Instant Weekend Escapes

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BACKROADS

10 DAYS IN

Hit the Deck

A sophisticated skateboard, a novel knife, and beachwear built just forr, war -- summer is estuain into DAY STEAVE CLASHAIR CO

> SECTOR 9 BAMBOO CONCAVE PINTAIL

HAUTE WHEELS The very word "ประสาธิบวสถ่า smacks of adolescence, but four-foot longboards such as the Sector 9 Bamboo Concave Pintail (\$170; www .sector9.com) aren't the curb-grinding short-bed rides you see on ESPN2. Those tricks are for kids. The extended, sweeping turns of longboards are for style mavens, speed junkies, offseason snowboarders, and anyone else looking to carve adults, in other words.

Stretched out and comfortable like a Caddie limo. the seven-ply bamboo deck tames the summer asphalt, trading shortboard maneuverability for high-speed stability and the drawn-out grace of a surfer's longboard—just what you want whether you're bombing down a mountain pass or cruising the neighborhood on a summer evening. Its 75a durometer wheels are on the softer end of the urethane spectrum, so you can lean into a 30-mph turn with the confidence that they won't lose their grip. And with 46 inches of concrete carvability, this board is big enough for a party of two.





THE DOWNLOAD > Our indomitable (and slightly obsessive) gear guru taps into this month's buzz

I've never been so entertained in the backcountry as the night I played Frisbee—er, flying disc—with the Nite Ize Flashflight (\$22; www.niteize.com), a 185-gram light-un-disc. Jwenty-two. bucks. well-snept..!! At. Q 45. o uscas. the . Transium. Inva. Ben (\$900), www.inkacorp.com) weighs only slightly more than the paper on which it writes. But its ability to scribble at high altitudes, underwater, and even upside down makes this scrawler the heavyweight champ of pens. // I'm a big fan of the iPod trade-in program at Small Dog Electronics (www.smalldog.com/wag13041). It's painless, easier than eBay, and will net me about \$120 for my old 40GB pod.

