

Five underrated US destinations that could make for a great 2023 holiday

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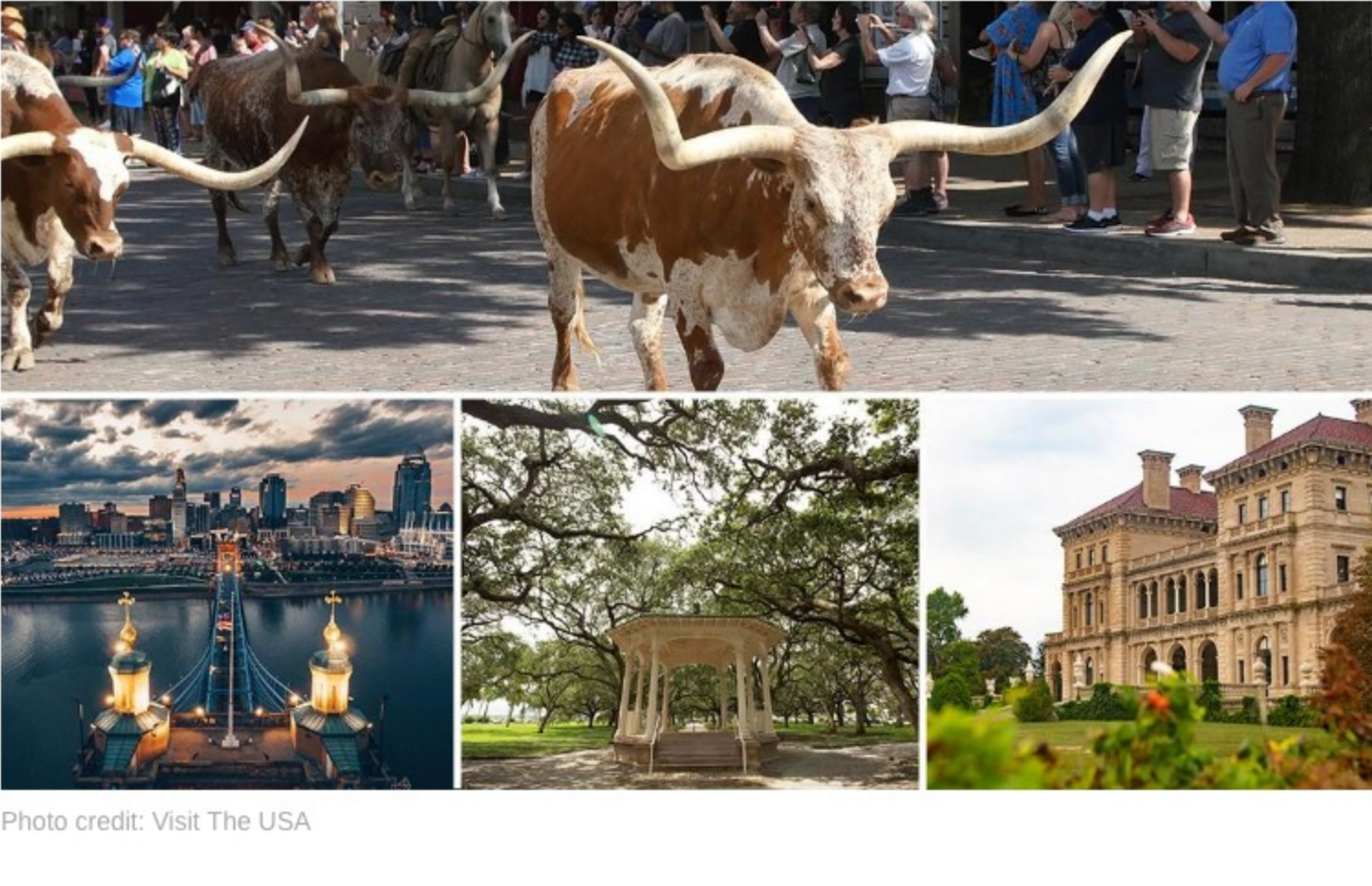


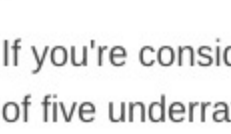
Photo credit: Visit The USA

Just one flight across the Pacific Ocean, the United States is a vast and diverse country with a lot to offer tourists from Aotearoa.

