## General

Who can I contact for questions on billing and my invoices? We're happy to help! Call us at 866.236.2510 to talk through your billing questions.

I signed up for services prior to June 21, 2022. Has my service changed? What are the new product names?

You still have the same pricing, access to powerful solutions and quality customer service that are part of your plan. Your MyRentPath account has been upgraded to RentHQ, where you can easily access all of your solutions and reporting.

New names for our solutions are as follows:

- Network advertising (including Silver, Gold, Platinum and Diamond level packages) is now RentMarketplace.
- Search Ads Express and Pro are now RentSearch.
- Social Ads Express and Pro are now RentSocial.
- Geofencing, Display, LeadMail are now RentTarget.
- Contact Center Express and PRO, and Media Center are now RentEngage.
- Community Reputation Express and PRO are now RentRep. I'm a current customer, how do I contact customer support?

You can reach us by phone at 877.999.4472 from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm EDT.

Or shoot us an email at customersuccess@rent.com.

I used your solutions in the past, what should I expect with the new improvements?

Our network is stronger than ever, with over 350M website visits each month across our sites (rent.com, apartmentguide.com, rentals.com and redfin.com) and through our strategic agreement with Realtor.com.

The new Rent. is much more than a marketplace. Whether you're building your property's brand, attracting and converting new renter leads, or nurturing current residents for renewals—the Rent. platform is here to take on your biggest challenges.

With unmatched audience targeting fueled by proprietary data from the RentMarketplace, you can reach in-market renters through a combination of tactics that works best for your team. Search, social, display and email advertising tools save you budget and time by seamlessly integrating with your marketplace listings.

That said, we've also optimized our renter-centric marketplaces. **And with the fastest search speeds**, we empower home seekers to quickly find your property and request a tour. We're also thrilled to introduce Profile Sync, which seamlessly manages your Google Business Profile and has proven to **more than double actions taken** on the profile listing.

We're focused on the future of your property. Rent. will continue to innovate and remove friction for both clients and renters alike with the addition of new features like configurable, templated property websites to further amplify Rent. clients' online presence.

How do I get started?

Let's get you set up! Complete the form on our <u>Contact Us</u> page and our team will connect with you as soon as possible to talk through your needs. We look forward to hearing from you.

Can I change my subscription or add on products at any time?

You can add on products at any time. For any questions regarding your current subscription, reach out to your dedicated Rent. representative or <u>contact Customer Success</u> to talk through your needs.

Reach Customer Success by phone at 877.999.4472 from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm EDT. Or shoot us an email at customersucess@rent.com. Are there discounts for bundled services?

Yes, contact us and our team will reach out to build a custom package based on your portfolio needs. Rent. solutions work together to boost

results, and we want to help you get there with bundled savings. Properties brought in 35% more leads per month on average after adding turnkey RentSocial. solutions to their RentMarketplace package. What services do you offer?

Though we are recognized for our vast reach across a network of listing services, Rent. is here to take the hassle out of the entire leasing lifecycle for property owners and operators.

Think of us as your go-to for **attracting** new renters, **engaging** prospects during their search for a place, and **nurturing** resident relationships. Our property <u>marketing and advertising solutions</u> allow you to generate awareness around your property brand, get in front of in-market renters, and capture new renter leads.

Our marketing solutions include:

- RentSocial.: social ads on Instagram, Facebook, and the industry's first and only advertising for Snapchat
- RentSearch.: paid search ads (PPC) on Google
- RentTarget.: display ads, geofencing and email marketing
- RentRep.: online reputation, listing and social media management Powered by first-party data only available through Rent., our solutions get you in front of homeseekers across marketplaces boasting over 350 million visits monthly. With a full suite of communication solutions and an automated marketing platform, we help you nurture those relationships with residents and prospective renters so you can secure more renewals and signed leases.

### RentEngage. offers:

- Virtual leasing center: 24/7 support for phone and email, voice Al assistance, and chatbots for your property website
- Centralized digital marketing platform: offering automated, two-way text and email messages

What is Rent.?

We're here to simplify your entire leasing lifecycle, whether you're building your property's brand, attracting and converting new renter leads, or nurturing current residents for renewals. The Rent. platform powers a full

suite of best-in-class digital marketing solutions across search advertising, social media, email marketing, web chat, resident communication, reputation management and more. Powered by unmatched proprietary data from our marketplace, Rent. solutions allow you to reach high-intent renters who are actively searching in your area.

