



KICKOFF



# happy campers

Building wood fires under flickering stars, waking up to the warmth of the rising sun—camping is the ultimate antidote to a busy workweek. And it's simple: You live on trail mix and sleep on the ground, after all. If you've already got the basic gear (boots, backpack, tent, sleeping bag, flashlight, maybe a water filter), it's easy to head out for a last-minute trip, even if it's 5 p.m. on a Friday. Unfurl your forest map, and highlight a short in-and-out hike or loop trail with a scenic sleeping spot in the middle. If you don't score a coveted site in, say, Yosemite, look for late-notice spots in Bureau of Land Management areas and National Forests nearby, where you can tent up at a quiet hot spring and then drive to Yosemite to explore in the morning. Since you're there for one night, you'll have extra pack space for a nice bottle of wine. Come dark, an app like Night Sky uses your phone's compass and GPS to identify the constellations overhead. Or take a tech break, and make up your own. Δ