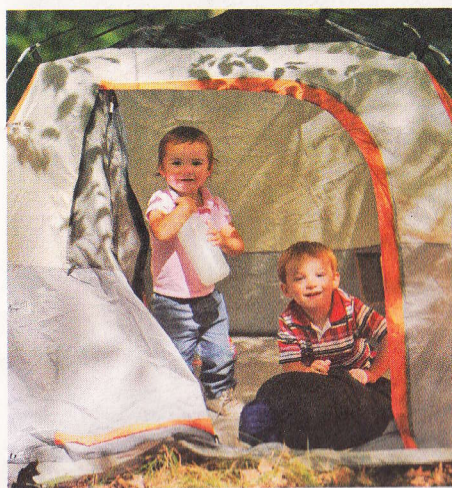


10 TripTiks®

By Craig Idlebrook

As the weather warms, we love to flock to campgrounds to get away from the daily grind and reconnect with nature. These days, there are campgrounds that appeal to every type of camper, from the long-trail hiker to the RV retiree. Whether you're looking for a family vacation or a romantic getaway, camping options abound. Here are 10 destinations within a day's drive to consider for your next camping trip:

1. Narrows Too Camping Resort, Trenton, Maine: This tidal area is a perfect jumping-off point to explore the two distinct sides of Acadia National Park, which is located on an island connected to the mainland with a bridge.



J. Rozell/OPRHP

Youngsters enjoy camping at Letchworth State Park in upstate New York.

Set up camp, stay a little while

The campground offers shaded sites and waterfront breezes for tent and RV camping, as well as log-cabin rentals. It's a short drive from the region's best shopping, and it's even a stop on the route of the park's free bus service.

2. Baxter State Park, Millinocket, Maine: If you're up for the drive and you want a remote camping experience, Baxter State Park is a great northern hideaway. The rustic park is the ending point for the Appalachian Trail, and you can rent a cabin or pitch a tent right up against Mount Katahdin, the largest peak in Maine. Cellphone service often doesn't reach here, so you'll have nothing to interrupt your hike or paddle.

3. Smugglers' Notch State Park, Stowe, Vt.: As the name suggests, here you can camp near old smuggling trails hidden in the Green Mountains of northern Vermont. Stowe now is better known for ski resorts and breathtaking views than bootlegging, but the lore remains of goods hidden in the caves and cliffs that hikers and spelunkers can explore. The region also offers great Vermont-crafted foods and goods shopping, should your calves tire of the steep climbs.

4. Ames Brook Campground, Ashland, N.H.: This campground is well-regarded for its neat grounds and family-friendly atmosphere. It offers good swimming and a game room, among other amenities. Staying here, you're within an hour's drive of some of the best that New Hampshire has to offer, from mine tours to beach towns.

5. Normandy Farms Campground, Foxborough, Mass.: The outdoor life gets an extreme makeover at Normandy Farms, where the line between camp-



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Gettysburg Campground in Pennsylvania has tent and RV sites, plus cottages, to give visitors a variety of options.

ground and resort blurs. It's an active family's dream, with grounds that include four pools, a movie theater, a stunt-bike park and a Frisbee golf course. Normandy Farms is halfway between Boston and Cape Cod in case you get bored, which seems unlikely.

6. Witch Meadow Lake Campground, Salem, Conn.: Witch Meadow boasts a 14-acre lake, with a sandy beach and a water slide, so the whole family can enjoy swimming, boating and fishing. When you get too shivery and wrinkled, you can move on to other amenities, including tennis and mini-golf. The campground is nicely located for access to casinos, ferry service and summer theater.

7. Letchworth State Park, Mount Morris, N.Y.: Picture Niagara Falls, except with more greenery and fewer crowds – that's what you get with this state park. From the campsite, you can hike 66 miles of trails and take in dozens of waterfalls in the midst of what is billed the "Grand Canyon of the East." The park accommodates everything from primitive camping to RV hookups.

8. Gettysburg Campground, Gettysburg, Pa.: Military buffs will salivate at camping so close to the site of the Civil War's defining battle, but this campground works hard to provide fun for the whole family. While the historian in your family spends the day tromp-

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