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20 small towns near NYC you need to visit right now

Plan a day (or weekend) trip to one of these charming destinations, all of which are just a stone's throw from New York City

It is a truth universally acknowledged (by New Yorkers, anyway) that summer in the city can be something of a beast, what with the ridiculous heat in subway stations, and that *smell* (you know what we're talking about) that permeates city streets until October. But instead of stewing in the heat, why not get out of town for a day or two? Thanks to our fair city's location—close to New England, the Jersey Shore, Long Island's beaches, and the Hudson River—there's a bevy of charming towns you can visit the next time you need a break from NYC.

These towns in New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey (and ever-so-slightly beyond) offer a little something for everyone. But the best part is that they're all just a few hours from NYC, so it won't be hard to drop everything, pack a bag, and get outta town.

7 Saratoga Springs

This upstate town—which is just over three hours from NYC by train—may be best known for its [horse racing](#), but there's more to Saratoga Springs than its [racetrack](#). The town's downtown area is home to plenty of cool shops, galleries, and restaurants, and there's a ton of nature to explore nearby (including the [famed springs](#) that give the town its name). As for lodging, the historic [Adelphi Hotel](#) is getting a fresh new look, and should reopen any day now; there's also the luxurious [Gideon Putnam](#), nestled within a state park.