With the fastest search speeds<sup>1</sup>, we help home seekers quickly find your property and request a tour on RentMarketplace. Property owners and managers receive access to over 350 million website visits each month through our RentMarketplace. network and strategic agreement with Realtor.com. The RentMarketplace. network includes Rent.com, ApartmentGuide.com, Rentals.com and Redfin.com.

Wondering what happened to RentPath? That's us! Learn more about our upgrade to Rent. and our new and improved capabilities <u>here</u>.

<sup>1</sup> Google Pagespeed Insights, Data based on 5 major U.S. markets, June 2022.

Where do you operate?

Rent. supports property owners and operators all across the United States. We have a diverse and connected <u>team</u> of remote and in-office employees, and our headquarters is in Atlanta.

## RentMarketplace.

I already use an ILS, is it worth spending money on more than one? Renters use an average of **four Marketplaces** during their apartment search. The boost in results properties see by using more than one ILS makes this a key strategy for many owners and operators. Research also shows that properties that advertise with more than one Marketplace receive **3.5x the number of leases**.

What role do internet listing services (ILS) play in the renter's journey? ILS plays a vital role in the renter's journey to finding and leasing with your property. Renters are more likely to visit ILS sites from their first search on a search engine. 87% of renters start their search on a search engine, and of those, 44% of renters click on a marketplace first, from the search engine results. From there, they first become aware of a property from the property's listings, before visiting a property website. Digital search tools have become critical for renters as a result of the pandemic. The growing

popularity of new technologies like 3D tours, online scheduling, video tours—coupled with the ability to compare multiple properties at once—makes listings a top choice for renters.

## RentSocial.

Is there a direct competitor product?

No competitor offers the **winning combination** of leveraging data to target in-market renters, 24-hour go-live setup, and real-time CRM integration and campaign reporting that is possible with RentSocial.

What impressions, clicks, and lead counts should I expect with RentSocial?

- You would have to spend 50x more per month to get in front of the same number of in-market renters as our social media advertising solutions. Our proprietary data makes this possible by targeting renters who are active on our marketplace. Reach renters like never before on Facebook, Instagram, and even Snapchat with the industry's first and only ad offering for the platform.
- We optimize to the best result no matter the market and prioritize action over impressions. With RentSocial., every user that sees our ads has displayed the behavior of an in-market renter. Our products are differentiated by the quality of our audience, not the number of impressions. The size of your market and competing properties can also influence performance. For example, small markets like Laramie, WY have a small population of renters. Competitive markets like Seattle could also have higher costs due to the many ad buyers.
- To build your brand and reach renters before they even begin their search, we also offer solutions like geofencing and display advertising. This helps your property target a broader audience to reach a wide variety of renters.

I can already target interest groups on Facebook, how can I get better results with first-party data?

Targeting interest groups does not guarantee that your ad will reach an in-market renter audience. With interest groups, you can target people based on a subject, or page, that they have "liked". Yet, interests do not indicate whether someone is currently looking for an apartment. You can actually reach 50x more in-market renters with RentSocial, which is powered by unmatched proprietary data to drive results. RentSocial is the data-driven way to reach in-market, highintent renters on Facebook using our Marketplace's first-party data from millions of monthly visitors to Rent. and ApartmentGuide. On average, Rent. customers who added turnkey social advertising to their Marketplace package saw a 35% increase in leads per month.

We can create Facebook campaigns on our own, what are the benefits of investing in outside support?

- Facebook makes it easy to create a campaign, but they do not make it easy to get your campaign in front of the right audience-while ensuring your ads are Fair Housing compliant. Rent. is the only platform that has first-party data from millions of monthly visitors to Rent.com and ApartmentGuide.com. We use this data to find inmarket renters on social channels.
- You would have to spend at least **50x more** with another provider to reach the same number of in-market renters. Without access to firstparty data, you can only target broad interest groups that do not indicate whether someone is looking for an apartment. This leads to wasted ad budget from targeting a broad audience of users who are not necessarily in the market for a new place. You're essentially putting up a digital billboard and hoping an in-market renter sees it.
- Another benefit to outside support is the assurance that your ads are Fair Housing compliant while getting time back for your team. Rent. experts in multifamily advertising create your campaign and set it live

in as little as 24 hours with our turnkey services. This eliminates unnecessary back and forth to take photos, generate the assets, and finalize the ad. Leads are then seamlessly delivered to your CRM or email inbox.

