

CHART · PLANNER

The Seasonal Jobs *Hiring* Calendar

The seasons of the world do not line up, which is the whole opportunity. When each one hires, when it runs, and how to chain them into a year of work that funds the travel.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- The global hiring calendar, 14 seasons
- Lead times: how early each employer really hires
- What each season pays and provides
- Chaining seasons: four proven year-plans
- Your 12-month planner and application tracker

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enroutejobs.com/publications

The mistake is applying when the season starts

A ski resort in the French Alps opens in December. It hires in September, and its best roles, the ones with staff housing attached, are gone by mid-October. A Mediterranean beach club that opens in May has finished hiring in March. Applying when the snow falls or the sun comes out puts you at the back of a queue that closed months ago.

This calendar exists so you can work backwards. Every row shows two things: when the **application window** is genuinely open (blue), and when the **work** runs (teal). Plan from the blue bars.

On EnRoute, seasonal roles are their own category with contract dates and housing up front. Right now the board carries 100 of them across 12 countries, and every one was read by a person before it went live.

READING THE BARS

Blue application window

Teal the season itself

Amber rolling, region-dependent

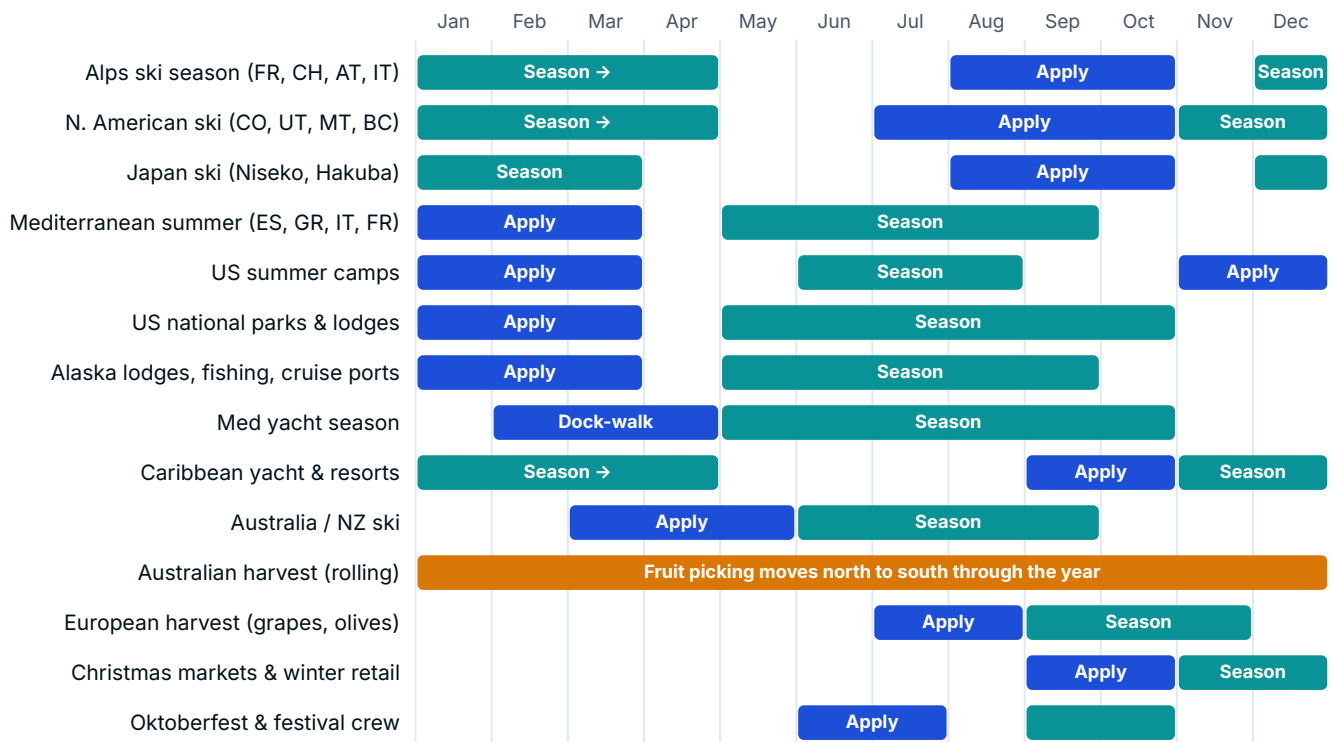
Windows are typical, not fixed. Big operators open earliest; small independents hire later and faster.

