

While the current economic climate may not allow you the flexibility to take them on a dream vacation, don't throw out the idea altogether. It's time for a paradigm shift from costly hotel rooms, expensive flights and pricey meals for a more palatable vacation solution.

Don't get caught up in the idea that you're without a choice in this current economic climate. The reality is, you do have a choice. Take back your power by substituting everyday distraction with a course of action. This Web portal was created to help you do just that.

Let this guide of gear suggestions and links serve as a resource to help you plan your next camp-cation, or closer-to-home camping vacation. After all, it's about spending family time, not your savings account. Family togetherness is well worth the investment.



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Camping



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- [Sun Shades, Gazebos & Screenhouses](#)
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- [Sleeping Bags](#)

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- [Pads](#)
- [Airbeds](#)
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- [Insect Repellent & Control](#)
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- [Heaters & Accessories](#)
- [Insect Repellent & Control](#)
- [Kids' Camping](#)
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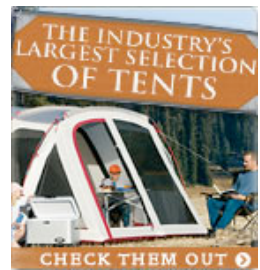
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- [Travel Trailer & 5th Wheel Acc.](#)
- [Generators & Accessories](#)
- [Chargers & Power Packs](#)
- [Chairs & Tables](#)
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Shopping Tools

[Catalog Quick Order](#)
[Buyer's Guides](#)
[Comparison Charts](#)
[Sizing Charts](#)
[Shipping Info](#)
[Cabela's Live Help](#)
[Special Orders](#)
[Free Catalog](#)
[Customer Reviews](#)
[Online Catalogs](#)

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[Gun Library](#)
[Boats & Boat Shops](#)
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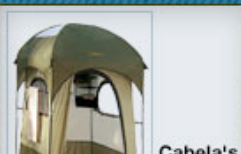
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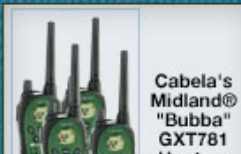
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- [LIGHTS](#)
- [CAMP ESSENTIALS](#)
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Fly-Fishing
Boating

Camping
Auto & ATV

Food & Food Prep
Home & Cabin
Gifts & Hobbies

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Gift Cards & Certificates

Shopping Tools

Catalog Quick Order
Buyer's Guides
Comparison Charts
Sizing Charts
Shipping Info
Cabela's Live Help
Special Orders
Free Catalog
Customer Reviews
Online Catalogs

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Gun Library
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Outdoor Adventures
Cabela's Travel Service
Trophy Properties
TAGS



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Archery
Shooting Gear
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Optics
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Fishing
Fly-Fishing
Boating

Camping
Auto & ATV

Food & Food Prep
Home & Cabin
Gifts & Hobbies

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Gift Cards & Certificates

Shopping Tools

Catalog Quick Order
Buyer's Guides
Comparison Charts
Sizing Charts
Shipping Info
Cabela's Live Help
Special Orders
Free Catalog
Customer Reviews
Online Catalogs

Other Departments

Gun Library
Boats & Boat Shops
Outdoor Adventures
Cabela's Travel Service
Trophy Properties
TAGS

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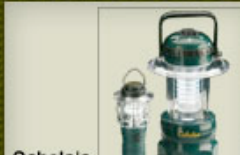
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Camping
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Buyer's Guides
Comparison Charts
Sizing Charts
Shipping Info
Cabela's Live Help
Special Orders
Free Catalog
Customer Reviews
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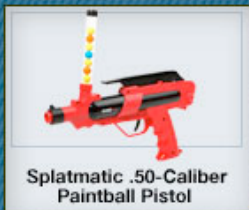
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Techniques



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Out here, taking the path of most resistance is the norm. This region is legendary for its hiking trails, like the 2,175-mile Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Known as "the people's path," it traverses through wild woods and culturally significant lands of the Appalachian Mountains. **Kathleen Pilney**



