

NATURE GETAWAYS

A Guide to Nature Conservancy Protected Places

The Nature
Conservancy





No matter what you're looking for, Nature's Got It

Want to get outdoors with your family? Or set off for some adventure? Maybe you're seeking quiet contemplation to escape life's hectic pace.

This guide is your ticket. Explore some of the incredible places where The Nature Conservancy works and find a spot that's perfect for whatever experience you're looking for. Each one's unique in its own right. And each is protected thanks to support from our members and partners.

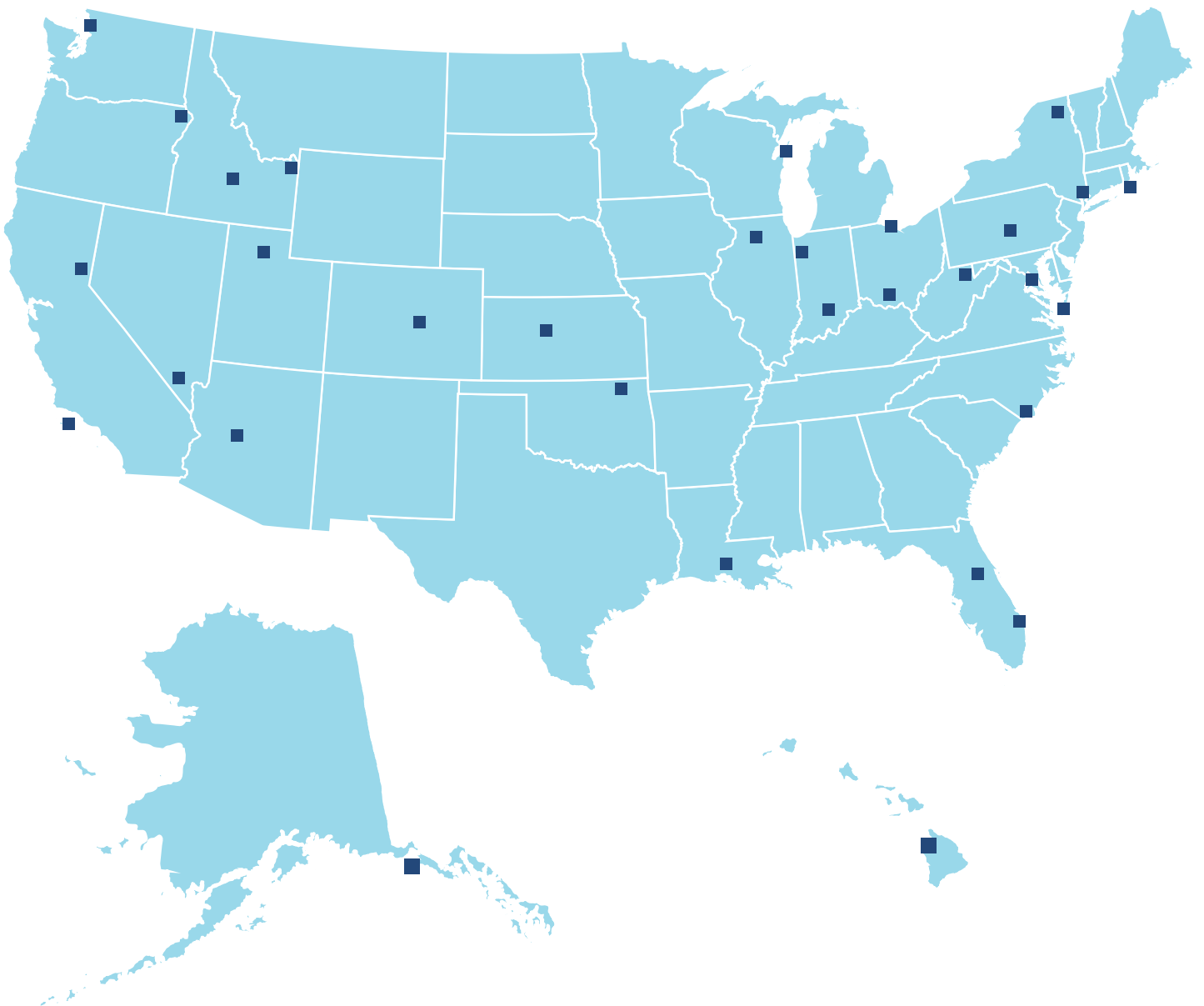
Whether it's a wash of tranquility when walking among towering pines, the thrill of spotting elusive wildlife, or the adrenaline rush of climbing a rocky mountain ledge...our natural world gives us so much.

