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Drive in movie theater north county san diego

Photo Courtesy: J. R. Eyerman/Life Magazine/The LIFE Picture Collection/Getty Images Tired of Netflix? You aren't alone, but escaping the house still requires some caution due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Fortunately, some companies and individuals came up with a creative idea to help people safely enjoy a night out: drive-in theaters. That's right — outdoor movie venues are no longer a thing of the past. They're a fun answer to the problem — at least for the foreseeable future. Even as theaters and concert venues reopen, drive-ins have a lot to offer people who are feeling stir-crazy but also uncomfortable about going out in public while the virus is still spreading. Some drive-ins that have opened up have even worked to upgrade the cinema experience by offering more than the chance to watch great movies. Concerts and other outings provide extra entertainment opportunities at select locations. These venues serve as a refreshing reminder that social distancing doesn't have to be boring, and you can still go out with friends if you take the right approach. Ready to say goodbye to your couch and say hello to fun at the drive-in? Here's a deeper look at how drive-ins are thriving during the pandemic. For some movie lovers, the old-fashioned drive-in experience wouldn't cut it anymore, even in desperate times. This is where the brand-new experience comes in. Several revamped drive-in locations offer movies and a view, which makes it harder to pass up. For instance, Skyline Drive-In NYC provides patrons a movie with the lovely Manhattan skyline in the backdrop. It's not a mundane NYC skyline either; it's a popular filming location for well-known companies like SNL and Converse. Photo Courtesy: Skyline Drive-In NYC When it comes to food, some drive-ins are turning to fancy food trucks and onsite culinary options that far exceed the appeal of popcorn and candy. At Lefty's Alley and Eats, you can order crab wontons or bruschetta as an appetizer and move on to an entree like roasted frenched chicken breast or crab cake sando — all while enjoying a great movie. Some aspects of the outdoor cinema experience are the same, but there are some subtle changes. Many drive-ins have modified their ticket purchasing process, for example, requiring all tickets to be purchased online through the company's website or Facebook page. However, you have to be quick at many locations. Tickets are in hot demand and sometimes sell out in minutes. One problem business owners still face for now is access to brand-new movies. Without the permission of movie studios, drive-ins can't show the latest flicks, but this situation has already started to improve with new film releases picking back up at the end of August. Older movies like Jurassic Park, Grease and Dirty Dancing have done well in drive-ins through the summer, so we may see a blend of new, old and recent movies like Crazy Rich Asians and Mary Poppins Returns playing at drive-ins moving forward. For those who love music but are a little sick of social media live concerts, businesses have found an innovative solution to your problem: drive-in concerts. Germany got the trend started by hosting a few drive-in rave concerts with all the works — DJ performances, lasers, smoke, special effects and dancers (wearing masks, of course). Although people aren't allowed to get out of their cars to dance and mingle, they can party inside them and even honk to the music. Photo Courtesy: Hauke-Christian Ditttrich/picture alliance/Getty Images In the U.S., many music artists have jumped on the bandwagon and hosted small drive-in shows. One of the most popular stars to jump on this trend is country singer Keith Urban, who surprised fans in Tennessee with a spontaneous drive-in concert in May. That's not all — the singer dedicated the show to front-line medical workers. Besides requiring online ticket sales, business owners have implemented other safety and social distancing measures to ensure everyone safely enjoys the entertainment. Most drive-ins have the same set of regulations, such as requiring patrons to stay in their cars, except to use the restroom. If you leave your car, you must wear a face mask, and each car must be parked 10 to 20 feet away from the next car. Some venues stagger car spots, so everyone can easily view the movie screen or performance. Also, only a certain number of people are allowed in the restroom at one time. Of course, you can expect