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This region is home to "the land of 10,000 lakes" and the mammoth-sized Great Lakes, so exploring these freshwater seas is an obvious choice. Endless scenic and recreational attractions stretch across Minnesota's North Shore and the Lake Superior shoreline. **Kathleen Pilney**



[Regional Trip Ideas: Western Region](#)

Welcome to the West, the home of majestic mountaintops that sprawl across landscapes far and wide. Here, hiking, backcountry adventures, hot springing and river rafting are a way of life. **Kathleen Pilney**

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- Field Guides
- Product Videos
- Talk Forums
- Game & Fish Info
- Trophy Room
- Recipes

[Home](#) > [Outdoor Info](#) > [Field Guides](#) > [Camping/Hiking: Techniques](#) **You are here:** Regional Trip Ideas: Western Region.

Field Guide Story

Regional Trip Ideas: Western Region

Welcome to the West, the home of majestic mountaintops that sprawl across landscapes far and wide. Here, hiking, backcountry adventures, hot springing and river rafting are a way of life.

Author: **Kathleen Pilney**

Get your fill of the Grand Teton mountain range in northwestern Wyoming, which soar over 13,000 feet. Right out their backdoor is Yellowstone National Park, otherwise known as America's first national park. And closer to Boise, you'll find Hells Canyon, Idaho – a ten-mile wide canyon and North America's deepest river gorge at 7,993 feet.



Take a whitewater-rafting trip down the scenic Snake River through the canyon. While floating, you'll bear witness to the Seven Devils mountain range to the east. You'll also have the chance to visit Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, which holds 652,488 acres of beauty and adventure.



Or visit Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado. Trail Ridge Road, the highest continually paved road in the U.S., takes you up to an elevation of 12,183 feet to the continental divide. All kinds of trails run through the park for photo opportunities of brilliant waterfalls, trees, lakes and wildflowers.

So pick the mountainside attraction that'll fill your camping passion. Now is the time to get up-close and personal with these majestic mountaintops.

It's your turn to guide us. Go to the talk forum section at [cabelas.com](http://forums.cabelas.com) and let us know which camping topics you'd like us to cover, destinations that deserve attention, and gear recommendations you'd like to suggest to fellow campers. Comments can be posted under the "General Outdoors" heading at the bottom of our forum page at <http://forums.cabelas.com/>. Together, we'll create the Cabela's camping evolution.

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- Field Guides
- Product Videos
- Talk Forums
- Game & Fish Info
- Trophy Room
- Recipes

[Home](#) > [Outdoor Info](#) > [Field Guides](#) > [Camping/Hiking: Techniques](#) **You are here:** Eastern Region.

Field Guide Story

Eastern Region

Out here, taking the path of most resistance is the norm. This region is legendary for its hiking trails, like the 2,175-mile Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Known as "the people's path," it traverses through wild woods and culturally significant lands of the Appalachian Mountains.

Author: **Kathleen Pilney**

Or you might opt to hike the Long Trail, Vermont's "footpath in the wilderness" that crosses over the area's highest peaks. The Long Trail is the oldest long-distance hiking trail in America and the inspiration for the Appalachian Trail, which it overlaps in the southern portion of the state. With its 270-mile footpath, 175 miles of side trails and nearly 70 primitive shelters, the Long Trail offers endless hiking for the day hiker, weekend overnighiter and extended backpacker.



So pick your backpacking passion and get ready to climb rugged peaks and pass by pristine ponds. It's time to start walking the walk.



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- Field Guides
- Product Videos
- Talk Forums
- Game & Fish Info
- Trophy Room
- Recipes

[Home](#) > [Outdoor Info](#) > [Field Guides](#) > [Camping/Hiking: Techniques](#) **You are here:** North-Central Region.

Field Guide Story

North-Central Region

This region is home to "the land of 10,000 lakes" and the mammoth-sized Great Lakes, so exploring these freshwater seas is an obvious choice. Endless scenic and recreational attractions stretch across Minnesota's North Shore and the Lake Superior shoreline.

