

50 Over-the-Top TREATS



Dig into the most outrageous sweet in every state.



BY MARIAH SCHLOSSMANN

It's not your imagination: For years, desserts have been getting bigger, fancier, wilder and more mind-blowing. The makers of these showstopping sweets just keep outdoing themselves—which works out really well for the rest of us. We scoured the country and found a must-try in every state. Plan a few stops on your road trips this summer. These are all worth a detour!

CONNECTICUT
Nutella S'mores
French Toast Tower

You can order this gravity-defying wonder any time of day at Elm Street Diner in Stamford. The only way to tackle it is from the top down.



ALABAMA
Cotton Candy Burrito
Ice cream and Fruity Pebbles wrapped in blue spun sugar is a fan fave at Cream & Cones in Pelham.



ALASKA
Aurora Chocolate Bonbons
The northern lights inspired these beauties at Aurora Chocolate in Anchorage. They're coated in colored cocoa butter.



ARIZONA
Churro Dog
You need two hands for this creation, served at Chase Field in Phoenix.



ARKANSAS
Fried Pie
You'll find these only on Fridays—in flavors like fudge, Almond Joy and cherry—at Me & McGee Market in North Little Rock.



CALIFORNIA
Big Poppa Tart Donut
The Donut Bar in San Diego bakes whole Pop-Tarts into this doughnut, then tops it with glaze, sprinkles and crushed Pop-Tarts.



COLORADO
Glow-in-the-Dark Cotton Candy
Edible bioluminescent powder lights up this goodie at Denver's Inventing Room Dessert Shop.



DELAWARE
Tall Charlie
Rolled ice cream is extra fun when it's tucked into a glazed doughnut bun at Sweet Charlie's in Rehoboth Beach.



FLORIDA
Marie Antoinette
Let them eat cotton candy! This knockout 'do stands two feet tall at Barton G. The Restaurant in Miami.



GEORGIA
Popcorn Ice Cream Sundae
This ode to Cracker Jack at Canoe restaurant in Atlanta has popcorn ice cream, Chantilly cream and popcorn-nut clusters.



HAWAII
Aloha Açaí Bowl
Makani's Magic Pineapple Shack in Hilo serves this amazingly smooth açaí from a soft-serve machine.



IDAHO
Ice Cream Potato
This isn't a dinner side at Boise's Westside Drive In—it's molded vanilla ice cream coated with cocoa powder.



ILLINOIS
Macadamia Turtle Pie
This pie at Gibson's Bar and Steakhouse in Chicago is dotted with macadamia nuts and stands a full foot high!



INDIANA
Bling Berries

Customers at Punkin's Pies Sweet Treats in Indianapolis say these glittery fruits are too gorgeous to eat...almost.



IOWA
Holy Doughly

Cookie monsters in Des Moines head to Dough Crazy, where they can choose from 12 cookie-dough fillings, and sugar or chocolate chip cookies.



KANSAS
Fairway to Heaven

This iconic treat at Fairway Creamery has everything you want in a sundae—and a whole doughnut too!



MONTANA
The Flaming Orange

Hollowed oranges are lined with dark chocolate, filled with ice cream and meringue and set aflame tableside at Chico Hot Springs Resort in Pray.



NEBRASKA
Layered Unicorn Bar

This magical treat at Sweet Magnolias Bake Shop in Omaha is made with confetti blondies and a rainbow of buttercream.



NEVADA
The Flaming Skull

Inside this Día de los Muertos treat at Chica in Las Vegas is a scary-good chocolate lava cake and horchata ice cream.



KENTUCKY
S'more Chocolate Tres Leches

The volcano-like treat at Guacamole Modern Mexican in Louisville actually has heat: There's jalapeño in the mousse.



LOUISIANA
Fettuccine Crêpe

You've never had pasta like this! The Bonjour dessert shop in Baton Rouge serves crêpe noodles with an ice cream meatball.



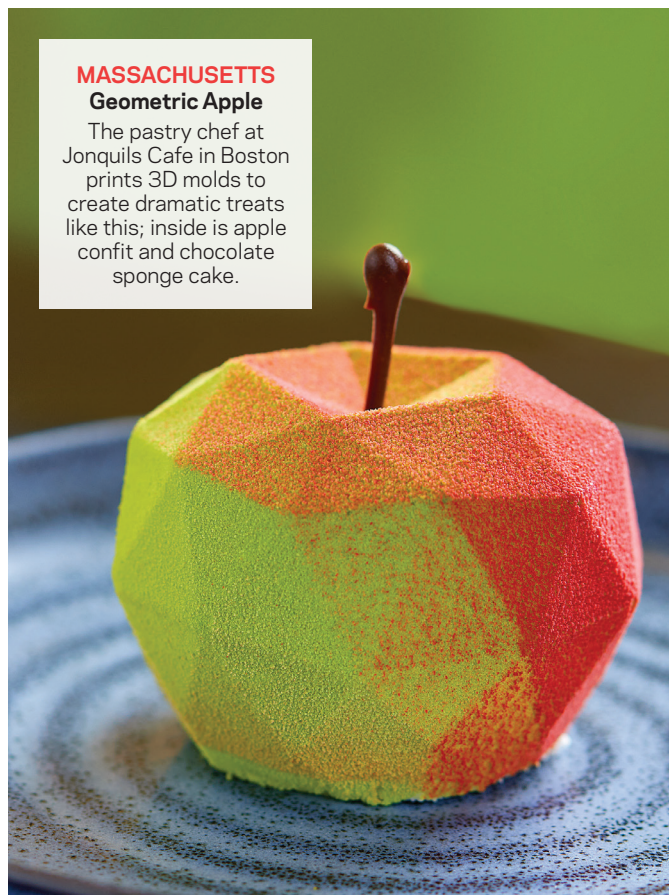
MAINE
Lobster Ice Cream

Buttery lobster is even more luxurious in this ice cream from Ben & Bill's Chocolate Emporium in Bar Harbor.



