

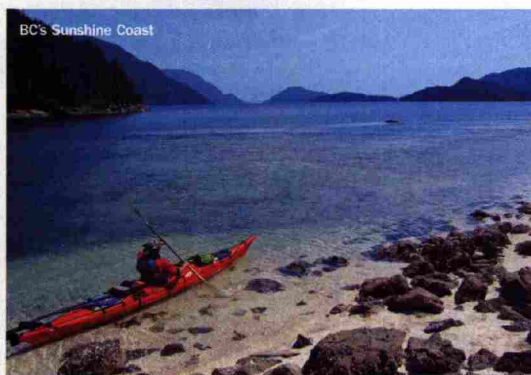
INSTANT ADVENTURES

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Climb Fossil Falls

Fossil Falls, a little-known top-rope paradise east of Highway 395 just north of Little Lake (follow Cinder Road east to the signed 2WD dirt road), is a great high-desert alternative to the hubbub at Joshua Tree. A defunct stretch of the Owens River long ago carved this dried-up defile out of volcanic rock, leaving a low, narrow canyon about a half mile long that's pocked with cracks and holds. One-pitch climbs from 5.1 to 5.11 suit every taste—if one doesn't taste good, there's another one next door that will. The lands below the cliff have been inhabited for 15,000 years, when the world's proto-campers bedded down along the now dry lakes and rivers of the Mojave Desert. Up top are views of the southern Sierra, an 11-site primitive campground with water, and, at night, a sky that's far, far from city lights (\$6; blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/ridgecrest/fossil.html).

OREGON
Ski In, Raft Out

Ski The combo of great snow up high and sunshine down below in Oregon's eastern Cascades makes it plausible—if not obligatory—to ski corn snow on Mount Bachelor one day and ride the runoff on the Upper Deschutes River the next. Bachelor's 9,060-foot summit and last winter's big snowfalls assure reliable skiing well into May (there's also a drop in the \$56 lift ticket tariff; mtbachelor.com), while Sun Country Raft Tours kicks into gear May 1 with its Deschutes Big Eddy Thriller (\$46; suncountrytours.com). Tall ponderosa pines and dark lava rocks line the way, but the real draw is Class III Big Eddy itself: It churns and swirls for nearly half the three-mile trip. Sun Country will pick you up at Sunriver Resort, a timber-hewn lodge that excels at winter play—it sits near the base of Bachelor—and spring flings—it partners with a dozen outfitters, from fly-fishing guides to charter-jet flyboys (\$175; sunriver-resort.com).



BRITISH COLUMBIA
Float the Full Moon

It's hard to decide on the most compelling reason to stay at Rockwater Secret Cove Resort on BC's Sunshine Coast north of Vancouver: the luxe canvas "tenthouse suite"—replete with ocean-view bathtub, heated slate floor, and private deck overlooking the rocky shoreline—or the opportunity to paddle three miles out to Thormanby Island under a full moon for a

multicourse repast, cooked on the spot by the resort's chef. Rockwater offers a package that includes a midnight ramble during full moons from May through September (\$545; rockwatersecretcoveresort.com). Full moon or not, the paddling's great anytime, and Halfmoon Sea Kayaks is on-site for rentals of swift fiberglass boats (\$32 for a half day) and guided tours of nearby coves and islands (\$100 for a half day; halfmoonseakayaks.com).

PHOTOGRAPHS, FROM LEFT: PATITUCCI/PHOTO/AURORA PHOTOS; RYAN BONNEAU