



EMBARGOED UNTIL JUNE 20, 2025, 12:01am ET

More than 1.9 million Hoosiers, 72.2 million Americans expected to travel week of July 4th

Independence Day trips up 2.4% over last year; road trips and flights to set new records

INDIANAPOLIS—AAA projects a record 72.2 million people and 1.9 million Hoosiers will travel at least 50 miles or more over the Independence Day holiday period from Saturday, June 28 to Sunday, July 6. AAA's Independence Day forecast includes two weekends instead of one to better reflect the flow of holiday travelers.

Nationwide, this year's domestic travel forecast is an increase of 1.7 million travelers compared to last year and 7 million more than in 2019. In Indiana, 2.7% more people are traveling this year than last year.

"Summertime is one of the busiest travel seasons of the year, and July 4th is one of the most popular times to get away," said Stacey Barber, Vice President of AAA Travel. "Following Memorial Day's record forecast, AAA is seeing strong demand for road trips and air travel over Independence Day week. With the holiday falling on a Friday, travelers have the option of making it a long weekend or taking the entire week to make memories with family and friends."

Traveling by car

The majority of travelers are taking road trips this holiday, with 1.78 million Hoosiers opting to drive to their destination. Nationally, the number of people driving is a 2.2% increase over last year and the highest volume on record for the Independence Day travel period.

"One reason we're expecting to see more drivers out on the roads is because summer gas prices are the lowest they've been since 2021," said Christina Griffiths, Manager of Public Affairs and Communications for AAA Hoosier Motor Club. "The price of crude oil has kept gas prices on the lower side, and while we are seeing them go up slightly as the summer continues, drivers are paying about 40 cents less a gallon than they were this time last year."

AAA recommends continuously checking gas prices at [gasprices.AAA.com](https://gasprices.aaa.com) as prices can change day to day, especially because the Atlantic hurricane season is now underway. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts a 60% chance of an above-normal season. Storms along the Gulf Coast can affect oil refineries and disrupt fuel deliveries, leading to a temporary increase in gas prices.



Indiana Independence Day Travelers

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total	1,704,789	1,220,862	1,383,375	1,600,362	1,834,773	1,915,091	1,966,731 2.7% increase from 2024
Car	1,526,976	1,186,144	1,305,644	1,454,820	1,665,451	1,737,653	1,780,671 2.5% increase from 2024
Air	64,421	23,028	51,128	60,289	65,251	68,403	69,156 1.1% increase from 2024
Other	113,396	11,690	23,603	85,253	104,071	109,034	116,905 7.2% increase from 2024

Getting road trip ready

Last year across the July 4th travel period, AAA responded to nearly 700,000 emergency roadside assistance calls across the country. In Indiana, AAA Hoosier responded to about 5,600 roadside assistance calls. Most of these were for a tow, but also included flat tires, battery issues, running out of gas and lockouts.

“Before you hit the road, make sure your car is ready by testing your battery, checking your tire pressure and packing a [vehicle emergency kit](#),” Griffiths said. “The extreme heat we often experience in July can cause more battery and tire problems, similar to what we see in the winter when it is extremely cold. It’s important to do regular maintenance and make sure you’re prepared in case of an emergency.”

If you’re planning on renting a car, [AAA partner Hertz](#) says Thursday, July 3rd is expected to be the busiest day to pick up vehicles.

Traveling by air

The number of people traveling by air is also projected to set a new record this year. AAA expects 5.84 million travelers to fly to their destinations, which is 8% of all Independence Day travelers. In Indiana, 69,000 Hoosiers will travel by airplane.



According to AAA data, which is based on what travelers paid when they booked their July 4th trips, a roundtrip domestic flight is averaging \$810, which is 4% more expensive than last year. When booking last-minute flights for summer trips, consider flying on weekdays like Tuesdays or Wednesdays for the best deals.

Bus, train or cruise

Travel by other modes is expected to grow by 7.4% over last year. For Hoosiers, more people are traveling via other modes of transportation this holiday than by air, with nearly 117,000 Hoosiers opting for bus, train or cruise.

Nationwide, AAA projects 4.78 million people will travel by bus, train or cruise. This year's number is just shy of the 2019 record of 4.79 million. Cruising is driving the popularity of this category, particularly this time of year, when Alaska cruise season is in full swing.