## RentSearch.

Do I need a high ad budget to get started with RentSearch.?

This solution actually helps you get more out of your marketing budget! Our campaigns can cost as little as \$20 per day for high-intent renters to be directed from a Google search right to your property website, which is the highest point of conversion. There are also **no set-up fees and most campaigns go live in as few as five days.** 

We currently run our own PPC campaigns. What are the benefits of investing in third-party support?

- Running PPC campaigns efficiently and effectively can take a lot of time and resources while putting pressure on already busy leasing teams. Rent. generates sophisticated Google Search campaigns with support from experts in multifamily advertising and refined targeting strategies.
- RentSearch. uses unmatched proprietary first-party data from millions of monthly visitors to the RentMarketplace. so your campaigns reach high-intent, in-market renters looking for an apartment. They are also Fair Housing compliant so you can send in confidence.
- We create your campaign using RentMarketplace. listing content so ads are easy to set up and automatically update based on changes to your listing. This eliminates unnecessary back and forth that often happens internally or with outside agencies when it comes to generating the assets and finalizing the ad. Campaigns usually go

**live within one week.** There is **no setup fee**, and we'll do all the work to get your campaign up and running quickly.

## RentTarget.

What is geofencing?

It helps you reach renters where they live, work and play. Geofencing is a Fair Housing friendly solution for properties that want to stand out to prospective renters actively visiting specific locations. Powered by location technology like GPS, WiFi, RFID, or cellular data, geofencing can serve ads to visitors in real time and even after they have left the area. It's more fine-tuned than traditional location targeting methods.

This is also different from building an audience based on zip code (which is off-limits to multifamily marketers and against Fair Housing regulations), where marketers are in essence *guessing* that the prospect is interested in a general area.

This digital fence can tell whenever someone enters and leaves the fenced location. These people can be served ads while they are on location through a variety of app-based display ads. They can also be added to audiences you can then remarket to, serving them ads even when they have left the geofences you have in place.

We start by choosing the locations you want to target. Once your locations are selected, they get blueprinted, meaning a digital fence is placed around the area of each location. It's important to remember that geofencing campaigns are most **effective at branding**. They are a great way to get your name out in front of people. The goal with geofencing is ad impressions and the number of times people see your ad. I'm already getting leads with listings and/or other advertising. What are the benefits of adding more capabilities?

Lead-driving tactics are essential to keeping occupancy high, but RentTarget. gets your property name in front of prospects before they even start their search. **It builds your property's brand.** With geofencing, display advertising and email marketing solutions you can maximize brand exposure earlier on in the funnel.

# RentEngage.

Calls are typically handled by our internal team. What are the benefits of getting outside support?

Our reliable support acts as an extension of your team so renters feel as if they are interacting directly with your community. One major benefit is valuable time back for your leasing team.

On average, **properties miss 52% of their leasing calls**. Our agents stay up to date on information about your community (provided by you) and help you capture those missed opportunities in a professional, and timely manner. Our Fair-Housing compliant, highly trained agents are also available 24/7. That means you can reach renters right when they a ready to get more details and move forward.

Does this integrate with my current software?

- Yes, it does! We'll deliver new lead guest cards directly to your CRM or PMS. We can also track calls for all of your ad sources, allowing you to accurately assess the effectiveness of your marketing spend.
   What are the RentEngage. messaging capabilities and what else is included in the marketing platform?
  - Two-way SMS text and two-way email blasts are available with RentEngage. You can easily reach a large audience of current residents or prospective renters. This includes both inbound and outbound communication (replies) for both methods that you can access all from one dashboard. To simplify the creation of your email messages, the solution also integrates community details and HD photos into easy-to-use templates.

How does RentEngage. make my communications with renters and residents simpler?

To support your onsite team, RentEngage. fully covers prospect communication and early lead qualification. This includes **24/7 live agent support** via phone and email. Highly efficient automated tools like virtual

voice assistance, and chatbots that assist renters who visit your property page also eliminate back and forth that adds pressure to busy teams.

When inquiries come through, we support you by:

- Answering common questions
- Sharing pricing and availability
- Scheduling tours
- Automatically qualifying renters
- Creating guest cards
- Adding leads to interest lists if occupancy is high

## RentRep.

How does online reputation impact my property?

