

SEASON GUIDE

The Summer Season *Jobs* Guide

Five very different summers, all hiring between January and March. Which one fits your passport, your skills and your plan for the autumn.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- The five summers, compared
- Mediterranean hospitality and tour operators
- US summer camps
- US national parks, lodges and Alaska
- Mediterranean yachting
- The timeline, the money, and what comes after

Why summer is the easier season to get, and the harder one to plan

Summer seasonal work hires in larger numbers than winter, across more countries, with lower entry requirements. It is also more fragmented: a Mediterranean beach club, a camp in Maine, a lodge in Yellowstone and a yacht in Antibes have almost nothing in common except the months. Choosing between them is a passport question first, a temperament question second, and a money question third.

On EnRoute, summer roles appear from January under the seasonal category, with dates, housing and hours stated. The board currently carries 100 seasonal roles across 12 countries; the US entries alone span resort towns from Alaska to Florida.

THE WINDOW

Camps and parks hire from **November to March**.

Mediterranean operators from **January to March**. Yachting is

won in person in **March to April**.

Independent bars and restaurants hire in **April and May**, often on the spot.

	MED HOSPITALITY	US CAMPS	US PARKS AND LODGES	ALASKA	MED YACHTING
Season	May–Sep (Oct in the south)	Jun–Aug	May–Oct	May–Sep	May–Oct
Hires	Jan–Mar; independents Apr–May	Nov–Mar	Jan–Mar	Jan–Mar	Mar–Apr, in person
Roles	Hotel, restaurant, beach club, watersports, reps, animation	Counsellor, activity specialist, kitchen, support	Front desk, housekeeping, F&B, retail, guides	Lodge staff, deckhands, fish processing, tour crew	Deckhand, stewardess, chef, engineer
Pay	Local wage; tips in the right venue; operators pay less with housing	Stipend (\$1,500–\$3,000 for the summer) plus room and board	Hourly at or above minimum; housing deducted	Hourly; overtime heavy; some flights covered	Monthly salary, tax-free in many flags, plus tips; all found
Housing	Operators: yes. Independents: sometimes, often shared	Always	Dorms, deducted	Usually provided	On board
Who can work	EU citizens; working-holiday holders in some countries; operators sponsor from the UK	J-1 for internationals via sponsor agencies; US citizens directly	US citizens; J-1 in some concessions; H-2B rarely	US citizens; J-1 summer work travel	Anyone with STCW and the right to be in Schengen; B1/B2 for US waters
Entry bar	Low; languages help	Low; skills (lifeguard, sports, arts) help	Low	Low; fitness	STCW Basic Safety, ENG1 medical, a good attitude
What it clears	Modest; more with tips	Little, but zero costs	Modest to good	Good; the earner of the five	Best of the five; the entry rates are real salaries

Two different summers share a coastline. Tour operators (British and European package holiday companies) hire reps, childcare, animation and hotel staff from January, with housing and flights, and expect a full season. Independent bars, restaurants, beach clubs and hostels hire later, often in person, pay local wages, and may or may not house you.

With an operator

- Apply January to March; recruitment days in February.
- Housing, flights, uniform and a modest salary; the package is the pay.
- Roles: rep, kids' club, entertainment, hotel host, watersports.
- Right to work handled by the operator for the nationalities they recruit.
- Best first summer abroad: structure, a team, a reference.

Independently

- Arrive in April with a month of money and walk in with a CV in the local language.
- Bar, restaurant, hostel, dive centre, boat crew, beach club.
- Local wage; tips vary enormously by venue and country.
- You need the right to work: EU passport or a working-holiday visa. Nobody sponsors.
- Best for a second summer, or with a language.

THE RIGHT-TO-WORK QUESTION IS NOT NEGOTIABLE IN THE EU

An independent employer in Spain or Greece cannot legally hire a non-EU passport holder without a permit they will not apply for. Working-holiday agreements (Australia, NZ, Canada, Japan and others have them with several EU countries) are the route; check yours before you fly. The Work Exchange Starter Kit covers the informal exchange alternative and its limits.

03 US summer camps

The most structured summer job there is. Eight to ten weeks, room and board, a stipend, and a J-1 visa arranged through a sponsor agency for internationals. The pay is small; the costs are zero; the reference is excellent. Camps hire from November, and the agencies that place internationals want applications by February.

