

PureWow

The 39 Best Christmas Towns in the United States

FROM WHITEFISH, MONTANA TO PIGEON FORGE, TENNESSEE

The smell of fire-roasted chestnuts and mulled wine fills the air. You feel a chill, but the blanket of fresh white flakes makes the cold bit not just bearable but enjoyable. Ice skating ends with a mug of hot chocolate (with marshmallows and whipped cream, of course). Mr. and Mrs. Claus are waiting to greet you with candy canes. Twinkling lights adorn every house, tree and lamp post down the street; as much as this sounds like a scene from a Hallmark holiday movie, it could be your ideal winter break, particularly if you book a stay at one of these charming areas—aka the best Christmas towns in the U.S.

It's a bold claim, to be sure, but after scouring the country, we feel confident in saying these cities will fill you with holiday cheer.



23. Newport, Rhode Island

- **Things to Do:** tour the Newport mansions, Newport Harbor illuminated boat parade, Christmas in Newport festival
- **Where to Stay:** Thames Guest House (from \$300/night, sleeps 4); Gull's Nest (from \$316/night, sleeps 2); Armistead Cottage Bed & Breakfast (from \$260/night)

Impeccably decorated gilded mansions, larger-than-life Christmas trees, lavish parties with plenty of eggnog, cobblestone streets dusted in fresh flakes and ocean views is how Newport does the holidays. Weather permitting, the town puts on a dazzling harbor display of bedecked boats. The whole month of December is dedicated to the Christmas in Newport festival, whose program includes a tree lighting, concerts, craft fairs and candlelit house tours. What you really want to do is beeline it to [The Breakers](#) to see all the opulent wreaths, poinsettias and ornaments before ordering a Winter Kiss cocktail at [Jo's American Bistro](#).