Author: **Kathleen Pilney**

Ride the Madeline Island Ferry from the south shore of Lake Superior, Wis., to Madeline Island, the most southern of the Apostle Islands. Once there, paddle canoes or sea kayaks in and out of the awe-inspiring Bayfield Sea Caves along the Meyers Beach shoreline. Then, spend a night camping out at Big Bay State Park.



You can also take the Great Lakes Circle Tour, a 6,500-mile scenic road system that connects all of the lakes and the St. Lawrence River. You'll see magnificent dune-lands and majestic cliffs along the freshwater coastlines.

So what are you waiting for? Pick your freshwater maritime passion and prepare yourself to get carried away in the water.



It's your turn to guide us. Go to the talk forum section at [cabelas.com](http://forums.cabelas.com) and let us know which camping topics you'd like us to cover, destinations that deserve attention, and gear recommendations you'd like to suggest to fellow campers. Comments can be posted under the "General Outdoors" heading at the bottom of our forum page at

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- Field Guides
- Product Videos
- Talk Forums
- Game & Fish Info
- Trophy Room
- Recipes

[Home](#) > [Outdoor Info](#) > [Field Guides](#) > [Camping/Hiking: Techniques](#) **You are here:** South-Central Region.

Field Guide Story

South-Central Region

What better way to combine education and nature than checking out birds and wildlife within the region's many nature preserves and refuge systems?

Author: **Kathleen Pilney**

A must-see that comes to mind is Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge in northwestern Missouri. The 7,350-acre refuge is a resting, feeding and breeding ground for migratory birds and wildlife, and home to a diversity of habitats.



Go farther south to Texas, and you'll find over 625 species of birds in this birding capital of America. In fact, the Rio Grande Valley in the southernmost tip of Texas is considered the nation's no. 1 bird-watching destination.

Los Ebanos Nature Preserve is also located in the valley and host of an 82-acre, private nature preserve full of birds, gardens and nature trails. Or visit Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, a preserve in central Texas where endangered animals roam freely in their 1,700-acre haven. The exotic animals include the cheetah, zebras, gazelles and emu.



So pick your birding and wildlife passion – and get your senses ready to run as wild as the animals you'll encounter.

It's your turn to guide us. Go to the talk forum section at [cabelas.com](http://forums.cabelas.com) and let us know which camping topics you'd like us to cover, destinations that deserve attention, and gear recommendations you'd

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- Field Guides
- Product Videos
- Talk Forums
- Game & Fish Info
- Trophy Room
- Recipes

[Home](#) > [Outdoor Info](#) > [Field Guides](#) > [Camping/Hiking: Gear](#) **You are here:** Family Camping Front-Country Gear List.

Field Guide Story

Family Camping Front-Country Gear List

As you already know, a lot of thought goes into planning a family vacation. There's the research phase to decide where to go, budget concerns, time management constraints, pre-trip preparations – and then there's the packing. Planning a family vacation doesn't have to be a logistical nightmare. Use this list as a general guideline of what to bring, and as a reminder of overlooked items. Feel free to modify it to fit your needs. And more importantly, wherever your travels take you, have a satisfying and memorable family trip.



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Tip: Using preassembled totes with an item checklist taped to the lid of each is an easy way to save on prep time for yearly trips. Make notes on the checklist to replace items that you've used up.

Linen Tote	
Item	Notes or tips
<input type="checkbox"/> Extra blanket for cooler weather, or ground cover	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tablecloth	
<input type="checkbox"/> Washcloths	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swim towels	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pillows/pillowcases	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dish towels, dish cloths, scouring pad	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pot holders/oven mitts	
<input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper, paper towels	
Dishware Tote	
Item	Notes or tips
<input type="checkbox"/> Coffee percolator	
<input type="checkbox"/> Large stockpot for boiling food and dishwater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Saucepans and skillets	Tip: Use old pans that need to be replaced, or purchase them at a garage sale or second-hand store specifically for camping use.

<input type="checkbox"/> Bug repellent	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogen peroxide	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen	
<input type="checkbox"/> Duct tape	
<input type="checkbox"/> Citronella candle	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cotton swabs/Q-tips®	
<input type="checkbox"/> Scissors	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fire starter, lighter fluid	

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