

DOGGIN' MOUNT RUSHMORE

Few visitors to the Black Hills in South Dakota leave without at least taking a look at Mount Rushmore. And if you are traveling with a dog, that is about all you will be able to do. Dogs are restricted to the parking lot area in the shadow of the world-famous mountain carving that took sculptor Gutzon Borglum 14 years to complete.

A better vacation for your dog is to actually follow in the footsteps of the four Presidents staring down from that mountain. Here are a few ideas...

TOUR

IDEA #89: DOGGIN' GEORGE WASHINGTON

George Washington is known not only as the "Father of Our Country" but the "Father of the American Foxhound." An avid foxhunter, he sought to breed a new type of dog to course the terrain around his estate at Mount Vernon. He crossed French hounds from his friend the Marquis de Lafayette, with his own smaller black-and-tan English hounds. Washington listed 30 new "American" foxhounds by name in his journal and hounds currently registered with the American Kennel Club are descended from those originals. The Father of Our Country often favored silly names for his beloved dogs: Drunkard, Tipler, Topsy.

Here's another dog story about George Washington. During the American Revolution, two days after the Battle of Germantown outside of Philadelphia on October 6, 1777 a dog was found wandering in the American Camp. Inspecting the dog's collar it was apparent the dog, whose name and breed is lost to history, belonged to victorious British commander General William Howe, who remained at Germantown. Even with the loss of the Colonial capital of Philadelphia hanging over his head, General George Washington steadfastly adhered to the code of gentlemanly behavior in wartime by returning the dog with a handwritten note: "General Washington's compliments to General Howe. He does himself the pleasure to return him a dog, which accidentally fell into his hands, and by the inscription on the Collar appears to belong to General Howe."

For a fellow who lived almost 300 years ago, even before his life as commander of the Continental Army, George Washington got around quite a bit, both physically and, if we are to believe revelations that Martha Custis was quite the Colonial hottie, socially. You can cobble together an adventurous outdoor trip with your dog by tracing Washington's footsteps...

George Washington's Birthplace (Virginia)

The Washington family saga in America began in 1657 when seafaring John Washington tarried in the Tidewater region of northern Virginia, befriended Nathaniel Pope and married Pope's daughter, Anne. The couple was given 700 acres on Mattox Creek as a wedding gift to start a tobacco farm. John eventually acquired more than 10,000 acres.

John Washington's grandson, Augustine claimed his inheritance on Bride's Creek and purchased more than 1,000 more acres on Pope's Creek. He fathered four children by Jane Butler who died at the age of 30 in 1729. Washington remarried a year later, taking as his bride Mary Ball, an orphaned daughter of a prominent planter. Their first child, George, was born in 1732 in the manor house at Pope's Creek. Although the family moved away when he was not yet four, George returned many times as an adolescent to work the family plantation.

On Christmas Day, 1779, while Washington was busy guiding the Continental Army, the manor house of his birth burned. It was never rebuilt. The birthplace was excavated in 1936 and the foundations preserved. Its location and dimensions are indicated by an oyster shell outline. A typical Tidewater house of the upper classes of the 1700s has been constructed on the property as a memorial to President George Washington.

The 538-acre George Washington Birthplace National Monument has been developed as a representative tobacco plantation and there is plenty of room to roam with your dog. Packed gravel paths lead around the house, fields, groves of trees and gardens. A wooded nature trail runs for a mile on a wide, leaf-littered natural surface through a coastal mixed pine forest. Plus, there is plenty of grass for your dog to trot on. And you can hike with your dog along the Potomac River beach. All in all, not a bad day for your dog.

Washington's Birthplace, Virginia
(804) 224-1732
www.nps.gov/gewa/

Sky Meadows State Park (Virginia)

When he was 16 years old George Washington joined a surveying expedition to western Virginia, garnering a valuable skill in a colony where land was being settled constantly. He was soon able to begin buying unclaimed wilderness land. One of his speculative parcels today is part of Sky Meadows State Park, a crown jewel in the Virginia state park system on the eastern slopes of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

The real star here for your dog are the meadows - there simply aren't many open-air hikes available across Northern Virginia. Be advised, however, that if you've never gone much beyond your neighborhood walk with your dog, this isn't the place for your first big adventure. Except for the *Snowden Trail* nature loop you will be hiking up a mountain at Sky Meadows.