a few troublemakers who don't want to follow the new rules, but you can also expect those customers to be kicked out. Photo Courtesy: Dasrll Roszandi/NurPhoto/Getty Images If you're wondering about food and drinks, many venues are trying to keep the experience contact-free by encouraging patrons to bring their own snacks and beverages to give both customers and workers peace of mind during the pandemic. However, those who want snacks at some locations can order items online for contact-less car delivery or pick up. For instance, food trucks at Miami's Carflix Cinemas deliver food to customers' vehicles while they watch outdoor movies. Houston's Rooftop Cinema Club allows customers to pre-order food and drinks online for onsite pickup. Thanks to drive-ins, people have the chance to leave their homes and have some fun together (while still apart) during these challenging times. How's that for some movie magic? The last theater of its kind remaining in Los Angeles County.AlamyPhotosWhat's this place all about? Drive-in theaters peaked in the late-1940s and early-1950s with the rise of car culture and baby boomer excess. There were over 4,000 drive-ins in the U.S. in 1947 (compare that to a little under 6,000 movie theaters total in America today). But those numbers declined drastically in the 1970s during the real estate boom, making the vast swaths of land required for a drive-in more valuable than showing movies. Today, only a few hundred drive-ins persist, mostly as nostalgic anomalies. One of those anachronisms is the 65-year-old Vineland Drive-In, the only one of its kind remaining in Los Angeles County. Owned and operated by Pacific Theaters (the company behind the iconic ArcLight Theater chain, the Vineland Drive-In shows first-run features at the relatively reasonable price of \$10 per person. What kinds of events can we see here? The one type of movie that probably kept even the few drive-ins left chugging for all these years have been horror movies. There's no real science behind why—maybe it's the close quarters that allow for comforting and reassuring cuddles during the gore-tastic slasher scenes—but drive-ins are always playing horror flicks. Vineland Drive-In is no exception; at the time of publication, half of the showings were horror movies or thrillers. How are the seats? Vineland Drive-In has lasted as long as it has partly because it was built right. The concrete in the lot is wavy, allowing for cars to angle themselves right at the screen, and avoiding obstructed views. Good for kids? Vineland often offers some kid-friendly fare, even if it's a revival of an older movie. But remember that drive-in movies cannot begin until after the sun has set, which might make for an evening that goes past bedtime. What—and who—do you think this is best for? Vineland Drive-In is perfect for getting out of the house for a Friday night outing with your partner. It's a safe way to be around people, but also in your own space.More from Condé Nast Traveler Don't call it a comeback; drive-in movie theaters have been here for years. Since 1933 to be exact when Richard Hollingshead tinkered with a sheet and a Kodak projector in his driveway until he perfected and patented his light-bulb moment and opened the original outdoor cinema in Camden, N.J. The concept took off, especially after Hollingshead's patent was overturned in 1949, and sound technology allowed audio to be played through a car's radio. In the heyday in the '50s and '60s, there were about 4,000 permanent drive-ins. These days the number is closer to 300, according to DriveInMovie.com, which has a searchable database that makes it easy to find out what's playing (and where) near you. Many are historic with retro refreshments, flashback features, and original screens, befitting a nostalgic night at the movies under the stars. Others were built in the digital decade and tricked out with distractions like mini-golf, barbecues, and playgrounds to help pass the time until the sun goes down. Some even add concerts, games, and giveaways to the program. Given the current need for social distancing, the overwhelming desire to get out of the house, and the fact that many people are Netflix and chilled out, drive-ins are once again seeing a surge in popularity and this list of 18 highlights some of the best theaters across the country for bucket seats, buttered popcorn, and big screens. 