



The 10 Most Beautiful Small Towns In The United States

There is no doubt that the United States of America is brimming with beautiful, charming towns. Every region and every state has them: lovely communities brimming with historic charm and/or scenic beauty. With something for everyone, we've put together a list of some of the most beautiful small towns — population under 15,000 — found throughout the [USA](#).



Historic Anchorage House in Beaufort, SC | Courtesy of Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce

Beaufort, South Carolina

Located on Port Royal Island, [Beaufort, South Carolina](#) is brimming with beauty at every turn with its moss-draped oak trees and breathtaking historic homes lining the streets. Featuring a historic



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downtown, the area is perfect for leisurely strolls while discovering unique shops, incredible art, antiques, plus delicious cuisine. Beaufort is also a history buff's dream with plenty of historical sites and museums, including the [Beaufort History Museum](#). The outdoorsman is not left out in this charmer as plenty of recreational activities are to be explored from biking to kayaking to golfing. To really appreciate all Beaufort has to offer, look into taking a professional tour before going off on your own.

Beaufort, South Carolina, USA



Carmel Beach | Courtesy of carmelcalifornia.com

Carmel-By-The-Sea, California

A European-style village on the Monterey Peninsula, [Carmel-by-the-Sea](#), also known as Carmel, is a popular tourist destination, and it's easy to see why. Whether visitors want to hike down to the white, soft sandy beach or meander to explore the town's charming architecture, boutiques, or delicious eateries, it's all easily done on foot. Other wonderful must-visits include the [San Carlos Borromeo de Carmelo Mission](#), a compound, which features a basilica church, several small museums, and stunning landscape, founded in 1771 by Father Junipero Serra. A town popular with creative individuals, the village also hosts many events and festivals throughout the year, including the [Carmel Bach Festival](#).



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Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA, USA

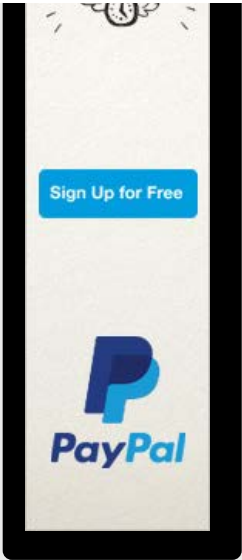


Galena, Illinois | © SD Dirk/Flickr

Galena, Illinois

Situated on the Mississippi River in Northwestern [Illinois](#), [Galena](#) is a lovely community with a romantic feel, offering something for everyone from shoppers to adventurers to foodies to history lovers and more. Its Main Street is brimming with gorgeous, 19th-century buildings housing specialty shops, art galleries, antiques stores, eclectic dining choices, and more while the rest of the village features many historical sites, including the Ulysses S. Grant Home State Historical Site. Outdoor enthusiasts will love the area as well with adventures such as hiking, boating, plus winter activities. With so many exciting things to explore plus the friendliness of the town, people will want to return again and again to this enchanting gem.

[Galena, Illinois, USA](#)





Madison's Historic District | Courtesy of Madison-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce

Madison, Georgia

People from all over the world visit [Madison, Georgia](#) for its breathtaking mix of Antebellum and Victorian homes, scenic outdoor spaces, and slower pace of life. A photographer's dream, Madison has something worth capturing on film at every turn from the majestic oak trees to small cottages to grand mansions. If antique shopping is on the agenda, the downtown area is the place to go as it's brimming with antique dealers. Stroll along the streets and specialty boutiques plus delectable eateries will also be discovered. Other attractions to explore include the [Morgan County African-American Museum](#) and [Heritage Hall](#), which is the most visited attraction in the town.

[Madison, Georgia, USA](#)



Autumn in the Brown County State Park near Nashville | Courtesy of Brown County Convention & Visitors Bureau

Nashville, Indiana

[Nashville, Indiana](#) is a quaint community located in Brown County, an area located in the southern portion of the state. An artists' colony, Nashville, along with the surrounding area, is a wonderful destination for any art lover as the county is full of unique studios where artists can showcase and sell their works, which include a variety of media like glass, fiber, and pottery. The charming village also features public art, which can be discovered by meandering through the streets. The area is also an outdoor lover's paradise, with many activities waiting to be explored, including mountain biking and zip lining.

[Nashville, Indiana, USA](#)



Ouray, Colorado | © Tobias/Flickr

Ouray, Colorado

A feast for the eyes, [Ouray](#) — named after Chief Ouray — is a gem of a town nestled in the Rockies in Southwest [Colorado](#). Surrounded by breathtaking scenery, this mountain community is not only known for its panoramic vistas but also its sulfur-free hot springs — perfect for soaking and relaxing after a long day exploring. Ouray is also home to an incredible ice park plus other outdoor adventures, including miles of hiking trails and for the adventurous driver, [Jeeping](#). Around town, guests will find beautifully restored Queen Anne Victorian architecture housing galleries, shops, and eateries.