The trail system offers about ten miles of marked paths that can be molded into canine hiking loops, the most popular being the North Ridge-South Ridge circuit. The *South Ridge Trail* utilizes an old farm road while the *North Ridge Trail* picks its way up the mountain like a traditional hiking trail. You are probably best served by going up the South Ridge since it is not as steep and views are longer coming down the North side.

For those looking for a full day of hiking with your dog the *Appalachian Trail* is 1.7 miles away and there are loop options there as well. If you just want to enjoy the meadows you can confine your dog's explorations to the *Piedmont Overlook Trail* on the North Ridge.

Delaplane, Virginia
(540) 592-3556
www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/sky.shtml

Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (Virginia)

At the age of 21 Washington could be found down on the Virginia-North Carolina border organizing the Dismal Swamp Land Company. His plan was to drain the Dismal Swamp - so named by the English because there was no need for settlers to force Indian tribes off the land since they had already left - and set up logging operations. Over the next 200 years all of the cypress and Atlantic white cedar forests would be logged at least once.

Establishment of the refuge began in 1973 when the Union Camp Corporation donated 49,100 acres of land to The Nature Conservancy. This land was then conveyed to the Department of the Interior, and the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge was officially established.

If you are looking for a place to disappear with your dog on a hike for hours, this is it. During its logging years, over 140 miles of roads were constructed through the Dismal Swamp. The best place to launch your dog's adventure is the parking lot at the end of Jericho Lane, off Route 642. Your dog will be hiking on firm sand/dirt roads, level and easy everywhere. Shade is at a premium on hot days so pack plenty of water for your outing. You can create a hiking loop from the several ditches that join at Jericho Lane.

The refuge has also developed an interpretive trail at the site of Washington's former camp, Dismal Town. An extensive boardwalk, nearly a mile long with a couple of spurs, snakes through the heart of the swamp. For a full day's adventure with your dog a 4.5-mile hike along the Washington Ditch will get your dog to Lake Drummond, one of only two natural lakes in the state of Virginia.

Suffolk, Virginia
(757) 986-3705
www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp/

Fort Necessity National Battlefield (Pennsylvania)

George Washington's military career began in 1754 when the newly commissioned 22-year old lieutenant colonel was sent to the Ohio Valley to build a road and help defend British fortifications against the incursions of the French. Events deteriorated and Washington rapidly constructed a small, circular palisade he named Fort Necessity. When a force of 600 French and 100 Indians fell upon the crude fort, Washington was forced to capitulate, the only time he would ever surrender to an enemy in his career. The confrontation at Fort Necessity was the opening battle in North America of what would become the French and Indian War. It would end in the expulsion of French power from North America and India.

George Washington called Great Meadows, as the area surrounding Fort Necessity was then known, "a charming field for an encounter." You will take away the same impression today as you hike the grounds with your dog - minus the musket fire, of course. The focal point of the battlefield tour is a reconstructed

fort built in the exact location of Washington's original stockade.

The interpretive trail traverses open meadows and light woods. Subsequent landowners grew fruit trees here that contribute to the park-like feel of one of America's oldest battlefields. Part of this easy canine hike trips along traces of the Braddock Road that was first blazed in 1750 by Nemacolin, a Delaware Indian, and built by Washington's expedition. The battlefield tour covers about one mile.

Farmington, Pennsylvania
(724) 329-5512
www.nps.gov/fone/

Mount Vernon (Virginia)

In 1759 George Washington set himself up as a gentleman farmer on 2,000 acres at Mount Vernon. He wrote about his plantation on the Potomac River, "No estate in United America is more pleasantly situated than this." It was with the greatest reluctance that he would leave his life at Mount Vernon when the events of a revolutionary new nation led him to a greater calling in 1775.

Today Mount Vernon is the most visited private estate in America. After picking up a biscuit at the entrance gate, your dog can trot across much of the 500 acres that have been preserved. On the grounds are more than 20 outbuildings and 50 acres of gardens for your dog to explore. She may even meet some grazing livestock.

The *Forest Trail* is a short interpretive walk through a wooded area over a ravine and past an old cobble quarry that was used to create roadways, walkways and the main entrance. This little hike features one steep climb and a wide, groomed path for your dog.

