

Travel + Leisure Readers' 15 Favorite Cities in the United States of 2023

The best cities in the United States in our annual "World's Best Awards" survey for 2023.

By [Christine Burroni](#) | Published on July 11, 2023



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While the return of international travel took center stage in 2022, by no means did U.S. destinations fall to the wayside. T+L readers were equally drawn to the buzz and vibrancy of cities spanning from San Diego, California, to Alexandria, Virginia — no passport required. While warm-weather hot spots throughout the South were ranked most popular, voters also headed up to the Northeast and the Midwest.

How Voting Works

Every year for our [World's Best Awards](#) survey, [T+L asks readers](#) to weigh in on travel experiences around the globe — to share their opinions on the top hotels, resorts, cities, islands, cruise ships, spas, airlines, and more. Nearly 165,000 T+L readers completed the 2023 survey, an increase of nearly 25 percent over pre-pandemic voting levels. A total of more than 685,000 votes were cast across over 8,500 unique properties (hotels, cities, cruise lines, etc.).

Cities were [specifically rated on the criteria](#) below:

- Sights/landmarks
- Culture
- Food
- Friendliness
- Shopping
- Value

For each characteristic, respondents could choose a rating of excellent, above average, average, below average, or poor. The final scores are averages of these responses.



PHOTO: MARIAH TYLER/TRAVEL + LEISURE



What Readers Loved

Readers' favorite cities ran the gamut this year, from destinations filled with old-fashioned charm to modern, bustling metros. One thing that remained constant from last year was readers' love for Charleston, South Carolina, which ranked No. 1 yet again. Santa Fe, Savannah, New York City, and Boston also returned to the list. From coast to coast, the cities that made the list this year captured a variety of cultures and cuisines — and proved that travelers may not need their passports to see a new and exciting place.

The Full List

1. Charleston, South Carolina



PHOTO: LINDSEY HARRIS SHORTER

[Once again](#) named T+L readers' absolute favorite U.S. city, Charleston, also known as the Holy City, has the perfect combination of southern charm and city vibes. "This place is a destination to behold," gushed one reader. Others praised the friendly locals, historic sites, and the [shopping and dining](#) along King Street. "So many incredible restaurants" have made Charleston a foodie destination, and "the mix of hotels makes the city a perfect fit for any type of traveler."

Reader Score: 88.63



This place is a destination to behold.

— T+L READER