

TRAVEL+ LEISURE

The Best Places to Travel in May 2023

These are the best places to visit in May in the United States and around the world.

By [Patricia Doherty](#) | Updated on March 2, 2023

A vacation in May lets you take advantage of lower rates in the [shoulder season](#) before summer travelers head to their favorite spots and the end of the school year sends families out on [road trips](#) and European journeys. In many places, May weather is mild, and travelers can embark upon outdoor adventures or escape to a [white-sand beach](#). [Festivals](#) in many destinations also attract May vacationers, making late spring a great time to travel.

Here are 12 of the best places to travel in May in the United States and around the world.

North Carolina's Coast



PHOTO: JUPITERIMAGES/GETTY IMAGES

May weather in the 70s makes for a great time to visit the coast of [North Carolina](#). With about 300 miles of barrier island [beaches](#), coastal towns, history, seafood, and wildlife, the state's coastal area is perfect for a spring vacation. On the 85-mile stretch of the southern Outer Banks known as "[The Crystal Coast](#)," events include the [Beaufort Music Festival](#) (May 19-20) and the [Atlantic Beach Music Festival](#) on May 20. [Cape Lookout National Seashore](#) features the 19th-century Cape Lookout Lighthouse, which opens to visitors in May. The area has been designated as an [International Dark Sky Park](#), creating a perfect place for stargazing. Wineries, breweries, oysters, [Marshallberg Caviar Farm](#), and a variety of [restaurants](#) make dining another North Carolina coast pleasure.