

Fodor's 2013 Best Small Towns in America: Door County, Wisconsin



What it's Like: Five state parks, 300 miles of shoreline, hundreds of non-chain shops, galleries, and restaurants, all amid the beauty of Lake Michigan—need we say more?

Okay, so this isn't technically one town, but this whole country—population 27,961—is made up of notable small towns, each more charming than the last. Thanks to the county-wide outlaw on chain hotels, shops, or dining, you'll find hamlets teeming with cute boutiques, upscale galleries, and working artist studios, along with natural sites like Peninsula State Park and the beaches along Lake Michigan. Be sure to try the local favorite fish boil—a stew of whitefish, potatoes, and onions made outside in a cauldron—and the locally-grown cherries, which make an appearance in nearly every dish, from appetizer to dessert.