**Read on and discover new
places to connect with the
natural world you love.**

In This Guide

This guide highlights a small slice of the places our generous members and supporters have helped The Nature Conservancy protect. Together, we are safeguarding the most important lands and waters for generations to come — in all 50 states and U.S. territories, and in 70 countries around the world.

Learn about more places we protect that are close to home for you at [nature.org/preserves](https://www.nature.org/preserves).





Follow Your Own Path

Choose the experience you're looking for and get started exploring incredible Nature Conservancy protected areas.

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© Joseph Rossbach

A Big City Escape

Potomac Gorge / Bear Island
Potomac, MD

With powerful whitewater falls and miles of wooded trails, you'll never know you're mere minutes from our nation's capital. Potomac Gorge is a natural gem 12 miles north of downtown Washington, D.C. Running from Great Falls to Georgetown, this 15-mile section of the Potomac River is one of the most ecologically significant natural areas within our entire National Park System. Take a walk on the wild side on Bear Island's strenuous Billy Goat Trail, scrambling over giant boulders and rocky ledges overlooking the rushing Mather Gorge rapids.

DITCH THE CONCRETE FOR A NATURE BREAK:

Kankakee Sands
Morocco, IN

A prairie jewel where bison roam just 65 miles outside Chicago.

Red Rock Canyon
Las Vegas, NV

Shimmering sandstone cliffs just 25 minutes from the Vegas strip.

Arthur W. Butler
Memorial Sanctuary
Bedford, NY

Miles of rugged hiking trails an hour from the Manhattan skyline.



© John Finnell

A Wide Open Space

Flat Ranch Preserve
Island Park, ID

The vastness of nature can make you so aware of your place in the world. Nowhere is the grandeur of nature more on display than The Nature Conservancy's Flat Ranch Preserve, located just 15 miles from West Yellowstone. At this working cattle ranch and nature research center, wildflowers dot the rolling grasslands, cool river waters bubble gently over rocks, and the epic sunsets of big sky country never disappoint. There are wonders as far as the eye can see.

MARVEL AT NATURE'S MASSIVE SCALE:

Zumwalt Prairie Preserve
Wallowa County, OR

Rolling grasslands speckled with purple lupine wildflowers.

Ramsey Canyon Preserve
Hereford, AZ

Wooded slopes of sycamore and Apache pine rise above the desert floor.

Aiken Canyon Preserve
Colorado Springs, CO

A great destination for birders amid dramatic foothills on the Front Range.



© Ian Shive

A Birding Hot Spot

Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve
Layton, UT

You're sure to spot a few stunners to check off your birding bucket list at the Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve. The preserve's unique mix of salt and fresh water marshes, ponds, and mudflats make it a rich habitat for migrating birds. Millions of birds rely on the Great Salt Lake during their epic annual journeys, ranging between places as far north as the Arctic to southern points in Central and South America. The preserve's walkway and observation tower offer prime birdwatching year-round. Download the audio tour before you visit!

BREAK OUT THE BINOCULARS:

Cheyenne Bottoms Preserve
Great Bend, KS

Tens of thousands of shorebirds stop here to rest during seasonal migrations.

Cypress Island
Martinsville, LA

Spot thousands of nests in this rookery of great egrets, little blue herons, and roseate spoonbills within a cypress-tupelo swamp.

Great Egret Marsh Preserve
Lakeside Marblehead, OH

Warblers, eagles, and of course, great egrets, grace Lake Erie's marshlands.



© Clark Vandergrift

An Adventurous Thrill

Charlotte Ryde Preserve
Preston County, WV

Nature can be a playground, no matter how old you are! The more daring among us can find a rush of adrenaline at the Charlotte Ryde Preserve — one of West Virginia's premier whitewater rafting destinations. Be sure to take in the magnificent scenery of the Cheat River as you paddle furiously through this wild Appalachian wonderland.

