

Charleston, South Carolina

Founded in 1670, Charleston, South Carolina, bills itself as “where history lives.” Even cooler: You and the kids can live that history for yourselves at Middleton Place, a former plantation that’s been transformed into a living history museum.

FUN FACT Middleton Place is home to North America’s oldest landscaped gardens, and you can also experience the working life of an 18th- and 19th-century Low Country stableyard.

DON’T MISS Potter Jeff Neale and other costumed interpreters. Those gigs aren’t easy to get: Before Neale was hired, the Marine vet earned a master’s degree in public history. “I love making a connection with the audience,” he says. “Look for me—I’ll be the filthy one, covered in clay.”

INFO middletonplace.org



Mesa Verde, Colorado

U.S. history did not begin at Plymouth Rock! Step into the way-back machine—like, way, way back—with a visit to Mesa Verde National Park, a unique site in the Southwest’s famed Four Corners region. Home to the Pueblo people from 600 to 1300, the park preserves a vast array of high-altitude cliff dwellings and thousands more archeological sites.

FUN FACT Talk about a tough commute! The Pueblo climbed to

and from their homes via hand-and toe-hold trails hammered into the cliff walls. Touring the dwellings today still involves a bit of climbing, along reconstructed wooden ladders and age-old stone steps.

DON’T MISS A ride on the nearby Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. The train snakes along the Animas River, offering spectacular scenery on the route it has traveled for 130 years. Go to durangotrain.com for info.

INFO durangotrain.com ■



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