

Calling all sports fans: in this installment of “myAdventures,” Travel Specialist, Gig Gwin

takes us...

Touring Americas

Pastimes



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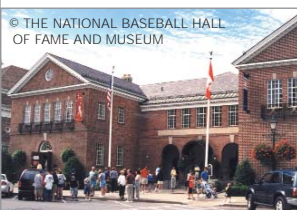
As American as baseball... If baseball represents the spirit of America, then Cooperstown, New York is the perfect little town to house its shrine, the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Just a short, two-hour drive up the beautiful Hudson Valley from New York City, this cozy hamlet now boasts not only being the origin of “America’s favorite pastime,” but also the honor of protecting the memories of the game’s greatest players.

The Hall of Fame is an entertaining place to visit for everyone from avid fans to part-time spectators. And, quaint Cooperstown beckons family vacations. Spring, summer and fall are the best times to visit; the highlight being Hall of Fame Week and the Induction Ceremony held in mid-summer. A few years back I attended the induction of the “Wizard of Oz,” Ozzie Smith, former shortstop for the St. Louis Cardinals. It was quite an experience to be among the over 19,000 other fans gathered just outside of town at Clark Sports Center to witness the ceremony.

Even if you don’t attend an induction ceremony, the Hall has much to offer. Stroll through the well-organized, multi-level exhibits of over 30,000 objects. End your visit at the Museum Shop featuring fascinating memorabilia you’re unlikely to find anywhere else. (My personal favorites were the Ozzie Smith

limited edition autographed bats and the “Who’s on first?” jerseys that revisit the classic Abbott and Costello routine.)

Not quite a baseball fan? Not to worry. While your traveling companions tour the Hall or take in a minor league game at Doubleday Field, you can wile away the hours wandering in and out of the unique New England boutiques. For lunch don’t pass up a bowl of genuine New England chowder at one of the local cafes or walk three short blocks to enjoy your meal by the lake.



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“ Whether you’re a big baseball fan or a football fanatic, here’s the roadtrip for you. ”

Are you ready for some football? While you’re crisscrossing the U.S., step off the beaten path to visit Canton, Ohio. An hour’s drive south of Cleveland, it is the home of the old Canton Bulldogs – one of the Pro Football League’s founding teams – and the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Rising almost directly off Interstate 77, the signature football-shaped roof of the Hall makes an unmistakable landmark. Overlooking the Hall is Fawcett Stadium where the Hall of Fame

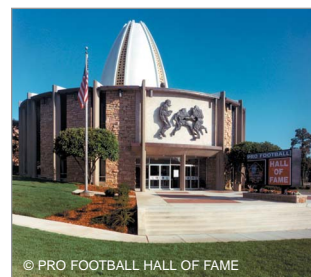
game is played annually.

Once inside, take your time perusing the busts of football greats, a presentation of each professional team and several interactive displays where big and little kids alike can be quarterback, throwing footballs to an imaginary receiver among other games. My favorite exhibit was the display of the winning photographs from the Hall’s annual photography contest.

After spending the day in Canton, hop in your rental car and head back to Cleveland for dinner at the world-famous Hard Rock Café. – Gig



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Travel Specialist, Gig Gwin (founder and CEO of Gwin’s Travel in St. Louis, MO) holds the distinction of being the “most traveled” travel agent in the world.