01 of 18 If you don't want to go big on movie night in Maryland, go home as the 64-year-old Bengies (in Middle River) boasts the biggest movie theater screen in the states. It measures 52 feet high by 120 feet wide, which means films aren't cropped to fit the display. The Middle River business' season is longer than most as they open in early spring and don't close until late fall. You get more bang for your buck Fridays and Saturdays as they show triple features and during all-night dusk-to-dawn programming on holiday weekends. They also do nostalgia to the nines. Every showing begins with the national anthem, the concession stand is original, there are audience participation rituals, and intermissions are filled with vintage cartoons and trailers. 02 of 18 Courtesy of Shankweiler's Drive-In Wilson Shankweiler opened the country's second drive-in in Pennsylvania in April 1934. Today, 86 years later, the Orefield landmark stands as the oldest still-operating drive-in in the country. The entertaining elder is to be respected as it has lasted through changing technology, going from speakers on poles to digital projection and sound in 2013, and survived 1955's Hurricane Diane, which leveled the projection booth and the shadowbox screen. 03 of 18 Coyote Drive-In Theater & Canteen There's Texas-sized fun to be had at this Fort Worth triple threat, y'all. It's a drive-in with four screens. It's also a concert venue and a beer garden. The Canteen pours more than two dozens brews, including mainstream suds (Bud Light and Dos XX) and local crafts (Martin House, Rahr), a handful of ciders, and six wines, all of which are perfectly paired with a Frito pie or churros. If your whip happens to run on literal horsepower, admission is free. Hitches are provided to tie up your steed while you watch from the lawn. 04 of 18 Courtesy of Silver Bow Drive-In Get ready for star-on-star action. There are the ones gracing the silver screen at the Butte business and the ones that slowly illuminate, filling Montana's famously big sky with sparkle. Arrive early to secure a primo parking stall and catch the fiery sunset show overhead. Continue to 5 of 18 below. 05 of 18 Courtesy of Delsea Drive-In Theatre Even if it wasn't the only theater to motor to in New Jersey, the Delsea's super-sized snack bar alone is worth the price of admission. Of course, the Vineland drive-in still sings the classics like popcorn, hot dogs, and Raisinets, but the ambitious menu also offers pierogies, spring rolls, eggplant Parmesan, and pulled-pork sandwiches. There are even extensive gluten-free, low-carb, and Atkins options. 06 of 18 Courtesy of Mission Tiki Drive-In Take in the old-school outdoor cinema experience seven days a week in Montclair, California, just 40 miles from Hollywood. It isn't SoCal's only drive-in, but it's the only one where guests are welcomed by giant Moai-like heads and buy tickets from palm-thatched huts. It alternates up to eight new releases on four screens, hosts almost daily swap meets, and organizes classic car and lowrider meet-ups. Other must-visit drive-ins throughout the Golden State include The Solano in Concord, Sunset Drive-in in San Luis Obispo, West Wind in Sacramento, and South Bay Drive-In in San Diego. 07 of 18 Peter Trapp/ @Peterbullphotography This Fairlee, Vermont, compound offers not only the night's entertainment but also a place to stay. As one of only two drive-in/motel combos in the U.S. (and the oldest), you can choose to eat mozzarella sticks and watch the movie in your car or bed. The motel rooms feature rear viewing windows that gaze out at the screen. Brew something in the Keurig coffeemakers to stay awake for the second act. 08 of 18 Courtesy of Harvest Moon Twin Drive-In Go green while going to the movies in Gibson City, Illinois. Although the entertainment complex got its start in 1954, the family in charge nowadays has instituted several eco-friendly initiatives since taking over in 1989 including installing LED lighting, using recycled materials, and powering approximately 25 percent of their operations—from frying up funnel cakes to staging concerts—with energy generated by the on-site solar array and wind turbine. Continue to 9 of 18 below. 09 of 18 Courtesy of Fort Lauderdale Swap Shop The Florida favorite offers a multitude of ways to have fun 365 days a year, rain or shine. With 14 screens, the self-proclaimed world's largest drive-in rivals any indoor multiplex in terms of capacity and programming. It also includes an 88-acre flea market, an arcade, and a free Ferrari museum. 