

NYLON

9 Under The Radar U.S. Cities You Should Visit Now

Miami who?

BY IRINA GRECHKO · JULY 11, 2017



ILLUSTRATED BY JIHYANG LIM

In our minds, summer signifies the arrival of several things: Rosé on rooftops, summer Fridays, weddings, flings, and travel. Whether it's the smell of adventure seeping into the smoldering-hot air or the flexibility that pre-weekend half-days allow, but summer is prime time for travel; from weekend getaways to week-long road trip adventures, you'll find us taking more days off work during these months than we do the rest of the year.

And while we love to visit tourist-filled favorites like Miami, Charleston, [New Orleans](#), and [L.A.](#), there is a certain thrill in finding destinations yet unexplored (or rather, less so explored)—especially since there are tons of cities and towns in the U.S. that don't get as much love as they deserve in the #travelgram department.

With summer almost halfway over, here are the nine U.S. cities you should make time to visit. We are aware we've only just scratched the surface of underrated cities in America, so check out our picks below to get started and then proceed to make a map of your own—and don't forget to check out [our European list](#) too!



PHOTO BY JARED WICKERHAM/GETTY IMAGES

Cambridge, MA

When I used to live in Boston a decade ago, Cambridge was where you went for underage house parties, parent-chaperoned tours of Harvard's campus, and Halloween costume-shopping at The Garment District. Nowadays it's a mecca of good food and great cocktails. Start your culinary tour at [PAGU](#), O-Ya alum Tracy Chang's first solo restaurant venture, where Spanish and Japanese cuisine are woven seamlessly together in an explosion of succulent flavors. Tip: Grab a seat at the bar area encircling the kitchen, so you get an up-close glance at how Chang whips up her famous ramen, squid ink oyster bao, and smoked purple yam ice cream. Let everything settle at the arcade bar next door, [Roxy's A4cade](#), while playing retro games and sipping on surprisingly delicious craft cocktails.

For a pre-dinner treat, stop by the [Waypoint](#) for some famous East Coast oysters and absinthe cocktails before making your way to [Little Donkey](#), the newest tapas creation from the power duo Ken Oringer and Jamie Bissonnette (of Toro and Coppa fame). If you have room, make your way down to [Automatic](#) for a nightcap. Being that this is the latest industry-insider's spot, opened by the old-school legend Dave Cagle, you can expect to get a new list of places to go to from one of the many returning patrons come the next day.

When you're ready to crash, head to the hippest boutique sleeper in Cambridge, [Freepoint Hotel](#), where you'll find the most [Instagrammable bathrooms](#) (stocked with Living Proof products!), a [curated selection of podcasts](#), immaculately designed common space interiors, an open air courtyard with a fire pit, and excellent [food and cocktails](#) courtesy of award-winning chef [Matthew Gaudet](#) (you haven't had breakfast until you've had his blueberry waffle in a skillet).