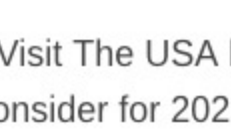
The travel industry has been roaring back to life around the world as the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic dissipate and many New Zealanders are looking at where to travel next.

But the US is so large and boasts so many options, whereabouts in the country should Kiwis head to?

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If you're considering a trip, tourism organisation Visit The USA has provided the following list of five underrated destinations it suggests you consider for 2023 holidays.



Newport, Rhode Island. Photo credit: Visit The USA

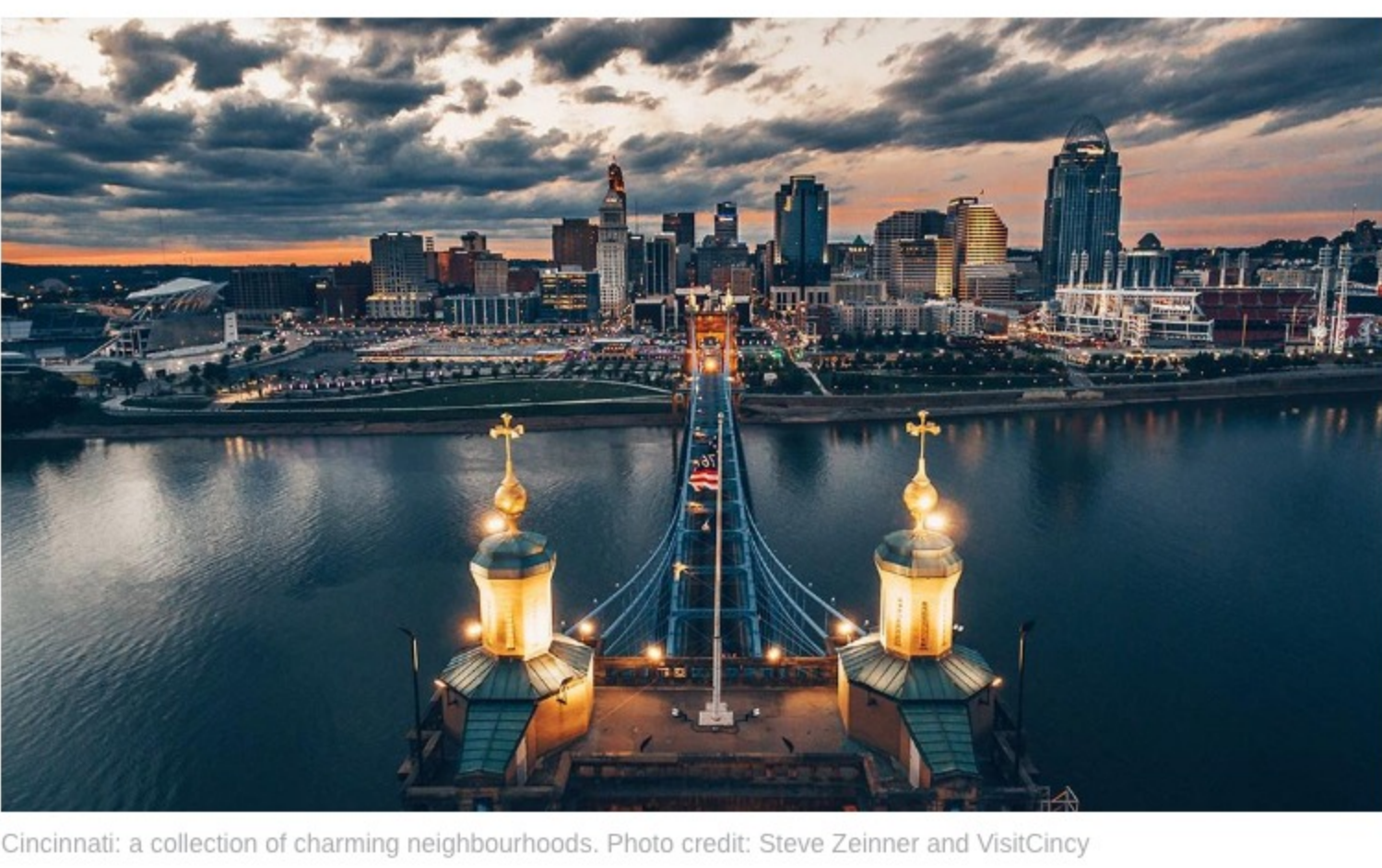
Rhode Island

"The vast golden beaches and grand historic mansions coupled with an abundance of fresh seafood and boutique wineries make Rhode Island a top pick for 2023," said Visit The USA.

