

AFAR

10 Best Places in the U.S. for Summer Travel

Ten places for the perfect summer vacation.



Enjoy idyllic places like Mackinac Island this summer.

It's almost inappropriate *not* to make the most of summer's quiet stretches and skip off for a trip somewhere new. This is the bona fide vacation season, after all. Yes, you could jet off to explore far-flung corners of the world, but why not make it a true all-American summer with a trip to one of these world-class domestic destinations?

We've pulled together a roster of 10 must-visit stateside spots, each accompanied by a must-see reason to go now and scoops on how to make the most of each destination from connected insiders.

4. Mackinac Island, Michigan

For a red-white-and-blue summer, there's nowhere better than this **car-free, carefree island** in Lake Huron. Lilacs have been planted here en masse for more than 200 years, and they're celebrated with a **10-day event** each June that's like Mardi Gras with a whiff of wildflowers. This year, it runs from June 6 to 15.

You can also visit the island via a journey aboard *Victory I* or *Victory II*, freshly refurbished ships now operated by American Queen Voyages founder John Waggoner. They pass along the waterways of the Great Lakes, and Mackinac Island is a port on many itineraries.

Where to stay: Grand Hotel

- **Book now:** [grandhotel.com](https://www.grandhotel.com)

This spectacular grande dame of a property looks pretty good, especially since it celebrates its centenary this year. Each of its 388 rooms are designed with cottagecore vibes by Dorothy Draper & Co.

Insider tip

Hotel staffer Elizabeth Graves recommends an evening at the Carousel Arcade on Market Street, which opened last summer and offers classic arcade games, claw machines, and foosball. There you'll also find corn dogs, popcorn, and other treats, as well as canned cocktails for grown-ups.