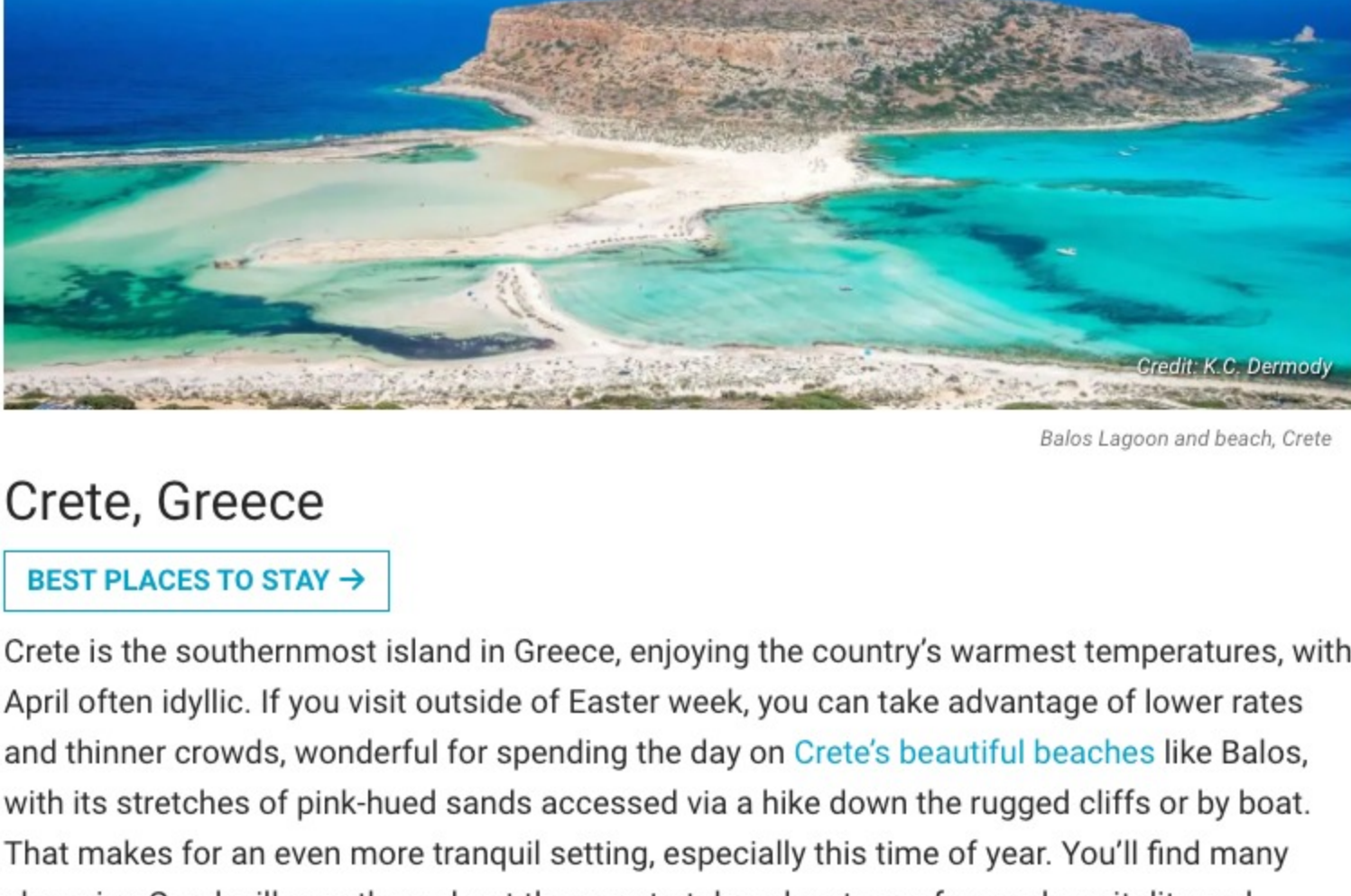


14 Warm Places to Visit in April

BY K.C. DERMODY

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You've made it through the chilliest months of the year, but in April, you might still be enduring frequent grey skies and temperatures that aren't exactly conducive for outdoor swimming or sunbathing. Now might be the perfect time to take advantage of the [warmer spring weather](#) in other locations in the U.S. or beyond. Whether you're looking for warmth closer to home or want to jet off to a destination thousands of miles away, you're sure to find the perfect sunny escape on this list.