MARYLAND
Monkey Bread

This reinvented classic at Sacré Sucre in Baltimore, made from croissant dough, is prettier than the average monkey bread!



MASSACHUSETTS
Geometric Apple

The pastry chef at Jonquils Cafe in Boston prints 3D molds to create dramatic treats like this; inside is apple confit and chocolate sponge cake.



MICHIGAN
Hot Waffle Sandwich

Toasted waffles and tasty frozen custard have people flocking to The Custard Hut in Dearborn Heights.



MINNESOTA
All of Them

No need to pick a flavor at Milkjam Creamery in Minneapolis—with this dish you get every single one (and every single topping)!



MISSISSIPPI
Mississippi Mud Cheesecake

HollyPops Bakery in Tupelo reimaged the traditional dessert as a chocolate cheesecake, complete with a marshmallow top.



MISSOURI
Levee High Caramel Apple Pie

Apple slices stacked in a container get flipped over into a crust to make this showstopper at The Blue Owl Bakery in Kimmswick.



NEW MEXICO
Churro Cake

These churros were a food-truck favorite, so the owners made them into a cake and opened Churro Bar in Santa Fe.



NEW YORK
Pistachio Suprême

Pistachio flavor is a win at NYC's Lafayette Grand Café and Bakery, but specials like Sour Cherry Amaretto take the...croissant.



NORTH CAROLINA
Candy Grapes

At Kandy Apples by K in Raleigh, grapes are dipped in homemade liquid candy, then coated with toppings like Nerds and Jolly Ranchers.



NORTH DAKOTA
Signature Crêpe

Now *that's* a wrap! Custard, fruit and chocolate pearls come nestled in a crêpe cone at Tea and Crêpe in Fargo.



OKLAHOMA
Roasted Pecan Ice Cream Ball

It looks sweet, but this mega-scoop of pecan-crusted ice cream at Cheever's Cafe in OKC has a chile powder kick.



OREGON
Whiskey Salted Caramel S'more

The 1927 S'mores Company in Portland, named after the year the Girl Scouts recipe came out, takes the treat to new levels.

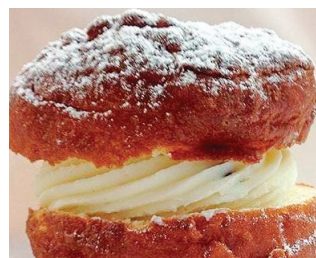


SOUTH DAKOTA
The Getaway

In Sioux Falls the next best thing to a tropical vacation is chocolate-coated coconut lime cake and crèmeux at CH Pâtisserie.



OHIO
Buckeye Donuts
Regular buckeyes are little chocolaty peanut butter bites. Buckeye Donuts in Columbus supersizes 'em.



PENNSYLVANIA
Frannoli

A baker at Frangelli's Bakery in Philadelphia dipped a piece of a doughnut into cannoli filling one day, and the frannoli was born!



RHODE ISLAND
Awful Awful

When a Newport Creamery customer said the ice-milk-and-syrup shake was "awful big and awful good," the name stuck.



SOUTH CAROLINA
Not Fried Chicken Ice Cream

You could easily mistake this bucket of cornflake-dipped ice cream at Charleston's Life Raft Treats for the real deal.



TENNESSEE
Peach Cobbler Nachos

Chef Tam's Underground Café in Memphis whipped up this dish to satisfy customer requests for more crust.



TEXAS
Cereal Milk Macaron

This gorgeous ice cream sandwich from Joy Macarons in Dallas also happens to be gluten-free!

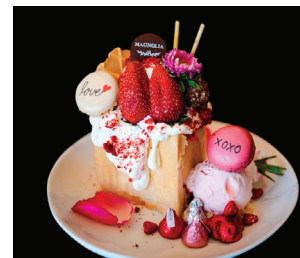


UTAH
London Fog Cone

It's a jolly good British tribute: The soft serve is made with Earl Grey tea at Normal Ice Cream in Salt Lake City.



VERMONT
Three-Tier Cinnamon Roll Cake
 Locals in West Dover can make breakfast a big deal with a cake made of 13 cinnamon rolls from Sticky Fingers Bakery.



VIRGINIA
Pocky Strawberry Honey Toast
 The honey-brushed toast at Magnolia Dessert Bar in Vienna has it all: strawberry mousse, ice cream, candy and more.



WASHINGTON
23-Layer Chocolate Cake
 How can you top this one? Vista Prime Steaks & Seafood in Snoqualmie serves it with Mexican hot chocolate sauce.



WEST VIRGINIA
Caramel Indulgence Brownie
 The Brownie House in Morgantown based this gooey goodness on a recipe from the founder's grandma.



WISCONSIN
Sea Salt Caramel Pecan Kringle
 Uncle Mike's Bake Shoppe in Green Bay gives the kringle an irresistible twist. Try it for breakfast or dessert!



WYOMING
The Powderhorn
 Customers definitely prefer a cone when it's a made from a doughnut at Glazed 'N Confused in Sheridan.