

## Summer Travel in the United States

One of the things people look forward to is taking a vacation during the summer months (June, July, August). People make vacation plans according to a variety of factors: affordability, weather, things to do, family, and personal preferences. Ideal trips could involve making plans to go to a big city, a national park, a relaxing beach, or a small town. Considering the factors mentioned above, U.S. News created a list of vacation possibilities for the summer.

**While looking at the list below, think about the following questions:**

- What factors are important to you when deciding where to go on vacation?
- What is one of your favorite vacations? Why?
- Have you traveled to any of these places?
  - If so, what did you enjoy? What did you dislike?
  - Would you recommend this vacation location to others?

**A Few of the Summer Travel Suggestions from U.S. News:**

1. **Glacier National Park** (Montana) is known for its stunning geological features, including over 700 lakes, nearly 200 waterfalls, and two major mountain ranges. July and August are the best and busiest times to visit. Average temperatures are in the low 80s. Driving the Going-to-the-Sun Road is popular. So is hiking, kayaking, or canoeing.
2. **Yellowstone National Park** (Wyoming, Montana, Idaho) A favorite spot for nature lovers, people travel to Yellowstone to see Old Faithful erupt, hike through the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone, and view the various springs and wildlife in the area. This park is busiest in the summer and the temperatures are ideal during that time; 70s and 80s. Nearby towns host many family-friendly events like rodeos and arts festivals in the summer.
3. **San Diego** (California) This southern California city is renowned for its beautiful beaches, including Coronado and Mission beaches. Balboa Park gardens and museums and the San Diego Zoo are popular family destinations. Dining and drinking establishments are highly regarded. There are opportunities to take beer or food tours that could include authentic Mexican cuisine and craft breweries. July and August have near-perfect weather.
4. **Adirondacks** (New York) Hiking, camping, and canoeing in the Adirondacks is like going to a 6 million-acre summer camp. During the long summer days and temperatures in the 70s and 80s you will be able to experience all this region has to offer. There are more than 3,000 lakes that offer opportunities for boaters and kayakers. There is a variety of lodgings in the area, including historic lodges, camping or glamping sites.
5. **Boston** (Massachusetts) This large city appeals to many visitors in the summer. Fenway Park welcomes baseball lovers. The Freedom Trail invites history buffs to many historical sites and the North End neighborhood and Faneuil Hall Marketplace are a go-to spot for foodies. Art lovers enjoy the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Visitors can also enjoy the city's lush parks and gardens, and a variety of food, or plan a trip around one of the summer events like the Boston Harborfest and the Boston Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival.

6. **Great Smoky Mountains National Park** (Tennessee-North Carolina) This local park encompasses more than 520,000 acres and is perfect for those who love the outdoors. This park only charges a small parking fee upon entry and boasts impressive waterfalls, great fishing, scenic drives, and a variety of hiking opportunities, including over 70 miles of the Appalachian Trail. Evening temperatures are typically in the 60s and 70s which make it a great camping location. The visitor center is worth a visit to gain some park history and learn about the ranger-led programs.
7. **Vacations at the Beach** Generally, persons living on the east coast go to Atlantic Ocean beach towns like Wildwood, NJ, Ocean City, MD, Virginia Beach, VA, Wrightsville Beach, NC, and others farther south where the water is warm, has good wave action, and is swimmable. Most people in the Midwest go to the Gulf of Mexico beaches in Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida where the water is warmer and waves are not as rough. The West Coast people go to Pacific Ocean beaches in southern California where the water is colder than the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. The Pacific Ocean's waves are larger and ideal for surfing.



Glacier National Park



Yellowstone National Park



San Diego



Adirondacks



Boston



Great Smoky Mountain National Park



Wrightsville, NC



Gulf Shores, AL



San Diego, CA