

December 21, 2025

10 Cheapest Warm-weather Destinations to Escape the Cold This Winter

Looking for an affordable winter escape? We have you covered.



A swan boat on Lake Eola in Orlando.
Credit: Taylor McIntyre/Travel + Leisure

When temperatures dip and daylight feels scarce, the promise of sunshine becomes hard to resist—especially when it doesn’t come with a sky-high price tag. To identify the cheapest warm-weather destinations to visit this season, we partnered with the team at [Kayak](#), which analyzed flight searches made between Sept. 1 and Dec. 4, 2025, for travel dates spanning Dec. 21, 2025, through Feb. 28, 2026, departing from U.S. airports. Airfare prices reflect round-trip, economy itineraries, while hotel rates are nightly averages based on standard, double-occupancy rooms. All prices are averages, subject to change.

According to Kayak's travel trends expert Sarah Kennedy, affordability is a major win this season. “Florida offers the best bang for your buck this winter, with seven out of 10 cities landing among the top 10 warm-weather destinations with the lowest trip costs,” she tells *Travel + Leisure*. “And with Jamaica welcoming visitors after a tough hurricane season, travelers can enjoy the sun while supporting recovery, all on a reasonable budget.”

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Orlando, Florida



An amusement park in Orlando, Florida.

Taylor McIntyre/Travel + Leisure

Average flight + hotel cost: \$463

In [Orlando](#), the magic lingers well past the holidays, carrying straight through winter with festivals and special events like [EPCOT's International Festival of the Arts](#), [Mardi Gras at Universal Orlando](#), and the [Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival](#). Of course, the warm weather also makes winter perfect for

exploring the theme parks and Orlando's walkable downtown. Rent a swan boat at Lake Eola Park, bike or walk the mile-long loop, and enjoy al fresco meals at spots like [Grills Lakeside Seafood Deck & Tiki Bar](#).

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Tampa, Florida



Aerial view of homes along Tampa Bay.

Art Wager/Getty Images

Average flight + hotel cost: \$463

Tampa makes an easy case for a warm-weather winter getaway, combining quick access to Gulf Coast beaches with vibrant neighborhoods and a thriving culinary scene. Winter brings a full slate of festivals, including the [Gasparilla Pirate Festival](#) and the [Gasparilla Music Festival](#), while cooler, sunny days are ideal for walking or biking the [Tampa Riverwalk](#) or sipping cocktails at rooftop bars like [M.Bird](#) and [Sal Y](#)

[Mar.](#) Historic [Ybor City](#) adds charm with its brick streets, cigar heritage, and lively nightlife. Finally, for beach time, head to nearby [St. Petersburg](#) and [Clearwater](#), both known for their sugar-sand shores and clear blue waters.

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Fort Myers, Florida



Colorful umbrellas on a beach in Fort Myers, Florida.

Kristjan Veski/Travel + Leisure

Average flight + hotel cost: \$517

With its laid-back vibes and ample outdoor adventure opportunities, Fort Myers makes an excellent warm-weather vacation destination. Days are well spent fishing in [Pine Island Sound](#), kayaking the [Calusa Blueway](#), or spotting manatees and migratory birds at nearby wildlife refuges. The city's [Gulf Coast beaches](#)—especially on [Sanibel Island](#)—are famed for exceptional shelling, while palm-lined McGregor Boulevard hints at its past as the winter retreat of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford. Historic

estates anchor the downtown [River District](#), lined with brick streets, galleries, and theaters. It also hosts events, like the monthly [Art Walk](#).

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Fort Lauderdale, Florida



A hammock hung between two palm trees on a Fort Lauderdale beach.

Adrian Rudd/Travel + Leisure

Average flight + hotel cost: \$538

Long known as a spring break capital, [Fort Lauderdale](#) has evolved into a more polished, year-round destination. In addition to its 23 miles of beaches, the city offers standout dining, arts, and culture, along with a vibrant downtown scene centered on Las Olas Boulevard. Winter also marks a wave of new developments, including the brand-new [Omni Fort Lauderdale Hotel](#) and [Huizenga Park](#), set to reopen in January 2026 following a \$15 million renovation. We'd also be remiss not to mention [Pier Sixty-Six](#),

which reopened in January 2025 following a \$1 billion renovation, bringing revitalized waterfront dining, marinas, and luxury accommodations to Fort Lauderdale’s iconic harbor.

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West Palm Beach, Florida



A view of downtown West Palm Beach, Florida.