[Ouray, CO, USA](#)



Port Townsend with the Olympic Mountains in the background | Courtesy of EnjoyPT.com

Port Townsend, Washington

A vibrant community — perfect for strolling — situated on the Olympic Peninsula, [Port Townsend](#) is a historical Victorian seaport. Indeed, there are only three in the country. With a thriving art scene plus numerous outdoor adventures, every visitor is sure to find something of interest in this picturesque gem. For architecture buffs, the historic uptown district features colorful Victorian mansions while the historic downtown area is home to other century-old buildings. In addition to the unique eateries, galleries, and shops found in Port Townsend, the town also hosts many events throughout the year, such as the [Victorian Festival](#) and award-winning theatrical productions at [Key City Public Theatre](#).

[Port Townsend, WA, USA](#)



Stowe, VT | Courtesy of gostowe.com

Stowe, Vermont

An absolutely stunning destination no matter the time of year, [Stowe](#) is a historic gem located in Northern [Vermont](#). The quintessential destination for adventure seekers, Stowe is brimming with outdoor activities from skiing and other winter sports to capturing the picturesque fall foliage to hiking, biking, canoeing and more in the summer. For the arts and culture lover, the town is home to a lively performing arts scene along with museums and art galleries featuring everything from photography to sculpture. The foodie crowd will also be impressed as this small town features many award-winning dining establishments creating mouthwatering delicacies.

[Stowe, VT, USA](#)

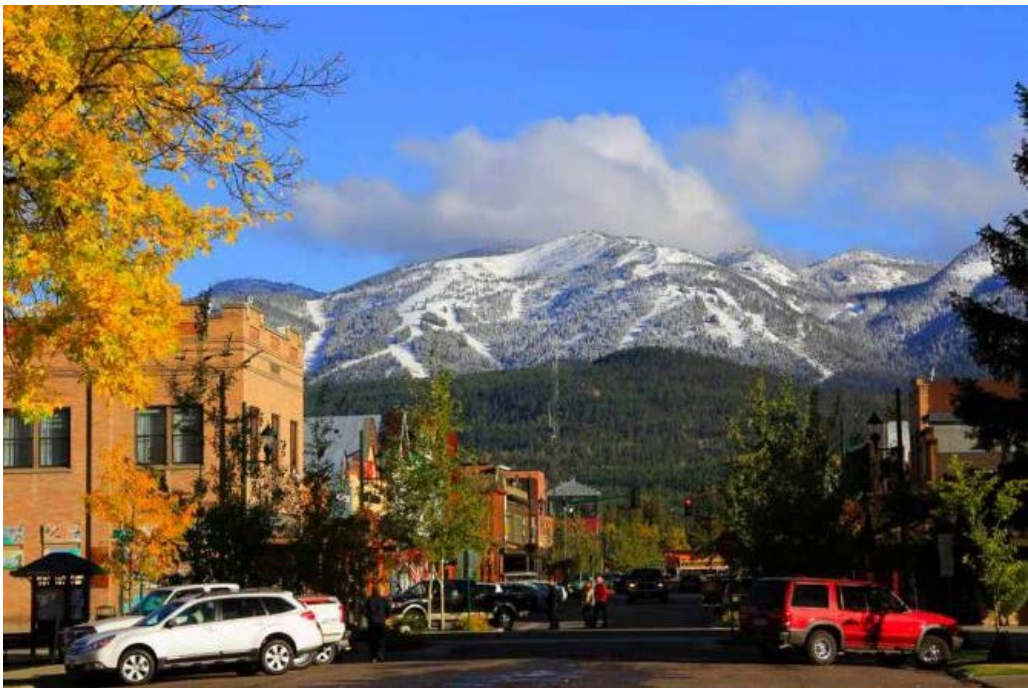


Mural near the Taos Plaza | © Khlhmusa/WikiCommons

Taos, New Mexico

Another historical gem, except in the American southwest, [Taos](#) is a lovely town located in north-central [New Mexico](#). An enchanting mountain community, Taos is a great place to explore the arts, nature, and history. Shoppers and art lovers will enjoy meandering through the different plazas and streets searching for the perfect gift for a loved one or piece of art to adorn a wall at home. History and culture buffs can visit the [Taos Pueblo](#) for a look at the historical Native American community. Nature lovers will love the variety of activities from hiking, climbing, horseback riding, and, of course, skiing in the winter.

[Taos, New Mexico, USA](#)



Autumn in Whitefish | © Brian Schott/Courtesy of Whitefish Convention & Visitors Bureau

Whitefish, Montana

Situated in the northwest portion of [Montana](#), [Whitefish](#) is another year-round destination that outdoor adventurers will thoroughly love. A charming mountain town located near Glacier National Park, the townspeople are a friendly, laid-back group who enjoy welcoming visitors any time of the year. Spring and autumn are great times to go biking while the summer season is perfect for going horseback riding or partaking in water sports. And while those seasons are great, winter is a truly remarkable time to visit Whitefish. Not only are there many winter sports but also fun events like the [Winter Carnival](#).

[Whitefish, MT, USA](#)

By Marcelina Morfin

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