

Ranked: The Friendliest Places In The US, According To Booking.com

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There's nothing like traveling to a new place, only to feel right at home. The sense of adventure and discovery combined with feeling welcomed by friendly people can take a vacation to new levels. In fact, a recent Booking.com survey showed that 76% of travelers say their motivation to travel is to boost their mood. So what are the friendliest places in the U.S.—and around the world?

Booking.com recently released its 2022 list of the Most Welcoming Places in the United States, along with the Most Welcoming Places on Earth, using data from its fifth annual Traveler Review Awards, which recognize exceptional hospitality. This year, Newport, Rhode Island earned top honors on the U.S. list—making it the friendliest and most welcoming place in America—while Matera, Italy topped the international list.

These awards are based on travelers' reviews on Booking.com, along with the amount of awarded accommodations in each city, and recognize everything from excellence in staffing to cleanliness to safety—notable achievements during a challenging time frame.



Castle Hill Lighthouse in Newport, Rhode Island—named the friendliest and most welcoming place in ... [+] GETTY

The winning place in America—Newport, Rhode Island—is set on Aquidneck Island, with a yacht-filled harbor, an oceanfront Cliff Walk trail, famed Gilded Age mansions and a rich maritime history. "Newport is consistently the most welcoming place in the U.S. (it ranked fourth for the 2020 awards)," says Harrell. "We see so many positive reviews for outstanding hospitality at hotels, bed & breakfasts and vacation rentals across this New England city."

According to Harrell, a favorite place to stay in Newport is the Almondy Inn Bed & Breakfast, a Victorian property that's just a two-minute walk from the beach and within walking distance from Newport's restaurants, antique shops, art galleries, and famous mansions. It has a 9.8 average rating on Booking.com and guests say the property's hosts, John and Laurence, provide a "homelike atmosphere" and are "so thoughtful, attentive, and kind" among other praise.

Most Welcoming Places in the United States in 2022

- 1. Newport, Rhode Island
- 2. Madison, Wisconsin
- 3. Homer, Alaska
- 4. Eureka Springs, Arkansas
- 5. Cape May, New Jersey
- 6. Lancaster, Pennsylvania
- 7. Yosemite West, California
- 8. Volcano, Hawaii
- 9. Waco, Texas
- 10. Seward, Alaska