

# AD

## The 50 Most Beautiful Small Towns in America

From coast to coast, *AD* ranks the nation's most visually stunning locales

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Photo: Gaertner / Alamy Stock Photo

Culture and beauty are often thought to reside in large cities—but not always. From coast to coast, many towns of less than 10,000 residents prove that America is filled with magnificent microcultures. Beauty in the form of lakes, historic main streets, forests, architectural splendor, and beaches are what the lucky residents of these 50 towns call home. From Kennebunkport in Maine to Washington's San Juan Islands—plush inland communities along lakes and within forests—here are the 50 most beautiful small towns in America. When developing this list, we looked at easy access to nature, the presence of historic or design districts, and topography that's appealing in its own right—whether it's a beach or mountains, or maybe a riverside perch.



Photo: John Greim / Getty Images



## 1. Stockbridge, Massachusetts

If this Berkshires town looks familiar, then you've probably seen it depicted in Norman Rockwell paintings. A canal (the Housatonic River) runs through downtown, where shops and galleries along Main Street (the subject of Rockwell's 1967 painting *Main Street, Stockbridge at Christmas*) feature everything from Victorian-era antique jewelry to contemporary glass. This town hits all three indicators of beauty: architecture, nature, and culture, including the Norman Rockwell Museum. And, most importantly, for a small town (the population is just under 2,000), there are cultural events year-round ranging from America's longest-running international dance festival (Jacob's Pillow, from mid June to late August) and Stockbridge Main Street at Christmas (a full weekend in early December that includes vintage cars and house tours). It's quintessential small-town America at its peak.

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