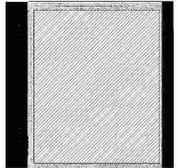


Inset top photo courtesy of Maine Office of Tourism
Inset bottom photo © Tim Todder



Nothing is more exciting than discovering a place you always thought you knew

Everybody thinks they know their own country well and Americans are no exception. But those who take the time to look around, to leave their familiar pathways, are astonished by what they discover.

Underneath the surface of similarity, each of the 50 states is extraordinarily different, its identity defined by a thousand local idiosyncrasies, from accents and myths to heroes and recipes to traditions and landmarks to festivals and natural wonders. On the East Coast alone there are enough regional delicacies — fiddlehead ferns in Maine and New Hampshire, chowder in Boston, ramps in Appalachia and crab cakes in Maryland, — to

fill a dozen cookbooks. The South is a mosaic of musical styles like the blues in the Mississippi Delta, bluegrass in Kentucky, Dixieland jazz in New Orleans and zydeco in southwest Louisiana. And the West contains every ecosystem from high deserts, red-rock canyons and fir forests to vineyards, mountain glaciers and wave-carved coasts, sometimes all in the same state.

Unbelievable variety, yes, but when you add it to the way each state celebrates its idiosyncrasies with pomp and pride — that's what makes exploring our country so utterly amazing.

The more you look the more there is to find!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR FEATURED STATES, CONTACT

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