

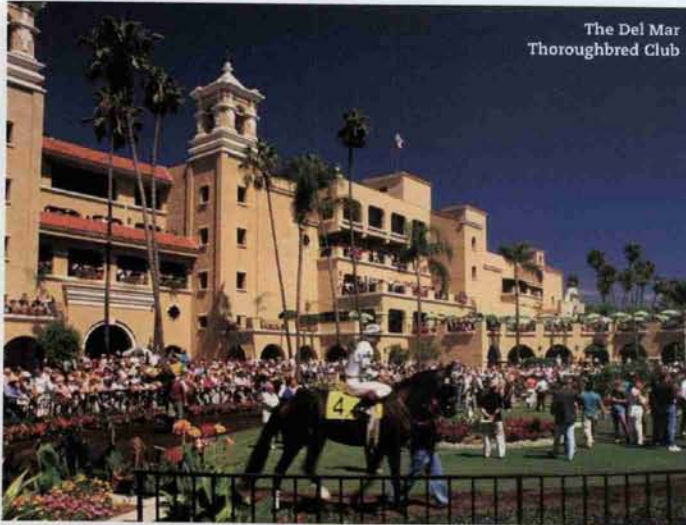
TRAVEL REGIONAL

# The cure for getaway fever

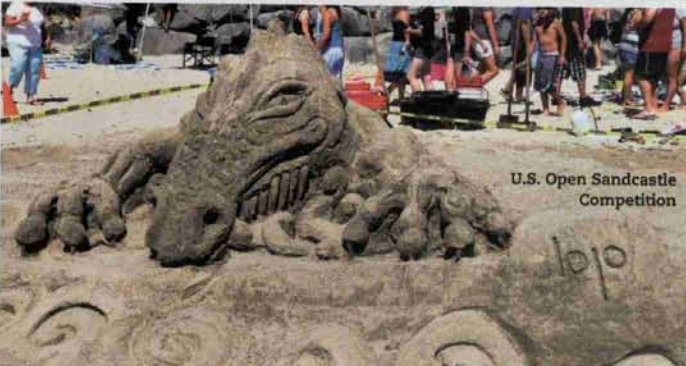
Lots to do, places to stay in SoCal, Utah and Colorado

BY ALISON STANTON  
 SPECIAL FOR AZ MAGAZINE

THE TEMPERATURES ARE ABOVE 100 DEGREES, the kids are out of school and all over Arizona, people are gearing up to hit the road for summer fun. If you're looking for new and interesting things to do and places to stay, consider these options in Southern California, Colorado and southern Utah.



The Del Mar Thoroughbred Club



U.S. Open Sandcastle Competition

## San Diego area

### Things to do June 3-5

#### Wings Over Gillespie Air Show

The city's biggest civilian air show includes re-enactments of World War II and Vietnam War aerial battles with pyrotechnic and aircraft displays, along with live entertainment, kids activities and more. Gillespie Air Field, 1960 Joe Crosson Drive, El Cajon. [www.wingsovergillespie.com](http://www.wingsovergillespie.com).

### July 22-24

#### U.S. Open Sandcastle Competition

Festivities include sandcastle competitions on Imperial Beach for adults and kids, a parade and fireworks at the Imperial Beach Pier. [www.usopensandcastle.com](http://www.usopensandcastle.com).

### Aug. 3-26

#### Summerfest 2011

The La Jolla Music Society will present concerts at various locations in La Jolla and San Diego. The chamber-music festival features new and classical music performed by more than 70 musicians and ensembles from all over the world. [www.ljms.org](http://www.ljms.org).

### Where to stay

#### Park Hyatt Aviara Resort

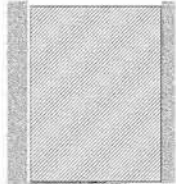
Fans of horse racing will appreciate the Del Mar Races Turf Club package. Available July 12-Sept. 7, it includes accommodations and admission for two to the private Turf Club at Del Mar Thoroughbred Club. A two-night stay is required. Rack rate is \$395 a night. 7100 Aviara Resort Drive, Carlsbad. [www.parkhyattaviara.com](http://www.parkhyattaviara.com); use code DMRACE.

