

**INSIDE:**

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- Springfield, MO
- Missoula, MT
- Valentine, NE

**Las Vegas, NV**

#1

- Hanover, NH
- Chatsworth, NJ
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- New Paltz, NY
- Boone, NC
- Medora, ND
- Marietta, OH
- Tulsa, OK
- Hood River, OR
- Jim Thorpe, PA
- Newport, RI
- Beaufort, SC
- Spearfish, SD
- Nashville, TN
- Austin, TX
- St. George, UT
- Montpelier, VT
- Lynchburg, VA
- Wenatchee, WA
- Fayetteville, WV
- Fond du Lac, WI
- Cody, WY

\*HOT SPOTS '07

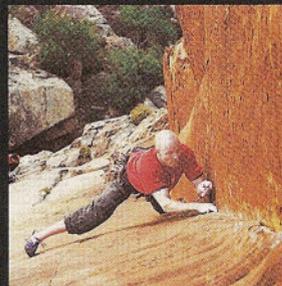
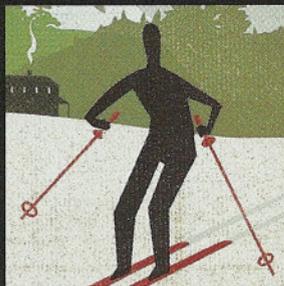
# 50

BY DAN KOEPEL

BEST PLACES

# TO Live+Play

THIS YEAR'S TOP ADVENTURE TOWNS STATE-BY-STATE



## COLORADO > Gunnison

**Population:** 5,300

**Median home price:** \$220,100

**The radius:** The Gunnison River territory is blessed with 25 feet of Colorado's airy powder a year—more than any other ski area in the state. Come summer, mountain bikers head up the hill to Crested Butte's singletrack; rock climbers reign on the 2,000-foot-walls of Black Canyon of the Gunnison; and cowpokes converge for Cattlemen's Days, the oldest rodeo in the state (this year marks the 107th).

## MONTANA > Missoula

**Population:** 62,923

**Median home price:** \$218,000

**The radius:** A legendary Rocky Mountain retreat: Hiking, skiing, biking, and white-water paddling are all within minutes of town. Find your own options along 2,495 miles of trails in mammoth Lolo National Forest. Also a mountain-bike-touring hotbed, Missoula is home to Adventure Cycling Association ([www.adv-cycling.org](http://www.adv-cycling.org)), which maps and maintains seven cross-country road-bike routes. Glacier and Yellowstone are three hours in either direction, and the town is at the center of fly-fishing's Golden Triangle, where brook and rainbow trout thrive.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE > Hanover

**Population:** 11,156

**Median home price:** \$376,040

**The radius:** This highbrow enclave, set in the Connecticut River Valley's White Mountain foothills, is home to Dartmouth College. The university's Hitchcock Medical Center is one of the best in the country, while nearby Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site—the home, gardens, and studios of sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens—hosts classical music concerts every July and August. The Appalachian Trail passes right through town, and 25 miles east, the climb to Mount Cardigan's 3,155-foot summit ends with a rocky scramble and full-circle views of the Presidential Range and Green Mountains.

## WASHINGTON > Wenatchee

**Population:** 29,920

**Median home price:** \$201,463

**The radius:** Three hours from Seattle, typical Pacific Northwest climate patterns don't apply here (Wenatchee gets 300 days of sunshine a year). But the friendly town is perfectly in sync with the region's outdoor-centric values. It's parked in prime alpinist territory, at the foot of the Cascades and on the edge of 4.1-million-acre Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forest. Icicle Canyon is the climbing hot spot, but there are dozens of others, ranging from easy to legendary. Planning your housewarming party? Tap the Wenatchee Huenachis, a mariachi band featuring local high school students.

## OREGON > Hood River

**Population:** 6,580

**Median home price:** \$300,000

**The radius:** You can ski almost year-round on 11,239-foot Mount Hood, and the peak's upper sections feature one of the most challenging ascent bids in the continental U.S. Hood River is also a launchpad for the nation's top windsurfing spot, with 33 put-ins along Columbia River Gorge, ranging from the novice-level Inn