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What dinosaurs have been found in north america

1 of 11 When the United States was growing, men performed noble tasks like trekking the wilderness for new land or hunting wild game to feed their families. You too should feel the urge to tap into your manly ambitions—you just lack the time of our forefathers. But if you're into sports like biking, skiing, or running, these intense races can serve as a way to feed your macho needs. From the bright lights of Las Vegas to harrowing winter peaks, the following 10 endurance events embody the ruggedness that is manhood.
2 of 11 Gore-Tex Grand Traverse “We come to worship the church of pain,” tout participants during the pre-race prayer of this backcountry ski traverse that begins at midnight in Colorado. The 40-mile track can take up to 16 hours of combing through the Rocky’s Elk Mountain Range as racers climb more than 7,800 vertical feet through challenging terrain, including Death Path, a steep cliff where losing traction means sliding down 200 feet into a frigid creek. Participants must find their own route to checkpoints and know how to erect a camp within minutes. “Staying mentally alert at 4 a.m. and maintaining Zen with your partner are challenges that are often overlooked,” says Bryan Wickenhauser, race co-director and three-time winner. (elkmountainstraverse.com)Photo courtesy Kevin Krill
3 of 11 Tour d’Afrique North American Epic About 20 cyclists will ride for more than 6,000 miles during the nearly four-month trek from Anchorage, Alaska, to Mexico City, Mexico. (Before you think about signing up, make sure you can cycle at least 60 miles per day for multiple days in a row.) The itinerary includes amazing locales like the remote Alaskan Highway, the Yukon Territory, Yellowstone, Utah’s Canyonlands, the Grand Canyon, Baja’s cactus fields, and old colonial towns in central Mexico. You’ll deal with fluctuating weather and road conditions—one day you’ll be fighting off swarms of mosquitos, a few days later combating dessert dust. By the time you make it to Mazatlan, a round of tequila is in order. (tourdafrique.com)Photo courtesy Tour d’Afrique Ltd.
4 of 11 Escape from Alcatraz Triathlon Find your inner Clint Eastwood by completing San Francisco’s iconic triathlon. Your first feat: a 1.5-mile-swim in the 55-degree waters of the San Francisco Bay adjacent to The Rock. All 2,000 competitors unload from the ferry in less than six minutes, meaning that if you don’t paddle quickly, you’ll get jumped. You’ll then pedal up hills for the next 18-miles—some are so steep that going 2 miles-per-hour will be excruciating—to Golden Gate Park where you start the 8-mile trail run. If that’s not bad enough, eventually you reach the deep sand of Baker Beach, where a dreaded 400-step “sand ladder” is in your way before the finish. (escapefromalcatraztriathlon.com)Photo courtesy Rocky Arroyo
5 of 11 The Iditarod Trail Invitational If you don’t have dogs that mush on command, this is the next best thing. You can hike, ski, or bike the 350-mile traverse, and the first checkpoint is 57 miles into barren Alaska. Competitors face subzero temperatures and gale-force winds that could wipe out all visibility. Navigating this frozen land on two wheels might seem crazy, but that’s exactly what men did during the Nome Gold Rush in 1900. Completing one of the most remote and longest winter Ultra races in the world might just give you enough pluck to start training for the 1,000 mile Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. (iditarodtrailinvitational.com)Photo courtesy RJ Sauer
6 of 11 Rock ‘n’ Roll Las Vegas Marathon & Half Marathon Racing on the Strip is essentially running in a neon-lit block party. Unlike most crack-of-dawn races, the Sin City marathon and half starts at 4:30 p.m.—giving you plenty of time to recover from partying the night before. The weekend-long event comes with admission to the pre-race concert and post-race nightclubs. Because after your race, you deserve to see ladies dancing on VIP tables at Tao. (runrocknroll.competitor.com)Photo courtesy Ryan Bethke/Competitor Group Inc.
