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**NORTH AMERICAN ACTIVE GETAWAYS**  
**Where to go for high-end adventure close to home**

TORONTO, Canada — For travel aficionados, there's a time for heading to far-flung destinations like Italy or Chile—and other times when a stateside getaway is in order. Fortunately, the high-end travel experts at Gray & Co. excel at both. From Alberta to Vermont, Texas, Utah, and Tennessee, there are plenty of places close to home to get active in Gray & Co. style.

"We're always looking for great riding and hiking travel experiences right here in North America," explains Gray & Co. founder Cari Gray. "Some travellers like to get away at a moment's notice, while others just who need a holiday that doesn't require a long journey or multiple days away—or one that doesn't involve jetlag."

Favourite North American escapes for the folks at Gray & Co. are indeed varied, from hiking adventures in the Canadian Rockies—where mountain châteaux in Lake Louise and Banff complement some of the most majestic scenery anywhere—to cycling journeys in Texas Hill country, where the stellar rides are outshone only by the killer barbecue. Best accessed by private jet, West Texas is also a treat for active types. Big Bend National Park, the Chinati art museum, and the famed Marfa Lights are just a few of the region's highlights. And in Utah, Lake Powell's exclusive canyons make for perfect paddle boarding, hiking, swimming and more.

For wine lovers, a pedal through the Santa Ynez Valley is a joy; the famed training ground of the pros features picturesque valleys and perfectly challenging ascents—not to mention charming restaurants and the superb Fess Parker Wine Country Inn & Spa. There's also the Paso Robles region which has the fabulous Hotel Cheval and more vineyard rides. Oregon's Willamette Valley offers a similar combination of fine riding and fine wines, with over 200 vineyards situated at the same latitude as Burgundy, France—which at least in part explains the presence of so much outstanding pinot noir. Located close to Portland, the region's fabulous Allison Hotel & Spa offers award-winning accommodations, dining and body treatments.

Further north, Whistler village offers up a cornucopia of activities, and the planning experts at Gray & Co. have used it to craft family escapes and corporate retreats alike. World-class biking and hiking parks are complemented by such quality hotels as the Four Seasons and Château Whistler—with the region's amazing wildlife, glacial lakes, and Olympic facilities just icing on the cake.

Recent additions to the Gray & Co. stable of escapes are Vermont's forests and Tennessee's Smoky Mountains. Legendary Twin Farms is the ultimate active base in Vermont, with great rides and hikes among the little towns close to Barnard. And in Tennessee, The Inn at Blackberry Farm is the best for biking, hiking...and dining.

Gray & Co

Winner of the James Beard Award for its Outstanding Wine Program, the hotel takes its culinary arts as seriously as its fly-fishing. (and that's pretty seriously).

"It also mixes the world's best Bourbon Manhattan," says Gray. And that's no small achievement.

*Gray & Co. crafts custom journeys for active travellers to many corners of the globe. With first-hand knowledge and local connections, they can orchestrate almost any adventure with style and precision. They cater to groups of friends and families, design corporate retreats, and more. For more information, please visit [www.grayandco.ca](http://www.grayandco.ca).*