Mount Vernon, Virginia
(703) 780-2000
www.mountvernon.org/

Washington's Crossing (Pennsylvania)

In the American Revolution, Washington's little army had taken one pounding after another as they camped on the western bank of the Delaware River in December 1776. Knowing that upcoming enlistments would expire with the new year and probably reduce his 2,400 men by about a thousand, Washington de-

cided on a bold strike against the British across the river in Trenton before they swarmed into the Colonial capital of Philadelphia.

Using specially designed Durham boats - wide and flat and capable of handling heavy loads - the men started ferrying across the 300-yard river late in the afternoon of Christmas Day. It was not until the following morning that all his men and 18 cannon were on the Jersey side and the successful march on Trenton that would save the Revolution began.

Today the Washington Crossing Historic Park is a quiet riverside plot of manicured lawns and graceful oak trees. Like Washington, your dog can also cross the Delaware - by walking across the river on an open grate steel bridge. After soaking in long views up and down the river, on the Jersey side is extensive hiking on The Delaware & Raritan Canal towpath and in the hills of Washington Crossing State Park.

Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania
(215) 493-4076
www.ushistory.org/washingtoncrossing/

TOUR

IDEA #90: DOGGIN' THOMAS JEFFERSON

Thomas Jefferson was not the dog lover George Washington was. In 1811 he wrote to a colleague attempting to curb dog attacks on sheep, "I participate in all your hostility to dogs and would readily join in any plan of exterminating the whole race." That's harsh. Jefferson, in fact, kept dogs, taking pains to procure French "shepherd dogs" to work his flocks before sailing back from Europe after a stint as Minister to France. At best, he could be said to have regarded all animals, including dogs, with more of a scientific eye than a sentimental one. Setting this aside, you can still take a splendid vacation with your dog chasing Thomas Jefferson across his beloved Virginia...

Tuckahoe Plantation (Virginia)

Young Tom spent much of the first decade of his life in this home of his Randolph cousins, built between 1712 and 1730. The Randolphs were possibly the most powerful family in colonial Virginia and provided Jefferson's entry into learned society. Tuckahoe stands as one of the most architecturally complete

plantations remaining from the early 18th century, and among the many dependencies is a tiny brick schoolhouse where Jefferson embarked on a lifelong odyssey of intellectual discovery.

The grounds of Tuckahoe are open for self-guided tours, which you take with your dog. The English boxwood garden was over 200 years of age and one of the most extensive in the country with 29 beds before it was decimated in the 1970s. The Ghost Walk visits the former maze. Other highlights include the herb and vegetable gardens and several family graveyards.

Richmond, Virginia
(804) 784-5736
www.tuckahoeplantation.com/

Colonial Williamsburg (Virginia)

Thomas Jefferson came to “the big city” at the age of 16 to attend the College of William & Mary in 1760. A young man of serious disposition, Jefferson would sometimes refer to Williamsburg as “Devilsburg.” He would return again during the American Revolution as governor of Virginia in 1779 and 1780 before moving with the government to Richmond in the latter year. He would later soften his views on Williamsburg, offering that William & Mary was “the finest school of manners and morals that ever existed in America.”

By the 1900s American life had essentially passed Williamsburg by. With the help of dog sleds full of Rockefeller family money the town was restored and recreated to reflect the early history of America. Today, Colonial Williamsburg is Virginia’s most popular tourist attraction. Your dog is welcome to walk through the cobblestone streets and play on the village greens but can’t go in any of the buildings to view the demonstrations.

For an extended outing with your dog, go out west of town to the *Greensprings Greenway* where a two-mile loop circles a 34-acre beaver pond on a wide, soft dirt path that will delight any dog. The trail is stuffed with so many interpretive signs that you almost don’t have to visit neighboring Jamestown and Williamsburg to learn about the area’s pivotal American history.

Williamsburg, Virginia
www.history.org/

Harpers Ferry National Historic Park (West Virginia)

No place in America packs as much scenic wonder and historical importance into such a small area as Harpers Ferry National Historic Park where the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers join forces. George Washington surveyed here as a young man. Thomas Jefferson, when he visited hailed the confluence as "one of the most stupendous scenes in Nature" and declared it worth a trip across the Atlantic Ocean just to see.

Later Meriwether Lewis prepared for the Corps of Discovery in 1804 by gathering supplies of arms and military stores at Harpers Ferry. A United States Marine Colonel named Robert E. Lee captured abolitionist John Brown at Harpers Ferry when he attempted to raid the United States Arsenal and arm a slave insurrection. General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson scored one of his greatest military victories here during the Civil War. It was a no-brainer when Congress appropriated funds for a national monument in Harpers Ferry in 1944 and 2,300 acres of Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia were interwoven into the National Historic Park in 1963.

