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The 10 Best Small Cities in America

Instead of planning a trip to New York City or Los Angeles, explore some of America’s quainter cities. These spots, voted among the best in the U.S. by *Condé Nast Traveler’s readers*, have plenty of cultural attractions, stylish hotels, and charm to spare.

By
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JEFFERYS**

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2. CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA, CA, 79.0
Population: 3,775

Why: South of Monterey and north of Big Sur, this tiny town was once a funky artist’s colony: writers-in-residence included Robert Louis Stevenson and Sinclair Lewis, and photographer Ansel Adams documented the area’s famed cypress trees and dramatic shoreline. (It’s also known for its famous former mayor, Clint Eastwood, who served from 1986 to 1988.) These days, tourists come to shop, browse galleries, eat in quaint restaurants and cafés, attend the annual Bach Festival, or simply walk the beach.

- Where to Stay:**
- Bernardus Lodge, Carmel Valley (93.0)
 - L’Auberge Carmel (84.7)



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