

The Coziest Cities in the U.S.

A Comprehensive Ranking of America's Most Comfort-Focused Destinations

As temperatures start to drop, there's nothing quite like the feeling of finding your perfect cozy haven. But what makes a city truly cozy? Is it the abundance of independent coffee shops where you can curl up with a good book? The quaint neighborhoods that invite leisurely strolls? Or perhaps the thriving creative community that makes every corner feel like home?

To find out, we analyzed data from various sources, taking into account factors like idyllic walking spots and the presence of coffee shops, tea houses, bakeries, libraries and independent bookstores. We also explored cozy Airbnb availability and activities like cooking classes and art studios, and the search volume for items like candles, blankets and interior home decor.

Our analysis reveals that the coziest cities in America aren't just about pretty fall foliage or charming architecture—they're places where comfort, community and creativity intersect to create an atmosphere of genuine warmth and belonging.



Key Findings

Our analysis of America's coziest cities revealed five fascinating trends that redefine what makes a place truly comfortable and welcoming:



Urban areas stand out: Contrary to expectations, major metropolitan areas, including Jersey City, Miami and New York City, dominate our rankings.



Florida cities take top spots: Three Florida cities—Miami, Orlando and Tampa—have landed in the top 13, excelling particularly in the Home & Hearth category.



Cozy coastal cities: Cities in the Northeast and on the West Coast rank high, with Jersey City leading the pack and New York City, Boston, Portland, Seattle and San Francisco all making it into the top 11.



Creative activities: Cities that ranked highest in Creative Cozy Activities—like Miami, Orlando and Honolulu—show that hands-on experiences are crucial for building community connections that make places feel welcoming.



Key comfort spots: Cities like Jersey City and Santa Ana dominate with high concentrations of coffee shops, bookstores and other "third places" that create community gathering spots.





Total Rank	Cities	Total Score	Nature & Walkability	Comfort Spots	Home & Hearth	Creative Cozy Activities
1	Jersey City, NJ	52.20	19	1	65	51
2	Miami, FL	37.75	3	12	3	1
3	Orlando, FL	31.23	49	16	1	2
4	St. Louis, MO	30.39	1	19	34	14
5	Honolulu, HI	29.69	4	11	19	3
6	Portland, OR	25.45	8	17	9	10
7	New York City, NY	25.07	25	64	2	50
8	Minneapolis, MN	24.86	2	22	40	13
9	Boston, MA	24.50	9	7	25	15
10	San Francisco, CA	24.49	7	8	36	20
11	Seattle, WA	23.87	6	21	13	23
12	Atlanta, GA	23.50	26	23	8	4
13	Tampa, FL	23.00	16	31	6	6

14	Santa Ana, CA	22.48	37	2	28	83
15	Pittsburgh, PA	21.77	13	10	23	19
16	Washington, DC	20.91	12	9	33	32
17	New Orleans, LA	20.90	22	20	27	5
18	St. Paul, MN	20.13	5	26	61	81
19	Cincinnati, OH	19.98	11	34	21	21
20	Las Vegas, NV	18.98	32	32	14	9
21	Madison, WI	18.42	10	46	94	17
22	St. Petersburg, FL	17.70	30	36	52	8
23	Denver, CO	17.60	28	38	26	16
24	Oakland, CA	17.59	20	6	89	72
25	Chicago, IL	17.20	15	75	10	42
26	Newark, NJ	17.12	33	5	39	84
27	Los Angeles, CA	16.64	41	68	4	49
28	Buffalo, NY	16.63	14	18	66	77
29	Anaheim, CA	16.22	65	3	70	92
30	Cleveland, OH	16.06	23	48	31	34
31	Long Beach, CA	15.79	18	13	78	80
32	Richmond, VA	15.74	36	15	46	30
33	Sacramento, CA	15.35	21	33	48	48
34	Irvine, CA	15.03	47	4	84	41
35	Philadelphia, PA	14.92	27	54	22	52
36	Baltimore, MD	14.35	31	42	38	38
37	Tucson, AZ	14.27	29	55	53	25
38	Garland, TX	14.08	70	24	5	75
39	Milwaukee, WI	13.86	24	52	51	56
40	San Diego, CA	13.67	38	51	24	37
41	Austin, TX	13.54	44	58	17	24
42	Anchorage, AK	13.53	17	60	54	64
43	Spokane, WA	12.81	35	37	62	73
44	Boise, ID	12.79	39	45	56	33
45	Houston, TX	12.69	52	97	7	40
46	Scottsdale, AZ	12.55	59	66	15	22
47	Colorado Springs, CO	12.29	50	56	60	12
48	Plano, TX	12.29	66	14	80	27
49	Albuquerque, NM	12.21	42	50	58	28
50	Norfolk, VA	12.14	46	27	97	31

