

# Holly's American road-trip tips

When I was twenty-four, in an uncharacteristic bout of spontaneity, I quit my job to drive from one side of America to the other.

To anyone who likes my books, we owe America for them. It was over there that I decided to give this writing thing a shot. At the end of my 4,500-mile trip, I sat in Yosemite Park and watched the sun set over Half Dome, plunging the valley into steady darkness. I remember it so clearly. I was relaxed, I felt healthy for the first time in years, and I only had a week before I had to fly home and face reality again. A very clear voice came into my head, and said, "Holly, go back and finish that book you're writing." It was so strange and profound that I listened. And, less than two years later, I had a publishing contract that would change my life. So – thanks, America.

This book is a love story. Not just to nice boys who call themselves feminists. But also to America – a country that is full of such positive people, who really believe you can change the world.

I'm going to share my top ten travelling tips I learned from my epic journey:

- 1) Don't go to Texas if you're a vegetarian. They even put beef in the tomato soup.
- 2) Driving across America in a Toyota Yaris isn't the coolest of vehicles, but you will save hundreds of dollars in gas.
- 3) The Grand Canyon is absolutely something you have to see before you die. Go, just go. But make sure you get there before 5 a.m. in the morning.
- 4) You will never eat as well as you will in New Mexico. Also, there's a tiny town called Taos, which is pretty much the most perfect place I've ever been to. Go there and stay in an earth ship. Eat at Taos Diner and order the Copper John's eggs. If you go to Taos, and don't go to Taos Diner and don't order the Copper John's eggs, please never tell me you've done such an unforgivably stupid thing.
- 5) Don't go to Las Vegas if you only have \$30 to spend. You won't have a great time.

- 6) If you're ever in New Orleans, make sure you check out the World War Two, 4D experience. I don't care how drunk you are, just do it.
- 7) Do the Mist Trail at Yosemite National Park before 7 a.m. Bring a camera. Realize your camera will never do that level of beauty justice.
- 8) Siesta Beach in Sarasota, Florida, has sunsets you can't even imagine. It also has a drum circle every Sunday night, an hour before sunset. Go, dance, feel more alive than you can possibly imagine.
- 9) Go spraypaint a buried Cadillac along Route 66, just outside Amarillo. Yeah, it's cliché. But the photos look great.
- 10) Get ice-cream at the Bi-Rite Creamery in San Francisco. It will fill the gasping hole in your stomach caused by all the raw food restaurants.