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30 Best Weekend Getaways in the South

Charleston and Nashville are fun, but it's time to head somewhere new.

BY [PERRI O. BLUMBERG](#) JAN 14, 2020



COURTESY OF LEE COUNTY VISITOR & CONVENTION BUREAU

Pick any town below the Mason-Dixon line, and you're destined to find old-fashioned Southern hospitality and charm—not to mention tons of delicious comfort food and stunning architectural eye candy. But here's the thing: You've already done the whole Nashville thing, you've seen Charleston more times than you can count, and you've eaten your weight in beignets down in New Orleans too. Where else can you find loads of culture, entertainment, shopping, and opportunities for relaxation in the South?

All over, that's where! And here, we're sharing the best under-the-radar spots with you—the Southern [U.S. small town](#) destinations that should be on everyone's bucket list in 2020. These 30 locales are among the very best weekend getaways in the South, and we can't imagine a more perfect spot for your next weekend trip with your girlfriends, [roadtrip with kids](#), or family vacation.

While bigger cities usually get all the love (and listen, you don't have to tell us twice why they're awesome!), we think it's high time to look beyond the usual suspects and escape to quirkier gems. Looking for something outdoorsy and artsy with a killer [small town main street](#)? Knoxville, Tennessee, or laid-back Lexington, Kentucky, might be your spots. Interested in a kid-friendly trip? Head to Lake Murray, South Carolina! Here, find our favorite surprising southern destinations to book for a memorable trip with your best sidekicks.

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Wilmington, North Carolina



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Enter port city nirvana in Wilmington, a town that also offers plenty of beach hangouts, first-rate dining, and opportunities for active adventures. Escape the southern heat on a breezy eco-tour with [Wrightsville Beach Scenic Cruises](#), which are —hallelujah!— BYOB (you can buy drinks onboard, too). [Airlie Gardens](#) is also worth a visit since you may recognize the famed Victorian era-garden from TV or movies. And don't set your anchors aweigh before satiating your sweet tooth at beloved dessert spots like [Pink Baking Co.](#), [Coastal Cupcakes](#), and [The Peppered Cupcake](#). (Note to self: pack stretchy pants.)

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