

Best Places to Travel in June



The month of June gracefully straddles spring and summer, in most places a month of transition with changing weather and the realization that [summer vacation](#) is almost here. Whether the coming season means time off from school or work, travel, or house guests, June could be good time to plan a getaway before summer arrives. With both [domestic](#)[this link opens in a new tab](#) and [international](#)[this link opens in a new tab](#) travel increasing each year according to data from the U.S. Travel Association, it might pay to get a head start on summer travel, both to avoid crowds and to take advantage of deals before the season kicks in full force.

[Flowers and festivals](#) announce the season in many places, like [Mackinac Island's](#) annual Lilac Festival, Jazz Festivals in Saratoga Springs and Montreal,

and Lexington, Kentucky's Bluegrass Festival. Auto racing in LeMans, France and Montreal will attract devoted fans, and Santa Fe's annual rodeo will bring in a crowd as well. Music is a draw for many travelers, and Santa Fe's Opera Season and Bandstand concerts both begin in June. Oregon's Willamette Valley wine country is reawakening with the perfect combination of fresh produce, just-caught seafood, luscious wine, green landscapes, and lots to do outdoors.

Favorite destinations like the Loire Valley of France and Italy's Amalfi Coast will get busier as the month goes on. Both offer historic hotels renovated to enhance visitors' comfort while keeping the beauty and details of another era. The [Adelphi Hotel in Saratoga Springs](#)^{this link opens in a new tab} is another recently renovated vintage gem.

Travelers anxious for warm weather that's still a month or so away might want to head south to Amelia Island in Florida where summer arrives early. Or they can travel around the world to Bali for its balmy climate and luxury resorts. Wherever your late spring/early summer travels may take you, it's a time to enjoy and celebrate the changing season.



Loire Valley, France

About 150 miles southwest of Paris and less than two hours by train, the [Loire Valley](#) is lovely in late spring, before summer's heat and tourist season. Flowers are blooming in colorful lush gardens, and it's easy to see why Renaissance-era royals and aristocrats chose this area to build their elegant castles and chateaux. More than 100 of these elaborate buildings are open for tours. The 12th-century [Notre-Dame de Chartres Cathedral](#)[this link opens in a new tab](#) is a gorgeous example of French Gothic architecture and a World Heritage Center. Visiting medieval towns and villages and exploring their history are just some of the pleasures of the Loire Valley. The wines of the area are prized, from Sancerre and Pouilly-Fume to Chenin Blanc, Cabernet franc, and more. Cheeses, especially Chevre, a goat cheese, are among the dining pleasures of the area. This June 15-16, the 87th running of "[24 Hours of LeMan](#)[this link opens in a new tab](#)," one of the oldest and most prestigious automobile races in the world, will take place near the town of that name. Auto racing fans who miss out on the race would enjoy a visit to the [Museum](#)[this link opens in a new tab](#) in Le Mans for exhibits, simulator rides, and displays of the racing cars. For an exquisite experience in keeping with Loire Valley style, stay at the newly restored [Hotel Chateau du Grand-Luc](#)[this link opens in a new tab](#), formerly the home of a baron who hosted such greats as Voltaire, Mozart, and Rousseau. Originally built in 1760, the Hotel Chateau features 17 rooms and suites in a stunning example of French Neoclassical architecture.