

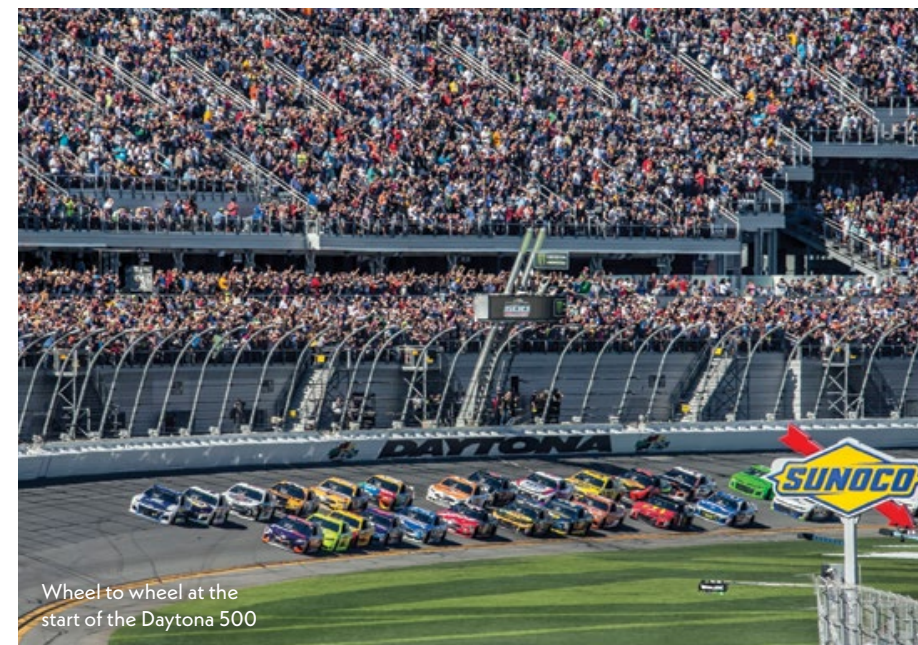
Anyone can play on the world's oldest grass courts in Newport, Rhode Island



# NINE WAYS TO PROVE YOU'RE A GOOD SPORT IN THE USA

VIEW THE MEMORABILIA IN THE SPORTS  
MUSEUMS AND THEN HAVE A GO YOURSELF

BY PAUL WADE



Wheel to wheel at the start of the Daytona 500



American golf star Davis Love III was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2017

If you think that sports museums are all about memorabilia in glass cases, think again. In the USA, you can start by checking out sports history and reliving its great moment – and then test your own skills. Play a simulated round of golf; shoot some baskets; punch a bag; ride in the Kentucky Derby; serve and volley on the world's oldest grass courts. Here are just some of the special places where you can do just that.

## PLAY GOLF LIKE A CHAMPION IN ST AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA

The World Golf Hall of Fame offers lively exhibits, an IMAX theatre and, in the Member Locker room, artefacts donated by legendary players. But why stop there when you can play St Andrews' Old Course on the golf simulator or take the

Hall of Fame Challenge, a closest-to-the-pin contest on the 132-yard Challenge Hole? Your effort at this island green is entered on the leader board, and the monthly winner gets a Hall of Fame Commemorative Brick! There's even more fun outdoors, where you can play the sun-drenched World Golf Village courses, designed by golf's biggest names – Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Sam Snead and Gene Sarazen. World Golf Hall of Fame: [www.worldgolfhalloffame.org](http://www.worldgolfhalloffame.org); World Golf Village: [www.worldgolfvillage.com](http://www.worldgolfvillage.com)

## FLOAT LIKE A BUTTERFLY IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

After watching at least one or two of 15 of the world's most famous boxer's fights on video in the Muhammad Ali Center, try to imitate his moves in the *Train with Ali*

exhibit. On-screen instructions on how to 'float like a butterfly and sting like a bee' are provided by Laila, Ali's daughter and herself a former pro. Then shadow box, work the speed bag and make sure to watch the 14-minute orientation video recalling the highs and lows of Ali's life, including his humanitarian and Civil Rights work. For instance, did you know that he gave the proceeds of his first pro fight to a hospital for disabled children? 'Muhammad Ali Center: [www.alicenter.org](http://www.alicenter.org)

