

UNCOMMON CAMPING

A campy guide to the American wilderness

There's travel, and then there's travel. I know a guy who used to work for CBS News and spent all his time on the road. He complains that America's once-distinct regions have become as bland as a 1950s sitcom, that all the motels and fast-food joints are the same. That there's no difference between a shopping mall in, say, Wisconsin and one in Arizona. The high school students hanging out there listen to the same music, watch the same TV shows, and wear the same clothes. Every place in the U.S., he maintains, is pretty much the same.

To a certain extent, he's right. Begin at the city limits of any town and snake along a narrow

by Michael Ray Taylor

THE CAMPSITE KEY
Use these symbols to find the kind of camping spot you want, so you can have the perfect wilderness experience.

The Big Picture—Superior views, abundant wildlife, miles of space. An absolute escape from the ordinary.

Double Bagging—Camping for couples, where the two of you lose yourselves on trails that wind amid mossy glens and secluded cabins....

Camping Hell—Snakes, bugs, weather, work. If it don't make something bleed, it ain't real camping. For serious hikers only.

Cabin Fever—Your hut away from home. Why puzzle over folding tent poles when you can call and reserve a warm hearth?

Crowd-Pleaser—A sunny clearing where you and your 20 closest friends can spend a weekend.

Camping Kitsch—Need we say more?

The Pampered Camper—Remote locales where "roughing it" doesn't rule out TV or plastic money. Remember to bring at least two fluorescent swimsuits.

