

AFAR

10 Best Places to Travel in July

By Mark Ellwood • April 1, 2026

There's plenty of sunshine, sand, and celebration to go around come July.



Several events and celebrations are taking place this July, including the release of *The Odyssey* movie, filmed in the lesser-visited Peloponnese region of mainland Greece. *Photo by Olga Kot Photo/Shutterstock*

Just because July in the Northern Hemisphere is the **peak of summer** and prime school holiday time, don't assume the traditional beach getaway or cabin rental is the way to go.

Why not see the Greek filming locations where *The Odyssey* was shot? Or catch World Pride in one of the world's most progressive cities? Then again, it's also a fine time to see horse racing and archery at a confab in Mongolia.

You deserve a vacation this month; here are 10 places that are well worth visiting in July.

Providence, Rhode Island



Providence was founded in 1636, but it's throwing big celebrations for the 250th anniversary of U.S. independence in 1776. *Photo by Wangkun Jia/Shutterstock*

Rhode Islanders were the original New England rebels, the first to chafe under British rule long before any tea was tossed into Boston Harbor; in 1772, the HMS *Gaspee* ran aground here and was promptly torched by angry locals. Commemorate their feistiness with a trip for Independence Day, and learn more about how Rhode Island played a pivotal role in the Revolution. This year's commemorations will be even more splashy, in a nod to America's 250th anniversary. **Waterfire**, Providence's local public art nonprofit, will do a full lighting of all the braziers along the rivers downtown from sunset to midnight, plus pop-up performances, boat rides, and complimentary food and drinks.

Stroll the streets of this city to see superb colonial and Victorian architecture, or enjoy cutting-edge contemporary culture at **RISD Museum**, which forms part of the

arts school founded originally to make it easier for women to study creative fields. Arnaldo Almonte, managing director of the Graduate hotel, says you should take home a bottle of Dave's Coffee Milk Syrup, the official state drink. "It's exactly what it sounds like: coffee-flavored syrup mixed with cold milk," he explains. Don't want to check a bag? Sub out a Coffee Milk-scented candle at [Craftland](#) or [the Landing](#).

Where to stay: Graduate by Hilton Providence

There are more than 35 of the aptly named Graduate hotels dotted around U.S. college towns—funky, affordable boutique accommodations aimed squarely at students and anyone visiting them. This 294-room [Graduate by Hilton Providence](#) is a reboot of the 1920s-built Biltmore Hotel and retained the original sign when it reopened in 2019.