Prospective renters look to ratings and reviews for insight into what it is like to live within the community and to **establish trust** with the property. This often makes or breaks whether or not they decide to book a tour.

Forty-six percent of renters expect to see responses to all reviews, and 79% will not visit a community that has negative reviews, according to research from NMCH and Grace Hill. Research has also shown a direct correlation between recent ratings and reviews, higher review scores and higher occupancies. Plus, ratings and reviews coupled with accurate listings across all platforms can improve SEO and placement on Google Local Pack, so renters see your property before competitors. What are the benefits of reputation management solutions versus relying on my in-house team?

• The great news is that RentRep. acts as an extension of your inhouse team to support your property's specific reputation needs. We take the stress off of onsite teams by providing personalized, fast responses to all reviews, monitoring ratings and managing social media content. However, we balance that by empowering your team to confirm the content and customizations needed.

#### What is reputation management?

- Reputation management refers to monitoring your property's ranking
  across review sites, and your property's response strategy to reviews
  that residents have left on ratings sites like Yelp, Google and
  ApartmentGuide.com. Your property's social media presence and the
  way renters engage across these platforms also contribute to your
  overall online reputation.
- Effective reputation management includes continuously gathering
  new feedback from renters to keep your ratings up to date. It also
  requires that properties respond to all reviews (positive, negative and
  neutral), which has proven to influence renter decision-making.
- RentRep. experts are FHA-compliant and act as an extension of your property's leasing team to fully manage your property's reputation and provide personalized responses to reviews.

# Marketplace



# Smart Search = Better Results. Period.

Convert more leads to leases with enhanced listings and unmatched SEO benefits.

Get in touch

49%

of RentMarketplace. visitors, over the last 3 months, did not visit our closest competitor when searching for their next home.<sup>1</sup>

16%

lower cost per lead for RentMarketplace. advertisers year-over-year. <sup>2</sup>

21

applications and 19 tour requests received by properties each month.<sup>3</sup>

of renters use a marketplace to search⁴

73%

Monthly visits⁵

350M+

# Marketplace.TM

### Improve Lead Quality

Get in touch

**FEATURES** 

### Learn more

96% of multifamily properties have incomplete Google Business Profiles.⁴

**IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES** 

Effortless Management

**Drive Conversion** 

Mobile Optimized

Seamless Integration

### Profile Sync

Automatically complete and optimize your property's Google Business Profile with listing content.

Matterport 3D tours

Leverage the industry leader in immersive, interactive experiences on your listings.

Request a tour

Featured on all listings to drive action from renters.

Places Nearby

Shows off your local neighborhood by featuring popular destinations.

Move-in deals

Stand out to renters and showcase new promotions.

Online applications

Easily guide renters to the next step for becoming a resident.

Floorplan & unit-level availability

Give a clear picture of all options available.

**Spotlight** 

Be one of the first properties renters see during their search.

3D 360-degree video

A full-360, photorealistic 3D bird's-eye view of your community and surrounding area.

### Kelly White

#### **RK PROPERTIES**

### Highly Recommended!

Rent. is such a great and unique product above all other ILSs. The customizable and flexible packages make it easy to enhance traffic quickly and meet monthly occupancy goals.

### Robin Stephens

Pacific Bay Club Apartments

### **Highly Recommended!**

I have had the pleasure of working very closely with the Rent. team over the years at several different properties, with different management companies. With most of them we did use multiple advertising sources, but Rent. was the one that consistently month over month provided the most leads that converted to qualified leases.

### Ryan Kelly

**CALCAP Properties** 

### Highly Recommended!

Without a doubt, Rent. has consistently provided superior qualified lead counts allowing us to occupy our portfolio to over 98%, up almost 6% from when we started using Rent. more exclusively...The customer service is equally extraordinary. I know that no matter what I need, Brianna will have an answer/proposal/solution to me promptly and thorough in detail.

### Ryan Dickerman

Radius Apartment Homes

### Highly Recommended!

With a community that used to sit in the 80's we are now trending in the high 90's and are 100% leased. Our partnership with Rent. is truly just that, a partnership. I can always count on the team at Rent. to provide us with real results.

