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**PLUS
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chance to win,
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**Weight-loss
secrets your doctor
tells her friends**

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**FIND YOUR BEAUTY
BREAKTHROUGH!**

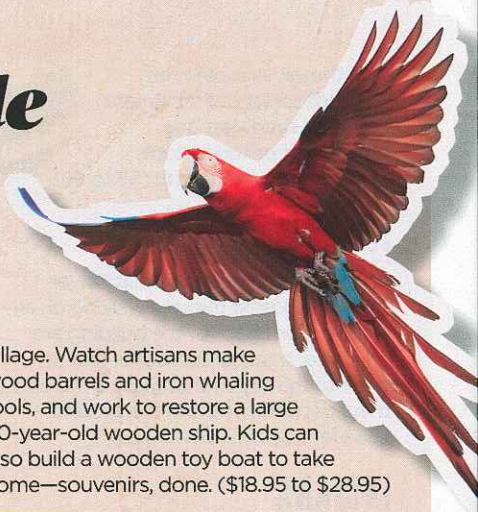
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MARCH 2017 \$3.99



This country is incredible

Welcome to our state-by-state guide to an unforgettable family vacation. Your next adventure could be a mere five-minute drive away. Or, a five-hour flight—you've got the freedom to choose, people! **BY KRISTI VALENTINI**



ALABAMA

▶ Learn about life as an astronaut at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville—no rigorous NASA physical necessary. Big kids can ride the Space Shot, which launches up 140 feet in 2.5 seconds to simulate 4Gs of force, while little ones can inspect a charred space capsule, a legit moon rock, and other cool planetary artifacts. (\$16 to \$24)

ALASKA

▶ The Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center in Portage is the place for spotting (and taking Instagram-worthy photos of) Alaskan wildlife like moose and wolves against a breathtaking backdrop of meadows and moss-covered ponds. You can also witness bear feeding along the 1.5-mile loop. (\$10 to \$15)

ARIZONA

▶ At night, the telescopes at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff are powerful enough to check in on faraway planets (Saturn, have you lost weight?) as well as star clusters. During the day, you can spot solar flares on the sun. (\$6 to \$12)

ARKANSAS

▶ How'd you like a necklace made out of something a wee bit fancier than macaroni? At Crater of Diamonds State Park, everyone can dig for hours in its 37-acre volcanic soil area for white, brown, and yellow diamonds. On average, two diamonds are found daily. (\$6 to \$10)

CALIFORNIA

▶ For an honest-to-goodness behind-the-scenes glimpse of Hollywood, take the three-hour Warner Bros. Studio Tour Hollywood in Burbank. You'll see soundstages where beloved TV shows and movies are filmed, back lots (basically fake towns), an awesome prop warehouse, and even the iconic *Friends* Central Perk Café. (\$52 to \$62)

COLORADO

▶ Mesa Verde National Park's 600 ancient cliff dwellings—structures constructed from sandstone blocks that look as if they were carved out of the mountain—are just as incredible as Peru's Machu Picchu, but way more local. Cliff Palace, a 150-room complex built by the Ancestral Puebloans in the 13th century, is one of the most impressive examples. (From \$15)

CONNECTICUT

▶ The charming Mystic Seaport is a living history museum, portraying life in a 19th-century New England seafaring

DELAWARE

▶ Inside Winterthur Museum, you'll find an astounding collection of decorative arts (like a painstakingly detailed doll "mansion"). Outside, a whimsical children's garden has a giant bird's nest, toadstools, and thatched-roof cottages designed for woodland fairies. (\$5 to \$20)

FLORIDA

▶ At Walt Disney World, the magic just does. not. quit. This summer you can explore Animal Kingdom's new land "Pandora: The World of *Avatar*"—a bioluminescent rainforest inspired by the film—on a boat ride through a winding river or atop a flying reptile, soaring over the trees. (Included with park admission)

GEORGIA

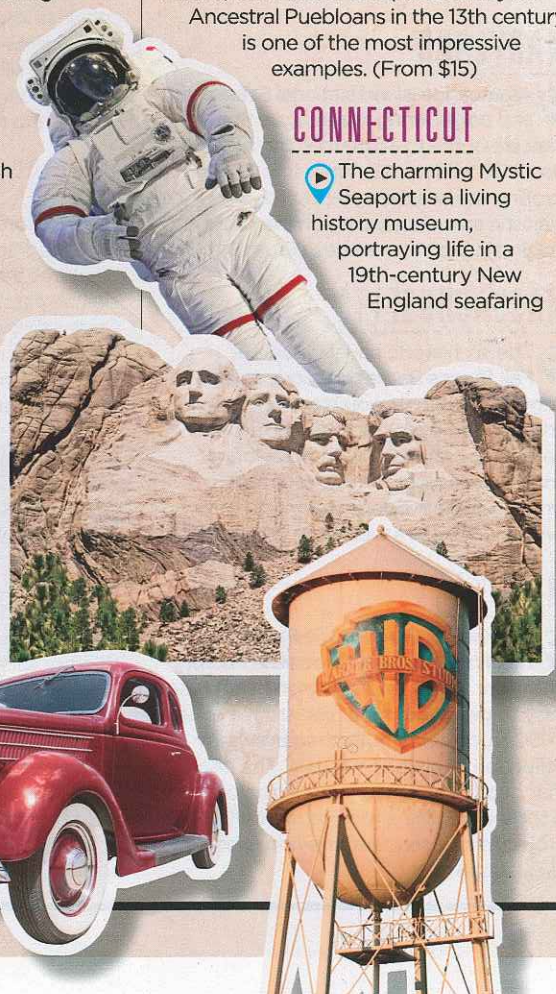
▶ There's only one aquarium on this whole entire list, and that's because no other can top it. Georgia Aquarium (North America's largest), in Atlanta, is home to tens of thousands of animals, including giant manta rays and 20-foot-long whale sharks. (\$33.95 to \$39.95)

HAWAII

▶ Jaggar Museum on the Big Island is a terrific place to learn about volcanoes, but out on the observation deck (open 24/7) is where you can get up close to one. The nearby volcano is still active, which means you're looking not at an empty crater, but a crater with an 800-foot-wide lava lake. (\$20 per vehicle)

IDAHO

▶ The secret to inspiring good behavior: walking the eerie halls of Old Idaho Penitentiary, a prison in Boise that held roughly 13,000 criminals from 1872 to 1973.



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