

Looking for some history?

USNews rated the following cities as the best historic destinations for travelers:

Washington D.C.

Why Go: Washington, D.C. stands as the political heart of the U.S. Leaving room for museums and monuments, the original urban architects designed the city as a ceremonial one. True to its purpose, America's capitol brims with things to do. The Washington Monument, the Capitol Building, the White House, and the Lincoln Memorial anchor the National Mall, which boasts a variety of other attractions. [Read More»](#)

Williamsburg

Why Go: Part historical town, part theatrical stage, Williamsburg hosts numerous refurbished buildings and a legion of period actors. While some consider Colonial Williamsburg to be the Disneyland of the Revolutionary War, others find the recreations educational and enjoyable. If you want a little more history, check out nearby Jamestown. Otherwise, there's always Busch Gardens for a roller coaster ride back to the present. [Read More»](#)

Philadelphia

Why Go: This metropolis still belongs to Benjamin Franklin. You'll see his name, busts of his likeness, and his influence across town. First, visit Independence Hall, where Ben & Co. signed the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Then, pay homage to the famously cracked Liberty Bell next door. Lastly, dig into a classic Philly cheesesteak in South Philly, although we don't think Benjamin had anything to do with this landmark dish.

Boston

Why Go: Boston is a city of American firsts. The country's first public library, first subway system, first public school, and first public park belong to Boston. Here, you can stroll the same cobblestone streets as the puritans, the revolutionaries, and NFL-legend-in-the-making Tom Brady. Better yet, the city makes this walk through history really easy with the Freedom Trail.

Charleston

Why Go: Walking around The Battery and spotting Fort Sumter in the distance, you may believe that you've stepped back into a gorgeous antebellum world. Should you wish to glimpse the lifestyle of the wealthy 19th-century Southern gentry, tour the Calhoun Mansion or the Nathaniel Russell House. Charleston's historic downtown has weathered the decades very well.

Richmond

Why Go: The former capital of the Confederacy is just a two-hour drive from Washington, D.C. Richmond may not be as big as DC, but Virginia's capitol remains an alluring spot for history buffs. The Virginia State Capitol Building reminds you of Jefferson's Monticello, and the Virginia Historical Society boasts an exhaustive collection of Civil War paraphernalia. And the Museum of the Confederacy occupies a building commonly known as the "Confederate White House."

Santa Fe

Why Go: Santa Fe is the "Oldest Capital in the U.S." Founded in 1610, this fascinating town boasts a colorful past. The Palace of the Governors has been around since the city's formation and informs visitors of its heritage. Also on Santa Fe Plaza, the St. Francis Cathedral evinces the region's Catholic heritage. Lastly, the Georgia O'Keefe Museum and the galleries along Canyon Road epitomize Santa Fe's storied artistic tradition.

Yellowstone

Why Go: Ulysses S. Grant made history when he signed Yellowstone National Park into being as the first national park in the world. Yellowstone hosts some of America's most remarkable natural sites, including the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, Old Faithful, and Mammoth Hot Springs. See for yourself why this sprawling 2,221,766-acre territory should be preserved for future generations.

Savannah

Why Go: Back in the good ole' days, Savannah was the epicenter of Georgia's sophisticated gentry. The upper class built luxurious townhouses around quaint squares and basked in tradition. While some things have certainly changed, much of Savannah's appearance has stayed the same.