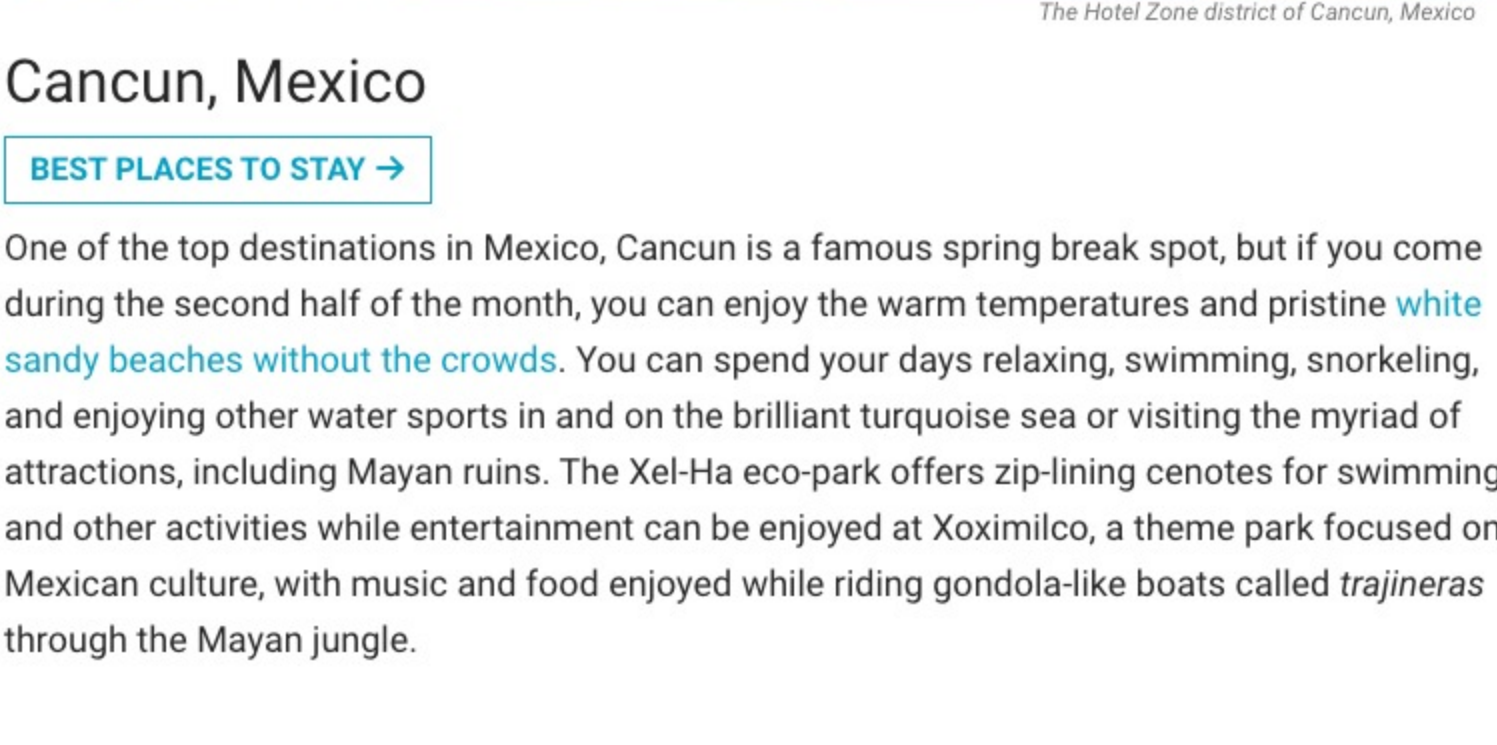


Balos Lagoon and beach, Crete

Crete, Greece

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Crete is the southernmost island in Greece, enjoying the country's warmest temperatures, with April often idyllic. If you visit outside of Easter week, you can take advantage of lower rates and thinner crowds, wonderful for spending the day on [Crete's beautiful beaches](#) like Balos, with its stretches of pink-hued sands accessed via a hike down the rugged cliffs or by boat. That makes for an even more tranquil setting, especially this time of year. You'll find many charming Greek villages throughout the area to take advantage of warm hospitality and delicious traditional eats. Walled Old Town Chania offers a romantic base in a prime location for day trips to Balos Beach and hikes through the dramatic Samaria Gorge. It's a postcard-perfect setting with a lighthouse, a beautiful harbor, and narrow cobbled streets lined with medieval buildings.



