

# Bloomberg Businessweek

**GM Employee:**

“I felt morally responsible—”

**GM Lawyer:**

“That’s not what I asked you.”

**GM Employee:**

“—to fix a problem that I found in a vehicle.”

**GM Lawyer:**

“Was it part of your job description?”

**GM Employee:**

“No.”

**How GM Silenced Its Whistle-Blowers** p48



# ESCAPE FROM YOUR

By Maridel Reyes

# BUSINESS

# TRIP

50 States, 50 Goodies to Share at Work

Alabama Octane coffee ([octanecoffee.com](http://octanecoffee.com)) ♪ Alaska Wild Berry Products king salmon jerky ([alaskawildberryproducts.com](http://alaskawildberryproducts.com)) ♪ Arizona Poore Brothers potato chips ([inventorbooks.com](http://inventorbooks.com))

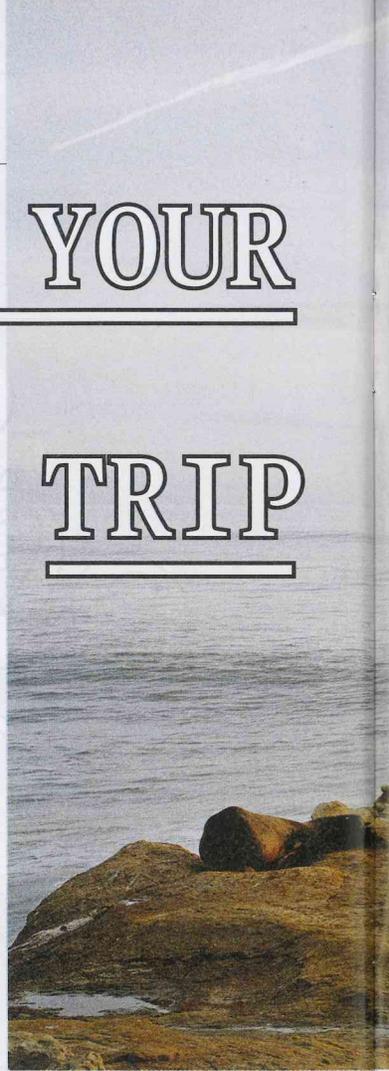
Ah, summer, that glorious time of year when elevator conversations turn into travelogues and weekend bags hide out under desks. It's suntan season, and the following 10 pages serve as your all-purpose guide to doing it right: the best carry-on suitcase, treats to bring back to the office, novels to read, and apps to download, and a definitive calendar for booking flights and taking vacation days (without pissing off your boss). But first things first—where to go? We picked eight unexpected destinations, from an English seaside town to an Arabian desert oasis to a woodsy retreat outside New York. They're all close to major cities, so business travelers can tack on a long weekend for pleasure. Think you're too important to miss some meetings? Getting away improves productivity, alleviates stress, and generally makes you a happier, less curmudgeonly colleague. Just do it, people.



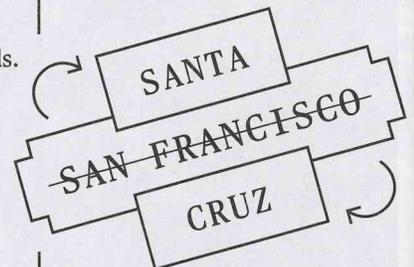
The urban beaches that front Lake Michigan get way too crowded in the Windy City's few warm months. Avoid the masses and head 45 miles southeast to the 15,000-acre Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, home to 180-foot-high sand dunes and birds such as the great blue heron and the American wigeon. There's excellent diving—explore a shipwreck from 1911—and plenty of fine sand beaches and marshes. Hike West Beach, a 1-mile trail ringed with pine trees that starts at the lake and goes across inlets, over dunes, and back through the woods. The park ranks seventh among U.S. national parks in plant diversity, and drive-in camping opportunities are plentiful in the summer. (Visit [indianadunes.com](http://indianadunes.com) for more information.)

