

50 Quick Trips

When you really need a long weekend away, you don't want to waste a lot of time getting there. Here's a great escape in every state.

by Amy Chen, Beth Collins, and Naomi Lindt **FROM** Spring/Summer 2008 *Girlfriend Getaways* [Subscribe Now](#)

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Restaurants and shops are popping up in and around Southside. Highlights include Frank Stitt's Bottega Café, which serves Italian cuisine (bottegarrestaurant.com); the Garage Cafe courtyard, where folks come for live music and drinks among old statues, doors, and iron gates (garagecafe.us); and Soca Clothing, which stocks cute dresses and denim (socaclothing.com). Cobb Lane, a seven-room Victorian B&B, has a wraparound porch (cobblanebandb.com, from \$89).



[+] [Enlarge photo](#)

San Antonio's River Walk (Randy Faris/Corbis)

ALASKA

Homer

This community of artists and fishermen on Kenai Peninsula has plenty of shops, galleries, and restaurants to fill a weekend—not counting all the outdoorsy action in nearby Kachemak Bay State Park. Watch sea otters in Kachemak Bay from a private deck at Land's End Resort (lands-end-resort.com, from \$79).

ARIZONA

Sedona

Sedona's red rocks are best seen from hiking trails in Coconino National Forest (fs.fed.us). There's wildlife even in the midst of shops and restaurants: The outdoor plazas of Tlaquepaque Arts & Crafts Village attract goldfinches, scrub jays, and quail (tlaq.com). Janet and Philippe Builet run A Sunset Chateau, a 23-suite B&B overlooking red rock formations, with Janet's paintings as decoration (asunsetchateau.com, from \$199).

ARKANSAS

Eureka Springs

Originally a Victorian-era Ozark spa town, Eureka Springs now attracts visitors with the therapeutic benefits of the quaint stores and galleries in its historic downtown. The Crescent Hotel and Spa is said to be the country's most haunted hotel. Feeling jumpy? Calm down with a chamomile-and-lavender scalp massage at the hotel's New Moon Spa (crescent-hotel.com, from \$109).

CALIFORNIA

Ojai

Zen out in Ojai, 90 minutes north of L.A., where galleries, wine bars, and spas are as plentiful as the orchards growing just outside of town. Take a hike in the mountains and then relax with a title from Bart's Books, an outdoor bookstore located under a gigantic grapefruit tree (bartsbooksojai.com). Artworks from regional artists decorate the dozen mission-style rooms at the Blue Iguana Inn (blueiguanainn.com, from \$109).