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TRAVEL

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Tour and Park News: Sonoma by Bike; Photos in Yellowstone



The Tour de Sonoma. Sonoma on a Bike

NEW NATIONAL PARK IN NEW MEXICO

The 89,000-acre [Valles Caldera National Preserve](#) in the Jemez Mountains near Los Alamos in northern New Mexico was officially dedicated this week as a national park. Wild and undeveloped, the park preserves a 13-mile-wide crater of a dormant supervolcano, home to elk herds, grasslands and pine forests. The park offers few roads and services, and hosts just 10 primitive campsites for Saturday-night stays only, with no water and electricity. Visiting hikers, cyclists, snowshoers and cross-country skiers are encouraged to bring all supplies with them. The nearest gas station is 20 miles away.

WOLF PHOTO SAFARI IN YELLOWSTONE

[Wildlife Expeditions of Teton Science Schools](#), an outfitter that specializes in Yellowstone National Park safaris, will add a photo safari focused on the park's wolves next spring. Guided by biologists and photographers, the new eight-day trip spends much of its time in the Lamar Valley, center of Yellowstone's wolf packs, in six-passenger vehicles with sunroofs that allow photographers to stand up and shoot outdoors. The itinerary takes in some of Yellowstone's [geothermal](#) wonders, and the final day features a sightseeing flight over the park and an afternoon snowshoe hike. Trips run between March 6 and 28 and cost \$4,495 per person.

SONOMA BY BIKE

The new cycling outfitter [Sonoma on a Bike](#) has introduced a hard-core tour of wine country modeled on the mileage put in daily on the [Tour de France](#). The new Tour de Sonoma Bike Tour puts cyclists in the saddle for 50 to 80 miles per day, with one 90-mile ride, and includes two legs of the professional Amgen cycling tour of California. While the cycling is extreme, everything else is indulgent, from winery visits to high-end restaurant meals, daily massages and luxury accommodations. A support van will carry wine purchases, gear and, when energy flags, guests. The next regularly scheduled tour takes off Nov. 8 and schedules resume in spring, though private tours can be arranged year-round. The six-day trip costs \$3,400 per person, double occupancy, and includes the use of bikes.

CELEBRATING NATURE IN THE FLORIDA KEYS

November marks the 25th anniversary of the [Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary](#). The preserve protects 2,900 square nautical miles of water around the Florida Keys from south of Miami to the Dry Tortugas islands. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration says its boundaries include the third largest barrier reef in the world. To mark its anniversary, the sanctuary will hold a Family Fun Festival on Nov. 8 at the Islander Resort in Islamorada featuring a free fishing clinic for children, live music, a pig roast and speakers discussing the history of protecting the reef.

→ FALL COLOR (AND BEER) ON WHEELS IN MAINE

Through Nov. 13, travelers in Maine can catch fall color on a bike provided by the new [Press Hotel](#) in Portland, Me. Its new Bikes & Brews picnic package includes bike rentals, a lunch prepared at the hotel's Union Restaurant and, post-ride, a sampling of three seasonal beers from the local Allagash Brewery back at the hotel's Inkwell bar. Rooms start at \$239 per night, and the package costs \$50 per person.