**Get there:** Take an 80-minute South Shore Line train for \$7.25 down to the park. Driving is equally quick.

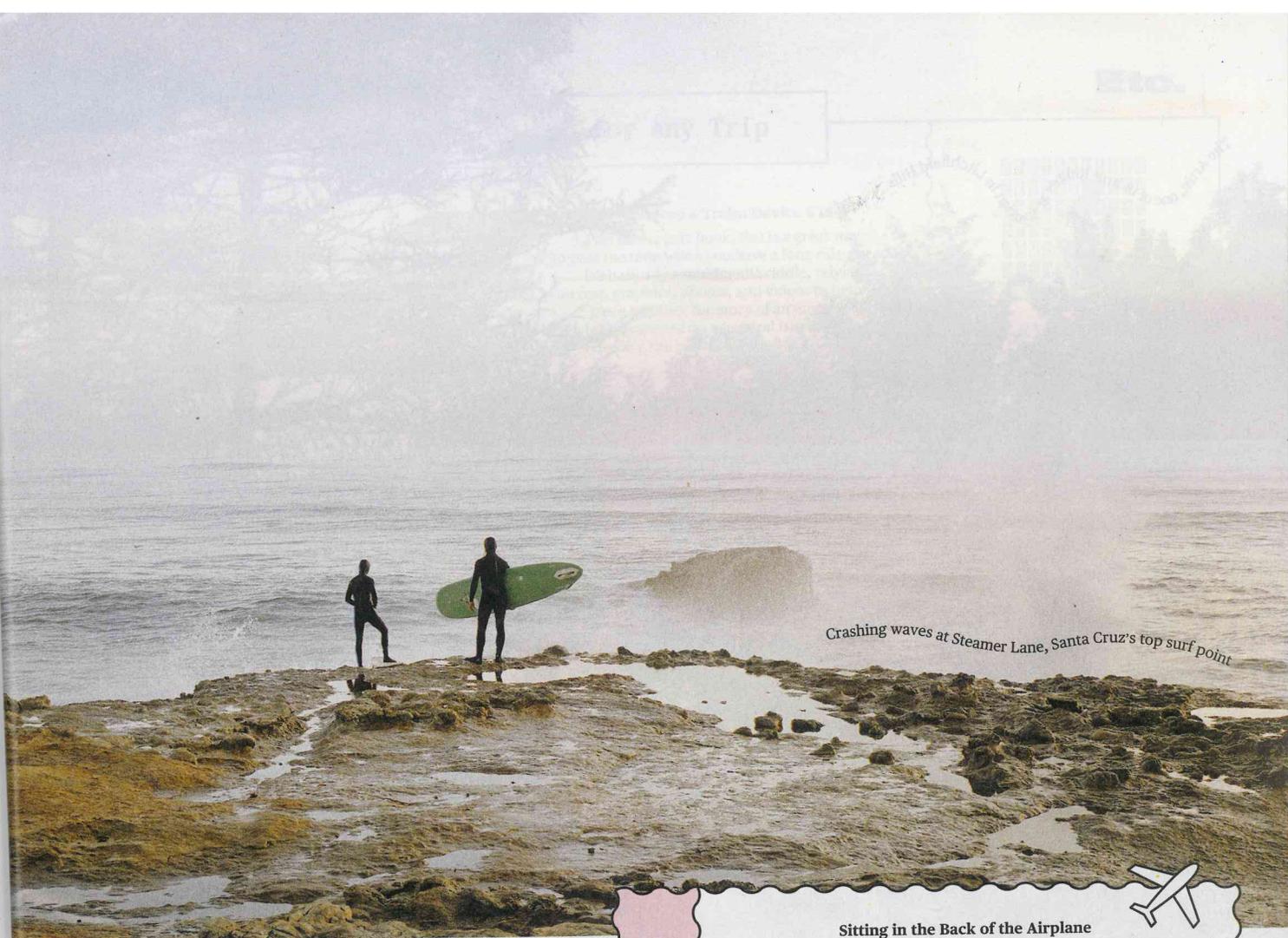
**Stay here:** If you're not a camper, opt for Tryon Farm Guest House, a



bed-and-breakfast converted from a Victorian farmhouse in nearby La Porte, Ind. A 10-minute drive from the dunes, the property offers quiet meadows, ponds, and chickens that lay eggs for the restaurant. 219 879-3618; [tryonfarmguesthouse.com](http://tryonfarmguesthouse.com); from \$145 per night, including breakfast