#### Omni San Diego Hotel

The All-American Baseball package starts at \$269 a night and includes accommodations for two, two tickets to a San Diego Padres game, a slice of apple pie per guest, breakfast for two at the hotel's restaurant or through room service, and valet parking. It's available through Sept. 28. Catch the Diamondbacks July 26-28. 675 L St. [www.omnihotels.com](http://www.omnihotels.com).



BRETT ALAN PHOTOGRAPHY/HYATT





Palm Springs Desert Resorts Restaurant Week

## Southern California

### Things to do

#### June 3-12

##### **Palm Springs Desert Resorts Restaurant Week**

This event highlights delicious culinary creations from 100 restaurants and resorts. Participating restaurants will offer three-course meals for \$24 or \$36 per person. Tax, beverages and gratuity are extra. [www.palmspringsrestaurantweek.com](http://www.palmspringsrestaurantweek.com).

#### June 21-27

##### **Palm Springs International ShortFest film festival**

One of the most acclaimed short-film showcases, the event will feature more than 320 short films from more than 40 countries, as well as nightly receptions and seminars. [www.psfilmfest.org](http://www.psfilmfest.org).

#### Through Nov. 6

##### **Art in the Park**

This free event is held the first Sunday of each month (through Nov. 6) at Dinosaur Caves Park on Shell Beach north of Pismo Beach. More than 100 artists and vendors will be on hand. Dogs are welcome, and many families come with kids and picnic baskets in tow. 2701 Price Road. [www.artintheparkshellbeach.com](http://www.artintheparkshellbeach.com).

##### **Where to stay**

###### **Jamaica Bay Inn**

This beachfront hotel overlooks the harbor of Marina del Rey. Specials include the Family Get-away package, with milk and cookies upon arrival, breakfast for four and four bike rentals, from \$279 per night. The Sweet Spring Sale, valid through June 30, gives guests 20 percent off their stay. 4175 Admiralty Way, Marina del Rey. [www.jamaicabayinn.com/specials.php](http://www.jamaicabayinn.com/specials.php).

###### **Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa**

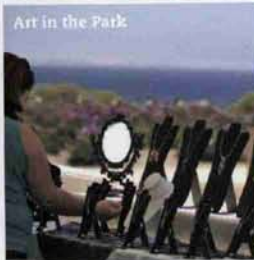
This is a fun destination for couples and families. Featuring a 2-acre water park called Splashtopia, it's also a great place to stay cool. Guests who stay Sunday evenings can rent golf carts and park on the greens to watch Drive-In Movies. The Your Choice package starts at \$299 and includes one night's accommodations and a \$100 resort credit. 41-000 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage. [www.rancholaspalmas.com](http://www.rancholaspalmas.com); click on "Specials & Packages."



Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa



Art in the Park



Art in the Park



Palm Springs International ShortFest film festival

- 1 Palm Springs
- 2 Shell Beach
- 3 Marina del Rey
- 4 Rancho Mirage



PALM SPRINGS RESTAURANT WEEK, RANCHO LAS PALMAS RESORT & SPA, APPLEDOONPHOTOGRAPHY.COM, PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL SHORTFEST

# Colorado

## Things to do Year-round

### Durango Discovery Museum

This hands-on museum is filled with exhibits and activities about all kinds of energy. In June, the museum will host the grand opening of a new wing that includes thousands of square feet dedicated to interactive exhibits that are fun for all ages. 1333 Camino del Rio. [www.durangodiscovery.org](http://www.durangodiscovery.org).

## Year-round

### Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum

This 52,000-square-foot museum, which was expected to open in late May, will celebrate the history of Colorado's longest continuous residents. It will feature interactive exhibits, artifact collections, photos, oral histories and more. 77 County Road 517, Ignacio (about 25 miles southeast of Durango). [www.southernutemuseum.org](http://www.southernutemuseum.org).

