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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



CREDIT: JASON RAY PHOTOGRAPHY / GETTY IMAGES

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.

Wall Drug in Wall, South Dakota

The lure of free ice-cold water first drew weary travelers to Wall Drug in the 1930s—a simple rest stop and drugstore in a city nicknamed "the geographical center of nowhere." Decades later, now a sprawling roadside oasis equipped with a shopping mall, restaurant, water park, arcade, western-art museum, and more, it is a worthy destination unto itself.

Though Wall is a very tiny town (with a population of 876), about 2 million visitors pull off I-90 and into Wall Drug every year on their way to nearby hits like Yellowstone or Mount Rushmore, or just to peruse the old-school apothecary, pose with an animatronic T-Rex, or pick up a pair of classic cowboy boots. Don't leave without a bumper sticker ("Where the heck is Wall Drug?") and a homemade doughnut to wash down with a cup of 5-cent coffee.

MARTHA STEWART Living

FROM
MARTHA

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on the farm.



GRATEFUL SPREADS



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THANKSGIVING
MENU MADE EASY

STYLISH WAYS
TO SET
THE TABLE

HOLIDAY UP
YOUR HOME

AMERICAN-MADE
KITCHEN
ESSENTIALS

Out & About

WHERE TO GO, WHAT TO SEE, AND CREATIVE WAYS TO HAVE FUN ON FOUR WHEELS

| ON THE ROAD |

CATCH A FLICK

Premiering now: The Drive-In, Part 2. Outdoor theaters are having a renaissance, thanks to crisp digital projections and ample space to social-distance. This year, many are operating well into winter. Bring blankets to a double feature at **Hound's Drive-In**, in Kings Mountain, North Carolina (shown), and sip cocoa to feel extra-cozy (houndsdrivein.com). Here, three more spots to park.



📍 DEARBORN, MICH.

The frequent snow flurries make a trip to the **Ford-Wyoming Drive-In** even more cinematic. Pull up to any of its five screens (spread over 27 acres) and settle in—there's no bad seat in the house. forddrivein.com

📍 STEPHENS CITY, VA.

Herald the holidays a little early at the **Family Drive-In Theatre**. On themed nights, yuletide favorites light up its two displays, and Santa drops by for a meet-and-greet. thefamilydriveintheatre.com

📍 OAK HARBOR, WASH.

Flash back to feel-good hits at the **Blue Fox Drive-In Theater**. It shows cult classics like *The Karate Kid* and *Happy Gilmore*, and serves popcorn in flavors like cheddar and caramel apple. bluefoxdrivein.com

| WHY NOT? |

Brake for Novelty

Rev up your next road trip with a totally unique pit stop.

Pink Elephant Antique Mall

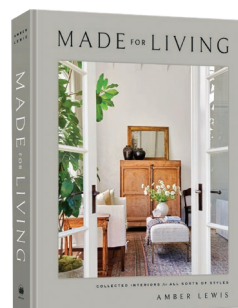
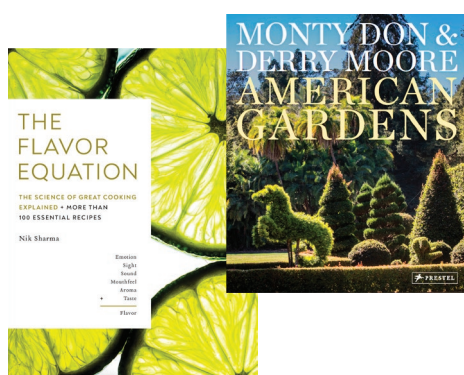
Route 66 may be a relic of the past, but its spirit lives on in iconic landmarks along its path—like this collector's haven off I-55 in **Livingston, Illinois**. Pose with its larger-than-life namesake statue, then get lost in aisles of vintage kitsch.

The Fantastic Umbrella Factory

Rain or shine, peel into this five-acre hippie-era paradise off U.S. 1 in **Charlestown, Rhode Island**. Its shops overflow with handcrafted items from glassware to jewelry (but, go figure, not a single parasol). Then stretch your legs in the bamboo forest, or step into the greenhouse to peruse tropical foliage.

Wall Drug

Free ice water once drew travelers to this 1931 **Wall, South Dakota**, spot. Today? It's all about the five-cent coffee and heavenly homemade doughnuts. Visit the apothecary—a replica of the original drugstore—and stock up on natural bath-and-body goods.



| ON OUR BOOKSHELF |

This month, satisfy your sense of adventure without leaving home. *The Flavor Equation* (Chronicle) dives into the fascinating world of food science, as food writer Nik Sharma, a molecular biologist, dissects what makes ingredient pairings delicious. "His chili-soy-vinegar sauce is great over shrimp," says *Living* assistant food editor Riley Wofford. *American Gardens* (Prestel) is a portal into iconic public oases, like Pennsylvania's Longwood Gardens, as well as rarely seen private ones, like Medway in Charleston, South Carolina. *The Searcher* (Viking), Tana French's atmospheric new thriller, whisks you to postcard-pretty western Ireland, where a former Chicago detective gets entangled in a local boy's disappearance. And interior designer Amber Lewis's *Made for Living* (Clarkson Potter) invites you into dreamy homes that are light, bright, and—key these days—comfortable.