



6 Underrated Cities for Craft Beer Lovers (And Brewers)

Sure, you can find great beer in Portland and Denver. But these unexpected cities are becoming craft beer destinations. Ready for a taste test?

By [Theresa Christine](#) on November 19, 2018 08:00 AM



It's a great time to be a beer lover.

Five years ago, there were about 3,000 breweries in the United States — [a number which more than doubled by the end of 2017](#). In fact, between 2012 and 2016, [not a single state in the U.S.](#) saw a decline in their overall number of breweries. Thanks to its surge in popularity, great beer is more accessible than ever: today, 83 percent of Americans live within ten miles of a local brewery. For craft beer enthusiasts or simply those interested in the industry, you don't need to look far at all to quench your thirst for a fresh brew.

While iconic beer cities like [Milwaukee](#), [Portland](#) and [Denver](#) might instantly come to mind, many other places across the country are emerging as bonafide craft beer hotspots. Why not get off the beaten brewery path and try something new? Here are some of the best US cities for innovative brews and thriving beer culture — and some of them might surprise you!



Photo Courtesy of Rhode Island Commerce Corporation

3. Pawtucket, RI

Only five miles from the smallest state's capital, [Pawtucket](#) has a big surprise in store: the largest American-made craft beer co-op. [Isle Brewer's Guild](#) acts as a Partner Brewery and offers a space where local brewers can use their state-of-the-art facilities to brew their own craft beer. Because brewing requires a bit of financial capital upfront, this makes Pawtucket an advantageous spot to call home.

In November of 2018, Isle Brewer's Guild is also opening a German-style beer hall. This is, of course, in addition to the fifteen local breweries and distilleries, some of which are part of the new [Rhode Island Brewery Trail](#).

Other popular spots include [FoolProof Brewing Company](#) where you'll find a mix of classic and unusual beer styles, and [Crooked Current Brewery](#) which has affordable tastings and free tours. Other places like [Smug Brewing](#) only recently opened their doors, only prove the craft beer scene there continues to grow.