[See All](#)

Table Notes

Each category takes into account the following factors:

-  **Nature & Walkability:** Nature and walking spots & parks
-  **Comfort Spots:** Coffee shops, independent bookstores, libraries, tea houses & bakeries
-  **Home & Hearth:** Cozy Airbnbs & the number of searches for interior home goods (candles, blankets, fall home decor, etc.)
-  **Creative Cozy Activities:** Paint and pottery studios & cooking classes

The Top 10 Coziest Cities in America

1 Jersey City, New Jersey

Jersey City claims the top spot through an exceptional performance in Comfort Spots, ranking #1 in this category. This waterfront city across from Manhattan has cultivated a remarkable collection of independent coffee shops, cozy bookstores and inviting bakeries, particularly in neighborhoods like The Heights and Downtown. The city's proximity to New York provides urban energy while maintaining its own distinct, more intimate character.

Jersey City's diverse neighborhoods each offer their own cozy microclimates, from the tree-lined streets of The Village to the converted warehouse spaces of the Powerhouse Arts District. The city scored consistently well across all categories, proving that true coziness comes from a balanced approach to comfort, creativity and community.

Cozy Fun Fact: Jersey City's Liberty State Park offers some of the most romantic sunset views of the Manhattan skyline, with plenty of cozy picnic spots and waterfront benches perfect for fall evening strolls.



2 Miami, Florida

Miami's second-place finish challenges preconceptions about what makes a city cozy. While known for its vibrant nightlife and beach culture, Miami excels in creating true comfort experiences, ranking #3 in Nature & Walkability and #1 in Creative Cozy Activities. The city's numerous art districts, including Wynwood and the Design District, offer countless pottery studios, cooking classes and creative workshops.

Miami's cozy appeal lies in its neighborhood diversity—from the tree-canopied streets of Coral Gables to the intimate café culture of Little Havana. The city's year-round outdoor dining culture creates a unique form of al fresco coziness, where residents can enjoy comfort food and warm community gatherings under the stars twelve months a year.

Cozy Fun Fact: Miami has a number of community gardens where residents gather to grow herbs and vegetables, creating cozy neighborhood hubs that bring people together over shared meals and gardening wisdom.



3 Orlando, Florida

Orlando proves that a city famous for theme parks can also master the art of everyday coziness. Ranking #1 in Home & Hearth and #2 in Creative Cozy Activities, Orlando has built an impressive infrastructure for comfortable living and creative expression. Beyond the tourist attractions, neighborhoods like Thornton Park and Mills 50 offer streetscapes filled with local coffee roasters and independent bookshops.

The city's numerous lakes provide peaceful retreats within urban settings, while a thriving local arts scene ensures plenty of hands-on creative opportunities. Orlando residents are clearly fond of cozy home environments, with high search interest in candles, blankets and seasonal décor.

Cozy Fun Fact: Orlando's Lake Eola hosts "Evening on the Lake" events where locals bring blankets and thermoses of hot drinks to enjoy free concerts under string lights reflected on the water.



4 St. Louis, Missouri

St. Louis claims the #1 spot in the Nature & Walkability category. The city's extensive park system, anchored by the massive Forest Park, provides countless opportunities for peaceful autumn walks and outdoor comfort. Neighborhoods like The Hill and Soulard offer walkable communities where residents can stroll to cozy taverns, local bakeries and community gatherings.

The city's rich architectural heritage creates naturally cozy environments, with brick buildings and streetscapes that invite exploration. St. Louis's strong performance across multiple categories reflects a city that has maintained small-town charm while offering big-city amenities.

Cozy Fun Fact: St. Louis's Soulard Farmers Market, operating since 1779, transforms into a cozy autumn destination where vendors serve hot apple cider and locally-made comfort foods every Saturday morning.



5 Honolulu, Hawaii

Honolulu brings tropical coziness to our rankings, excelling in Nature & Walkability (#4) and Creative Cozy Activities (#3). The city's unique interpretation of coziness blends indoor comfort with outdoor living, creating spaces where residents can feel embraced by both community and nature. Neighborhoods like Kaimuki and Chinatown offer cozy and artsy walking experiences with local coffee shops, art galleries and creative studios.

The city's exceptional performance in creative activities reflects Hawaii's strong tradition of hands-on arts, from traditional lei making to contemporary pottery. Honolulu shows that coziness isn't just about fireplaces and hot chocolate—it's about communities that come together to create, share and connect.

Cozy Fun Fact: Honolulu's Chinatown features several traditional tea houses where locals gather for dim sum and board games, creating community spaces that have operated continuously for many years.



6 Portland, Oregon

Portland embodies the Pacific Northwest approach to coziness, ranking solidly across all categories with particular strength in Home & Hearth (#9). The city's legendary coffee culture means countless spots where residents can find warmth and community, while neighborhoods like Hawthorne and Alberta offer walkable districts filled with independent bookstores, tea houses and artisanal bakeries.