The California beach town of Santa Cruz still has its share of surfers, hippies, and students. But in recent years the food scene has expanded to cater to the highbrow tastes of nearby Silicon Valley. See for yourself



Crashing waves at Steamer Lane, Santa Cruz's top surf point

at the Penny Ice Creamery ([thepennyicecreamery.com](http://thepennyicecreamery.com)), where chef Kendra Baker churns flavors such as celery and black sesame. Close by, ride wooden roller coasters and vintage carousels on the boardwalk, or take a crab sandwich from the Riva Fish House ([rivafishhouse.com](http://rivafishhouse.com)) out on the wharf. There you can watch sea lions come to shore and catch a glimpse of migrating humpback whales. Those looking for more exercise can head to the hills above town to hike redwood groves near the University of California at Santa Cruz. **Get there:** It takes less than two hours to drive 70 miles south to Santa Cruz along coast-hugging Highway 1. **Stay here:** Retro-chic Dream Inn is the only local hotel right on the beach. It's within walking distance to the wharf and boardwalk, and all rooms have balconies or semiprivate patios with views

of Monterey Bay. 831 426-4330; [jdvhotels.com/hotels/california/central-coast-hotels/santa-cruz-dream-inn](http://jdvhotels.com/hotels/california/central-coast-hotels/santa-cruz-dream-inn); from \$359 per night



## WHITSTABLE

This small southeastern coastal village is known for pebble beaches, water that reaches a relatively warm 57F, and some of the country's best flat oysters, which are small and blue-tinged with succulent meat and a clean taste. At low tide, beachcombers can walk along the Street, a narrow ridge in the sand that stretches half a mile out to sea. You should

## In Defense of...

### Sitting in the Back of the Airplane

I like to sit in row 26. It's easy to reserve, because most people in coach want to sit up front (or, if work's paying, in business class) so they can disembark faster. But when it's time to board, I just want to get on. Milling around at the gate is a torture matched only by other passengers' strange seating rituals, as crews force guests assigned to nearby rows to jostle for the same overhead space. The airlines must know they're doing it wrong; a 2013 Boeing study found that boarding has slowed 50 percent since 1970. A Dutch carrier recently tried "smart boarding," wherein seat numbers flash one by one. It was quicker. Until it's adopted here, you know where to find me. I board first. The rows are less full, and the lavatory is nearby. And what's the difference if I get off the plane five minutes later? That taxi line still awaits. —Margaret Lyons



also bike or stroll along an out-of-use railway line, called the Crab and Winkle Way, to get to Canterbury—it's about a 6-mile trip through the lavender-covered Kent countryside. In hot weather, book a ride on the *Greta* (\$74-\$91; [greta1892.co.uk](http://greta1892.co.uk)), a sailing barge that travels around abandoned forts in the Thames Estuary and provides views of the white clapboard houses that line Herne Bay. **Get there:** Take a 90-minute train from London's Victoria station (\$37), then rent a

bike (\$25) to get around all weekend. **Stay here:** The colorful Whitstable Fisherman's Huts are 150-year-old repurposed buildings where anglers once stashed gear; the simply furnished cabins were built less than 200 feet from the harbor and have balconies that front the beach. Eat next door at the Forge, a seaside shack selling the aforementioned bivalves, classic fish and chips, and a variety of English ales. 44 01227-280280; [whitstablefishermanshuts.com](http://whitstablefishermanshuts.com); from \$161 per night

Etc.