FIND FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY:

Brownsville Preserve
Nassawadox, VA

Go on a treasure hunt! Use your smartphone to locate hidden geocaches along the hiking trails.

Independence Lake
Truckee, CA

Paddle your way around one of the most pristine alpine lakes west of the Rockies, perfect for kayakers of all ages.

Silver Creek Preserve
Picabo, ID

Load your fly and cast your line in this world-class trout fishing stream.



© Charles Larry

A Wildlife Encounter

Nachusa Grasslands
Franklin Grove, IL

It's a sight that was nearly lost to history: giant herds of bison roaming vast prairies. Take a step back in time at Nachusa Grasslands. Get out your binoculars and observe its herd of over 100 wild bison as they roam across nearly 4,000 acres of protected grasslands. You can also explore the trails where you might spot some Blanding's turtles and a whole host of birds and wildlife.

COME FACE-TO-FACE WITH ELUSIVE ANIMALS:

Disney Wilderness Preserve
Kissimmee, FL

A unique Everglades habitat where even the endangered Florida panther has been spotted.

Port Susan Bay Preserve
Port Susan Bay, WA

Shorebirds and raptors soar high above mighty gray whales feeding in the waters of the bay.

**Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass
Prairie Preserve**
North of Pawhuska, OK

A unique Oklahoma gem where golden eagles and coyotes roam.



© Mike Olliver

An Ocean Breeze

Blowing Rocks Preserve
Jupiter Island, Hobe Sound, FL

Salty winds and crashing waves make our Blowing Rocks Preserve an ideal destination for anyone who loves a dramatic coastline. The ocean's power is on full display, with waves surging against the craggy limestone shore, forcing geysers of water as high as 50 feet into the air. Look carefully and you may find tiny sea turtle hatchlings shimmying across the sand, ready to ride the waves.

LET THE OPEN SEA REFRESH YOUR SOUL:

Block Island
New Shoreham, RI

Coastal bluffs and ocean breezes in one of the last great places on Earth.

Santa Cruz Island Preserve
Santa Cruz Island, CA

A southern California paradise where wildlife abounds.

Kīholo Fishpond Preserve
North Kona Coast, Hawai'i Island, HI

Marine life abounds in the historic royal fishpond that is a cultural and natural treasure.



© John DiGiacomo

A Walk in the Woods

Spring Pond Bog Preserve
Tupper Lake, NY

Hiking is one of the most rewarding experiences — no matter how many times you've traversed a trail, nature has a way of dazzling you at every turn. Every ascent and rugged outlook takes your breath away, and every ray of sunlight filtering through treetops immerses you in peace and serenity. The majestic forests of The Nature Conservancy's preserves in the Adirondacks are a hiker's paradise, with miles of trails winding along cool rivers and among the lush forest.

FIND TRANQUILITY AMONG THE TREES:

Edge of Appalachia Preserve
West Union, OH

Rugged woodlands, prairie fields, and rushing waterfalls in the heart of the Appalachian foothills.

Gustavus Forelands Preserve
Gustavus, AK

Towering spruce trees, wetlands, and beaches at the edge of Glacier Bay National Park.

Shivering Sands
Sturgeon Bay, WI

Tranquil forests of beech, red maple, and hemlock along Lake Michigan's shores.



Nature Gives Us So Much

We hope each new outdoor experience helps renew your passion for nature. Because it's so important to preserve that feeling — and the gifts — that only nature can give us.

For decades, The Nature Conservancy has led the way in saving some of our world's most spectacular places — from wild bison rangelands to towering mountain peaks to sandy shorelines. Every place we protect and every species kept from harm's way is made possible with support from caring people who value nature's treasures.

[When you make a contribution to The Nature Conservancy](#), you're preserving extraordinary places — for today, and so future generations can experience the wonders of our natural world.

Thank you to the millions of members, partners, and supporters who are making a difference on the ground, each and every day.

*These incredible places are managed by The Nature Conservancy,
the state, and other local partners. Preserve access varies.*

*Visit [nature.org/preserves](https://www.nature.org/preserves) for detailed visitor information
on these locations and other places we protect.*