Portland's commitment to local, handmade goods helps foster a culture where residents actively invest in making their homes and communities more comfortable. The city's many creative workshops and maker spaces reflect a population that values hands-on activities as a path to both personal satisfaction and community connection.

Cozy Fun Fact: Portland's multitude of coffee shops includes some that operate in converted Victorian homes complete with fireplaces and reading nooks.



7 New York City, New York

Despite its reputation as a fast-paced metropolis, New York City demonstrates how urban density can create exceptional coziness, ranking #2 in Home & Hearth. The city's countless neighborhood enclaves each offer their own character, from the tree-lined streets of Brooklyn Heights to the cozy wine bars of the West Village.

Its diverse neighborhoods ensure that every resident can find their own cozy corner, whether it's a warm bookstore in the Upper West Side or a quiet tea house in Chinatown. New York's intensity creates a unique form of urban coziness where finding peaceful moments feels especially meaningful.

Cozy Fun Fact: Central Park contains thousands of benches, many dedicated to loved ones, creating countless spots where New Yorkers can find moments of solitude within the bustling city.



8 Minneapolis, Minnesota

Minneapolis earns its place with an outstanding Nature & Walkability (#2) ranking, leveraging its extensive park system and chain of lakes to create year-round outdoor comfort opportunities. The city's skyway system provides climate-controlled coziness during harsh winters, connecting downtown buildings through enclosed walkways lined with cafés and bookstores.

Neighborhoods like Uptown and Northeast Minneapolis offer commercial districts where residents can walk to everything they need, including artisanal coffee roasters and independent bookstores. The city's strong performance reflects its ability to find comfort in all seasons.

Cozy Fun Fact: Minneapolis has more skyway coverage than any other city in the world—11 miles of connected, heated walkways that create a cozy "second city" above street level during winter months.



9 Boston, Massachusetts

Boston combines historic charm with modern comfort amenities, ranking particularly well in Comfort Spots (#7). The city's walk-friendly neighborhoods, from Beacon Hill's gas-lit streets to Cambridge's academic atmosphere, create naturally cozy environments steeped in history and community tradition.

The city's compact size and extensive public transit make it easy to discover cozy corners throughout different neighborhoods, while its many colleges ensure a steady supply of coffee shops, study spots, and creative venues that serve both students and long-term residents.

Cozy Fun Fact: Boston Public Library's McKim Building features a cozy tea room where visitors can enjoy afternoon tea surrounded by murals and marble architecture, maintaining a tradition that dates back to 1895.



10 San Francisco, California

San Francisco rounds out the top 10 with strong performance in Comfort Spots (#8) and Nature & Walkability (#7). The city's famously steep neighborhoods each offer their own microclimate of coziness, whether it be Mission's warm valleys or the fog-wrapped hills of Richmond. San Francisco's café culture rivals Portland's, with neighborhood coffee shops serving as community centers where locals gather for warmth both literal and social.

The city's abundance of artisanal businesses creates countless opportunities for cozy experiences, while its proximity to nature—from Golden Gate Park to ocean beaches—ensures residents always have access to peaceful retreats within the urban environment.

Cozy Fun Fact: San Francisco's famous fog creates natural "cozy weather" year-round.



Methodology & Sources

This comprehensive ranking analyzed over 100 U.S. cities using publicly available data from multiple sources:

Data Sources:

- Yelp (coffee shops, bookstores, bakeries, tea houses, creative studios)
- TripAdvisor (local attractions and experiences)
- Booking.com (cozy accommodation options)
- Walk Score (walkability metrics)
- U.S. Census Bureau (demographic and geographic data)
- Google Trends (home comfort goods search data)

Category Breakdowns:

- **Nature & Walkability (25%):** Parks & nature spaces (15%), Walk Score ratings (10%)
- **Comfort Spots (40%):** Coffee shops (15%), Independent bookstores (10%), Libraries (5%), Tea houses (5%), Bakeries (5%)
- **Home & Hearth (25%):** Cozy accommodations (12.5%), Interior comfort goods searches (12.5%)
- **Creative Cozy Activities (10%):** Paint & pottery studios (5%), Cooking classes (5%)

Higher scores in a category indicate greater coziness across all measured dimensions. Cities were ranked based on their total weighted scores across all categories.

CEO Commentary

"What stands out most to me is how even in the most buzzing metropolitan areas, there are plenty of opportunities for a quiet, cozy escape, whether that be enjoying a picturesque view while sipping from a thermos or getting lost in a book in a homely coffee shop. This also got me thinking about how important it is to slow down and just enjoy life's simple pleasures sometimes."

Mauricio Preuss, PrivacyJournal

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