Summer

The Artist, one of 18 luxe lodges at Whovian in Litchfield Hills

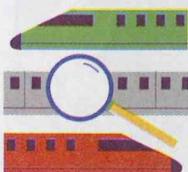
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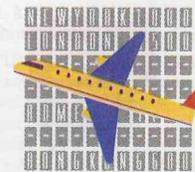
**If You're Driving: Waze (Free)**

The navigation program adds a vital layer on top of the usual map: traffic. Congestion patterns are gleaned from more than 50 million users; the narrator constantly updates you with the fastest route to your destination. The path will change, for instance, if the right lane's blocked 3 miles up, a cop is nearby, or there's a huge collision.



**If You're on a Train: Device 6 (\$4)**

Part game, part book, this is a great way to pass the time when you have a long ride ahead. It's basically a multimedia riddle, relying on text, graphics, photos, and videos to help you piece together the story of an amnesiac who's awakened on a tropical island. Expect to solve the puzzle in five or six hours.



**If You're Flying: FlightBoard (\$4)**

This app provides the status of any flight originating at 4,000 airports worldwide. Designed to resemble the clicking info board at Paris's Charles de Gaulle, it shows departures, arrivals, gates, and aircraft models. You can also filter results to see only the airline you're flying. In some cases, users reported getting updated gate and departure details before other people in the terminal knew a change had been made.  
—Sam Grobart



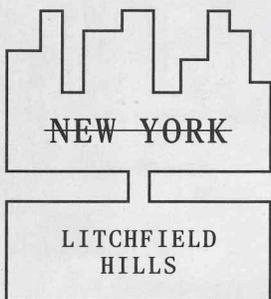
**If You're on a Boat: Dark Sky (\$4)**

The only weather app that pinpoints exactly how long rain will last and when daily temperatures will peak. Set it to notify you just before precipitation starts, saving your hair the trouble.



**If You're Walking: The Converted (\$3)**

It quickly converts distances, weights, currencies, and almost anything else. All this happens on an elegant sliding interface that shows the relationship between, say, dollars and yuan. It's useful, beautiful, and educational.

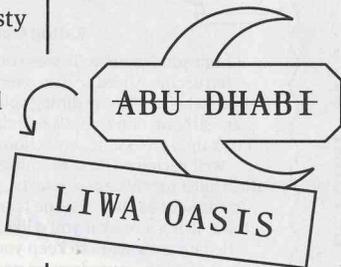


has its own theme—log cabin, stable, treehouse—and they're all nestled next to the White Memorial Conservation Center. Staff can arrange hikes on nearby Mt. Tom as well as horseback riding, canoeing, and hot-air ballooning. 860 567-9600; [winvian.com](http://winvian.com); from \$699 per night, including breakfast

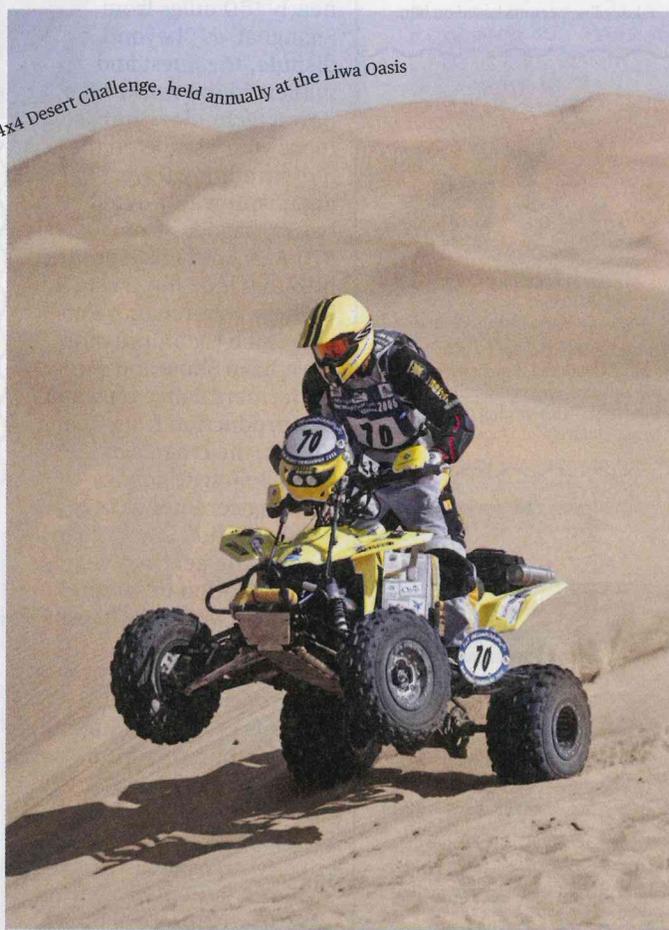
including the 400-foot-high Tal Mireb sand dune, often used for international 4x4 competitions. Rent your own four-wheel-drive vehicle for about \$93, but be careful: Tal Mireb