01

The global hiring calendar

When to apply, and when the work runs

Northern-hemisphere calendar year. A season crossing December continues at the left edge.



EnRoute Jobs seasonal listings and employer hiring cycles. Windows shift a few weeks year to year.

TWO SEASONS ARE ALWAYS HIRING

Whatever the month, some season somewhere is inside its application window. The trick to a year of seasonal work is not finding work; it is applying for the *next* season while you are still working the current one. Put the application window of your next season in your calendar on day one of the current job.

02

Lead times, pay and what is provided

What each season typically offers. Use it to decide which seasons are worth chasing.

SEASON	HIRES	TYPICAL ROLES	HOUSING	NOTES
Alps ski	Aug–Oct	Chalet host, cook, lift ops, instructor, bar, childcare	Often	Tour operators hire earliest and provide housing plus a lift pass. EU or UK right-to-work matters; non-EU applicants need a sponsoring operator.
North American ski	Jul–Oct	Lift ops, rental tech, F&B, ski school, housekeeping	Sometimes	Large resorts run employee housing lotteries. Non-US applicants typically use a J-1 or working-holiday route via an agency.
Japan ski	Aug–Oct	Hotel, restaurant, instructor, guest services	Usually	Working-holiday visa holders are the main hire. English-speaking resorts recruit through agencies from August.
Mediterranean summer	Jan–Mar	Hotel, restaurant, beach club, watersports, reps, animation	Sometimes	Tour-operator "rep" and animation roles hire in winter with housing. Independent hospitality hires later, often in person.
US summer camps	Nov–Mar	Counsellor, activity specialist, kitchen, support staff	Always	Room and board plus a stipend. International staff go through sponsor agencies on a J-1.
US national parks and lodges	Jan–Mar	Front desk, housekeeping, retail, F&B, guides	Usually	Concessionaires house staff in dorms with a payroll deduction. Roles run May to October.
Alaska	Jan–Mar	Lodge staff, deckhands, processors, port and tour crew	Usually	High-intensity hours; strong earners in fishing and processing. Housing and flights sometimes covered.
Yachting	Feb–Apr / Sep–Oct	Deckhand, stewardess, chef	On board	Entry roles are won by being in Antibes or Fort Lauderdale during the hiring push with STCW certification in hand.
Australia / NZ ski	Mar–May	Same as northern ski	Sometimes	The way to make a two-winter year. Working-holiday visa is the common route.
Harvest	Rolling	Picking, packing, cellar hand, farmhand	Varies	Australia's harvest trail runs year-round by region; European grape harvest is Sept–Oct with short contracts.
Winter retail and markets	Sep–Oct	Sales, stall staff, events crew	Rarely	Short, urban, and a bridge between summer and ski seasons.

VISA FIRST, THEN SEASON

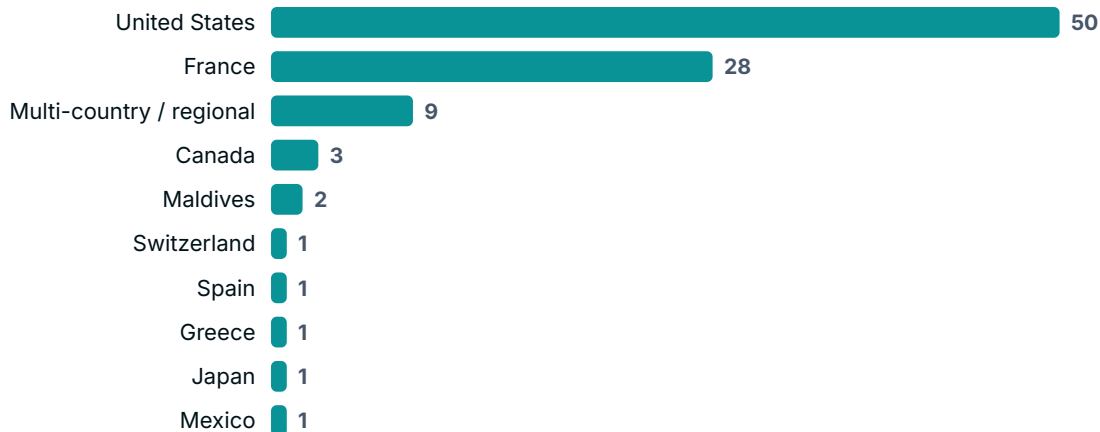
Every seasonal season above is realistic for some passports and impossible for others. Working-holiday agreements (typically ages 18 to 30 or 35) open Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Canada and much of Europe to each other's citizens; the US J-1 covers camps and some resorts through sponsor agencies; EU citizens can work anywhere in the EU. Check the route for your passport before you fall for a season. The Route Planner at enroutejobs.com/tools/route-planner does this for the countries in EnRoute's database.

