

# 50 Top Small Towns to Visit in 2018

For a dose of history, art, scenery and small-scale charm, visit these idyllic towns.

By [Liz Weiss](#), Staff Writer | Jan. 24, 2018, at 10:22 a.m.

SLIDESHOW

1 of 52

## Explore enchanting towns across the globe.

If you're looking for an escape from the thick crowds, bustling blocks and frenetic sights and sounds of city life, fortunately there are plenty of scenic idylls – filled with personality, charm, storybook settings and a slower pace – worth exploring. And as you tackle the slopes in an inviting ski town, soak up history in a centuries-old village or wander along cobblestone streets to vibrant coffee shops, green spaces and local boutiques and bistros, you can immerse yourself in diverse enclaves and lovely landscapes. With that in mind, these classic and up-and-coming small towns merit a visit in 2018, whether you're plotting a quick weekend ski break, a coastal retreat or a history-fueled journey.



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7 of 52

## Baie-Saint-Paul, Quebec

This storybook small town near Quebec City offers picture-perfect surroundings in the Charlevoix region. Catering to history lovers, art aficionados and foodies, the area brims with cozy cafés, trendy galleries and bohemian shops. Wander along Rue Saint-Jean to pop into galleries showcasing pieces from local artists or enjoy a leisurely meal at Le Café du Marché, a hybrid grocer, farmers market and pastry shop, or Bistro La Muse. After painting the town, slip away to the lovely Hôtel & Spa Le Germain Charlevoix, which offers access to a Nordic-inspired spa and an ice skating loop, along with fat bike and snowshoe rentals.



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