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The Roadtrip:

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BEERS



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STATES

and

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On the Road

HITTING THE OPEN ROAD THIS SUMMER? HERE ARE THREE ADVENTUROUS ROUTES THAT PAY OFF BIG-TIME WITH TASTY BEER AND AMAZING VIEWS.

ALASKA: From Anchorage to Homer, **Highway 1's** lined with jutting glaciers, snow-capped peaks and moose-filled wilderness. The stunning 224-mile drive alternates between saltwater bays and mountain-lined river valleys. Along the way, take a load off at **The Homer Brewing Co.** (www.homerbrew.com), located at the end of the road in the glacier-ringed Kachemak Bay. There you'll find first-class, cask-conditioned ales and pristine views of the water. The next stop requires you to venture down the Homer Spit to the **Salty Dawg Saloon** (www.saltydawgsaloon.com), a crusty little watering hole that opened before Alaska came into the Union. For the adventurous spirit, visit one of the world's richest estuaries on a glacier tour via kayak (www.homerkayaking.com) or float plane tour (www.homer-alaskacharters.com).

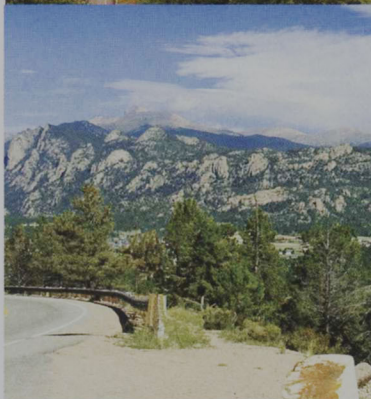
Tip: You can drive it in five hours, but plan for eight with jaw-dropping scenery stops. Mid-summer days offer 12 hours of light.

NORTH CAROLINA: This state's a road-lover's dream. Start the drive in Asheville and skirt just south of the Smoky Mountains to Robbinsville. Head north from there on the \$100-million **Cherochala Skyway** (www.cherochalaskyway.com), 36 miles of snaking asphalt goodness that crosses a 6,000-foot pass to Tellico Plains, Tenn. But before you make that trek, don't miss **Green Man Brewing** (www.jackofthewood.com) in Asheville, which brews English and Belgian ales and porters. Tour the brewery or visit Jack of the Wood bar for a sample. The historic, luxurious **Snowbird Mountain Lodge** (www.snowbirdlodge.com) in Robbinsville is home to the Fireside Bar, which has locally brewed Heinzelmännchen (www.yourgnetowntownbrewery.com) on tap and 39 bottled beers available. If you're not afraid of water, raft the Class III and IV rapids of the upper **Ocoee River** (www.endlessriveradventures.com). This challenging run was the 1966 Olympics Slalom course.

Tip: Take Highway 129 to Deals Gap and drive the **Tail of the Dragon** (www.tailofthedragon.com), a twisty road favored by bikers and sports car fans.

COLORADO: Start in Fort Collins and head north to **Highway 36** through Estes Park. The mountaintop road crosses a high point of 12,183 feet, and the 48-mile stretch between the town of Estes Park and Grand Lake is the highest point-to-point highway in the country. Make a pit stop at **Odell Brewing** (www.odells.com) in Fort Collins for Woodcut No. 2 (www.woodcutbeer.com), an oak-aged golden ale that'll set you back a cool \$25 for a 750mL bottle. Mingle with the locals in nearby Lyons at **The Oskar Blues Cajun Grill & Brewery** for its canned microbrews, gumbo or fried catfish, and top-bill live blues acts such as John Lee Hooker and Pinetop Perkins. If the drive is giving you dead-leg, take in the mountaintop splendor of Estes Park on a scenic trail ride at **Cowpoke Corner Corral** (www.nationalparkgatewaystables.com).

Tip: Time your drive midweek to avoid the flood of visitors to Estes Park on the weekends.



Where Are You Drinking?

A fictional rock band once sang about a "strange race of people;" the same race from which this Walking City pub derives its identity. Dart in from the student-packed streets that crisscross the ivory tower area, and you're likely to find a cozy seat in this quaint, dark-wood watering hole. Cast your eyes upon numerous relics celebrating the contribution Emerald descendants have had on this country, or stare in wonder at the bar's illuminated ghosts as you sip a local lager, the most famous microbrew in the nation. Where are you drinking?

E-mail answers to win@draftmag.com; of those who guess correctly, one lucky bar explorer will win a DRAFT hat and T-shirt. For contest rules, visit www.draftmag.com.



HERBED AND INFUSED

We know beer lovers who are militantly purist—nary an orange wedge shall trace their glass!—but we're not that uptight. So, when Tea Forte, maker of those delicate, oolong-filled pyramids you see at the boutiques your wife shops at, revealed a collection of flavored cocktail infusers, we got all avant-garde and dropped them in beers. None of the brews we tried paired well with the "lemongrass mint" flavor, and the "silkroad chai" tasted OK in Anchor Porter, but the real champ was "lavender citrus," an assembly of white tea, lavender, lemon balm and bergamot. In Sam Adams' Summer Ale, the beer's finish became even smoother, perked up by lavender and earthy spice. A glass of Cusqueña became liquid gingerbread. Eight infusions (single flavors or a collection of all three, see www.teaforte.com) will run you \$12. Mix up a few glasses, and tell us what worked at www.draftmag.com.



SWEET CANS!

The Experts appraise your old beer cans.

Beer: Time Saver

According to Joe Germino of the Brewery Collectibles Club of America, Time Saver was brewed for New Orleans convenience stores of the same name throughout the 1970s to early '80s. But despite its campaign of high-quality imbibing, Germino claims the experience was anything but. "It was sold at Time Saver convenience stores as a cheap, quick beer purchase. It was billed as a premium beer but far from it." These convenience store brands were actually a popular theme across the country during that era—much like Cost Cutter beer in the West, 9-0-5 in the Midwest and 7-Eleven beer in the East. But like most flash trends, all that's left today are collectible relics from a bygone era.

Estimated value: Roughly \$1 each

BEER TRICK

SAVE YOUR SHRUBS

Know who's attracted to the smell of fermented yeast? Those pesky garden slugs that attack your plants. Take action against the garden gastropod with your favorite beer: Bury a yogurt cup so the top is at ground level, fill it with beer, and wait. It won't eradicate the population, but should trap enough to give your plants a fighting chance.