Dogs are welcome in Harpers Ferry National Historic Park and hikes are available for every taste and fitness level. On the Maryland side of the Potomac River is the towpath for the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal, which was completed in 1850 as a 184.5-mile transportation link between Washington D.C. and Cumberland, Maryland. The trail is wide, flat and mostly dirt.

Beside the canal, the Maryland Heights rise dramatically 1,448 feet above the rivers. The *Stone Fort Trail* up the Heights is the area's most strenuous hike and one of the most historic. With the outbreak of the Civil War, the Union Army sought to fortify the strategic Maryland Heights with its commanding views of the waters and busy railroad lines below. The roads leading to the summit were remembered by Union soldiers as "very rocky, steep and crooked and barely wide enough for those wagons." Wayside exhibits help hikers appreciate the effort involved in dragging guns, mortar and cannon up the mountainside. One 9-inch Dahlgren gun capable of lobbing 100-pound shells weighed 9,700 pounds. Think about hauling five-ton guns up this nearly vertical climb while you are walking a 70-pound dog. The trail leads to the remnants of the Stone Fort which straddles the crest of Maryland Heights at its highest elevation.

A branch off the *Stone Fort Trail* winds down to the Overlook Cliffs, perched directly above the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers.

The best view of Harpers Ferry is from these rock outcroppings where it is easy to understand the town's importance to transportation in Colonial America, its value to the jockeying of battling armies in the Civil War and its susceptibility to crippling floods. There are no protective fences and dogs should be watched carefully on the open rocks at the Overlook Cliffs.

Access to Lower Town in Harpers Ferry is by National Park Service shuttle bus from the visitor center. Dog owners can best access this area by driving to the Maryland Heights for parking and walking across the Potomac River. The bridge features open grating that can intimidate skittish dogs not familiar with grates.

On the other side of the town of Harpers Ferry in West Virginia, along the Shenandoah River, is Virginus Island and the ruins of a thriving industrial town that finally succumbed to flooding in 1889. The trails that weave through the ruins are flat and shady and connect to the trails in historic Lower Town, where abolitionist John Brown barricaded himself in the fire engine house and battled Federal troops. Finally, climbing up the steep grade out of Lower Town is a short trail to *Jefferson Rock*, where Thomas Jefferson recorded his impressions in 1783.

Harpers Ferry, West Virginia
(304) 535-6029
www.nps.gov/hafe

Monticello (Virginia)

Thomas Jefferson began planning a house on this site as a young boy and started construction on Monticello in 1769. He continued work on his beloved estate, incorporating features of Palladian architecture he admired in classical European ruins, for more than a half-century despite ongoing financial difficulties, especially in the years after he left the presidency in 1809. For the final 17 years of his life Jefferson scarcely left the shadow of his mountaintop home.

The third president is buried in Monticello's small family burial ground, beneath a simple marker, in accordance with his instructions. The epitaph is his own: "Here was buried Thomas Jefferson/Author of the Declaration of American Independence/Of the Statute of Virginia for religious freedom/And father of the University of Virginia."

The squire of Monticello might be appalled but you can walk your dog on the parkway he developed as a scenic entrance to the house with over 130 species of trees and shrubs that are native to Albemarle County. In Kemper Park dogs can

walk a half-mile up the *Saunders-Monticello Trail* that winds for two miles up the side of the steep Carter Mountain serving up views of the Blue Ridge Mountains along the way. You can also take your dog for a spirited journey on the natural wooded paths.

Charlottesville, Virginia
(434) 984-9822
www.monticello.org/

Poplar Forest (Virginia)

Poplar Forest, about 90 miles from Monticello, was Thomas Jefferson's personal retreat. One of only two homes he designed and built for his own use, Jefferson would visit three or four times a year, staying "from a fortnight to a month at a time." He stayed here for the first time in 1809. Jefferson considered the brick octagon plantation house, blending a variety of architectural influences, his personal masterpiece.

Dogs are welcome on the grounds at Poplar Forest. Interpretive brochures lead you through the 61-acre property. Jefferson's intent was for the ornamental elements, agricultural fields, woods and house to meld seamlessly into a harmonious whole. Note that Poplar Forest is open only April through November and closed on Tuesdays.

