

12 Iconic Summer Vacation Spots That Are Actually Better in the Fall

Secluded beaches, sleepy main streets, and cheaper accommodations await.

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Published on Aug 22, 2024



Fall at Marram Montauk | Photo by Read McKendree

Whether your ideal summer trip involves stretching out on the sand, exploring a [national park](#), or diving head first into a [lake](#), there are a few things every summer vacation has in common. They're sweaty, expensive affairs that usually require a little extra planning to avoid crowds—but it doesn't have to be that way.

While most recognize Labor Day as the capstone of summer, the calendar says it stretches on until the end of September. We're of the belief that summer is a state of mind, and there's no reason you can't hit up a [quintessential beach town](#) or soak up the sun well into October. In fact, it may even be more enjoyable. So, if you're looking to plan a trip in September or October and aren't quite ready to give up the summertime vibes, we've got you covered with 12 summer vacation spots that are even better in the fall.



Photo courtesy of Discover Newport

Newport, Rhode Island

The very picture of a charming New England summer, [Newport](#) is known for its beautiful coastal scenery, historic mansions, and sailing culture during the warmer months of the year. With that said, fall unveils a different kind of charm for the seaside destination. As the season begins to shift, the city's historic streets and grand mansions take on a serene atmosphere, with vibrant fall foliage adding to the gorgeous environs.

One of the highlights of Newport in the fall is the opportunity to experience the brilliant autumn colors along the scenic Cliff Walk, a 3.5-mile coastal trail that offers views of the Atlantic Ocean on one side and the Gilded Age mansions on the other. Nature lovers will also love the nearby hiking trails like the Norman Bird Sanctuary and Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge, which offer ogle-worthy leaf-peeping opportunities. And if you want to pair getting outside with a drink, Newport has a wealth of local vineyards and breweries with fewer tourists to contend with and seasonal tastings to enjoy in the fall. —AS