

Want to run for the hills post-election? These are the best small towns for adventure

It's been a contentious election cycle. If the stress of it all has you wanting to run for the hills, we've got options for you. USA TODAY 10Best teamed up with a panel of experts to find the [best small towns for adventure](#), and then readers voted for their favorites. These 10 towns might be small – each has a population of fewer than 25,000 people – but they're big on outdoor adventure, from hiking and mountain biking to kayaking and rock climbing. Scroll through to see the winners.



No. 1: Beaufort, North Carolina. "From the wild horses on [Shackleford Banks](#) to boating, fishing and kayaking the many waterways and marshes of the Inner Banks, Beaufort, North Carolina is an outdoors Mecca," say 10Best contributors Cele and Lynn Seldon. The [Boathouse Marina](#) offers easy access to the [Intracoastal Waterway](#) and Atlantic Ocean, and it's also possible to drop a kayak into Taylor's Creek for a paddle. Charter companies facilitate offshore fishing and diving, and the [Rachel Carson Reserve](#) sets the scene for wildlife watching.