Forest, Virginia
(434) 525-1806
www.poplarforest.org/

TOUR

IDEA #91: DOGGIN' ABRAHAM LINCOLN

By all accounts Abraham Lincoln was a dog lover ("I care not for a man's religion whose dog and cat are not the better for it," he once said) but did not get his first dog until around 1855 when he was in his late 40s. Fido, a medium-sized yellow mutt, became a familiar sight around Springfield, Illinois trailing Lincoln on his rounds through town. "Fido," incidentally, which became a generic reference for dogs, translates from Latin as "faithful."

When he was elected president in 1860, however, Lincoln decided against bringing Fido, apparently a bit of a nervous dog, to the White House. Fido was left in the care of neighbor boys who were instructed never to leave the dog tied up alone in the yard and to never be scolded for entering the house with muddy paws. Abraham Lincoln and Fido were never reunited - after the Presidential funeral in Springfield in 1865 Fido was brought back to his original home to meet with familiar mourners. He died less than a year later. Your tour of Lincoln sites will take you back to Fido's stomping grounds...

Nancy Hanks Memorial (West Virginia)

For hard-core Lincolnphiles an appropriate place to begin your explorations is at the site of Nancy Hanks' birth in 1784 on the slopes of Saddle Mountain, in then Hampshire County, Virginia but now in West Virginia. Nancy Hanks married a carpenter named Thomas Lincoln in 1806. Abraham was the second of the couple's children to come along, in 1809.

For decades the remote site was marked only by a rustic stone monument but an early-American, one-room cabin was moved to the site in the 1970s. The cabin site is remote (follow small brown signs off US 50, between MD 972 and US 220) and usually surrounded by a healthy bonnet of high grass. But there likely won't be anyone around so it is a good place to let your dog out for a romp.

New Creek, West Virginia
(304) 813-1912

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site (Kentucky)

An impressive Doric-columned marble-and-granite memorial building rises from the site of the birth of America's sixteenth president where Thomas Lincoln purchased a hillside Kentucky homesite in 1808. Each of the 56 steps leading up to the granite and marble memorial represents one year in Lincoln's life. The log cabin housed inside was once believed to be the actual cabin of Lincoln's birth, but further research has indicated otherwise. The Memorial Building was built in 1911, financed by contributions from more than 100,000 people.

Lincoln lived the first two-and-a-half years of his life on the 300-acre Sinking Spring farm, which you are allowed to tour on foot with your dog (no buildings, as usual). Highlights on the grounds, which are visited by two easy walking

trails, include the site of the Boundary Oak that was living here the same time as the Lincolns and the namesake Sinking Spring that was the family water source.

Hodgenville, Kentucky
(270) 358-3137
www.nps.gov/abli/

Lincoln Boyhood Home (Kentucky)

The Lincoln family moved about six miles north of Hodgenville in 1811. Lincoln later wrote that his earliest memories were of the five years he spent at Knob Creek. Here he attended school for the first time and watched slaves marched to auction. In December 1816, due to squabbles over faulty land titles, the Lincolns left Kentucky for Indiana.

A log cabin made of material of the time, erected in 1800 and moved from an adjacent farm in 1931, represents the Lincoln home that your dog can inspect while touring the property. The construction is typical of the Lincoln era, with a prominent chimney made of logs and mud. The *Overlook Trail* imparts a sense of life as it was in a backwoods setting along Knob Creek.

Hodgenville, Kentucky
(270) 358-3137
www.nps.gov/abli/

Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial (Indiana)

Certainly no American has ever had his footsteps so carefully dogged as Abraham Lincoln. Here we are in southern Indiana, a rugged wilderness when Thomas Lincoln moved his family here in December 1816. Abraham grew up here, clerking at James Gentry's store in his first job and working the farm until leaving the state at the age of 21.

Your dog need not miss a step in the Abraham Lincoln sage - she is welcome here as well. Walking paths lead around a working farm typical of an early nineteenth-century homestead. One trail of 12 stones, each taken from a structure of importance in Lincoln's life, leads to the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, who died here on October 5, 1818 after becoming "milksick" from drinking the milk of a cow who had grazed on poisonous snakeroot.

