take your choice to go and enjoy snacking as you head north toward White Sands National Park.

Your route: Valentine's Bakery to White Sands National Park

White Sands National Park

19955 US-70 Alamogordo, NM 88310 575-479-6124

Entrance fee: \$25/vehicle

Note: Your route west will also take you to Saguaro National Park, and if you plan to visit other National Park Service sites over the next year, consider buying an **America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass**. This pass will give you access to more than 2,000 federal recreational sites for a full year. For most people, the pass fee is \$80, but discounted or free passes are available for military families, families of 4th graders, Americans 62 years of age and older, Americans with permanent disabilities, and park volunteers. You can purchase this pass directly at the White Sands National Park entrance gate. For more information, visit https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/passes.htm.



White Sands National Park

Formerly designated a national monument, White Sands was recently reclassified as a national park, and honestly, it has deserved that rank all along. Here, cool white gypsum sand covers 275 square miles of desert, and it's cool to walk on all year round. However, the sand reflects sunlight, so slather on the sunscreen before you step out onto the dunes. For a kick, rent a waxed snow saucer in the gift shop and sled down the dunes!

When you're ready for A/C again, return to your RV and travel south to Las Cruces for lunch.

Your route: White Sands National Park to A Bite of Belgium

A Bite of Belgium

741 North Alameda Boulevard, Suite 16 Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005 575-527-2483

The signature dish here is the liege waffle, a sweet dessert embedded with pearl sugar. Make sure to save room for one as you enjoy a lunch of green chile stew, filet Florentine, or a lamb sandwich.

Your route: A Bite of Belgium to Hacienda Del Sol



Check-in: <u>Hacienda del Sol</u> 5501 North Hacienda del Sol Road Tucson, AZ 85718 800-728-6514



Hacienda del Sol

Get ready for luxury! This four-star historic resort combines classic southwestern elegance with modern comforts. Best of all, the excellent <u>Terraza Garden Patio</u> and <u>Lounge</u> is right on site, so you can enjoy a great meal just steps from your room. Try the calamari appetizer with a southwestern kick and the hacienda prime burger complete with chile from the chef's garden.

Tonight, sink into the luxury of your room and indulge.

We hope you enjoyed your trip across Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona today!

DAY FIVE (Wednesday, July 14) Tucson, Arizona, to Los Angeles, California



Your drive time: Approximately 9.25 hours



Saguaro cacti near Tucson, Arizona.

Ready to see the Pacific? Today's the day! You've got some beautiful scenery to accompany you along your route and a lot of miles to cover, so get an early start on your day by returning to **Terraza Garden Patio and Lounge** for breakfast around 7 a.m., then hit the road for a quick visit to **Saguaro National Park**.

Your route: <u>Hacienda Del Sol to Saguaro National Park - Tucson Mountain District</u> (West) and the Scenic Bajada Loop Drive

Saguaro National Park - Tucson Mountain District (West)

3693 South Old Spanish Trail Tucson, AZ 85730 520-733-5153

Entrance fee: \$25/vehicle or free with the America the Beautiful Pass.

Saguaro National Park is split into two separated sections, one on either side of Tucson, and you want to ensure you go to the western section since the eastern section's roads can't handle your RV. The Tucson Mountain District of the park has a popular Scenic Bajada Loop Drive that gives a beautiful overview of this park and its eponymous cacti.

To get there, travel to the Red Hills Visitors Center and continue along Kinney Road for another 1.6 miles to the loop's entrance on the right. Follow the loop for six miles to the intersection of Sandario Road, and make use of the pullouts along the way. When you finish the loop, turn right onto Sandario Road to continue toward Yuma, where you'll stop for lunch.

Your route: Saguaro National Park to Yuma Thai Cuisine

Yuma Thai Cuisine

11274 South Fortuna Road Yuma, AZ 85367 928-342-7777

Mix things up with the flavors of Southeast Asia at this small but well-reviewed Thai restaurant. As your server for recommendations of dishes that will suit your tastes — everything on the menu is good!

Your route: Yuma Thai Cuisine to Buccaneer Beach

Buccaneer Beach

1500 South Pacific Street Oceanside, CA 92054 800-350-7873

You made it to the Pacific Ocean! Celebrate by dipping your toes in the water at Buccaneer Beach and taking a quick bathroom break. You can park for free in the lot across from the beach or on residential streets, but watch for signage that outlines parking limitations.

From here, continue north along the coast to your hotel for the next two nights.

