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Want to Escape the Heat? 5 Cold-Weather Summer Vacations

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It's already mid-July and the summer temperatures are at their peaks. The beaches are crowded, the pools are packed, and the AC units are maxed out. And even though there are sun-worshippers who may love the scorching heat, at some point everyone needs to chill out. For those summer vacation days still left on the calendar, how about visiting a chillier, dare we say, cold-weather destination instead of one that requires a portable fan or umbrella? As crazy as it may sound to ski or hike a glacier in the coming weeks, these five trips may be the best way to beat the heat while still having the most exciting summer getaway ever.



Photo: Courtesy of Garzón Vineyards

Wine Tasting in Garzón, Uruguay

Want to sip a chilled glass of wine without breaking a sweat in a hot, humid vineyard? Garzón is the perfect south-of-the-equator escape for such activity. This quaint and charming ranching village in Southeastern Uruguay is a rustic countryside respite from the summer heat, especially when visiting winemaker Alejandro Bulgheroni's 524-acre vineyard, Bodega Garzón. The winery offers hot-air-balloon rides, olive harvest experiences, alfresco Uruguayan barbecues, and, of course, traditional tastings of their signature wines. Travelers can also visit Lake Garzón and have a stroll on the architecturally striking new Laguna Garzón Bridge connecting the towns of Maldonado and Rocha.



Houses in Tasiilaq at the edge of Kong Oskars Havn with the mountain Polheim in the background

Photo: Courtesy of Exodus Travels

An Adventure in Greenland

For those who seek serious adventure while indulging in a little cooldown, Greenland is the perfect place to travel—the average daytime temperatures on this snowy, ice-covered island between the Arctic and North Atlantic oceans range from 41 to 45 degrees. Visitors can embark on a seven-day walking tour through the secluded mountains, icebergs, glaciers, and rivers of the country's east coast, with helicopter rides between each location. If you want to stay put, check into the Hotel Arctic in Ilulissat where you can stay in a plush igloo on the edge of the fjord.



Mont Fort

Photo: Courtesy of Exodus Travels

Hiking the Haute Route in France and Switzerland

Traversing the scenic terrain of the European Alps is perhaps one of the best ways to find mild temperatures (highs average around 68 degrees during the day) while traveling this summer. Specifically, there are hiking journeys that you can take through the famous Haute Route between Chamonix in France and Zermatt in Switzerland. Camp near the lakes; rest at the Cabane du Mont-Fort in Bagnes, Switzerland; or stay at luxury hotels along the route like the five-star, chalet-style Hotel Mont-Blanc in Chamonix.



Arakur in the Arakur Alarkén Nature Reserve

Photo: Courtesy of Arakur

Skiing in Patagonia

If you're really ready to bundle up during the month of August, traveling to a mountainous region of Patagonia is the perfect escape. Stay at the Arakur luxury retreat in Ushuaia, a resort town on Argentina's Tierra del Fuego. The hotel and spa is located in close proximity to the Arroyo Grande grasslands, the Castorera, the Chico River waterfall, and, most importantly the famous Cerro Castor ski resort (it's about 20 minutes by car from the Arakur). Ski conditions here are ideal during our summer months of July and August.



The view at Feigumfoss

Photo: Courtesy of Exodus Travels

A Walk the Fjords in Norway

Travel to Bergen, Norway, to experience a blend of cool temps (61–64 degrees is the average) and lush summertime flora. Visitors can hike on glaciers at Breheimen, wander through birch forests in the Jotunheimen National Park, and relax in the Mørkrisdalen valley. Norway's fjords also boast some of the most incredible, well-designed hotels like the Juvet Landscape Hotel that features nine sleek wood and glass cabins situated above the Valdøla River.