

Six destinations to consider for spring getaways in 2026

- A Monitor Desk Report

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Dhaka: As March and April approach, many travelers are planning spring getaways in search of sunshine, outdoor adventure, and cultural experiences. This period of the year offers favorable weather in many destinations and often comes with fewer crowds compared with peak holiday seasons.

In recent years, industry specialists have observed a shift in traveler preferences. Instead of traditional beach vacations focused solely on relaxation, many tourists are now seeking destinations that combine warm weather with active experiences such as hiking, surfing, wildlife exploration, and cultural discovery.

Therefore, spring has increasingly become a global “reset period,” especially for families and professionals seeking a short break before the busy summer travel season begins.

Below are six destinations travel experts recommend for spring trips in 2026.



Puerto Rico, United States

Puerto Rico continues to gain popularity among international travelers because of its vibrant cultural identity, cuisine, and natural attractions.

Tourism officials say visitor arrivals reached record levels in 2025, and demand remains strong entering 2026.

Beyond the historic neighborhoods and colorful streets of the capital, San Juan, the island offers a wide range of cultural experiences, from traditional music and dance to regional cuisine sold at roadside kiosks.

Travelers looking for quieter settings often head to nearby islands such as Culebra and Vieques. These locations are known for secluded beaches and snorkeling spots filled with reef fish.

Vieques has also introduced new upgrades for the 2026 season, including renovated accommodations and expanded wellness facilities at several boutique retreats.



Madeira and Porto Santo Island, Portugal

Madeira, a Portuguese archipelago in the Atlantic Ocean, is widely regarded as a year-round hiking destination, but spring is considered one of the best times to visit.

During March and April, the islands experience mild temperatures and abundant plant blooms, creating what tourism officials describe as a “botanical spectacle.”

One of the region’s most famous hiking routes, the Vereda do Areeiro to Pico Ruivo trail, is expected to reopen in late April 2026 after repairs following wildfires in 2024.

Visitors can also explore historic irrigation channels known as levadas, which now serve as scenic walking trails connecting villages and forests.

For beach lovers, Porto Santo Island, located about 2.5 hours by ferry from Madeira’s capital, Funchal, offers long stretches of golden sand and clear waters favored by scuba divers.



Fort Myers, Sanibel, and Captiva, United States

Florida's Gulf Coast destinations of Fort Myers, Sanibel, and Captiva offer a quieter alternative to more crowded spring hotspots such as Miami and Fort Lauderdale.

Tourism activity is particularly important in the region following damage caused by Hurricane Ian in 2022. Many hotels, restaurants, and tourism services have gradually reopened.

Local authorities say most beaches and nature reserves have now been restored.

Wildlife observation is one of the major attractions. The J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island is a renowned

birdwatching destination.

Visitors frequently spot migratory species during spring, including roseate spoonbills, alongside alligators and other native wildlife.

Eco-tours also introduce travelers to the region's long-standing seashell-collecting culture, which has historical roots dating back more than 2,000 years.



Cape Town, South Africa

March and April represent what local tourism professionals call Cape Town's "secret season." After the busy summer months, the city experiences fewer visitors while maintaining comfortable temperatures

and clear skies.

The conditions make it ideal for hiking, visiting local markets, and exploring nearby vineyards during the annual grape harvest season in the Cape Winelands.

Several cultural events also take place during this period. The Cape Town Carnival, scheduled for March 21, features street parades, performances, and elaborate floats.

Another highlight is the Lumenocity festival, set for April 9-12, which will transform the historic Company's Garden with illuminated art installations.

Local markets are also expanding in 2026, with new venues opening at popular waterfront areas and historic districts.



Máncora, Peru

Peru's northern coastline is emerging as a quieter alternative to the country's more famous destinations, such as Cusco and Machu Picchu.

The beach town of Máncora offers warm Pacific waters, seafood cuisine, and sunsets that attract visitors seeking a relaxed coastal environment.

The region also appeals to surfers, with peak surfing conditions typically occurring between November and April.

Nearby beaches such as Las Pocitas and Vichayito provide calmer waters suitable for paddleboarding and swimming.

Travelers can also snorkel with green sea turtles near the town of Los

Órganos.

A major tourism development is expected in early 2026 with the opening of Inkaterra Cabo Blanco, an eco-focused beach hotel located about an hour south of Máncora.



Raja Ampat, Indonesia

For underwater exploration, travel experts highlight Raja Ampat in Indonesia's West Papua province as one of the world's most biodiverse marine regions.

The archipelago sits within the Coral Triangle and is famous for coral reefs, manta rays, pygmy seahorses, and other rare marine species.

March and April mark the end of the dry season, offering calmer seas and strong underwater visibility ranging from 15 to 30 meters. The period also sees fewer dive boats compared with the peak tourist season.

Visitors often explore the islands aboard traditional Indonesian wooden sailing vessels known as phinisi. Others stay in locally operated homestays across the islands, which provide direct access to coral gardens and diving sites.

Birdwatching is another attraction, particularly on Batanta Island, where rare species such as the red bird of paradise and Wilson's bird of paradise can be observed.

The combination of marine biodiversity, cultural immersion, and relatively limited tourism infrastructure makes Raja Ampat one of the most distinctive spring destinations in the world.

Overall, tourism analysts say spring travel in 2026 reflects a broader industry shift toward destinations that combine nature, adventure, and cultural authenticity.

With favorable weather in many regions and growing interest in experiential travel, March and April are increasingly viewed as ideal months for international trips.

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