

Forbes

Where To Stay, What To Do, When Visiting Second Cities

By Roger Sands



Travelers are discovering the advantages of second cities.

The Second City travel trend is increasing as travelers start to realize there are so many great destinations with fewer crowds, a slower pace and myriad of experiences to uncover. According to [NerdWallet](#), second city is a somewhat ambiguous term, but it's generally used to refer to the second-most populous city in a state.

There are several reasons why you should consider visiting a second city this year during your travels: You'll avoid crowds; You'll help reduce overcrowding; You might not have to fly; You might be able to extend your trip and take a "workcation."

The following second cities roll out the red carpet for visitors.

[Charlottesville, Virginia](#): As an alternative to Washington, DC

Nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the area is teeming with history and wine. The area is one of the most acclaimed wine regions on the East Coast. Home to the [Monticello Wine Trail](#), the area boasts over 40 wineries, and is also home to the [historic pedestrian Downtown Mall](#), one of the longest pedestrian malls in the country. This avenue is paved with brick features, and large, mature oak trees run down its center. World-class artists perform at music venues, while the [Ix Art Park](#) offers visitors a unique experience with an outdoor public art park. [Keswick Hall](#) is a beautiful luxury resort

featuring an 18-hole championship golf course, a brand-new spa, the farm-forward restaurant Marigold by Jean-George, a resort farm, a magnificent infinity pool and clay tennis courts.