Lincoln City, Indiana
(812) 937-4541
www.nps.gov/libo/

Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site (Illinois)

In March 1830 the Lincoln family ferried across the Wabash River from Indiana at Lawrenceville (now tiny Lincoln Land State Park). From that moment it seems his every step in the state has been documented. Houses he visited, courthouses he argued cases in, depots he boarded trains at - you can visit them all. The only house that Abraham Lincoln ever owned, in Springfield (413 South Eighth Street), holds no promise for action-loving dogs but is worth a drive-by.

This site in eastern Illinois was the last home of Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln, his stepmother, where they lived until the 1840s. Your dog can wander around the 86-acre site that contains a replica of the Lincoln house and outbuildings.

Lerna, Illinois
(217) 345-1845
www.lincolnlogcabin.org/

Lincoln's Tomb State Historic Site (Illinois)

Abraham Lincoln was laid to rest in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois at the request of Mrs. Lincoln. The imposing 117-foot tomb was sculpted by Larkin Goldsmith Mead and is the final resting place for Mary Todd, Tad, Eddie, and Willie Lincoln. Bronze tablets bear the text of the Gettysburg Address, Lincoln's farewell address in Springfield, and his second inaugural address.

The monument to Lincoln was dedicated on October 15, 1874, on six acres of ground. Mead won the commission worth \$206,000, the largest ever received by an American sculptor up to that time. Your dog is welcome to hike the grounds of Oak Ridge Cemetery but can't go into the monument.

Springfield, Illinois
(217) 782-2717
www.illinoishistory.gov/hs/lincoln_tomb.htm

Rock Creek Park (Washington D.C.)

This trail of Abraham Lincoln didn't even reach his days as President, which of course, could consume another vacation. One of the most unique Lincoln sites in Washington D.C. is Fort Stevens. The nation's capital was protected with a ring of 68 forts during the Civil War and Rock Creek Park preserves several military sites. Although technically a national park, Rock Creek Park is more like a city park administered by the National Park Service. How many other national parks boast of ballfields and 30 picnic sites?

Two main parallel hiking trails, run the length of the park from north to south on either side of Rock Creek. The wiser choice for canine hikers is the *Valley Trail* (blue blazes) on the east side. In contrast with its twin, the *Western Ridge Trail* (green blazes), there are fewer picnic areas and less competition for the trail. Both are a rooty-and-rocky frolic up and down the slopes of Rock Creek, a superb canine swimming hole. Numerous spur trails and bridle paths connect the two major arteries that connect at the north and south to create a loop about ten miles long.

Your dog can visit the remnants of Fort De Russy, an earthworks fortification returned to its natural state just east of the *Western Ridge Trail* on a bridle path at Oregon Avenue and Military Road. Also near Military Road, three blocks east of the main park on 13th Street, is Fort Stevens. It was here the only fighting of the Civil War took place within the limits of Washington D.C. Union defenders repulsed a Confederate attack from General Jubal Early on July 11-12, 1864. Abraham Lincoln rode up from the White House and stood on a parapet watching the battle - the only time in United States history that an American president was under fire by enemy guns while in office. A dramatized plaque marks the spot today in the partially reconstructed fort. Your dog will probably be more interested in playing fetch on the grassy grounds however.

Washington, D.C.
(202) 895-6015
www.nps.gov/rocr/

TOUR

IDEA #92: DOGGIN' THEODORE ROOSEVELT

No United States President is associated as strongly with the outdoors and animals as Theodore Roosevelt. The teddy bear was named after the 26th president and so is a stout, short-legged breed of rat terrier, the Teddy Roosevelt Terrier. The indefatigable Roosevelt was a voracious traveler: the first American president to ride in an automobile and the first to travel outside the country. It would take the better part of years to trace his footsteps on vacation with your dog but here are some spots that hit the highlights...

Mount Roosevelt (South Dakota)

On February 14, 1884, when Theodore Roosevelt was 25 years old and a New York legislator, his wife and mother died, only hours apart. Devastated, Roosevelt abandoned politics and struck out for the Dakota territories where he had first visited as a lad to help cure his asthma. This time he hoped to rebuild his body and restore his spirit with the hard work of ranching. After a blizzard wiped out his prized herd of cattle in 1885, he returned to eastern society.

Roosevelt's legacy in the Dakota Territory is memorialized in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, where dogs are not allowed on the trails. A better choice would be Mount Roosevelt in the Black Hills where Teddy was a regular visitor. In his spare time out West Roosevelt worked as a deputy sheriff hunting outlaws. When bringing in a horse thief one day he met met Black Hills Sheriff Seth Bullock, beginning a lifetime friendship.

