

Happy Birthd

1 | THE FIRST FIREWORKS!

Juneau, AK

Alaska may have been the second-to-last state to join the union, but Alaskans get out of the gate first on July 4. To work around their summer schedule (18 hours of sunlight a day), the town sends up its fireworks at 12:01 a.m. in order to guarantee dark skies. Each shot booms off the dramatic coastal mountains and reflects off the surrounding water. The morning ushers in a parade of marching bands belting out patriotic favorites alongside kids riding bikes with playing-card-adorned spokes.



2 | THE OLDEST CELEBRATION!

Bristol, RI

Locals refer to Bristol as America's Most Patriotic Town, and you might, too, after a visit to their 226th Fourth of July celebration, the longest continuously running in the country. Join more than 100,000 people (tripling the town's size) for a parade that includes bagpipers, firefighters and winners of the Little Miss Fourth of July contest. The day ends with a fireworks display over Bristol Harbor. To cover the price tag, locals hold fundraisers throughout the year—a formal ball and a grilled cheese cook-off, both good excuses to return.



3 | A UFO FESTIVAL!

Roswell, NM

Did the famous otherworldly wreckage found in this town come from a weather balloon or a flying saucer? If you said the latter, you'll fit right in at the UFO Fest (July 1-4, ufofestivalroswell.com). Alongside fellow believers, you can join the Alien Barbecue and Brew competition; an alien costume contest and parade; and the Alien Chase, a 5K and 10K run. Between events, take in a lecture by an abduction expert at the International UFO Museum and Research Center (roswellufomuseum.com; \$5 adult admission, \$2 lecture).



4 | A PORK-FILLED PICNIC!

San Juan Island, WA

This island off the coast of Washington State almost wasn't part of the United States at all. In 1859, when the island's sovereignty was being debated, a man on San Juan Island killed a pig he found in his potato patch. Incredibly, this sparked a standoff between the British and island residents, which lasted for 12 years and was dubbed the Pig War. Every Fourth of July, 2,000-plus revelers celebrate with a Pig War Picnic at the San Juan Historical Museum (\$5, sjmuseum.org). What's for lunch? Pulled pork sandwiches, of course.



★ **Reader deal:** View the fireworks from the roof deck Jacuzzi at the Silverbow Inn, where do-not-disturb signs featuring a pinup girl hang on the doors of 11 quirkily decorated rooms. Red, white and blue bagels will be served for breakfast. Mention *Every Day* for 10 percent off room rates from July 1 to July 4. (120 Second St., 800-586-4146, silverbowinn.com; doubles from \$189 before discount)

★ **Reader deal:** You'll have the best view of the fireworks from the deck of the Bristol Harbor Inn, one block from the parade. Mention *Every Day* and get 15 percent off rates through July, a bottle of sparkling wine and a \$50 gift card for hotel restaurant De Wolf Tavern. (259 Thames St., 866-254-1444, bristolharborinn.com; doubles from \$185 before discount, includes breakfast)

★ **Reader deal:** The handmade quilts and lace curtains in the 11-room Artesia Heritage Inn, 45 minutes from Roswell, will bring you pleasantly back down to earth. Mention *Every Day* when booking and take 10 percent off room rates. (209 W. Main St., Artesia, 575-748-2552, artesiaheritageinn.com; doubles from \$104 before discount, includes breakfast)

★ **Reader deal:** Friday Harbor House delivers luxe touches like soft sheets and jetted tubs, all on the water's edge overlooking the fireworks. Mention *Every Day* and get 10 percent off room rates, plus a \$50 dining credit. (130 West St., 866-727-7356, fridayharborhouse.com; doubles from \$285 before discount, includes breakfast)

July in America

BY KAREN CATCHPOLE

5 | A PARADE ON THE RUN!

Atlanta

Was that George Washington whizzing by? The Peachtree Road Race attracts more than 60,000 runners, the largest number of any 10K in the world, with many dressed as patriots. First place gets you \$15,000—incentive to sign up (peachtreeroadrace.org) and start training. After the big race, the city explodes in celebration, with face painting, live music, a laser show superimposed on Stone Mountain, and the Southeast's largest fireworks spectacle (4,000-plus explosions over 30 minutes).

6 | A WINE-AND-DINE TRAIN!

Napa, CA

The best place to watch the fireworks in bucolic Napa Valley is from a velveteen armchair onboard the Napa Valley Wine Train (*from \$109, winetrain.com*). As dusk falls, an elegant vintage railway car will carry you from Napa to Yountville, where it stops for stunning fireworks and a four-course dinner (such as seared foie gras and achiote pork tenderloin, paired with local wines). Dessert (like chocolate tiramisu truffles) is served as the train heads back to Napa.

7 | FREE ICE CREAM!

Savannah, GA

You don't have to scream for it, but you do have to recite the Pledge of Allegiance (by heart) and be 12 or younger to earn a free ice cream cone in July at Leopold's Ice Cream (*212 E. Broughton St., 912-234-4442*). Try fan favorite Tutti Frutti: rum ice cream with candied cherries, pineapples and Georgia pecans. Owner Stratton Leopold started the "I Pledge" Project right here in town (ipledgeforicecream.com), and now a dozen ice cream shops around the U.S. have joined. Save room for the ice-cream-eating contest, one of Savannah's July 4th rituals.

8 | A MIDWEST RIBFEST!

Naperville, IL

"Ribs are the backbones of Americana," say the organizers of Ribfest (*July 1-4, ribfest.net; \$12 per adult per day*), and we couldn't agree more. Seventeen competitive, rib-cookin' chefs from across the country baste their butts off to win the spot of prime pitmaster. Your job is easier: Just bring some cash so you can taste your share of the 100,000-plus pounds of barbecue sold every year. Work it off by dancing to live music courtesy of classic rock bands Styx and REO Speedwagon.



★ **Reader deal:** You'll want to stay and eat at the Westin Peachtree Plaza. Book a table at the restaurant for 360-degree views of the fireworks from more than 70 floors up. Readers take 25 percent off room rates, plus get breakfast for two (a \$52 value). (*210 Peachtree St., 404-659-1400, westinpeachtreeplazaatlanta.com/everyday; doubles from \$210 before discount*)

★ **Reader deal:** Keep the locomotive theme going at the Napa Valley Railway Inn, where rooms are housed in restored 100-year-old train cars. Readers take 10 percent off the rate midweek in July (including July 4) and receive a wine-tasting voucher. (*6523 Washington St., Yountville, 707-944-2000, napavalleyrailwayinn.com; doubles from \$155 before discount*)

★ **Reader deal:** The Olde Harbour Inn is housed in a former warehouse on the banks of the Savannah River, the perfect spot to watch the fireworks. Ask for the *Every Day* discount, good from July 1 to July 5, to take 15 percent off your room rate. (*508 E. Factors Walk, 800-553-6533, oldeharbourinn.com; doubles from \$185 before discount, includes breakfast*)

★ **Reader deal:** The 144-room Hotel Arista provides pillow menus and Wiis, plus shuttle service to the festival. Oh, and Sammy Hagar stayed here when he performed at Ribfest last year. Mention *Every Day* and you'll get a \$99 room rate during the fest—that's a \$60-per-night savings! (*2139 Citygate Lane, 630-579-4100, hotelarista.com; doubles from \$160 before discount*)

DIAL UP THE DEALS!

Get these hotel deals sent to your phone. Download the free mobile app at gettag.mobi and use it to snap this bar code.

