

AMERICA'S GREAT PARKS

WHERE TO FIND PARADISE  
AND BEAT THE CROWDS

# Outside

LIVE THE ACTIVE LIFE

SPECIAL REPORT

## 50 DREAM JOBS

Turn Adventure  
Into Your Career

+35 SMART,  
FUN COMPANIES  
HIRING  
RIGHT NOW

**BEAR  
GRYLLS  
HAS A  
DIRTY  
SECRET**  
BY HAMPTON  
SIDES

**2010  
BIKE GUIDE**  
24 NEW RIDES  
FOR MOUNTAIN,  
ROAD & CITY





Outside  
Editors'  
Choice



### RAIN WALKER

Put a hiking boot on a strict diet and you'll get something like the **FC Eco 2.0 GTX** from **La Sportiva**. Though lightweight and low-cut, it feels as sturdy as a back-packing clomper: The stiff Vibram sole (30 percent scrap rubber) is perfect for sharp scree and rock scrambling, and the upper—Gore-Tex-lined waterproof nubuck leather and recycled nylon—stood up to both muck and rough-trail abrasion. 16.8 oz; \$140; sportiva.com

## ESSENTIALS



### COMFORT KING

Part suede hiking shoe, part nimble trail runner, **Vasque's** hyper-comfortable **Juxt** quickly became our go-to option for light-duty day trips. The supple leather provides great durability, the densely woven laces deliver climbing-shoe-like control, and the water-resistant coating shrugged off downpours and shallow creek crossings without requiring a steamy waterproof liner. 13.3 oz; \$90; vasque.com

### BUSINESS RIDER

**Keen's** **Austin Pedal** looks like an oxford-style casual shoe—until you turn it over. Recessed in the sole is a bike-pedal cleat (SPD-compatible) that lets you go from commute to conference call without switching out of your riding shoes. We also loved the waterproof leather upper, moisture-wicking lining for humid rides, and scuff-proof rubber toecap. 19 oz; \$120; keenfootwear.com



**CANYONEER**  
Wade through pools. Scramble up sandstone. Repeat. Because it's mostly mesh, the **Merrell Navigator Sport** is perfect for wet-again, dry-again adventures, letting out moisture as soon as it gets in, while keeping your feet cool in hot desert climes. It's lightweight but impressively durable and grippy, with a tough rubber toecap and knobby tread with grape-size lugs. 11.5 oz; \$110; merrell.com



### RIVER KEEPER

It's not a shoe; it's a shanda! **Teva's** **Itunda** wraps your foot with enough protection to walk confidently in murky shallows, features a sticky proprietary tread for slimy rocks, and is secure enough—with the comfortably padded buckle strap—to not be sucked off by strong current. 12.6 oz; \$100; teva.com



### > technical shoes

## Solid Footing

Meet the top performance kicks of spring by JASON STEVENSON

### DECKHAND

The nonmarking sole on **Rockport's** **Hydroplex** sticks like a barnacle to a wet boat deck, but that's not the only reason we loved it. On hot days, the huge vents on this breathable, quick-drying mesh sneaker made it feel more like a sandal, while the colorful band of full-grain leather adds yachtie style and full-shoe protection to the upper. 10.6 oz; \$90; rockport.com