When Roosevelt died in 1919, Bullock lobbied to get a favorite peak, Sheep Mountain, renamed Mountain Roosevelt and worked tirelessly to construct the nation's first monument to the great man on its summit, even though he himself was close to death. The cylindrical stone "Friendship Tower" was dedicated just before Bullock passed that very same year. Now part of the Black Hills National Forest, the *Mount Roosevelt Trail* winds in a loop to the summit - an easy romp for your dog even though the entire hike is over one mile high.

Deadwood, South Dakota
(605) 673-9200

Sagamore Hill National Historic Site (New York)

Upon returning to New York after his stay in Dakota Territory, Roosevelt came to Oyster Bay, Long Island where his family had taken summer vacations. He resumed construction of a Queen Anne-style frame house he had commissioned before his wife's death and took up full-time residence at Sagamore Hill in 1887. He would live here the remainder of his life, raising six children with his second wife Edith.

As the park literature stresses, "Pets are as welcome at Sagamore Hill today as they were when the Roosevelts lived here a century ago." Would Teddy Roosevelt be associated with a park that doesn't allow dogs? The 83-acre property is open every day to explore from dawn to dusk. Paths and a nature trail lead through the pastures and orchard down to Cold Spring Harbor.

When he was in residence, Roosevelt often led funerals for his children's pets which included not only dogs but birds, mice and a badger named Josiah. You can view the family pet cemetery on the estate grounds.

Oyster Bay, New York
(516) 922-4792
www.nps.gov/sahi/

Theodore Roosevelt County Park (New York)

Theodore Roosevelt first came to the attention of the American public as a Lieutenant Colonel during the Spanish-American War in 1898. He organized a regiment of cowboys, Indians and Ivy League aristocrats who could all ride and shoot into the First United States Volunteer Cavalry Regiment, soon popularly known as the "Rough Riders."

It was not a figurehead position. Roosevelt's men landed at Daiquiri, Cuba on June 22 and saw battle action on June 24. A week later Roosevelt led two charges up the San Juan Heights, first on horseback and, after his steed was shot from under him, on foot. The capture of San Juan Heights effectively ended the war. However, the toll from tropical disease was becoming more deadly than enemy bullets and the celebrated regiment was sent to Camp Wickoff at the end of Long Island to be quarantined.

Dog-friendly Theodore Roosevelt County Park now covers much of the ground that was once Camp Wickoff; the Third House that serves as park head-

quarters was camp headquarters a century ago. The park maintains an extensive trail system but dog owners are best served at the *Big Reed Pond Nature Trails*. Here, a triple-stacked loop of colored trails pile up almost three miles of first-rate hiking with your dog. This is one of the few interpretive trails on Long Island. Outer Beach behind the campground on Long Island Sound offers excellent dog paddling - you can hike down a service road to the beach. A small beach on Lake Montauk opposite the trailhead also serves up superb doggie dips.

Montauk, New York
(631) 852-7878
www.co.suffolk.ny.us/webtemp1.cfm?dept=10&id=888

Theodore Roosevelt Island National Memorial (Virginia)

Of the four icons on Mount Rushmore, Theodore Roosevelt is the only one not to have a memorial around the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Instead he has his own island nearby in the Potomac River. During his presidency, Theodore Roosevelt set aside over 234 million acres of public lands as national parks, forests, monuments and wildlife refuges. After his death in 1919, Roosevelt admirers sought a suitable memorial - and what better way to honor his legacy of conservation than by dedicating this wooded, 88-acre island in the Potomac River in his memory?

Access is only from the Virginia side of the Potomac, from a parking lot off the George Washington Parkway. After leading your dog across a footbridge, three curvilinear trails conspire to cover the marsh, swamp and forest of the island. The *Upland Trail* and *Wood Trail* are covered with imbedded yellow stones; the *Swamp Trail* utilizes a boardwalk. All are extremely wide and ideal when more than one dog is in tow. There is enough elevation change to keep your dog's interest and the thick woods produce a shady haven just yards from the crush of Washington bustle.

Nestled in the center of the island, the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial is dominated by a 17-foot bronze statue by Paul Manship. It overlooks a diorama of fountains and four 21-foot granite tablets, inscribed with the tenets of Roosevelt's thoughts on Nature, Youth, Manhood and the State.

McLean, Virginia
(703) 289-2500
www.nps.gov/this/