

best-eating freshwater species in the world, just about anywhere. But you want a boat, and there's no better place to get aboard one than Ballard's, a working-class resort near Baudette (guide-and-lodging packages from \$385; ballardsresort.com). Instead of a concierge, it offers a fishing hotline and a fleet of aluminum skiffs. The owners, Steve and Joanne Ballard, have 14 guides working for them; Steve still fishes nearly every day in order to stay abreast of the latest piscatory developments, so you're guaranteed a good day on the water. Come sunset, chase your pan-fried catch with a High Life or three at the resort's lakeside dining hall and bar. -RYAN KROGH

BOMB THE CASCADES

Methow Valley, Washington

The best way to celebrate June in Seattle: head east toward the dry side of the mountains with skis and a mountain bike in tow. At dawn, double-park beside big, lingering snowdrifts on the North Cascades Highway's 5,477-foot Washington Pass for some lazy spring ski turns beneath the granite thumb of 7,720-foot Liberty Bell. (Pick up Rainer Burgdorfer's 100 Classic Backcountry Ski



and Snowboard Routes in Washington, then slap on the skins at the Blue Lake Trailhead.) Ski the abundant spring corn back to the car, then point the tires downhill to the Methow Valley, a handsome fold in the lion-colored hills that's home to hundreds of miles of mountain-bike trails (daylong rentals, \$45 at Methow Cycle and Sport; methowcycle sport.com). Opt for the 13.5-mile Buck Mountain Loop, just north of Winthrop. It's not the most taxing route in the area, but the scenery is unreal. Climb the 1,300-foot Forest Service road that begins the route



TAKE A STAND

STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING HAS EXPLODED IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, AND FOR GOOD REASON: WHILE THE SPORT LOOKS A LITTLE GOOFY, IT'S BOTH A GREAT WORKOUT AND REALLY, REALLY FUN. HERE, OUR FAVORITE SPOTS FOR SUMMER S.U.P.'ING. BY KATE SIBER

MALIBU, CALIFORNIA

Malibu is crawling with surfers, but just past the most popular breaks you can find uncrowded water (average temperature: 65 degrees). Malibu Surf Shack runs two-hour guided stand-uppaddleboard trips (\$70; malibusurf shack.com) up the coast, past cliffs and kelp beds teeming with seals and sea lions. Or rent a board for a day (\$75) and paddle up to Point Dume, a collection of wild coves and beaches. At sunset, hit the Malibu Beach Inn for dinner, then splurge on a room at the Malibu Beach Inn (doubles from \$425; malibubeachinn.com).

LAKE POWELL, ARIZONA

The best part about paddleboarding in Glen Canyon: you can access tight corners and slim slots that the lake's behemoth houseboats can't reach. From the town of Page, head to Kayak Powell. Opt for the three-day guided trip (\$999 for two people; kayakpowell .com) to the outer tentacles of the lake, like Labyrinth and Face canyons. By night, camp on sandy beaches far from the nearest houseboat party.

LAKE MICHIGAN, MICHIGAN

Just a 90-minute drive east of Chicago in the lakefront town of New Buffalo, Third Coast Surf Shop rents boards (\$40 per day; thirdcoastsurfshop .com), and you can take an introductory lesson (\$140 for two) or go solo. It's easy to learn on flatwater like the Galien River, a lush, winding waterway populated by herons and beavers. Then graduate to the city beach, where proficient paddlers can catch waves before pitching camp at nearby Warren Dunes State Park.