### Silver

Listing features

**Property Photoshoot** 

2D Floorplans

Move-in Deals

Floorplan or Unit-Level Availability

Lifestyle Badges on ApartmentGuide

Online Application Link

External Media Uploads

Profile Sync

Video Slideshow Production

3D Tours by Matterport

Get Silver

### Gold

Listing features

**Property Photoshoot** 

2D & 3D Floorplan Image Production

Move-in Deals

Floorplan or Unit-Level Availability

Lifestyle Badges on ApartmentGuide

Online Application Link

External Media Uploads

Profile Sync

Video Slideshow Production

15% more listing impressions via search than Silver.<sup>7</sup>

3D Tours by Matterport

Get Gold

### **Platinum**

Listing features

**Property Photoshoot** 

2D & 3D Floorplan Image Production

Move-in Deals

Floorplan or Unit-Level Availability

Lifestyle Badges on ApartmentGuide

Online Application Link

External Media Uploads

Profile Sync

Video Slideshow Production

3D Tours by Matterport

43% more listing impressions via search than Silver.<sup>7</sup> Get Platinum

### Diamond

Listing features

**Property Photoshoot** 

2D & 3D Floorplan Image Production

Move-in Deals

Floorplan or Unit-Level Availability

Lifestyle Badges on ApartmentGuide

Online Application Link

External Media Uploads

Profile Sync

Video Slideshow Production

3D Tours by Matterport

86% more listing impressions via search than Silver.7

Get Diamond

# Related insights

Marketing Technology Multifamily Marketing Sep 14, 2022

3 ways to get more from your property's marketing budget

Rent. Sep 14, 2022

RentMarketplace. goes local, boosts performance, and now syncs to Google

# Discover your next resident on our network

<sup>1</sup>comScore. Based on 3 month average from May 2022 to July 2022. Rent. Network vs. Apartments.com Network (excluding syndication).

- <sup>2</sup> Rent. Internal Data, May 2021 April 2022 vs. May 2020 April 2021 (12 month average Leads per Property).
- <sup>3</sup> Rent. Internal Data, April 2022.
- <sup>4</sup> Rent. Internal Data, October 2021.
- <sup>5</sup> comScore, January 2023 March 2023.
- 6 Q2 2022 Redfin Earnings Call.
- <sup>7</sup> Rent. Internal Data, February 2022 August 2022.

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Sitemap

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# Social



# Convert more leads by reaching the right audience.

Build brand awareness and reach in-market renters where they spend their time.

Get RentSocial.

40%

of renters visit a community's social media account when searching for an apartment.<sup>2</sup>

50x

more in-market renters reached than traditional targeting.3

35%

more leads per month for properties who add automated RentSocial. ads to their RentMarketplace. Package.4

FHA-compliant social ads that generate high-quality renter leads.

Percentage of the US population that uses social media.5

82%

Generate high-quality renter leads delivered directly to your property management system.

#### Get RentSocial.

of adults use Instagram daily.6

59%

Drive more traffic to your property with the first and only hypertargeted Snapchat solution in the industry.

Get RentSocial.

Reach new audiences and gain traffic on one of the fastest growing social platforms.

#### Get RentSocial.

Percentage of users that feel closer to brands they see on TikTok.8

56%

Launches quickly

Campaigns go live in as little as 24 hours.

FHA-compliant

Multifamily advertising experts keep campaigns compliant and secure.

Seamlessly Integrated

Ad content is synced with your RentMarketplace. listing.

Dedicated analysts available

Add on focused help from an account analyst for custom strategies and monitoring.

