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7 Eastern U.S. Country Retreats To Escape To This Summer

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The Point. Adirondack chairs overlooking Upper Saranac Lake / THE POINT

There's something magical about summer in the countryside in the Eastern part of the United States. The vibrant green of the foliage is matched perfectly with the bright blue of the sky, with birds, bees, fireflies and butterflies making their way around the abundance created by sunshine. People are out and about, in shorts and dresses, near fountains, lakes and other water bodies trying to cool off as kids ride bicycles and run around in the dog days of summer. This special time of the year doesn't last very long, but it leaves lasting impressions.

City dwellers and country lovers, if you've dreamt of country summers making the most of the great outdoors and retreating to luxurious accommodations afterwards, here are some of the most alluring retreats to choose from. No matter how long your stay is, you are sure to bring home memories of a fun-filled summer of sharing stories around the campfire, picnicking lakeside with loved ones and roughing it in comfort. Just don't forget to pack that sunblock, swimsuit and bug repellent.

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The Point, New York



Boathouse at The Point / THE POINT

Built by the Rockefellers as a woodland retreat in Upstate New York, the Relais & Châteaux property of The Point offers a classic hideaway set amongst 75-acres in the Adirondacks. This all-inclusive, adults-only property reopened in May of 2018 following a renovation.

The 11 guest rooms are spread among four original log buildings built of native timber and stone, each with views of the shining Upper Saranac Lake. The Boathouse, an open and airy suite sitting right above the boats, features a wrap-around deck and offers panoramic views of the lake and the mountains beyond.

Go swimming, water-skiing, wakeboarding, tubing or boating on the lake; play a round of tennis or badminton or bond over billiards and darts. You can also go for a ride on the captained 33-foot 1933 replica Hacker-Craft, a hand-crafted mahogany speed boat.

Enjoy world class cuisine in the Great Hall where you can dine together with other guests at the twin tables (if you prefer). You can have a gourmet lunch on the terrace or have a meal packed to go for a picnic on the grounds. After a day of fun on the lake or in the nearby forest, enjoy a refreshing cocktail on Elco, a glass enclosed electric boat on a ride around the lake.

LeFay Cottage at Little Washington, Virginia



LeFay Cottage at Little Washington / LEFAY COTTAGE

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Sitting at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains, LeFay Cottage at Little Washington offers an ideal country escape in Virginia's horse and wine country. The elegantly decorated cottage sits on five acres, surrounded by lush greenery and gardens with blooming fragrant flowers. The three bedroom, two bathroom property is adorned with French and English antiques and chandeliers.

Enjoy the slow pace of life in the country with family and friends, on walks or a leisurely afternoon spent in the sunroom overlooking the gentle outline of Blue Ridge Mountains. At night, delight in a quintessential sunset and watch for the flickering lights of fireflies as they emerge from their hideaways as dusk settles in. The cottage is within walking distance to the Little Washington Winery and a short drive to other wineries as well as Copper Fox Distillery.

The Woodstock Inn & Resort, Vermont



Woodstock Inn / WOODSTOCK INN

Give your family an unforgettable New England vacation at the Woodstock Inn & Resort in the heart of Vermont's Woodstock near the Green Mountains. Established by Laurance and Mary Rockefeller, the resort cherishes their vision with elegant and personalized touches. Guest rooms have wood-burning fireplaces, handcrafted bed frames, and the rest of the resort has charming public spaces with interesting nooks and crannies.

After you are done exploring the nearby woods on a hike or a thrilling mountain bike ride, enjoy a relaxing spa treatment at the LEED-certified spa. In your spare time, visit Woodstock's antique stores, art galleries, boutiques and food markets.

Onsite, you can take a guided tour of the resort's 2.5-acre, certified organic Kelly Way Gardens, a farm-to-table program created to preserve the conservation legacy of the nearby **Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park**. At Red Barns at Kelly Way Gardens, you can feast on a delicious farm-fresh tasting dinner prepared by Executive Chef Rhys Lewis as part of the Red Barn Dinner Series.

Barnsley Resort, Georgia



Barnsley Resort / BARNSELEY RESORT

Looking for a perfect spot for a summer wedding? Then, Barnsley Resort is a great choice. Located in a small town called Adairsville in northwest Georgia just 60 miles north of Atlanta, Barnsley provides a fairytale setting amidst 3,000 acres of pristine wilderness. With the addition of a 55-room **Inn and Georgian Hall**, opened in March 2018, the total room count has gone up to 150.

Outdoor lovers can take in the surroundings on hikes, bike and canoe rides. You can partake in clay shooting, golfing, catch and release fishing and more. If you want to stay close, you can walk the historic grounds to admire the architecture of the 19th century Manor House Ruins surrounded by landscaped gardens and the on-site museum with a resident historian.

If you are bringing a pet, you and your furry companion can have all the outdoor fun and even dine out together. The property has multiple dining options and a recently renovated spa.

Hotel Domestique, South Carolina



Hotel Domestique / HOTEL DOMESTIQUE FACEBOOK

Hotel Domestique looks like it was plucked straight from a remote European town, blending countryside charm with luxurious modern amenities and delectable cuisine. Established by world-renowned cyclist George Hincapie, Domestique offers a perfect romantic setting for outdoor lovers, where you can cycle and hike in almost every direction. Located in a city called Travelers Rest in Greenville County, you simply can't go wrong with a stay here.

At the property's award winning Restaurant 17, treat yourself to a meal made with care from local ingredients in a setting evocative of traditional European bistros. For shopping and entertainment, take a scenic drive to nearby Greenville and Asheville.

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Inns of Aurora, New York



The Loft at Inns of Aurora / WALTER COLLEY IMAGES, INC.

Relive the best of sleepaway camp at the Inns of Aurora, a lakeside boutique resort in the **Finger Lakes** region of New York on a four-day adventure. The customizable **Adventure Aurora** package includes accommodations and curated activities.

Some of the fun-filled activities include strolling yoga and meditation, lunch cruise on Cayuga Lake exploring wildlife preserves or visiting wineries, massage and body treatments, painting, culinary demonstrations, bird watching and more.

During free time, you can find a hammock and settle in for a nap. Enjoy a farm-to-table dinner at **1833 Kitchen & Bar** and sit around a lakeside bonfire afterwards, sharing camp stories over gourmet s'mores.

Primland Resort, Virginia



Golden Eagle Treehouse at Primland Resort /PRIMLAND RESORT

If you've ever dreamt of staying in a treehouse, but don't want to rough it, Virginia's **Primland Resort** provides a luxurious alternative. Set atop a mountain in a secluded area and surrounded by beautiful mountains, you can enjoy the quiet reflection that comes with being encircled in a lush canopy of trees. Located a short drive from the main lodge, the three tree houses are built around solid branches and offer sweeping views of **Kibler Valley** and **North Carolina Piedmont** from the vast decks.

Amenities are rustic, but luxurious with gorgeous wood panels and modern finishes. Primland also has accommodations in the lodge as well as in cottages and mountain homes. The Spa at Primland offers Native American inspired treatments. Thanks to little light pollution, you can use the observatory to follow the stars and the planets, or simply gaze upon the heavens under the comfort of a blanket.

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