"Just an hour from Boston via Amtrak, Newport is home to summer 'cottages' perched atop surf-soaked cliffs, once owned by famous families like the Astors, Rockefellers and Vanderbilts.

"Visitors can take the scenic Cliff Walk which combines the natural beauty of the shoreline with the architectural heritage of The Gilded Age for a glimpse of the mansions that have served as backdrops for films like *The Great Gatsby* and HBO Max's new series *The Gilded Age*.

"Leaving Newport, head to South County for a tour of Rhode Island's stunning coastline and explore the quaint, quintessential village of Watch Hill. Look out for Taylor Swift's coastal retreat with views over Little Narragansett Bay or stop for a champagne cocktail on the veranda of the historic beachfront hotel, Ocean House."



Cincinnati: a collection of charming neighbourhoods. Photo credit: Steve Zeinner and VisitCincy

Cincinnati, Ohio

"Winding along the Ohio River, Cincinnati is a collection of charming neighbourhoods from Over-the-Rhine (OTR) to the Riverfront and from Downtown to Mount Adams which collectively have a rich architectural, cultural and culinary heritage," said Visit The USA.

"The eclectic OTR is a foodie's paradise with a selection of local restaurants, bars, breweries and markets including Findlay Market, Ohio's oldest farmers' markets and one of the top 10 food markets in the world.



"Downtown is for the art lovers and is home to some of the best cultural centres and galleries as well as over 50 murals including one celebrating Neil Armstrong, an Ohio Native and the Cincinnati Toy Heritage Mural showcasing some of the most popular toys made by Kenner Toys including the Care Bears and C3PO.

"Sport enthusiasts should head straight to the regenerated Riverfront, home to celebrated NFL team, the Cincinnati Bengals and the MLB team, the Cincinnati Reds."



