

The Prettiest Small Towns in Georgia

Fewer than 20,000 residents, but an overload of charm and character.

SOUTHERN LIVING EDITORS

In a Southern state with a gazillion beautiful [small towns](#), we had a hard time picking our favorite places. And before you even say it, we know. We'll hear from you if we missed yours! Looking for more places to visit in Georgia? Plan your Peach State adventures at exploregeorgia.org.

Covington **Population: 13, 977**

If you were a *Vampire Diaries* fan, you'll recognize downtown Covington, which "played" Mystic Falls, Virginia, in the series.

Thomasville **Population: 18,826**

Known for Pebble Hill and other sporting plantations, Thomasville was also a temporary refuge for [Jacqueline Kennedy](#) shortly after her husband's assassination. The President's widow stayed at Greenwood Plantation with her friends the Whitney family.

Dublin **Population: 16,106**

Find Irish flavor in the eateries, live music, festivals, and of course the Dublin Theatre about an hour southeast of Macon.



St. Marys

Population: 18,088

This little coastal charmer is the gateway to beautiful [Cumberland Island](#), but you'll love rambling around town before you catch the ferry.

Milledgeville **Population: 18,933**

Don't miss the Greek Revival home Rose Hill at Lockerly Arboretum; Flannery O'Connor's home, Andalusia; or the Oconee River Greenway Park and Riverwalk.

Jackson Population: 5,000

Besides enjoying local eateries and shops in this town about 40 miles south of [Atlanta](#), you can get outdoors at Jackson Lake, High Falls State Park, or Indian Springs State Park. See if you recognize any of the town's landmarks from the Netflix series *Stranger Things*.

Blue Ridge Population: 1,300

From gorgeous mountain views, [orchards](#), and wineries, to a happening restaurant scene, this little burg has a lot to offer. P.S. You can catch the Blue Ridge Scenic Railway here.

Helen Population: 600

Southerners flock here to see the Georgia version of a Bavarian Alpine Village. Explore more than 200 shops, plus Habersham Winery and nearby

Dahlonega Population: 6,500

Central to Georgia's wine country, Dahlonega also has waterfalls, hiking trails, world-class cycling, and plenty to see and do.



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Lilburn Population: 12,675

One of America's most distinctive (and second-largest) Hindu temples, the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, is in this small town just outside of Atlanta.

Clayton Population: 2,300

Check out Persimmon on the Square, Main Street Gallery, and the soda fountain at the Clayton Pharmacy, or have a whitewater adventure on the nearby Chattooga River.



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Washington **Population: 4,942**

Established in 1780, Washington is one of the oldest towns in Georgia, with many antebellum homes and other historic architecture, including 3,000-acre Callaway Plantation.

Madison **Population: 4,000**

Dreamy Madison has been doubling as a movie and TV set since the 70s. Remember it from *My Cousin Vinny*, *Goosebumps*, or *Hidden Figures*?

Darien **Population: 1,845**

This coastal town between [Savannah](#) and Brunswick was once a thriving port. Now it's a serene historic town with beautiful scenery, less than an hour from St. Simons Island.

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Greensboro **Population: 3,384**

With its historic downtown and antebellum architecture, Greensboro makes a perfect side trip if you're visiting Lake Oconee.

Brunswick **Population: 16,346**

Founded in 1771 and rich with maritime history, this mainland port has plenty to see and do before you explore the neighboring barrier islands—Georgia's Golden Isle