## Through Oct. 16

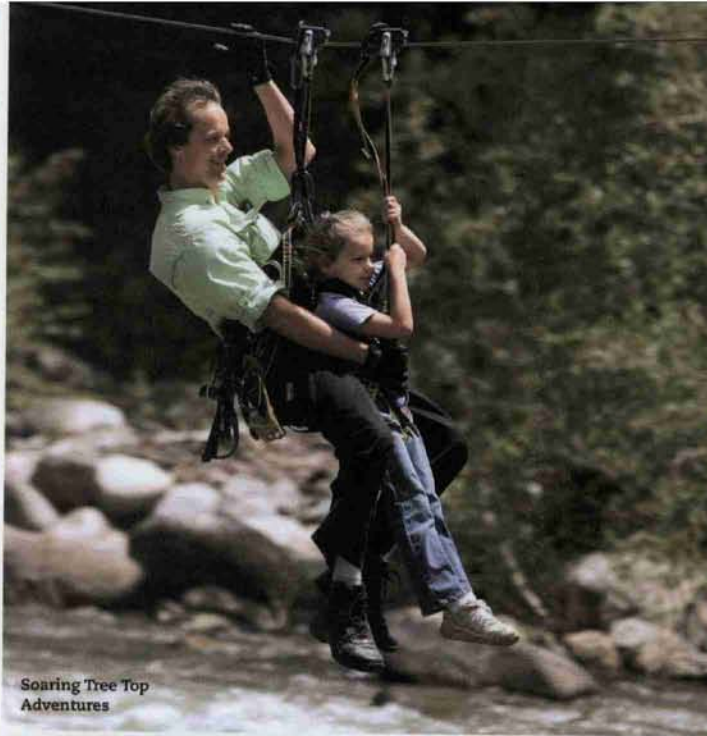
### Soaring Tree Top Adventures

This zip-line canopy tour has 24 segments, letting riders soar through trees and above the Animas River. Participants ride the Durango & Silverton Railroad to the zip-line site. The outing includes four-course gourmet picnic lunch served in the trees. Open through Oct. 16. Price is \$439 per person. [www.soaringcolorado.com](http://www.soaringcolorado.com).

## Where to stay

### The Curtis hotel, Denver

The Yo Ho Ho & a Bottle of Rum package starts at \$175 a night and includes accommodations, breakfast for two adults at the Corner Office, two tickets to "Real Pirates" at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science and a treasure chest filled with a Curtis Yo-Yo, a Ho-Ho snack cake, a small bottle of rum and two sodas. The package is available until Aug. 7. 1405 Curtis St. [www.thecurtis.com](http://www.thecurtis.com); use code PK9.



Soaring Tree Top Adventures



Durango Discovery Museum



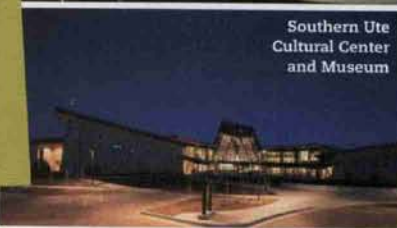
Durango Discovery Museum



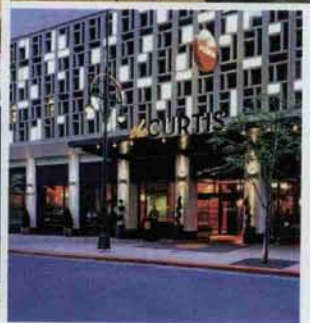
The Curtis



Durango Discovery Museum



Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum



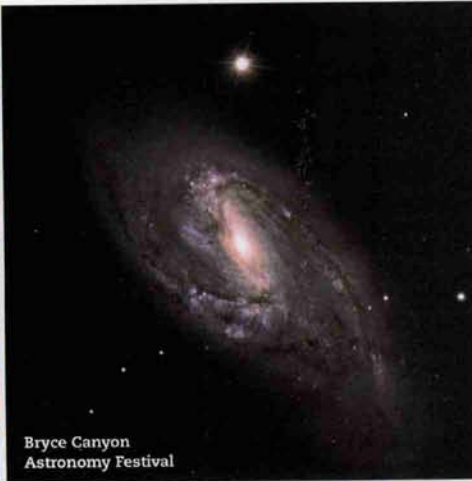
- 1 Denver
- 2 Colorado Springs
- 3 Durango
- 4 Ignacio