### Facebook & Instagram

#### **Features**

Live in 24 hrs

Ad content synced with RentMarketplace. listing

Optimized placements on Facebook and Instagram

FHA-compliant

Reporting

**Custom Campaign Strategy** 

**Dedicated Account Analyst** 

Get Facebook & Instagram Ads

### Snapchat

**Features** 

Live in 24hrs

Ad content synced with RentMarketplace. listing

Optimized placements on Snapchat

FHA-compliant

Reporting

Industry-only solution

Custom Campaign Strategy

**Dedicated Account Analyst** 

Get Snapchat Ads

### Add-on: Dedicated Support

#### **Features**

Live in 24hrs

Ad content synced with RentMarketplace. listing

Optimized ad placements

FHA-compliant

Reporting

Custom campaign strategy

Dedicated Account Analyst Get Dedicated Support

# Related insights

Multifamily Marketing Onsite Effectiveness Oct 7, 2022

# Money, Effort, Time: Building a better property marketing budget

Paid Search
Display Advertising
May 9, 2022

Don't Risk It: Fair Housing Considerations for Property Digital Advertising

# Discover your next resident on our network

- <sup>1</sup> RentSocial. utilizes the Rent. network's database of actual renter visitors in order to target in-market renters in a non-discriminatory manner.
- <sup>2</sup> 2022 NMHC/Grace Hill Apartment Resident Preference Report.
- <sup>3</sup> Based on census.gov population statistics and the Rent. 2021 Renter Survey data. Assumes a 12-month average lease duration, renter population that is 18+ years old and the same pricing offered across social ad providers.
- <sup>4</sup> Rent. Internal Data, generated between January 2021 and January 2022. Based on lead generation for all active Social Ads Express accounts
- <sup>5</sup> Statista, January 2023.
- <sup>6</sup> Hootsuite, January 2022.
- <sup>7</sup> US Social Network User Growth, by Platform, 2020 & 2021 (% change), eMarketer.
- <sup>8</sup> New studies quantify TikTok's growing impact on culture and music, TikTok, July 2021.
- <sup>9</sup> Marketing Science US Holiday Shopping Behavior Custom Research 2020, TikTok.

# Search



# Be there the moment renters need you.

Convert more leads by driving traffic from Google directly to your property website. **Get RentSearch.** 

87%

of renters start their search on a search engine.1

350+

monthly in-market renters directed to a property's website. 2

3X

higher click-through rates than the industry average.3

10%

Lower cost-per-lead than the industry average.4

More page views when combined

with RentMarketplace.5

95%

Average clicks per property per month.6

402

## Search.TM

### Target Effectively

#### Get RentSearch.

### Launch quickly

We build and publish your ads within one week to save you time.

**FHA** compliant

Multifamily advertising experts keep campaigns compliant and secure. Insightful reporting

Improve performance by tracking ad success and KPIs.

Dedicated analysts available

Add on dedicated help from an account analyst for custom strategies and campaign monitoring.

### RentSearch, drives results

Serena Y. from WestCorp went from ineffective ads to more conversions and higher traffic with RentSearch.

# See how RentSearch. boosted conversions and occupancy for WestCorp

- 34% higher conversion rates
- 15-20% higher click-through rate
- 98-99% occupancy rates

Download Now

### RentSearch.

**Features** 

Built and live in 1 week

Ad content synced with Marketplace listing

FHA-compliant

Reporting

**Custom Campaign Strategy** 

**Dedicated Account Analyst** 

Get RentSearch.

### Add-on: Dedicated Support

**Features** 

Built and live in 1 week

Ad content synced with Marketplace listing

FHA-compliant

Reporting

**Custom Campaign Strategy** 

Dedicated Account Analyst

Get RentSearch. + Support

### Michelle Mohs, ARM®

RiZE on Grand

### Highly Recommended!

They have a unique ability to understand the ever changing market and consult on specific marketing needs from a value add to a luxury lease up property. The best part is the plan produces results and has always been my top lead source.

Kelly White

**RK PROPERTIES** 

Highly Recommended!

The customizable and flexible packages make it easy to enhance traffic quickly and meet monthly occupancy goals. The high-quality of customer service and knowledgeable reps help our staff understand the products and utilize what is best for each property.

Serena Y.

WestCorp

### Highly Recommended!

The Rent. team is consistent, communicative, and extremely well-qualified. They are experts in digital marketing as well as pay-per-click campaigns, and we have experienced the results to prove it.

Multifamily Marketing Onsite Effectiveness Oct 7, 2022

> Display Advertising Paid Search Mar 14, 2022

# Discover your next resident on our network

- <sup>1</sup> Rent. Renter Survey 2021.
- <sup>2</sup> Rent. Internal Data, December 2021 April 2022.
- <sup>3</sup> Rent. Internal Data, December 2021 April 2022 (as compared to Wordstream Google Adwords Industry Benchmarks, February 2022).
- <sup>4</sup> Rent. Internal Data, January 2020 March 2022 (as compared to Wordstream Real Estate Advertising Benchmark, January 2022).
- <sup>5</sup> Rent. Internal Data, 2021.
- <sup>6</sup> Rent. Internal Data, January April 2022.

# Engage



# Missed leads = lost revenue.

The majority of incoming leads are missed, losing valuable opportunities for property teams.

Get in touch

\$169

in revenue is delivered to clients for every \$1 spent on RentEngage.<sup>1</sup>

65%

of calls are successfully resolved with the Charlie Voice Al assistant.<sup>2</sup>

100%

of incoming web chats are captured with chatbot technology on property sites.<sup>2</sup>

24/7

Leasing center support teams handle incoming calls, emails and online chat.