translates as “scary dune,” because it is seriously steep. As in the city, women should keep knees and shoulders covered. **Get there:** Drive about 90 minutes along a modern ▶

Head two hours outside Manhattan—past the touristy Hudson Valley—to the 945 square miles of rural woods, farmland, and mill towns in Connecticut's sleepy Litchfield Hills. Get an ashitsu massage at the Spa at Litchfield Hills, in which a therapist applies pressure using bare feet—it isn't nearly as gross as it sounds (\$160 for 50 minutes; [litchfield-spa.com](http://litchfield-spa.com)). Outdoorsy types can fish for trout in the Housatonic River, where the best spot is near the West Cornwall covered bridge, built in the 19th century. Try not to hook an easel-toting artist or a kayaker paddling below. **Get there:** Take a car from the city; you'll need it to drive the winding roads. **Stay here:** Try one of 18 over-the-top cottages at Winvian resort. Each



The crescent-shaped Liwa Oasis is a strip of greenery at the edge of the Rub al Khali (Arabic for “empty quarter”), the world's largest uninterrupted sand desert. The area, made up of a string of small Bedouin towns and villages, is dotted with pools of 90F water and cultivated date forests. It's also the ancestral home of Abu Dhabi's ruling family, who lived here 300 years ago. From Liwa, you can explore the immense red desert,



The 4x4 Desert Challenge, held annually at the Liwa Oasis

# Summer Travel

## Book Bag



### Read about a leader as you delegate your work:

*Factory Man* by Beth Macy

The true story of a Virginian named John Bassett III, who fought Chinese offshoring to save his family's furniture company and secure hundreds of American jobs. The big-screen potential is obvious.



### Read about the Internet as you turn off your phone:

*To Rise Again at a Decent Hour* by Joshua Ferris

The third, darkly hilarious novel from Ferris, best known for his workplace parody *And Then We Came to the End*, is about a jerky dentist who discovers someone's created a fake online persona based on him.



### Read about a family as you relax with yours:

*The Vacationers* by Emma Straub

Straub's engaging story of a family trip to Mallorca, Spain, gets at all the amusing and maddening drama that comes with forcing parents and adult children into close quarters.