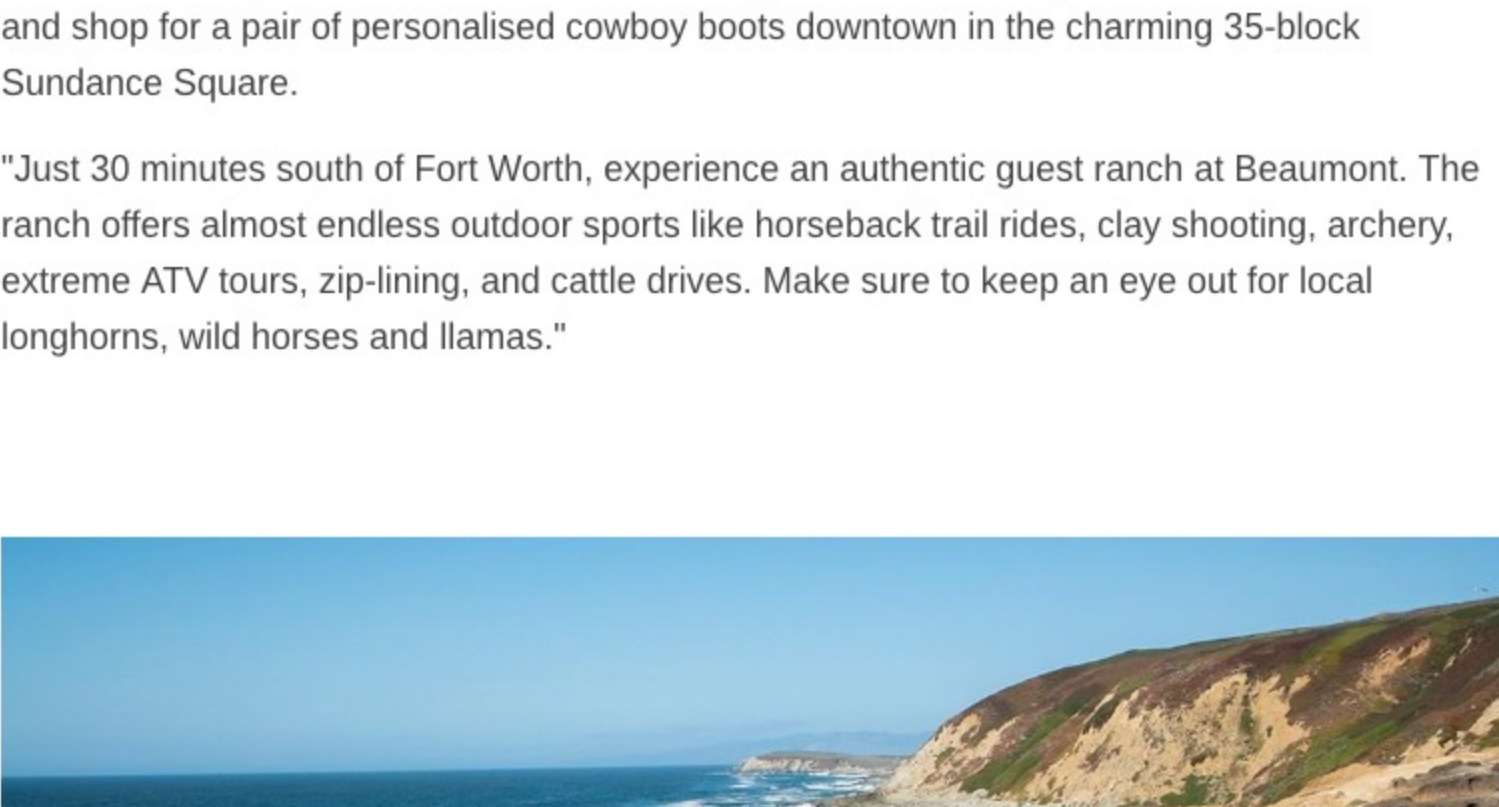
Fort Worth Stockyards. Photo credit: traveltexas.com

Fort Worth, Texas

"Fort Worth blends cowboy charm and rich Western history with a dedication to urban renewal. Home to the world's only twice-daily cattle drive, the world's largest honky-tonk and year-round rodeo, the city serves as the backdrop for TV hits *1883* and *Yellowstone*, starring Oscar and Emmy winner, Kevin Costner," said Visit The USA.

"There are plenty of familiar sights that will delight fans of the Wild West epic as they explore the famed Stockyards Historic District, the Cowgirl Hall of Fame, sip a cold brew in a saloon, and shop for personalised cowboy boots downtown in the charming 35-block Sundance Square.

"Just 30 minutes south of Fort Worth, experience an authentic guest ranch at Beaumont. The ranch offers almost endless outdoor sports like horseback trail rides, clay shooting, archery, extreme ATV tours, zip-lining, and cattle drives. Make sure to keep an eye out for local longhorns, wild horses and llamas."