Flavio Vallenari/Getty Images

Average flight + hotel cost: \$560

Long overshadowed by neighboring [Palm Beach](#), West Palm Beach has emerged as a stylish warm-weather hideaway in its own right. In addition to luxe shopping at [CityPlace](#), there's an increasingly impressive dining scene, ranging from local favorites like [Avocado Grill](#) to Michelin-recognized spots such as [Moody Tongue Sushi](#), cementing the city’s culinary credentials. Plus, the newly revitalized [NORA District](#) adds fresh energy with designer boutiques and restaurants, and a growing slate of upscale hotels

continues to elevate the city's profile. Winter is an ideal time to visit, with warm days made for waterfront strolls and Saturdays at the [West Palm Beach GreenMarket](#), one of the country's top farmers' markets.

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Miami, Florida



A sand walkway to a Miami beach.

Adrian Rudd/Travel + Leisure

Average flight + hotel cost: \$587

Travelers in search of a good time should head straight to [Miami](#), where winter warmth sets the stage for endless ways to experience the city. From art-filled [Wynwood](#) and trendy [Brickell](#) to the swanky streets of [Miami Beach](#) and buzzy [South Beach](#), each neighborhood offers its own distinct vibe. A packed winter events calendar—namely the [Miami International Boat Show](#) and the [Food Network South Beach Wine & Food Festival](#)—draws chefs, creatives, and travelers from around the world, while outdoor

dining, [beautiful beaches](#), cultural festivals, and legendary nightlife keep the energy high long after the events end.

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Sarasota, Florida



Sunset over a park in Sarasota, Florida.

Robert Burnett/Getty Images

Average flight + hotel cost: \$614

A [trip to Sarasota](#) is a must for arts and culture lovers. The season brings opera at the historic [Sarasota Opera House](#), ballet and symphony performances at the [Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall](#), and acclaimed productions from [Florida Studio Theatre](#). Be sure to also carve out enough time to explore [The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art](#), from the ornate [Ca' d'Zan mansion](#) to its expansive art collections and manicured gardens. Between performances, visitors can balance museum-hopping with beach time

on [Siesta Key](#) or wildlife watching at nearby refuges, where manatees and migratory birds are common in winter.

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Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic



A pedestrian street in Santo Domingo at sunset.

Stephanie Pollak/Travel + Leisure

Average flight + hotel cost: \$635

Although many travelers head straight to Punta Cana, it's worth checking out Santo Domingo, too. The country's capital offers fewer crowds and a deeper look at the country's history and culture, best experienced in the [UNESCO-listed Zona Colonial](#), where cobblestone streets, historic plazas, and centuries-old landmarks invite exploration on foot. Winter also brings a lively calendar of events, from [Grupo Bonyé's](#) free Sunday concerts to traditional celebrations like the Guloyas Festival and

Duarte's Day. Together, they offer a rewarding way to experience the country beyond the typical resort scene.

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Kingston, Jamaica



Houses on the hills of Kingston, Jamaica.

PhotoSpirit/Adobe Stock

Average flight + hotel cost: \$742

Jamaica is continuing its recovery following [Hurricane Melissa](#), and its capital city, Kingston, is welcoming visitors back with much of its cultural core open and active. Highlights include the [Bob Marley Museum](#) and the [National Gallery of Jamaica](#), as well as culturally significant areas like Trench Town, bustling hubs such as Coronation Market, and green spaces like National Heroes Park and [Hope Botanical Gardens](#). Not only does visiting this winter help support local businesses and cultural institutions, but it also offers travelers a more in-depth look at Jamaica beyond the resort areas.

Mexico City, Mexico

Buildings in Mexico City's Polanco neighborhood.

Gautier Houba/Travel + Leisure

Average flight + hotel cost: \$764

Sure, it's not a beach destination like Cancún or Los Cabos, but [Mexico City](#) still offers plenty for travelers seeking winter sun and substance. The city is also home to some of the world's most spectacular food, much of it surprisingly affordable—from casual *taquerías* and neighborhood *fondas* to buzzed-about eateries like [Contramar](#). Clear, sunny days are ideal for wandering [Chapultepec Park](#), exploring historic neighborhoods like Roma and Condesa, and visiting world-class museums, including the [Museo Nacional de Antropología](#). Winter also coincides with the monarch butterfly migration, when millions of butterflies gather in nearby mountain reserves such as El Rosario and Sierra Chincua, just a few hours from the city.