### Read about achievers as you lounge by the pool:

*Supersurvivors* by David Feldman and Lee Kravetz

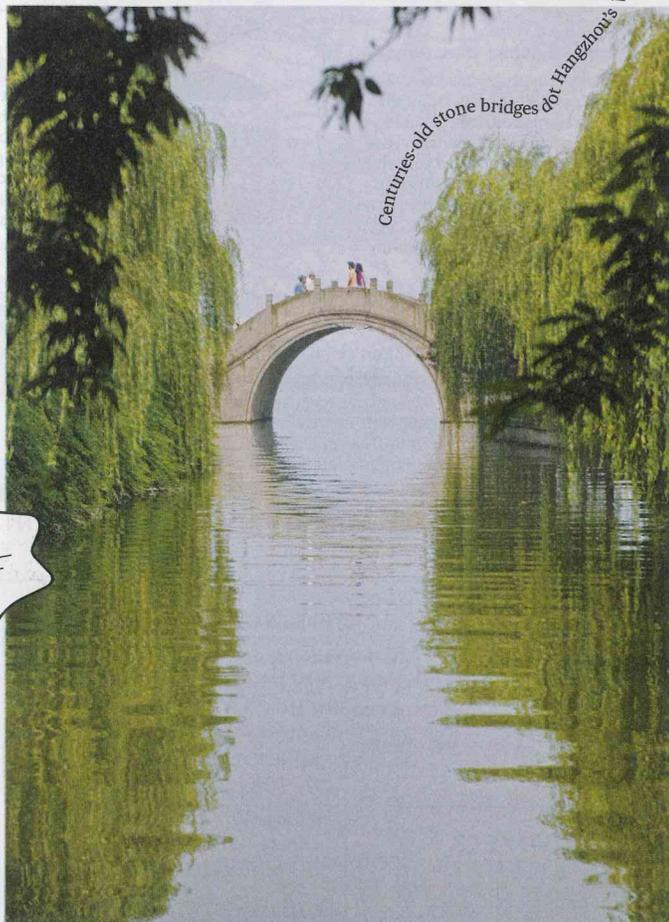
This summer's Big Idea book is by two psychologists who try to explain why trauma leads to suffering in some and greatness in others. Examples include a cancer survivor who won an Olympic gold medal.

◀ highway from Abu Dhabi. The temperature reaches 107F in summer, so air conditioning is a must. **Stay here:** At Qasr Al Sarab Desert Resort, lounge in your personal plunge pool while desert foxes and quail graze in the shade below. Staffers can book camel rides or group lessons in traditional Arabian sports such as archery or falconry. 971 2-886-2088; [qasralsarab.anantara.com](http://qasralsarab.anantara.com); from \$265 per night, including breakfast for two

SHANGHAI

HANGZHOU

Marco Polo described the thriving city of Hangzhou, nearly 100 miles from Shanghai, as "beyond dispute, the finest and noblest in the world." It's now a technology hub, so focus your escape on the more traditional West Lake area, with willow-lined banks, pagodas from 970 A.D., and mist-shrouded hills that look like a classic Chinese watercolor painting. Catch the Impression West Lake Show and see performers dance on water in a production from Zhang Yimou, the creator of the 2008 Beijing Olympics opening ceremony (\$42; [gotohangzhou.com](http://gotohangzhou.com)). Then stop by the nearby Longjing Tea Plantation to sample some of the world's finest brews of floral green tea, grown exclusively on the property. **Get there:** Take a 45-minute bullet train direct from Shanghai for about \$12. **Stay here:** The traditional Shangri-La Hotel Hangzhou, with 40 acres of lush grounds, is steps away from West Lake. Borrow a bike



Centuries-old stone bridges dot Hangzhou's West Lake

In Defense of...

### Eating Out Alone

Room service never leaves you thinking, "Wow, excellent fettuccine Alfredo." The overpriced food just exists for those who can't bear dining solo. If you're jet-lagged or have an early meeting, that's one thing. Otherwise, get over it. Look up a city guide, and choose something interesting and well-reviewed. You're unlikely to wait for a table—bar seats exist for this exact reason, and the staff may offer special treatment as they assume (correctly) you're there for the food. Bring a book if you'd like, or ask the waiter to use the restaurant's Wi-Fi to keep yourself amused. Then order a glass of wine, eavesdrop on nearby conversations, and enjoy some delicious alone time. —Kurt Soller

from the concierge and ride along the water to the high-style Jin Sha restaurant in the nearby Four Seasons hotel ([fourseasons.com/hangzhou](http://fourseasons.com/hangzhou)). Order the abalone, a large, sweet snail. 86 571-8797-7951; [shangri-la.com/hangzhou/shangrila](http://shangri-la.com/hangzhou/shangrila); from \$197 per person per night, including breakfast buffet and a dining credit of 100 yuan (\$16) per day