10 of 18 Get your cinematic kicks on Route 66 at this Carthage, Missouri, drive-in situated along the famed cross-country highway. Given the strong connection to car culture and Americana that both things represent, the location could not be more poetic. We also appreciate the old-fashioned American sass filtered throughout their rules. One example: when detailing the rules regarding outside food, which they allow to be brought in, they casually throw out this shaming bon mot, "We pay our bills with money made in the concession stand. If you bring outside food, you are contributing to the demise of drive-in theaters." 11 of 18 Courtesy of Northfield Drive-In The 71-year-old Northfield doesn't just show movies. Sometimes, the drive-in that straddles the border between Massachusetts and New Hampshire stars in them too. Back in 1998, the Hinsdale drive-in was used as a location for three scenes in "The Cider House Rules." The scenes were shot on Halloween. 12 of 18 Courtesy of Admiral Twin Drive-In The Tulsa theater was also ready for its close-up. Francis Ford Coppola came to town in the '80s to adapt "The Outsiders," S.E. Hinton's influential tale of feuding '60s teen gangs set there, with the help of then relative unknowns Rob Lowe, Tom Cruise, Ralph Macchio, Patrick Swayze, and Diane Lane. Several scenes take place at the drive-in. While in town, tour other locations, including the Curtis Brothers' House, which is now a museum dedicated to the novel and film. Continue to 13 of 18 below. 13 of 18 The Lagrange, Kentucky, property is known for programming mostly family-friendly classics like "The Goonies" and "Back To The Future," but should get extra kudos for the genius disaster double feature that pairs "Wizard of Oz" and "Twister." (It's an extra meta experience watching the scene where a drive-in screening of "The Shining" is interrupted by a spontaneous twister while in your own car at a drive-in.) Sponsoring a Summer Retro Wednesday allows you to pick what's showing that night and invite 50 cars of friends for free. 14 of 18 Only 23 miles from Portland in Newberg, the drive-in has been in the same family since Grandpa Francis built it in 1953. Unlike many of its competitors, the 99W rules allow folks to bring in outside food. Might we suggest picking something up from another Oregon institution just down the road? Burgerville is known for its burgers and shakes made with local ingredients like strawberries, blueberries, Rogue Creamery's Hopyard cheddar, Seely mints, and Portland Coffee Roasters beans. 15 of 18 Two outdoor screening rooms anchor this Freedom, Wisconsin, property, but it also offers customers 18 holes of mini-golf, basketball courts, volleyball courts, and a refreshment center stocked with homemade pizza, cheese curds, nachos, and cheddar popcorn. We'd expect nothing less from a drive-in located in America's Dairyland! 16 of 18 Courtesy of Charlotte's Got A Lot. In North Carolina and need a night out? Head to this converted campground surrounded by big trees in Kings Mountain, near Charlotte. Having only opened in 2016, it's one of the newest kids on the block. Owner Mike Brown ran a local movie theater in the late '70s and '80s and decided to get back in the biz with his son Preston after the region's other drive-in shuttered in 2014. The recent build equates to newer equipment and digital projection. A patron was once joined by his pig for soft serve and cinema, which was fine as pets are allowed. We can only hope they were there to see "Babe." Continue to 17 of 18 below. 17 of 18 Courtesy of Holiday Twin Drive-In If we're being honest, the Fort Collins outdoor cinema had us at movie-themed shave ice, rootbeer floats, and funnel cake fries. The menu even caters to meat-free film buffs with Beyond Burgers. But HT, open since 1968 and currently the highest performing drive-in in the U.S. according to the general manager and his film buyer, has plenty more going for it. It's a woman-owned business with resident dogs. The Rocky Mountains provide a pastoral backdrop to screenings, and sunsets usually don't disappoint either. It also offers lots of unique events that go beyond the big screen, including the Mountain Standard Fallback Fest and Bikes, Brews, and Blockbusters, a bike-in celebration highlighting local bands, beers, and short filmmakers. 18 of 18 Courtesy of Blue For Drive-In The Pacific Northwest knows how to party. The theater complex, which sits amid the pastoral fields of Oak Harbor, also includes a snack bar, arcade, and go-karts. The track is a quarter of a mile long and is open for races until showtime at dusk. Be sure to grab a bag of their signature kettle corn.

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