



In Europe, a slew of new restrictions are once again putting winter travel into question after an optimistic spring and summer of exciting re-openings across the continent. For American travelers still uneasy about flying abroad, there are plenty of places right here in the United States—perhaps even within driving distance of your own home—that offer a distinctly European fix, thanks to their quaint city squares, rich architecture, and Old World food scenes. (Of course, while coronavirus remains a concern, you should always remember to check the latest local guidelines before visiting.)

From coast to coast, here are eight U.S. cities full of European charm worth visiting this season.



Shobeir Ansari

Newport, Rhode Island, instead of Nice, France

If you're craving a trip to the French Riviera, with its pebbly shores and laid-back elegance, you'll be pleasantly surprised by Newport, Rhode Island, where Gilded Age mansions and ramshackle lobster shacks coexist in perfect seaswept harmony. Nice's coastal walkways may have been inspiration for Cézanne, Matisse, and Picasso, but Newport's cliff walk, which stretches for 3.5 miles, is equally captivating, as is The Breakers, Cornelius Vanderbilt II's Beaux-Arts villa, built by architect Richard Morris Hunt in 1892. The city, known for its sailing, is a holiday-making heaven in its own right—and best of all, it's driving distance from both New York City and Boston (about a 3.5-hour-drive and 90-minute-drive, respectively). It's also home to a number of storied hotels, including the Chanler at Cliff Walk, and The Wayfinder, which opened in June 2020.