03

Where seasonal work is listed on EnRoute right now

Active seasonal listings by country

The US figure aggregates resort towns listed by state; multi-country entries are tour operators hiring across regions.



EnRoute Jobs, 2026-09-12

France dominates because of ski-season tour operators, who post early and in volume. The United States figure is spread across Colorado, Montana, Utah, Alaska and the national parks. If you are looking at this in early autumn, the ski listings you see now are the ones with housing; by November the housing is gone and what remains is the roles that need filling at any cost.

04

Chaining seasons into a year

Four year-plans that people actually run. Pick one, or build your own on the next page.

The double winter

Alps or Rockies ski (Dec–Apr) → Mediterranean or US summer (May–Sep) → back to snow.

Gap risk: late April and October. Fill with harvest, festival crew or a short remote contract.

Apply: ski in September, summer in February.

The endless summer

Mediterranean summer (May–Sep) → Australia/NZ summer season or harvest (Nov–Mar) → back north.

Gap risk: October and April, both good travel months.

Apply: Med in February, Australia in August (visa lead time matters).

The boat year

Med yacht season (May–Oct) → Caribbean season (Nov–Apr). Same skill set, opposite ocean.

Gap risk: almost none; the crossing itself is often paid work.

Apply: in person, Antibes in March, Fort Lauderdale in October.

The camp-to-ski

US summer camp (Jun–Aug) → autumn travel → ski season (Dec–Apr). A classic first year abroad on a working-holiday or J-1.

Gap risk: September to November. Budget for it or pick up harvest.

Apply: camp in December, ski in September.

SAVE THE SECOND SEASON'S APPLICATION DATES BEFORE THE FIRST SEASON STARTS

The most common failure is a good first season that ends with nothing lined up because September was too busy. The month grid on the next page has a row for exactly this.

05

Your 12-month plan

Planning year

Passport(s)

Visa routes available to me

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Season 1: where I will be												
Season 1: apply by												
Season 2: where I will be												
Season 2: apply by												
Gap plan (travel, remote, harvest)												
Visa application / arrival												
Money: expected income												
Money: fixed costs												

Season application tracker

SEASON / EMPLOYER	WINDOW OPENS	APPLIED	HOUSING?	DATES OFFERED	PAY	STATUS / NEXT

06

Before you accept a seasonal contract

A ten-minute check that saves a bad season.

- ☐ The contract has start and end dates, and says what happens if the season is cut short (snow, weather, bookings).
- ☐ Housing is described specifically: shared or private, cost per week, what is deducted from pay, distance from work.
- ☐ Hours are stated, with how overtime and split shifts are paid, and how many days off per week.
- ☐ The pay is stated as a rate and a period, in a currency, and you know the local minimum wage.
- ☐ Any deposit, uniform or equipment cost is stated, and is refundable.
- ☐ You know who sponsors your visa or whether you are on your own passport rights, and what the visa allows.
- ☐ There is a named person to contact before arrival.
- ☐ You have read what previous seasonal staff say about the employer, and the listing was verified (every EnRoute listing is).
- ☐ Flights or transport to the job are covered or you have budgeted them.
- ☐ Your next season's application window is already in the calendar.

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