AAA's Top Independence Day Destinations

The top holiday destinations listed below are based on AAA booking data for the Independence Day travel period. Cruises, beaches and fireworks are the main motivators for travelers heading to these cities. Alaska cruises are in peak season, Florida and Hawaii are in high demand for their resorts and attractions and New York and Boston host two of the most popular fireworks shows in the country.

Internationally, Vancouver tops the list, followed by Europe's most in-demand cities during the summer.

TOP DESTINATIONS DOMESTIC

1. Orlando, FL
2. Seattle, WA
3. New York, NY
4. Anchorage, AK
5. Fort Lauderdale, FL
6. Honolulu, HI
7. Denver, CO
8. Miami, FL
9. Boston, MA
10. Atlanta, GA

2025

JULY 4TH

AAA Travel Forecast

TOP DESTINATIONS INTERNATIONAL

1. Vancouver, Canada
2. Rome, Italy
3. Paris, France
4. London, England
5. Barcelona, Spain
6. Dublin, Ireland
7. Amsterdam, Netherlands
8. Calgary, Canada
9. Athens, Greece
10. Lisbon, Portugal

2025

JULY 4TH

AAA Travel Forecast



Best and worst times to travel

[INRIX](#), a provider of transportation data and insights, expects Wednesday, July 2 and Sunday, July 6 to be the busiest days on the road. The afternoon hours will be the most congested. Drivers should hit the road in the morning to avoid the worst traffic, but keep in mind construction, crashes or weather could impact travel times.

Watch for stopped vehicles and [Slow Down, Move Over](#) for emergency responders and emergency roadside service technicians.

Best and Worst Times to Travel by Car

Date	Worst Time	Best Time
Saturday, June 28	12:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Before 10:00 AM
Sunday, June 29	2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Before 11:00 AM
Monday, June 30	2:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Before 12:00 AM
Tuesday, July 1	3:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Before 2:00 AM
Wednesday, July 2	12:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Before 12:00 AM
Thursday, July 3	2:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Before 12:00 AM
Friday, July 4	12:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Before 12:00 AM
Saturday, July 5	11:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Before 11:00 AM
Sunday, July 6	12:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Before 11:00 AM

Source: [INRIX](#)

Holiday forecast methodology

In cooperation with AAA, S&P Global Market Intelligence (SPGMI) developed a unique methodology to forecast actual domestic travel volumes. The economic variables used to forecast travel for the current holiday are leveraged from SPGMI's proprietary databases. These data include macroeconomic drivers such as employment, output, household net worth, asset prices including stock indices, interest rates, housing market indicators, and variables related to travel and tourism, including gasoline prices, airline travel, and hotel stays. AAA and SPGMI have quantified holiday travel volumes going back to 2000.



Historical travel volume estimates come from MMGY's TRAVEL PERFORMANCE/MonitorSM. The PERFORMANCE/MonitorSM is a comprehensive study measuring the travel behavior of U.S. residents. MMGY contacts over 50,000 U.S. households each month to obtain detailed travel data, resulting in the unique ability to estimate visitor volume and spending, identify trends, forecast U.S. travel behavior and position brand, all after the trips have been taken.

The travel forecast is reported in person-trips. In particular, AAA and SPGMI forecast the total U.S. holiday travel volume and expected mode of transportation. The travel forecast presented in this report was prepared the week of May 19, 2025.

Because AAA holiday forecasts focus on domestic leisure travel only, comparisons to TSA passenger screening numbers should not be made. TSA data includes all passengers traveling on both domestic and international routes, whether traveling for work or leisure. Additionally, TSA screens passengers each time they enter secured areas of the airport, therefore each one-way trip is counted as a passenger tally. AAA focuses on person-trips, which include the full round-trip travel itinerary. As a result, direct comparisons of AAA forecast volumes and daily TSA screenings represent different factors.

About AAA Hoosier Motor Club

Since its creation in 1902, AAA has become one of North America's largest membership organizations. Today, AAA Hoosier Motor Club provides roadside assistance, travel services, exclusive member discounts and benefits, and trusted financial and insurance services to nearly 400,000 Hoosiers. To learn more about AAA Hoosier Motor Club offers or become a member, visit [AAA.com](https://www.aaa.com).

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