House Beautiful

The 15 Best Places to Travel This Summer

Beach or mountains? We've got both covered.

BY KATE MCGREGOR | PUBLISHED: JUN 7, 2023

Deciding how to use your precious PTO days can feel daunting. Do you prefer the mountains or the beach? Should you stay stateside or jet across the pond? No matter what summer vacation you're looking for, we have a few ideas to help you decide—including some with spectacular views. Depending on where you want to go, there are different "best times" to travel. Avoid the southern United States and its scalding climates in the latter half of July and at the beginning of August, when the temperature and humidity can hit triple digits. However, the Pacific Northwest and Northern Europe

are just hitting their peak during that time. June tends to be the most popular time to travel during the summer.

The best place to take a summer vacation depends on what you're looking for. Opt for a quaint seaside town like Newport, Rhode Island, or Cape Cod if you want a private beach getaway. If you love a firm itinerary, choose a city like New York or Edinburgh and pack the day with sightseeing tours, restaurant reservations, and museums galore. If you're looking to travel within the U.S. or take a road trip, we have a list of the best cities that feel like you're in Europe—no flight needed.

So jet-setters, start tracking flight prices and get those packing lists ready. Road-trippers, double check your maps and consider renting an RV or camper to get where you're going in style. Ahead, we highlight 15 incredible summer vacation ideas you'll love, from ghost tours in Savannah, Georgia, to bucket-list destinations like the Pope's summer residence in Italy.

2
Tour Gilded Age Estates in Newport, Rhode Island

Indulge your inner history buff and take an educational vacation this summer. Newport is famous for its historic mansions, the grandest of which is The Breakers, the Vanderbilt family's summer "cottage." If you time your trip wisely, you can catch a glimpse of Newport's famous sailing regatta in the harbor too.