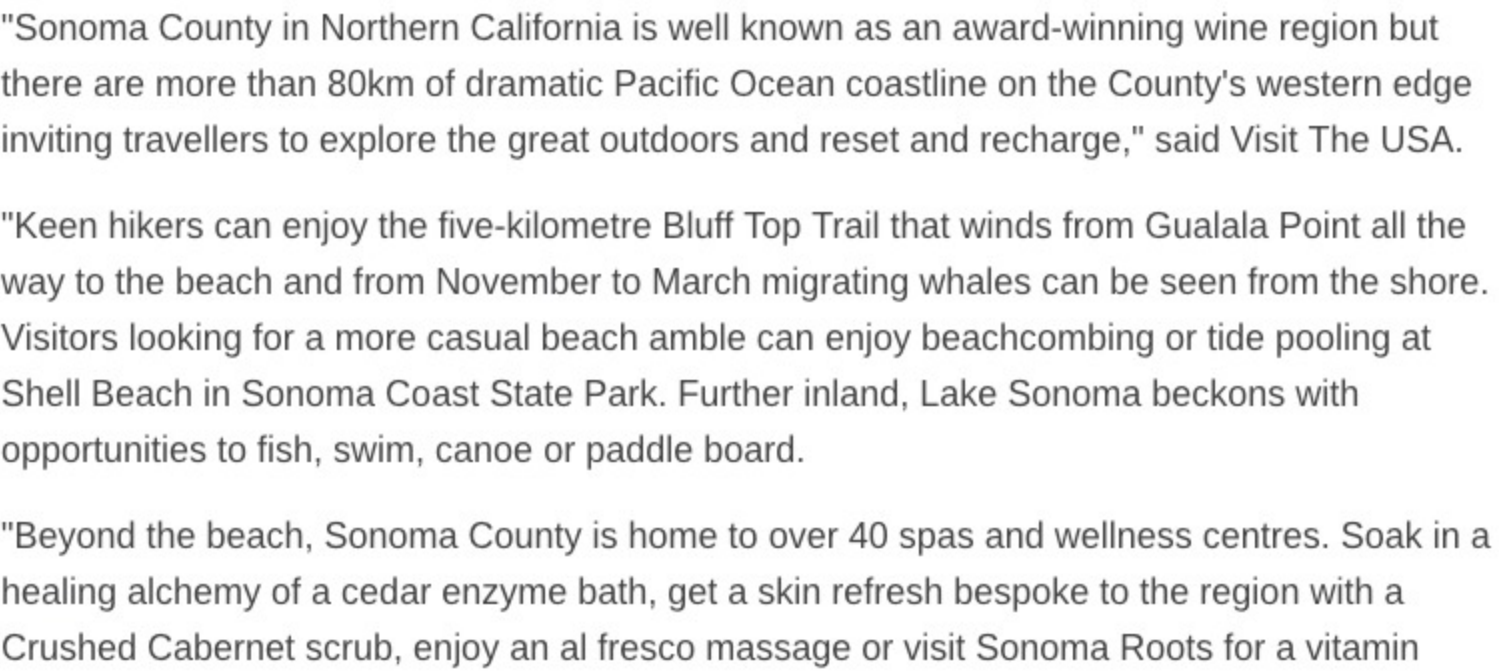
Bodega Bay, Sonoma County, California. Photo credit: Visit The USA

Sonoma County, California

"Sonoma County in Northern California is well known as an award-winning wine region but there are more than 80km of dramatic Pacific Ocean coastline on the County's western edge inviting travellers to explore the great outdoors and reset and recharge," said Visit The USA.

"Keen hikers can enjoy the five-kilometre Bluff Top Trail that winds from Gualala Point all the way to the beach and from November to March migrating whales can be seen from the shore. Visitors looking for a more casual beach amble can enjoy beachcombing or tide pooling at Shell Beach in Sonoma Coast State Park. Further inland, Lake Sonoma beckons with opportunities to fish, swim, canoe or paddle board.

"Beyond the beach, Sonoma County is home to over 40 spas and wellness centres. Soak in a healing alchemy of a cedar enzyme bath, get a skin refresh bespoke to the region with a Crushed Cabernet scrub, enjoy an al fresco massage or visit Sonoma Roots for a vitamin boost with B-12 shots."



Charleston, South Carolina. Photo credit: Visit The USA

Charleston, South Carolina

"Charleston's greatest attraction is arguably Mother Nature's annual show: breathtaking garden plants. Magnolia Plantation and Gardens is the oldest public gardens in America and the only bloom, the Ashley River that survived both the American Revolution and the Civil War," said Visit The USA.



"Today, it is home to the last large-scale Romantic Gardens in the US, designed to transport you from the normality of everyday life to a tranquil escape. Each year, the Historic Charleston Foundation invites green-fingered enthusiasts to some of Charleston's most exclusive private gardens throughout March and April, showcasing intricately designed and well-manicured 'secret gardens' that are usually off-limits to visitors.

"From blooming dogwood, to redbud and azalea, these gardens are a feast for the senses. Year-round, travellers can also enjoy the early 1700s plantation and mansion, Middleton Place, featuring a European-style garden blooming all season or visit Wadmalaw Island and ride the trolley through the tea fields."