The Hotel Zone district of Cancun, Mexico

Cancun, Mexico

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One of the top destinations in Mexico, Cancun is a famous spring break spot, but if you come during the second half of the month, you can enjoy the warm temperatures and pristine [white sandy beaches without the crowds](#). You can spend your days relaxing, swimming, snorkeling, and enjoying other water sports in and on the brilliant turquoise sea or visiting the myriad of attractions, including Mayan ruins. The Xel-Ha eco-park offers zip-lining cenotes for swimming and other activities while entertainment can be enjoyed at Xoximilco, a theme park focused on Mexican culture, with music and food enjoyed while riding gondola-like boats called *trajineras* through the Mayan jungle.

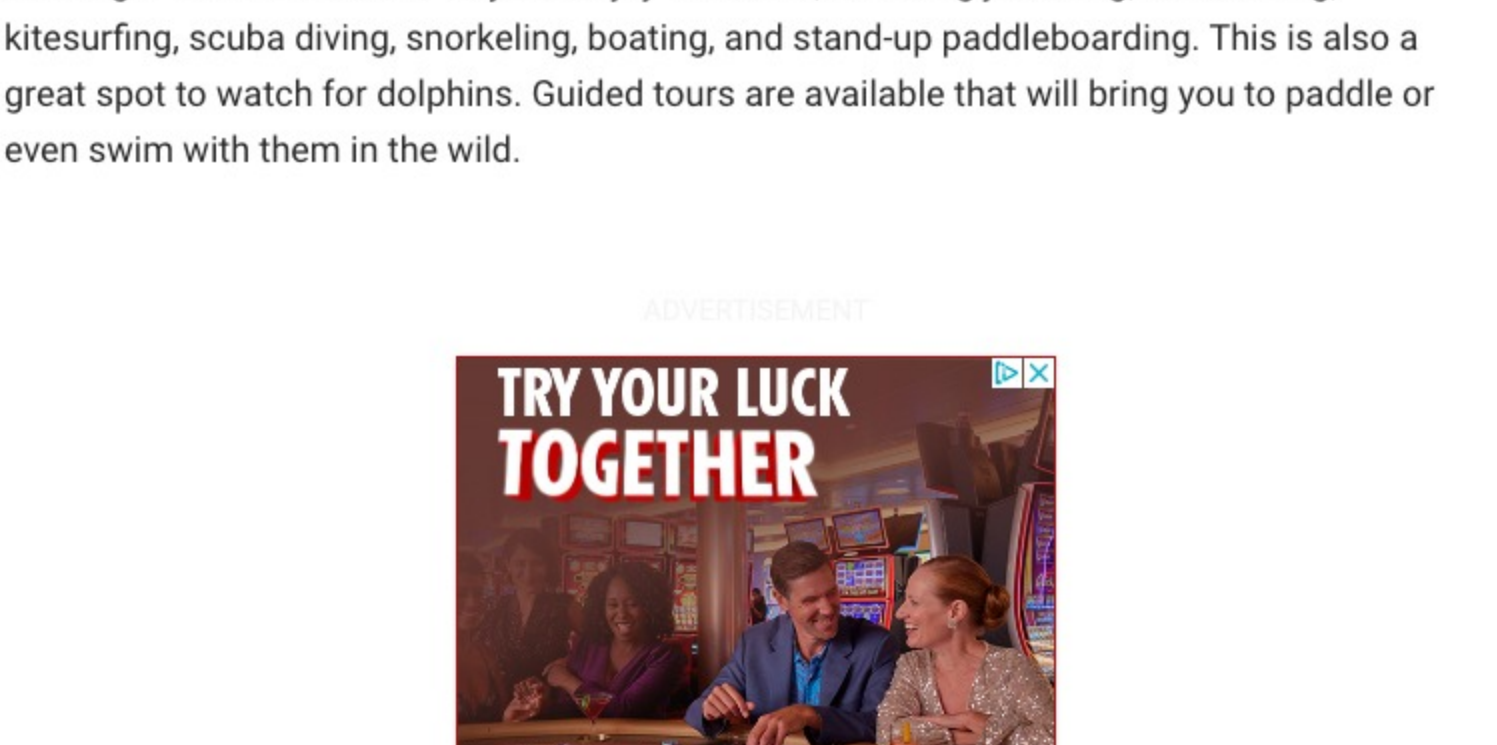
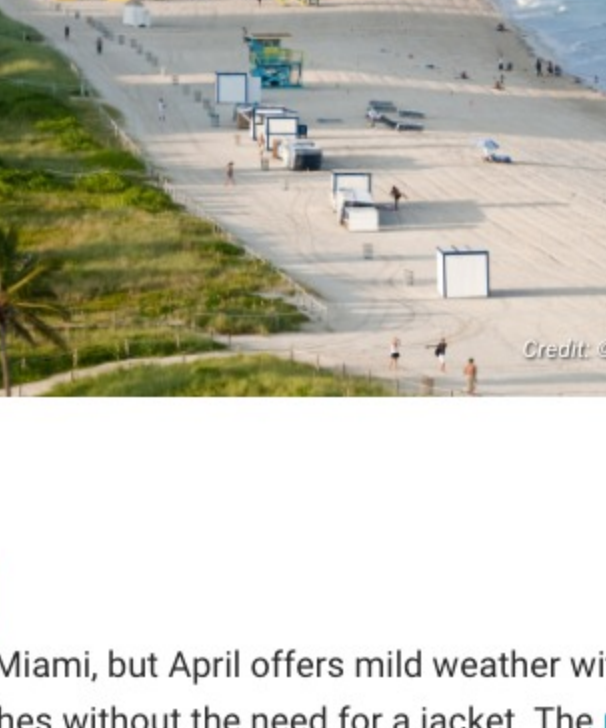