ROLE	WHAT IT IS	WHO THEY WANT
General counsellor	Live in a cabin with 8–12 campers; run the day	Energy, patience, a clean record; a skill helps
Activity specialist	Teach one thing all summer: waterfront, climbing, sailing, arts, sports	Certification or demonstrable skill; lifeguards are always short
Kitchen and support	Cook, clean, maintain, drive	Reliability; often a separate visa category
Head of department	Run an activity area or an age group	Prior camp seasons

- Stipend \$1,500 to \$3,000 for the summer for first-year counsellors; more with certifications and returning years.
- J-1 sponsor fees for internationals run a few hundred dollars plus flights; some camps reimburse part.
- A 30-day travel grace period after the programme is the classic way to see the US on a budget.
- Camp finishes in August; the ski season hiring window is open, and a camp reference reads well to a resort.

04 US national parks, lodges and Alaska

Parks and lodges

- Concessionaires run the hotels, restaurants and shops inside national parks and hire thousands each summer from January.
- Dorm housing with a payroll deduction; meal plans; the park on your doorstep.
- Roles: front desk, housekeeping, F&B, retail, guides, transport.
- Mostly US citizens and residents; some concessions run J-1 programmes.
- Seasons run May to October; a full season is expected.

Alaska

- Lodges, cruise-port tours, fishing charters and fish processing. The last one is the earner: long shifts, overtime, sometimes flights and housing.
- Hires January to March; processors keep hiring into spring.
- Fitness and tolerance for repetitive work matter more than skills.
- US citizens; J-1 summer work travel for some students.
- The one summer on this list that funds a whole winter off.

READ THE HOUSING DEDUCTION

Park and lodge employers state a weekly housing and meal deduction. It is usually cheap for what it is, but it comes off every paycheque; do the season arithmetic (section 6) with it in.

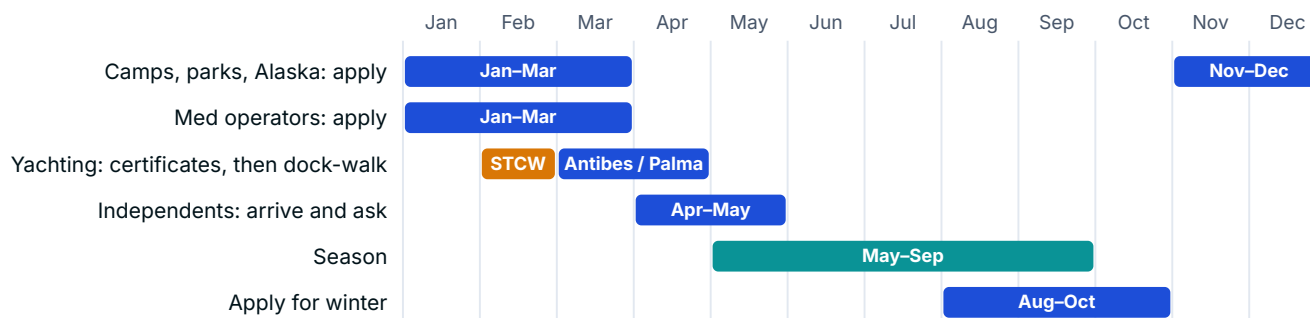
05 Mediterranean yachting

Entry-level yacht crew (deckhand, stewardess) earn real monthly salaries, often tax-free depending on the vessel's flag and your residence, with everything provided and tips on top. It is the best-paid summer here and the hardest to enter by email: crew are hired in person, in Antibes and Palma from March, by walking the docks with certificates in hand.

- 1 Get the certificates first.**
STCW Basic Safety Training (a week), an ENG1 or equivalent seafarer medical, and for stewards a food hygiene certificate. Without them you cannot be signed on.
- 2 Be there in March.**
Antibes or Palma, in a crew house, registered with the crew agencies, dock-walking every morning. Budget four to six weeks of living costs.
- 3 Take day work.**
Washing down, polishing, provisioning. It is how you get known and how you get the first permanent berth.
- 4 Say yes to the first decent boat.**
The second job comes from the first reference. The first job comes from being available.
- 5 Follow the boat to the Caribbean.**
Med season ends in October; many boats cross to the Caribbean for November to April. The crossing is often paid. This is the boat year in the Seasonal Jobs Hiring Calendar.

06 The timeline, the money, and what comes after

Summer, from application to the next season



LINE

MINE

Fees, certificates, visa

Flights and transport

Insurance

Living costs before the first pay

Monthly wage after tax and deductions

Monthly tips

Monthly spending

Months

Season net

WHAT COMES AFTER

August is when the winter hiring window opens, and a completed summer with a reference is what winter employers want to see. If the plan is to bridge into remote work, the Entry-Level Remote Careers Guide shows which summer roles carry the remote skill inside them; apply in the last six weeks, from the season's address.

EMPLOYER	WHICH SUMMER	ROLE	APPLIED	HOUSING?	DATES	STATUS

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