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9 Cutest Small Towns in America

Every year, America’s small towns draw tourists—and new residents—to their streets in droves. They are, after all, reminders of a simpler way of life, where mom-and-pop shops are the norm, everybody knows your name, and the pace is slower than the speed of tweets. To help you get away from the breakneck tempo of your daily routine, we rounded up nine of the cutest small towns for an easy weekend escape, from a picturesque New England coastal haven to a romantic Southern getaway that feels untouched by time.

By Jennifer Fernandez May 15, 2017





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Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA

With its [local wineries](#) and Pacific Coast Highway views, the Northern California town of Carmel-by-the-Sea is as idyllic as its name suggests. Come for the beach, a mile-long swath of white sand from which you can view dolphins and sea lions, then wander around town to shop quirky independent boutiques and see whimsical cottages that look like they came straight out of a fairytale. The atmospheric gardens and chapels at Spanish-colonial [Carmel Mission](#), founded in 1770 and designated a National Historic Landmark, offer worthy spots for reflection, though you'll find just as much tranquility after a stay in one of the intimate suites at [L'Auberge Carmel](#). For dinner, nab a table at [Cultura Comida y Bebida](#), where chef Michelle Estigoy serves standout chicken *tinga* tacos and *epazote* quesadillas inspired by her family's Mexican heritage.

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