DALLAS

GLEN ROSE

Glen Rose, about 76 miles southwest of Dallas, has been dubbed the Dinosaur Capital of Texas, thanks to its abundance of well-preserved sauropod and theropod fossils. It's also a draw ▶ 74

◀ for tubing, canoeing, and kayaking along the calm Brazos and Paluxy rivers. The area closer to the town—filled with quaint shopping and dining—is rich in petrified wood and limestone, sandstone, and mudstone, which experts say were deposited 113 million years ago along the shores of an ancient sea. At Dinosaur Valley State Park, you can walk alongside dino footprints in the shallow river. One of the best places to spot tracks is at Blue Hole, a deep sinkhole ideal for swimming.

**Get there:** Take U.S. Highway 67 south from central Dallas for about an hour and 20 minutes.

**Stay here:** Ranch-style Rough Creek Lodge & Resort sprawls over 11,000 flat acres with free on-site activities such as private hayrides, tomahawk throwing, and a zip line into a lake. For additional fees, guests can participate in a cattle drive,

go on guided hunting trips of pheasant and deer, or test their aim at clay sport shooting. 877 907-0754; [roughcreek.com](http://roughcreek.com); from \$285 per person per night, including one three-course dinner and breakfast daily



Due east of Colombia's increasingly buzzing capital lie the massive rolling plains of Los Llanos. Hidden in the foothills of the Andes, the town of Villavicencio serves as the gateway to the savannah and a good base for exploring the region. It's also a cattle-herding hub where cowboys—known as *llaneros*—come to do business and party at the South American

In Defense of...

Checking Your Bag

There was a time when travel by air or train was pleasant. Here's a controversial way to reclaim that era: Check your luggage. Sure, there are annoying new fees, but your loyalty credit card might cover them. The suitcase won't get lost—mishandled baggage rates are at all-time lows, down about 50 percent from 2007, per U.S. Department of Transportation stats. And, I swear, you won't be slowed down at the baggage claim. With fewer people stowing bags, they're coming off faster. So go ahead, pack the big tube of hair gunk. Use the airport bathroom without dragging your carry-on with you. Once onboard, unfurl your newspaper, sip an imaginary highball, and cheerfully ignore the battle for overhead space raging all around you. Well done. —*Jesse Oxfeld*

equivalent of beer-swilling saloons. From Villavicencio, take day trips to hot springs, go spelunking, or brave a white-water-rafting expedition, all arranged by tour operators such as [journeylatinamerica.co.uk](http://journeylatinamerica.co.uk). On its site, you can book a 40-minute prop plane to Caño Cristales—nicknamed the Liquid Rainbow—a trippy, hyperchromatic river teeming with tropical plants and minerals that dye the water. **Get there:** Hire a \$200 driver for the two- or three-hour

trip, depending on traffic, using newly improved roads. **Stay here:** If you're proficient in Spanish, get a room on a *finca*, a ranch that accommodates tourists and serves home-style meals such as spicy chicken stew. Not bilingual? Book through a tour operator for about \$65 per night. Or stay at the well-maintained Hotel Campestre El Campanario, a hacienda-style hideaway that's also good for kids. 57 661-66-66; [hotelcampestreelcampanario.com.co](http://hotelcampestreelcampanario.com.co); from \$400 per night, including breakfast



◊ Pennsylvania Slide Project Jerry (slideprojectjerry.com) ◊ Rhode Island Dave's Coffee coffee syrup (davescoffeestore.com) ◊ South Carolina Jestine's Kitchen Coca-Cola cake (jestineskitchen.com) ◊ South Dakota Wild Dutchman sunflower seeds (wild-dutchman.com) ◊ Tennessee The Peanut Shop's

CANO CRISTALES