

# TRAVEL+ LEISURE

TRIP IDEAS

## 20 Perfect Summer Getaways



Courtesy of Friday Harbor House

### Seattle: SPLURGE

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**Where to Go:** Friday Harbor, Washington.

**Distance from Seattle:** 100 miles north.

**Where to Stay:** No car required here. Ride the ferry through the San Juan Islands and the Salish Sea to San Juan Island itself, and walk two blocks to the Friday Harbor House where 23 modern guest rooms and suites have Arts and Crafts furniture, fireplaces, and oversize jet tubs, and most rooms have views of the harbor and pine-covered islands.

**Room to Book:** Any room with a full view of Friday Harbor and Brown and Shaw islands.

**Price:** Doubles from \$289.

**What to Do:** Since you're in one of the best whale-watching spots in the world, don't miss boating out to Haro Strait with Maya's Legacy Whale Watching or San Juan Safaris, and marveling at breaching orcas and humpbacks frolicking with their calves.

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by April Orcutt

Summer in the city—any city—can be lovely. Sun, warm weather wardrobes, and rooftop bars. But, it can also mean gaggles of eager tourists, sweltering heat, and packed subway cars. Everyone needs a way to escape the mid-summer metropolitan mayhem.

We've rounded up some of the best summer weekend getaways from 10 major cities around the U.S. For those looking to save a little cash, there is a budget-friendly option. Looking for a vacation splurge? We've got you covered.

On the east coast, escape the humidity by going north or east. Many city-dwellers in major cities like Atlanta, Boston, New York City, and Washington, D.C. have the privilege of being just a short drive, train ride, or plane ride away from beautiful coastal towns, like those of Cape Cod and Maine, to name a couple. Down south, head to state parks, like Amicalola State Park just 70 miles from Atlanta, for some premiere hiking and beautiful vistas of the surrounding land.

In the Midwest, city slickers can head south for a small-town vibe, local fairs, and sweet country inns. Only 50 miles southeast of bustling [Chicago](#) is Valparaiso, Indiana. Kick back at the colonial Songbird Prairie Bed & Breakfast and enjoy whirlpool baths, fireplaces, and sunrooms perfect for bird watching.

On the west coast, there may not be humidity comparable to that of the east, but the tourist crowds are sure to be plentiful. From [Los Angeles](#), head north to Santa Barbara and breath in the sea breeze and sweet smells from local farmers markets. In [Seattle](#), head west to the San Juan Islands for whale watching, kayaking, and other ocean adventures.

Whether you're on a coast, down south, or smack dab in the middle of the country, there is a fun, [budget-friendly](#), or luxurious, relaxing escape from city life waiting for you this summer.