## BECOME A SPEED DEMON IN DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA

Back in 1935, the famous British driver Sir Malcom Campbell was the first to break 300 mph on land; now his car, the futuristic *Bluebird V*, is a highlight of the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America, which opened in 2017 at the Daytona International Speedway. This 2.5-mile concrete oval is home to one of America's top motorsport events, the Daytona 500, where drivers averaging 150 mph speed for about 3½ hours on the steeply-banked track. If you're a real petrolhead, book a NASCAR Racing Experience, which offers several choices. In the three-lap NASCAR Ride Along, you hang on tight and feel the speed while a professional instructor takes the wheel; in the Rookie Experience, first comes instruction, training and a meeting with the crew chief, then you climb in and take the wheel yourself. Eight minutes driving a NASCAR race car – it's pure adrenaline! NASCAR Racing Experience (also at 16 circuits across the USA): [www.nascarracingexperience.com](http://www.nascarracingexperience.com); Daytona Beach: [www.daytonabeach.com](http://www.daytonabeach.com)



Thumbs up, ready to race on one of the world's most celebrated circuits at Daytona Beach



### GET TENNIS TIPS FROM ROGER FEDERER IN NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

Shock, horror! The world's oldest grass courts are not at Wimbledon, but at the Hall of Fame Tennis Club in Newport, Rhode Island. Opened in 1880, alongside what is now the International Tennis Hall of Fame, these 13 courts are home to North America's only pro tournament played on grass. And although this event is only once a year, you can serve, volley and lob at any time; just make sure you book well in advance. Don't miss visiting the Hall of Fame while there – it's a treasure trove of tennis memorabilia, with terrific videos and even an oh-so realistic hologram of 20-time Grand Slam winner Roger Federer explaining his love of tennis and demonstrating some of his signature wristy shots. International Tennis Hall of Fame: [www.tennisfame.com/club](http://www.tennisfame.com/club)

### RIDE THE WAVES IN HUNTINGTON BEACH, CALIFORNIA

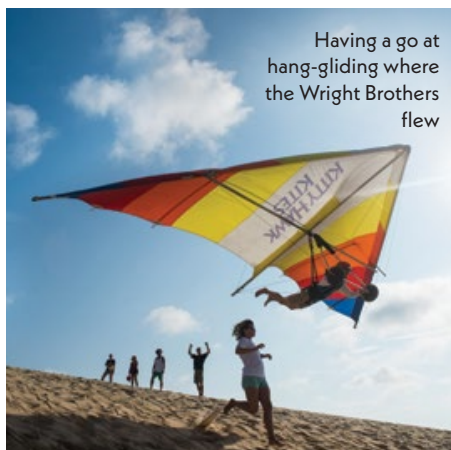
Surfers flock to the southern California seaside town that bills itself as Surf City USA; while there, they view both the surf and skateboards in the low-key International Surfing Museum. You, too, can then ride the waves by visiting the nearby HB Surf School, set in the shadow of Huntington Beach's famous pier. Coach and former pro Bill Sharp reckons he can get anyone standing up on a surf board in no time at all. "As well as the year-round mild climate, there will always be a wave here. That's what makes us different from the rest of the coast," he says. International Surfing Museum: [www.surfingmuseum.org](http://www.surfingmuseum.org); HB Surf School: [www.hbsurfschool.com](http://www.hbsurfschool.com)

### SOAR LIKE THE WRIGHT BROTHERS IN KITTY HAWK, NORTH CAROLINA

Anyone who travels by air should go to this atmospheric Outer Banks site where inventor brothers Orville and Wilbur Wright made the historic, first powered flight in 1903. Marked by a large, stone monument and towering sand dunes, the site is now known as the Wright Brothers National Memorial. Granite stones mark the distances, including the final 852ft flight that lasted all of 59 seconds. And if you, too, want to take to the air, consider a beginner's hang-gliding lesson at nearby Jockey's Ridge, or book the 1902 Wright Glider Experience on a reproduction of the aircraft that the brothers used for training.



Having a go on the speed ball at Louisville's Muhammad Ali Center



Having a go at hang-gliding where the Wright Brothers flew



Muhammad Ali's Louisville boyhood home is now a pilgrimage site



Learning to surf at Huntington Beach

### YOU, TOO, CAN THEN RIDE THE WAVES BY VISITING THE NEARBY HB SURF SCHOOL, SET IN THE SHADOW OF HUNTINGTON BEACH'S FAMOUS PIER

Wright Brothers National Memorial: [www.nps.gov/wrbr/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/wrbr/index.htm); Kitty Hawk Kites: [www.kittyhawk.com](http://www.kittyhawk.com)