Flores Island, Azores

Azore Islands, Portugal

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While summer is the hottest time of year in the Azores, an archipelago of nine volcanic islands in the mid-Atlantic, April is a wonderful time to come, with the flowers starting to bloom brighter, the sun shining stronger, and the days getting longer. It's also a peak month for whale watching, with many different whales passing through during their migration, including blue whales, sei whales, and fin whales. Humpbacks are occasionally spotted and sperm whales can be seen year-round. This is a hiker's paradise too, with a myriad of trails, from paths along the coast to challenging treks to volcanic peaks. Other highlights include hot springs to soak in, formed by the volcanoes that formed the island, black sand beaches, underground caves, and waterfalls. Sao Miguel is the largest island, home to the capital of Ponta Delgada, the capital, which is where most visitors begin their explorations.

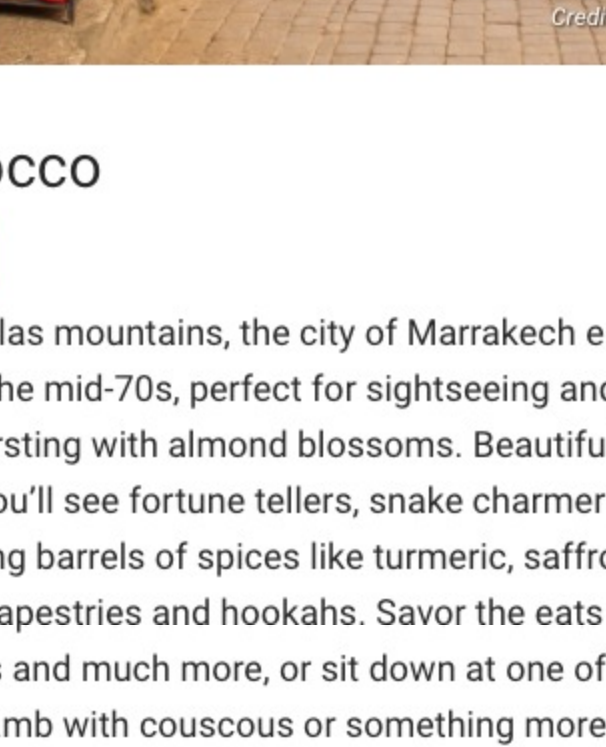


Miami Beach

Miami, Florida

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Summer is blistering hot in Miami, but April offers mild weather with plenty of sunshine and countless magnificent beaches without the need for a jacket. The [posh South Beach area](#) in Miami Beach is ideal for people watching and enjoying the historic pastel-hued art deco buildings. You'll find lots of ways to enjoy the water, including jet-skiing, windsurfing, kitesurfing, scuba diving, snorkeling, boating, and stand-up paddleboarding. This is also a great spot to watch for dolphins. Guided tours are available that will bring you to paddle or even swim with them in the wild.

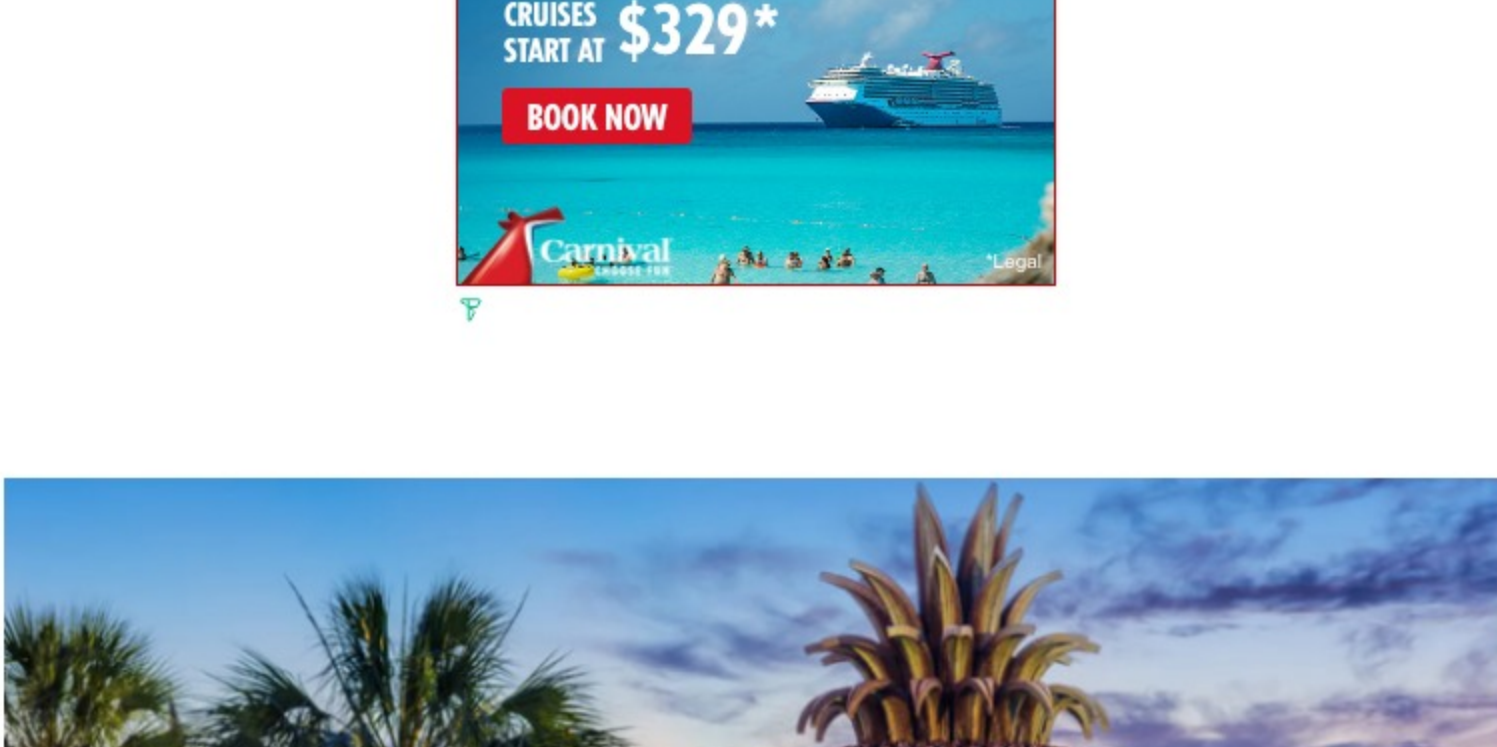
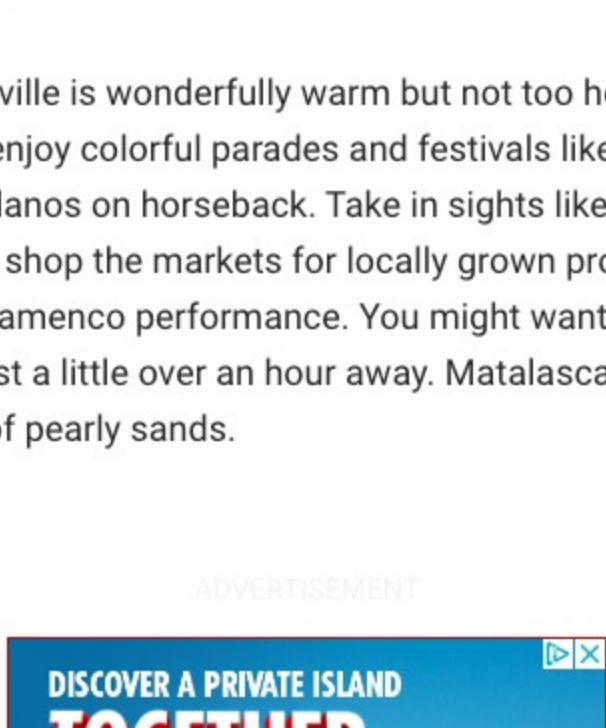


