

WYOMING

Primary travel objective: Feast your eyes on the vistas, like along the **Beartooth All-American Road** (beartoothhighway.com), the highest of any road in the northern Rockies (hello, mountain views). Secondary objective: Feast. When it's time to refuel, check out **roadfood.com**. The site's like a food atlas that lists America's tastiest stops (grill restaurants included).



PARTY IN THE USA

A good playlist can keep the bash fired up long after the coals have cooled. These **songs** from bands with huge local followings are worthy of a spot on yours.

—A.W.

1

LOUISIANA

"FLAME"

THE VETTES

(thevettesfansite.com)

"I can't think of a city with more packed live music clubs than New Orleans," says Kidd Kraddick, host of the *Kidd Kraddick in the Morning* show on B97 FM New Orleans. "The Vettes are a favorite to watch." The band members are siblings, but the sound is far from a family jamboree: Jagged guitars, pop synthesizers and little sister Rachel's Blondie-esque vocals make this a party track.

2

NEBRASKA

"TALL, TALL GRASS"

TILLY AND THE WALL

(tillyandthewall.com)

"Community is important in the Midwest—it's so easy to feel isolated out here!" says Kianna Alarid, bass guitarist and lead singer. That's why locals love the indie music scene, and this band in particular. Their signature sound—using clapping and foot stomping in place of drums, and repeating verses—is perfect for a little backyard sing-along.

3

CALIFORNIA

"CASTLES AND FACTORIES"

RAINING JANE

(rainingjane.com)

This all-girl band stands out for its use of unorthodox instruments, like cello and sitar. Their witty onstage banter doesn't hurt either (see if you can score a live album). Do these girls get down with BBQ? Definitely: "I love cheeseburgers so much, I'd name my next band The Charcoal Briquettes," says drummer Mona Tavakoli.

4

PENNSYLVANIA

"WAITING FOR THE END OF SUMMERTIME"

LOHIO

(singloho.com)

Mixing bouncy indie rock with a folksy twang, Pittsburgh-based Lohio makes good late-afternoon background music, says Cindy Howes, host of *Morning Mix* on WYEP 91.3 FM in Pittsburgh. "The songs have a neighborly feel—everyone at the party instantly feels like old friends."

Between due dates and play dates

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