7 of 11 IRONMAN Lake Tahoe Completing an Ironman is a feat, completing an Ironman more than a mile above sea level is astounding. The Lake Tahoe circuit is said to be the most challenging Ironman race in the world. “Everyone will have more difficult time breathing,” says Keats McGonigal, west coast operations manager for Ironman. “Plus, the total elevation gain on this bike course overshadows the hill profiles at other Ironman races.” Stock up on those gel packs because you’ll be pedaling upward 8,000 feet along the 112-mile bike course. Plus, you can finish the marathon portion like an Olympian in Squaw Valley, home to the 1960 winter games. (ironman.com)Photo courtesy Andrew Loehman/IRONMAN
8 of 11 Ragnar Relay Washington D.C. The 200-mile relay is ideal for patriots and history buffs. Exchange points and paths include Fort Frederick, a pivotal landmark during the Revolutionary War; Antietam Battlefield, a spot known for the Civil War’s bloodiest day; and Mount Vernon Trail along Arlington National Cemetery with rewarding views of the Washington, Lincoln, and Jefferson Memorials. Nature enthusiasts will have their share of vistas as well—the lucky guy running the third leg will ascend 1,200 feet in just over 2 miles during his 7.8 mile run through Green Ridge State Forest. (ragnarrelay.com/race/dc)Photo courtesy Ragnar Relay
9 of 11 Hotter’N Hell Hundred One hundred miles in 100-degree heat sounds downright suicidal—yet, more than 12,000 cyclers choose to test their limits under the Wichita Falls, Texas, sun each year. The race was established in 1982 to celebrate Wichita Falls’ centennial and the tenacity of its early settlers. Here is your chance to find the pioneer within, one who won’t be deterred by stove-top-hot concrete. (hh100.org)Photo courtesy Richard Cleaver
10 of 11 Tuckerman Inferno Competitors of this New Hampshire adventure pentathlon finish by skiing or snowboarding down the 280-degree bowl of the Tuckerman Ravine—a tribute to the American Inferno ski races of the 1930s. The mountain drops 4,300 feet in 3.6 miles, so don’t be surprised if it feels like you’re falling down an elevator shaft. Before you take this legendary slalom, get ready to run 8.3 miles, kayak for 5.5 miles through Class II rapids, bike 18.2 miles, and then hike 3 miles uphill. (friendsoftuckermanravine.org/inferno)Photo courtesy Dan Houde/Wise Guy Creative
11 of 11 The Bourbon Chase When it comes to stamina, Oktoberfest has nothing on the 200-mile relay race along Kentucky’s Bourbon Trail. (Yes, delicious bourbon awaits you at the finish.) Teams of 12 must alternate running 36 legs, day and night, for about 30 hours through Bluegrass country’s distilleries—including Jim Beam, Maker’s Mark, and Wild Turkey. The winning team is awarded with tailored gift baskets filled with specially bourbon, signed by their master distiller. (bourbonchase.com)Photo courtesy Menisa Marshall
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The United States was once 13 colonies: Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Virginia. The Boston Massacre Many people do not realize how important the Boston Massacre was in the founding of the United States. Colonists had negative feelings about the British when the country was occupied by soldiers. Then, Britain began to overtax colonists. They grew angry. On March 5, 1770, Colonists attacked British soldiers on Boston’s King Street with sticks, rocks and snowballs. Soon, the street became an all-out brawl as soldiers began firing shots at the crowd. The soldiers killed and wounded many colonists. Colonists grew angrier. The Boston Massacre increased tension. The issues were growing, and Colonists were becoming tired of British rule. The Boston Tea Party The Boston Tea Party also added to ongoing tensions. The British Empire would tax the colonies to pay off its own debts. Colonists noticed the taxes increase. Tea had an especially high tax. On December 16, 1773, colonists were angry they were being taxed without being represented in Parliament. In protest, colonists dumped 342 cases of tea into the Boston Harbor. They began to smuggle Dutch tea into the colonies instead. The Revolutionary War The Revolutionary War was the result of ongoing tension between Colonists and the British. The Revolutionary War started in 1775. While British soldiers in Yorktown, Virginia, surrendered in 1781, parts of the country remained occupied for two more years. The Declaration of Independence In 1776, delegates from the 13 colonies met in Philadelphia. The group chose Thomas Jefferson to write the Declaration of Independence. He wrote the first draft in 17 days. He worked alongside Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Robert R. Livingston and Roger Sherman to finish it. Congress approved the Declaration of Independence via a vote on July 4, 1776. It was official: the colonies declared they were separate from Britain. The Founding Fathers signed the document, John Hancock was the first to sign. Today, the Declaration of Independence is one of the country’s most important documents. In fact, two of the people who signed the declaration would become presidents. They were Thomas Jefferson and John Adams. The Constitution The country adopted the United States Constitution on September 17, 1787. It established new laws. It made a new identity for America. The document served as a follow up to the Articles of Confederation, which was tossed aside because it limited the power of the federal government. A Growing Country After Colonists declared independence and the British Empire withdrew its troops, the United States of America grew. In 1803, the country purchased land from France. The Louisiana Purchase included land that extended from Mexico to Canada. From the arctic chill of Northern Canada and Alaska to the tropical warmth of Mexico and Bermuda, North America is a massive region filled with extreme climates and different landscapes. Although the most popular time to visit is generally in the summer, the fall offers relief from hot temperatures and high prices.
