

The 15 Most Charming Small Towns in New England

WHETHER YOU'RE SEEKING SOMETHING QUIANT OR COASTAL

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Please indulge us as we dedicate a short (and sweet) love letter to New England: Home of lobster rolls, Emily Dickinson and, of course, some of the cutest spots in all the land. As a born-and-raised New Englander, I know a thing or two about the small towns worth prioritizing whether you're bound for [Maine](#), [Massachusetts](#), New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut or [Rhode Island](#). As long as you have a car, anything is possible—although, TBQH, the train/plane/bus options are reliable, too, and will get you pretty much anywhere you want to go. Let the [road trip planning](#) begin.



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5. [Bristol, Rhode Island](#)

- **Why We Love It:** A picturesque spot with plenty of mom-and-pop shops
- **Things to Do:** Eating, drinking, shopping, East Bay Bike Path
- **Where to Stay:** Bristol Harbor Inn (starts at \$127/night); William's Grant Inn B&B (starts at \$185/night); Bristol Cottage (sleeps 6; starts at \$278/night)

The vibes are chill in this seaside town—so chill that you could actually commit to getting around without a car. (The East Bay Bike Path kicks off here and you can ride it all the way to Providence, FYI.) There's more: The town is chock full of mom-and-pop shops and cute cafés and restaurants (Le Central is a dream for brunch), adding to the leisurely atmosphere. Other activities worth prioritizing? The Blithewood Manor and Gardens, a 45-room estate that features grand views of Narragansett Bay, not to mention a range of special events. (A talk about the Blithewood Costume collection? Sign us up.)

EXPLORE BRISTOL, RI



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8. Newport, Rhode Island

- **Why We Love It:** The food scene is impressive; so are the water views
- **Things to Do:** Shopping, touring the mansions, boat tours of Newport Harbor

- **Where to Stay:** The Brenton Hotel (starting at \$200/night); Newport Marriott (starting at \$246/night); Pelham Court (sleeps 4; starting at \$171/night); Island House Newport (starting at \$195/night)

Yes, the mansions—like the Breakers—are epic. But so are the sunsets, the coastal walkways (leave time for the Cliff Walk) and all the charming (regular-sized) homes. On a recent visit, I was blown away by the range of things to do, from the Sailing Museum to the Tennis Hall of Fame to simply popping into St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church, the iconic chapel where John F. Kennedy married Jackie. Oh la la. To top it all off, the culinary scene has exploded—Bar ‘Cino and Mother Pizzeria are not to be missed.

EXPLORE NEWPORT, RI