Marrakesh, Morocco

Marrakech, Morocco

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Nestled at the foot of the Atlas mountains, the city of Marrakech enjoys pleasant weather in April with daytime highs in the mid-70s, perfect for sightseeing and exploring the bazaars. Plus, the hillsides will be bursting with almond blossoms. Beautiful if chaotic, it's an exciting mix of old and new where you'll see fortune tellers, snake charmers, and centuries-old markets that are full of color, including barrels of spices like turmeric, saffron, ginger, and cinnamon that are tucked among the tapestries and hookahs. Savor the eats sold in food stalls featuring skewers of seasoned meats and much more, or sit down at one of the wooden tables to enjoy a full meal featuring roast lamb with couscous or something more daring like steamed sheep's head.

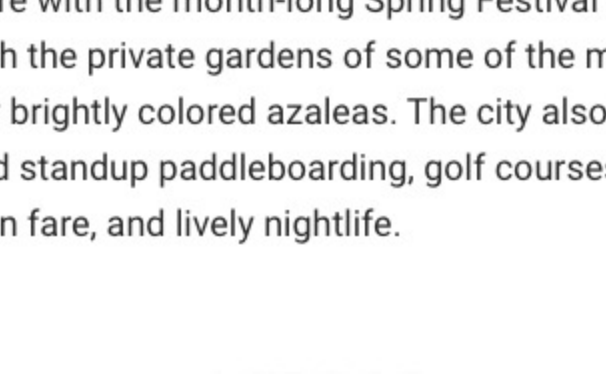


Seville, Spain

Seville, Spain

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The capital of Andalucia, Seville is wonderfully warm but not too hot in April, with highs in the 70s. This is a great time to enjoy colorful parades and festivals like the Feria de Abril with flamenco dancers and Sevillanos on horseback. Take in sights like the Alcazar and Seville Cathedral on a walking tour, shop the markets for locally grown produce, go wine and tapas sampling, and catch a live flamenco performance. You might want to take a day trip to the beach too, with the coast just a little over an hour away. Matalascañas is the closest and offers a four-mile expanse of pearyl sands.



Charleston, South Carolina

Charleston, South Carolina

[BEST PLACES TO STAY →](#)

Charleston can be brutally hot with high humidity during the summer, but in April, temperatures are perfectly warm while the magnolia trees will be in bloom, creating a gorgeous display. The city celebrates its horticulture with the month-long Spring Festival of Houses and Gardens, and you'll be able to walk through the private gardens of some of the most magnificent historic homes, many highlighted by brightly colored azaleas. The city also has a beautiful waterfront, opportunities for surfing and standup paddleboarding, golf courses galore, countless eateries serving high-quality Southern fare, and lively nightlife.