#### POWERFUL RENTER COMMUNICATION SOLUTIONS

### Get RentEngage.

Customers who want businesses available 24/7.3

51%

**FEATURES** 

### **Get the Chatbot**

Percentage of businesses that saw better lead engagement with chatbot tech.⁴

## 49%

**FEATURES** 

### **Get Live Chat**

Live agents are trained in FHA-compliant renter communication FEATURES

**Get Call Support** 

**FEATURES** 

**Get Emergency Maintenance** 

**FEATURES** 

Customers who prefer receiving text messages over calls or email.  $^{5}$ 

### Daniel Erhardt

Peterson Group Management

### Highly Recommended!

Rent. has been a great source of Marketing and Lead Development for our apartments. The leads are high quality and responsive to our leasing staff...I would highly recommend using the call service program. We have been using it for around 4 years and it has been a great experience!

### Jerry Norman

**Pedcor Homes Corporation** 

### Highly Recommended!

As apartment marketing has evolved in the 40+ years I've been in the industry, I've always been impressed with Rent.'s ability to adapt to new technologies and remain on the cutting edge of new avenues to reach consumers.

### Janelle Bisenius

Drucker and Falk, LLC

### Highly Recommended!

The benefit of the pre-designed templates within Media Center is quick, professional communication. I appreciate that our on-site team members don't need to be graphic designers to create visually stunning, attention-grabbing emails and texts.

### Ryan Dickerman

Radius Apartment Homes

### Highly Recommended!

Our partnership with Rent. is truly just that, a partnership. I can always count on the team at Rent. to provide us with real results...The folks at Rent. truly do care and take the time to ensure we are 100% satisfied with their product and that if we need anything, they are just a call away.

## Chat (Bot, Live)

**Features** 

24/7 Support

Easy 48 hr set up

Capture all incoming webchats

Qualify leads

Automatically deliver guest cards to CRM/PMS

Get Chat Support

### Calls

**Features** 

24/7 support

Combined Al-powered voice assistance and live agents

Appointment and tour scheduling

Waitlist adding

Marketing attribution tracking

Call tracking and recording Get Call Support

## Emergency Maintenance

**Features** 

Photo and video sharing capabilities

Agent transferring

Fully accessible via smartphone

Direct maintenance tech to resident communication

Detailed ticket documentation Get Maintenance Support

### Media Center

**Features** 

2-way text and email communication

Shared inbox for text and email management

Smart audience targeting and automation

Mobile-optimized email templates

Professionally designed flyer templates

Media storage

Campaign success tracking

Get Media Center

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# Discover your next resident on our network

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> MaxLeases, February 2022. Average was calculated from 584 RentEngage. client properties which share lease data with RentEngage. through their Property Management System integration.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Rent. Internal Data.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> TechJury, April 2022.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> 2021 State of Conversational Marketing.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Slicktext, January 2022.





# Reputation drives renter interest.

Reviews, ratings, and social presence are key factors in the renter's decision-making process. They can improve SEO and increase qualified lead traffic.

Get in touch

4.5X

More leads go to properties with 10 or more recent reviews than those without recent reviews.<sup>1</sup>

89%

of consumers say they are more likely to use a business that responds to all reviews, positive and negative.<sup>2</sup>

12X

more users were reached by properties with Rent. boosted posts.3

2

most important factors in Google's local pack rank are listings and reviews.⁴



Get Review Management

Get Listing Management

Get Social Management
ADD-ON SERVICES
Get Added or Boosted Posts
Dashboard Powered by Reputation
Use the best-in-class platform to manage your entire online reputation.
Reputation Score

Get a comprehensive reputation score for a single property or your entire portfolio with suggestions for improvement.

Review Management

Multifamily reputation experts track, respond to and manage your ratings & reviews.

Listing Management

Seamlessly integrated with dashboard to automatically update listings and keep them accurate at all times.

Google Claiming & Verification

Claim, verify, update and maintain accuracy right from the dashboard or with managed support.

Social Management

Engaging social content managed by our team of social media specialists. FHA-Compliant

Our Fair Housing-trained experts effectively respond with care to alleviate risk.

Mobile App

Manage your reputation on the go. Post, monitor and respond to social, reviews and more from your mobile device.