Your route: Buccaneer Beach to Hotel June



Check-in: The Hotel June 8639 Lincoln Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90045 310-645-0400

This is one of Los Angeles' newest boutique hotels, located in Playa del Rey near the city's popular Venice Beach. There's an outdoor pool and grill, and the design will get you fully into California's coastal vibe with pops of green and pink and natural textures. Rooms at Hotel June are spacious and airy, with bathrooms lined with hand-glazed tiles from Brazil and stocked with full-size Aesop products.

For dinner, take advantage of the onsite <u>Caravan Swim Club</u>, where you can enjoy poolside snacks like ceviche, uni tostadas, oysters, and new takes on cauliflower nachos and a carne asada torta.



Tomorrow morning, you get to SLEEP IN! Enjoy your plush accommodations tonight!

We hope you enjoyed your travels across Arizona and California today!

DAY SIX (Thursday, July 15) Los Angeles, California



You're here in LA! The City of Angels and its sprawling suburbs have so much to see and do, you'll never be bored while you're here. However, that doesn't mean you have to pack in a lot to enjoy your time here. After your long trip across the country, how about you take a leisurely approach today and embrace California's relaxed vibe? Dress comfortably for a day of walking, but bring something to dress up your outfit a bit for an evening of fine dining.

In addition to the Caravan Beach Club, Hotel June is also home to <u>Scenic Route</u>, which offers you a delicious and convenient way to start your day. Enjoy local favorites like the gazpacho fruit bowl, the muesli smoothie, the carne breakfast taco plate, and of course, California's infamous avocado toast.

As you may have discovered yesterday, navigating an RV through this city is a bit tough, and parking can be a nightmare, so we recommend taking Ubers, Lyfts, or taxis to get around today. When you're ready to roll, consider heading to **Venice Beach** for a morning of excellent sun, sand, and people watching.

Your route: Hotel June to Beach Front Bike

Beach Front Bike

1733 Ocean Front Walk Venice, CA 90291 424-353-0133

You can spend hours happily watching the world go by at Venice Beach, but this is a place to be part of the action. Rent a beach cruiser, scooter, or electric bike and enjoy Venice's famous boardwalk. Consider exploring the Venice Canals, and take in this area's eclectic public art. After you return your bike, walk a few blocks and grab a bite for lunch.

Your route: Beach Front Bike to Big Daddy's Pizza

Big Daddy's Pizza

1425 Ocean Front Walk Venice, CA 90291 424-744-8537

Is there anything better than pizza on the beach? Pick up a few slices and an order of garlic knots and take it all to go. You can eat right on the beach or find a bench or table along the boardwalk.

Afterward, head back inland for a visit to Hollywood and a chance to rub elbows with the glitterati.



Tourists explore the Hollywood Walk of Fame along Hollywood Boulevard.

Your route: Big Daddy's Pizza to TCL Chinese Theatre

TCL Chinese Theatre

6925 Hollywood Boulevard Hollywood, CA 90028 323-461-3331

This iconic theater in the heart of Hollywood is where major movie stars leave their handprints in the sidewalk. It's also located along the **Hollywood Walk of Fame**, which runs along on Hollywood Boulevard from Gower to La Brea and on Vine Street from Sunset to Yucca. Begin your self-guided walking tour of Hollywood here using this map of your favorite stars' stars. At Hollywood Boulevard and Highland Street, grab a selfie in front of the **Hollywood Sign!**

When you start to get hungry, prepare to truly dine. A few short blocks away from Hollywood & Highland, you'll find **The Musso & Frank Grill**, an elegant Hollywood institution since 1919.

The Musso & Frank Grill

6667 Hollywood Boulevard Hollywood, CA 90028 323-467-7788 Reservations

For more than a century, Musso & Frank has fed Hollywood icons like Charlie Chaplin, Humphrey Bogart, Marilyn Monroe, and Elizabeth Taylor. To commemorate the end of your trip west before you return home, enjoy the same menu your favorite stars have ordered from, which features longstanding favorites like Crab Louie, French-cut lamb chops, lobster thermidor, and diplomat pudding. Ask your server for recommendations from the restaurant's extensive wine and spirits list to accompany your meal.

When you're ready to return to your hotel, ask your driver to take you through **Sunset Strip** for a last glimpse of Hollywood's elegance and the beauty of LA.

Your route: The Musso & Frank Grill to Hotel June

We hope you enjoyed your trip and return home with once-in-a-lifetime memories you'll never forget!