high season: June to September
low season: December to March
shoulder season: April to May, October to November
The information above is only a general representation of North America’s seasonality. Visitation varies by region. For example, Mexico experiences two high seasons, the one listed above, as well as December to April. Bermuda doesn’t really have a shoulder season, but instead has a summer high and winter low season. North America covers such a large area with so many diverse climates that it’s difficult to make a general statement about the weather. However, there are similarities between specific regions. Canada and Alaska in the north can be very cold during the winter, with diminished daylight. Temperatures can drop below freezing with heavy snows and occasional blizzards. The United States varies by region, but generally experiences four temperate seasons in the north and two subtropical seasons in the south. Most states have hot summers, cool winters, and mild spring and fall weather. The south can be humid with sporadic rains. Mexico also has a wet and a dry season with warm and humid weather year-round. Bermuda experiences similar seasons as Mexico, but with drier summers. Both countries have a hurricane season that lasts from June through November, but most storms bypass Bermuda. Holidays and annual events are major attractions for visitors in North America. In general, the northern United States and Canada receive the most visitors during the summer when the weather is warm and schools are on break. Mexico and Bermuda receive visitors year-round, but many people in the north flock to their warmer temperatures during the winter. Most hotels, shops, venues, and restaurants stay open year-round. However, smaller coastal towns, campgrounds, and seasonal destinations close during the winter. Services may also close down for public holidays and Sundays, especially in Bermuda. Prices fluctuate by region. Spring and fall tend to be less expensive times to travel, especially in the United States and Canada. Winter can also be inexpensive, except in certain ski areas. The fall is also a more economical time to visit Mexico and Bermuda; however, avoid traveling to Mexico in the spring, since spring break is one of the most expensive times to visit. It’s wise to book at least a month in advance for travel during the shoulder seasons. If visiting during the high season, book at least six months in advance. In Mexico, it is common to book the following summer in September or October for the best price and availability. Last-minute deals are offered during the low season for those with flexible travel dates.
Wikimedia Commons North Carolina has had a mixed geologic history: from about 600 to 250 million years ago, this state (and much else of what would become the southeastern United States) was submerged beneath a shallow body of water, and the same situation held for much of the Mesozoic and Cenozoic Eras. (It was only during the Triassic period that terrestrial life in North Carolina had an extended amount of time to flourish.) However, this doesn’t mean North Carolina was entirely bereft of dinosaurs and prehistoric life. Wikimedia Commons Hypsibema lived during the late Cretaceous period, one of the rare stretches of time when most of North Carolina was above water. It’s the official state dinosaur of Missouri, but fossils of Hypsibema have been discovered in North Carolina as well. Unfortunately, this hadrosaur (duck-billed dinosaur) is what paleontologists call a nomen dubium: it was a probably an individual or species of an already-named dinosaur, and thus doesn’t deserve its own genus. Jorge Gonzales Announced to the world in 2015, Carnufex (Greek for “butcher”) is one of the earliest identified crocodylomorphs—the family of prehistoric reptiles that diverged from archosaurs during the middle Triassic period and led to modern crocodiles—and at about 10 feet long and 500 pounds, certainly one of the biggest. Since dinosaurs had yet to make it to middle Triassic North America from their ancestral South American habitat, Carnufex may well have been the apex predator of North Carolina! Texas Tech University Not quite a dinosaur, and not quite a prehistoric crocodile (despite the “suchus” in its name), Postosuchus was a splay-legged, half-ton archosaur that ranged widely across North America during the late Triassic period. (It was a population of archosaurs that spawned the very first dinosaurs, in South America, about 230 million years ago.) A new Postosuchus species, P. alisonae, was discovered in North Carolina in 1992: oddly enough, all the other known Postosuchus specimens have been unearthed much farther west, in Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico. Paleocriti The scattered remains of Eocetus, the “dawn whale,” were discovered in North Carolina in the late 1990s. This early Eocene whale, which lived about 44 million years ago, possessed rudimentary arms and legs, a snapshot of the early stages of whale evolution before these semi-aquatic mammals had adapted to a fully aquatic existence. Unfortunately, not much is known about Eocetus compared to other early whale ancestors, such as the roughly contemporary Pakicetus from the Indian subcontinent. Dmitry Bogdanov A close relative of Postosuchus, Zatomus was named in the mid-19th century by the famous paleontologist Edward Drinker Cope. Technically, Zatomus was a “trausuchian” archosaur; however, the discovery of only a single fossil specimen in North Carolina means that it’s probably a nomen dubium (that is, a specimen of an already existing archosaur genus). However it winds up being classified, Zatomus was probably a close relative of a better-known archosaur, Batrachotomus. Wikimedia Commons North Carolina boasts some of the oldest geologic formations in the United States, some dating back to pre-Cambrian times (over 550 million years ago) when pretty much all life on earth was confined to the oceans. The mysterious Peritridinium, like many so-called “ediacarans,” was a trilobite-like creature that probably lived at the bottom of shallow lagoons; paleontologists are unsure how this invertebrate moved or even what it ate.

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