### RIDE A KENTUCKY DERBY WINNER IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

The first thing to know about America's oldest sporting contest (1875), held on Louisville's Churchill Downs Racetrack the first Saturday in May, is that it is pronounced 'Durby', not Darby; the second is that its nickname, 'The Run for the Roses', was inspired by the custom

### NEW EXPERIENCES

of adorning the winning horse with a garland of 400 deep-red roses. Learn more at the recently revamped Kentucky Derby Museum; in the *Riders Up* section you can even 'race' against two rival jockeys by swinging into the saddle on an amazingly-realistic horse. Staff advise: "If you sit down, the horse won't run. You have to get your butt up, stand up in the stirrups." Kentucky Derby Museum: [www.derbymuseum.org](http://www.derbymuseum.org)

### SLAM DUNK IN SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Aware that New England's winters can be long, cold and snowy, James Naismith, a PE teacher at the Springfield YMCA, invented an indoor activity in 1891 that would encourage cooped-up students to stay inside. He nailed a half-bushel peach basket on to the gymnasium wall and told the youngsters to lob a soccer ball into it. Hey, presto! Basketball was born! Refinements included swapping a hoop for the basket – all part of the story of the world's most-popular indoor sport. It's told in the city's Basketball Hall of Fame, where you can test your dribbling skills, take part in shooting contests and dunk like a superstar on the 'Court of Dreams'. Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame: [www.hoophall.com](http://www.hoophall.com)

### OTHER UNMISSABLE HALLS OF FAME

**THE PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME:** Located in Canton, east-central, Ohio, where the National Football League (NFL) was founded in 1920; [www.profootballhof.com](http://www.profootballhof.com)

**THE NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME:** Cooperstown in central New York State, where former Civil War Union officer Abner Doubleday reputedly invented baseball in 1839; [www.baseballhall.org](http://www.baseballhall.org)

**THE UNITED STATES HOCKEY HALL OF FAME:** Eveleth in northern Minnesota, renowned for its hockey heritage and number of local hockey superstars; [www.ushockeyhalloffame.com](http://www.ushockeyhalloffame.com)

Watching the morning workout at Churchill Downs Racetrack



The Basketball Hall of Fame, Springfield, Massachusetts





## RACE TO THE CLOUDS IN COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

Since 1916, car drivers and motorcyclists have been racing to the 14,115ft summit of Pikes Peak in the Broadmoor Pikes Peak International Hill Climb 'Race to the Clouds.' Over the years, the winning times for the 12.5 mile race, with its 156 turns, have dropped dramatically – in 2018, a sleek, electric-powered Volkswagen took less than eight minutes! If in town the weekend of the race (June 30, 2019), join the Fan Fest revellers, stunt riders and souped-up cars on the streets of Colorado Springs or, if there in August, enjoy the Pikes Peak Ascent & Marathon or the Pikes Peak Cycling Hill Climb. Throughout the year, drop by the array of race cars at the free Penrose Heritage Museum, next to the majestic Broadmoor Hotel, and, if weather permits, drive yourself up the scenically-spectacular toll road. Broadmoor Pikes Peak International Hill Climb: ([www.ppihc.org](http://www.ppihc.org)); Penrose Heritage Museum: [www.elpomar.org](http://www.elpomar.org); [www.VisitCOS.com](http://www.VisitCOS.com) ❖



Admiring mountain-climbing race cars on the eve of Colorado Springs' 'Race to the Clouds'



**PLAN AHEAD** Already known as 'Olympic City USA,' as it's the home of the United States Olympic Committee and their flagship training centre, Colorado Springs will unveil a major, new attraction in 2020: the United States Olympic Museum and Hall of Fame.



## TOP 5 REASONS TO TOUR COLORADO SPRINGS

Tour a year-round destination with mild temperatures and spectacular scenery. Create tours at unforgettable destinations like Garden of the Gods Park and Pikes Peak - America's Mountain.

- 01 55+** - With more than 55 attractions and activities, plan to stay more than one day.
- 02 Olympic City USA** - See where Olympic dreams are born at the Colorado Springs U.S. Olympic Training Center.
- 03 All Seasons** - The region shines with a year-round mild climate.
- 04 The Great Outdoors** - Enjoy thousands of miles of trails and endless outdoor adventures.
- 05 Exciting Events** - From races to rodeos, concerts to culinary festivals, we have something for everyone.

**PLAN YOUR TOUR**  
[VisitCOS.com/tours](http://VisitCOS.com/tours)