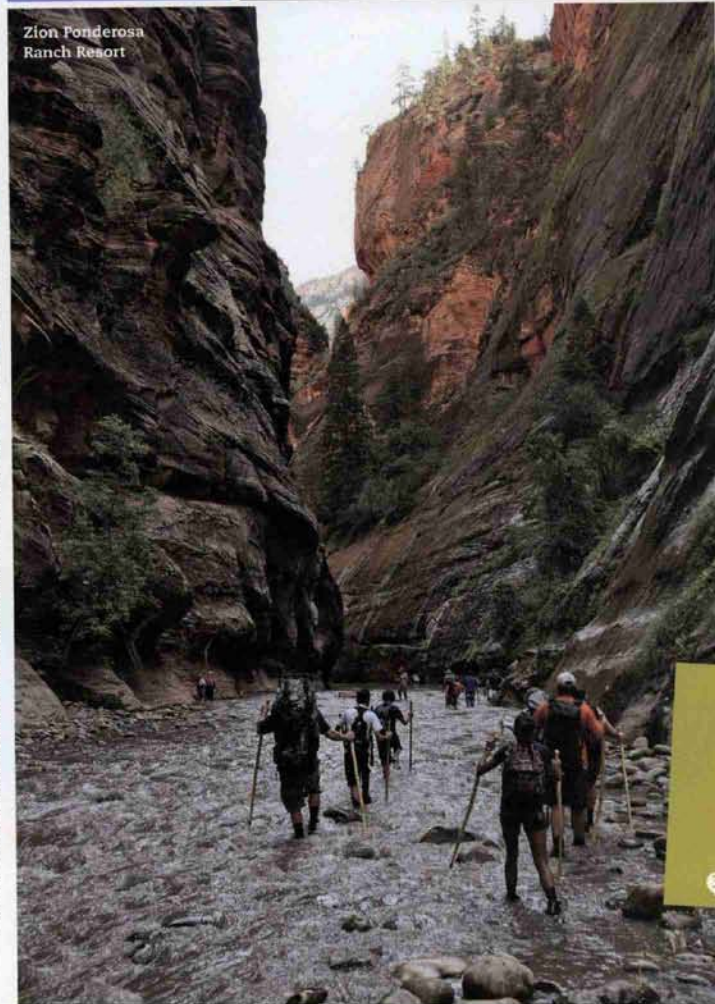
SCOTT DW SMITH, DURANGO DISCOVERY MUSEUM, CHRIS DUTHIE, SOUTHERN UTE CULTURAL CENTER, THE CURTIS, PHOTOS.COM, EUROPEAN SOUTHERN OBSERVATORY, ROSS D. FRANKLIN



Panguitch Balloon Rally



Bryce Canyon Astronomy Festival



Zion Ponderosa Ranch Resort

## Southern Utah

### Things to do

#### June 24-26

##### Panguitch Balloon Rally

This event, in its 10th year, is fun for all ages. Arrive at the launch field every morning at 6:30 a.m. for the chance to go up in a hot-air balloon. There will be a balloon glow at dusk on June 25. Kids may be invited to help weigh down the balloons. Panguitch is about 25 miles northwest of Bryce Canyon on U.S. 89. [www.panguitchvalleyballoonrally.com](http://www.panguitchvalleyballoonrally.com).

#### June 29-July 2

##### Bryce Canyon Astronomy Festival

A variety of activities and presentations is planned, including a "Planet Walk" at the visitor center, stargazing and constellation "tours" narrated by park rangers who specialize in explaining the night sky. Giant telescopes will be available for viewing. Keynote speaker is Ian Cheney, who directed the documentary "The City Dark." [www.nps.gov/brca/planyourvisit/astrofest.htm](http://www.nps.gov/brca/planyourvisit/astrofest.htm).

#### July 28-30

##### Bryce Canyon Geology Festival

This second annual event will offer programs for all ages. Last year's festival included hoodoo hikes, geology talks and bus tours and activities for kids. Check the website for more information as the dates get closer. [www.nps.gov/brca](http://www.nps.gov/brca).

### Where to stay

##### Zion Ponderosa Ranch Resort

This 4,000-acre ranch is just outside the east entrance of the national park. Amenities include miniature golf, zip lines, swimming pools and horseback riding. Camp in your tent or RV, or find rentals ranging from a rustic cabin to a fully equipped vacation home with up to eight bedrooms. Cabins start at \$64 per night; vacation homes at \$253. Meal packages are available. [www.zionponderosa.com](http://www.zionponderosa.com).

