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Public holidays

When preparing a motorhome or campervan rental in the United States, it's important to know the official federal public holidays. On these dates, many RV rental agencies are closed, highways are busier, and campgrounds fill quickly. By checking the holiday calendar in advance, you can avoid surprises and secure your motorhome or campervan during peak travel times.

Below you'll find the list of U.S. federal holidays for 2026, 2027, and 2028, along with tips for planning your road trip around them.

USA Public Holidays 2026–2028

Holiday	2026	2027	2028
New Year's Day	Thu 1 Jan 2026	Fri 1 Jan 2027	Sat 1 Jan 2028 (ol
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Mon 19 Jan 2026	Mon 18 Jan 2027	Mon 17 Jan 2028
Presidents' Day (Washington's Birthday)	Mon 16 Feb 2026	Mon 15 Feb 2027	Mon 21 Feb 2028
Memorial Day	Mon 25 May 2026	Mon 31 May 2027	Mon 29 May 2028
Juneteenth National Independence Day	Fri 19 Jun 2026	Fri 18 Jun 2027 (obs, as 19th is Sat)	Mon 19 Jun 2028
Independence Day	Sat 4 Jul 2026 (obs Fri 3)	Sun 4 Jul 2027 (obs Mon 5)	Tue 4 Jul 2028
Labor Day	Mon 7 Sep 2026	Mon 6 Sep 2027	Mon 4 Sep 2028
Columbus Day	Mon 12 Oct 2026	Mon 11 Oct 2027	Mon 9 Oct 2028
Veterans Day	Wed 11 Nov 2026	Thu 11 Nov 2027	Sat 11 Nov 2028 (
Thanksgiving Day	Thu 26 Nov 2026	Thu 25 Nov 2027	Thu 23 Nov 2028
Christmas Day	Fri 25 Dec 2026	Sat 25 Dec 2027 (obs Fri 24)	Mon 25 Dec 2028

Notes for International Travellers

- These are federal holidays; states may observe additional dates (e.g. César Chávez Day in California, Patriots' Day in Massachusetts).
- When a holiday falls on a weekend, it is usually observed on the nearest weekday (Friday if Saturday, Monday
 if Sunday).
- Peak travel times for Americans:
 - Thanksgiving (late November) ? busiest domestic travel week of the year.
 - Independence Day (4 July)? expect crowded national parks, beaches, and fireworks events.
 - Christmas & New Year ? high demand for flights and accommodation.
- Quieter options: Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends are busy but manageable if you book early.

5 USA Itineraries Around Public Holidays (for International Visitors)

1. Martin Luther King Jr. Day (mid?January) - Civil Rights & the South

- Why go: This holiday honors Dr. King's legacy. Cities like Atlanta, Memphis, and Birmingham host commemorations and museum events.
- Be aware: It's not a peak travel weekend, but some sites may be crowded with local visitors.
- Itinerary idea: Start in <u>Atlanta</u> (King Center, National Center for Civil and Human Rights), continue to Montgomery and Birmingham for civil rights landmarks, then end in Memphis for music and history.

2. Memorial Day (late May) - Washington D.C. & East Coast

- Why go: Memorial Day marks the start of summer, with parades, ceremonies, and the famous Rolling Thunder motorcycle rally in D.C.
- Be aware: This is a major travel weekend for Americans highways, airports, and national parks are busy. If you prefer quieter travel, visit the week before.
- Itinerary idea: Spend a few days in Washington D.C. (monuments, Smithsonian museums), then road trip north to Philadelphia and New York City.

3. Independence Day (4 July) - New England & Boston

- Why go: Boston is the birthplace of the American Revolution, and its July 4th celebrations are iconic, with fireworks over the Charles River.
- Be aware: Expect large crowds and high accommodation prices. If you want fewer people, travel in late June or mid?July instead.
- Itinerary idea: Begin in Boston, follow the Freedom Trail, then drive up the New England coast to Portland (Maine) and Acadia National Park.

4. Labor Day (early September) – National Parks of the West

- Why go: This long weekend is the unofficial end of summer. Families often take one last trip before school starts.
- Be aware: National Parks (Yosemite, Yellowstone, Grand Canyon) are very busy. For a calmer experience, go
 the week after.
- Itinerary idea: Fly into <u>Las Vegas</u>, rent a campervan, and loop through Zion, Bryce Canyon, and the Grand Canyon.

5. Thanksgiving (late November) – New York City & East Coast

- Why go: The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York is world?famous, and the holiday kicks off the Christmas season.
- Be aware: This is the busiest travel week of the year in the USA. Flights and trains are packed, and prices spike. If you want to avoid the chaos, visit in early December instead.
- Itinerary idea: Spend Thanksgiving in New York City, then continue south to Washington D.C. for monuments and museums, or north to Boston for history and winter charm.

Key Takeaway for Planning your Trip

- Join the holidays if you want to experience American culture at its most vibrant.
- Travel just before or after if you prefer quieter roads, easier bookings, and lower costs.