## Reputation Dashboard

#### **Features**

Comprehensive reputation scoring

Monitor and respond to reviews

Automated review generation

Publish, monitor, respond on social

Maintain listing accuracy

Claim and verify Google listing

Integrate with CRM or PMS

Manage & automate team workflows

Schedule & share customized reporting

Reputation Mobile App

Get The Dashboard

### Add-On: Review Management

**Features** 

FHA-trained experts monitor and manage reputation

48 hr response time

custom responses to all reviews

Response approval options

<u>Get Review Management</u>

### Add-On: Listing Management

#### **Features**

Connect to 12+ listing sites

Integrate listings in the dashboard

Listings updated automatically

Get Listing Management

#### Add-On: Social Management

#### **Features**

FHA-trained social media specialists

Original content customized for property

8 monthly postings to Facebook

4 monthly postings to Google and Instagram

Facebook posts boosted automatically

Get Social Management

#### Katie Rose

**Olympus Property** 

#### Highly Recommended!

Our reputation score portfolio-wide for the majority of our communities has improved since 2018. It is because you provide candid feedback and customized responses within a 48 hour timeframe.

Jerry Norman

Pedcor Homes Corporation

#### Highly Recommended!

As apartment marketing has evolved in the 40+ years I've been in the industry, I've always been impressed with Rent.'s ability to adapt to new technologies and remain on the cutting edge of new avenues to reach consumers.

Ryan Dickerman

Radius Apartment Homes

#### Highly Recommended!

Our partnership with Rent. is truly just that, a partnership. I can always count on the team at Rent. to provide us with real results...The folks at Rent. truly do care and take the time to ensure we are 100% satisfied with their product and that if we need anything, they are just a call away.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Rent. Internal Data, April 2022.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> BrightLocal Local Consumer Review Survey 2022.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Rent. Internal Data, October 2021 - April 2022.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Brightlocal Local SEO Ranking Factors 2021.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 2022 NMHC/Grace Hill Renter Preferences Survey Report.

- <sup>6</sup> Marketing Product Survey conducted by Rent., October 2021. Based on results from 1107 respondents.
- <sup>7</sup> Rent. Internal Data, April 2022.





# Precise, data-driven targeting.

Attract in-market renters at the top of the funnel, a critical time to build brand awareness for converting your leads to leases.

Get in touch

50%

more sales opportunities when retargeting is coupled with other advertising solutions.<sup>1</sup>

2X

higher click-through rate for mobile ads delivered to properties via geofencing.<sup>2</sup>

25%

higher email open rate than the real estate industry average for email marketing.<sup>3</sup>

**OVERVIEW** 

#### Get RentTarget.

More sales opportunities when geofencing is combined with other ad solutions.<sup>1</sup>

50%

**POWERFUL SOLUTIONS** 

Localize your reach

**POWERFUL SOLUTIONS** 

Get in the spotlight

**POWERFUL SOLUTIONS** 

Convert more leads

### Geofencing

#### **Features**

Behavior-based targeting

Renter targeting powered by the Rent. Network

Target within 15 ft of specific businesses

FHA-compliant

Reporting

View performance by day/time/device Get Geofencing

### Display

#### **Features**

Behavior-based targeting

Renter targeting powered by the Rent. Network

FHA-compliant

Reporting

**Dedicated Analyst** 

Get Display

#### Email

#### **Features**

Target renters based on searched locations on the Rent. Network

FHA-compliant

Mobile-optimized templates

Proven subject line options

Dynamic image options

Ability to include 3D tours

Reporting

Flexible pricing options

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3 ways to get more from your property's marketing budget

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "What Is Retargeting?", Mailchimp.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> "Geofencing Marketing: the Complete and Easy Guide for 2022", Increasingly, March 2021.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Rent. Internal data, January 2022 – April 2022 (as compared to Campaign Monitor Email Marketing Benchmarks 2022).

Obsessed with Experience

Act with Integrity

Have Grit

"We" not "Me"

Do Things that Matter

**Keep Moving Forward** 

Understand the "Why?"

Support our People & Community

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Show Details			

Business Wire Apr 6, 2023

## Discover your next resident on our network

Explore positions

**Discover Rent.** 

**Explore positions** 

Obsessed with Experience
Act with Integrity

Have Grit

"We" not "Me"

Do Things that Matter

**Keep Moving Forward** 

Understand the "Why?"

Support our People & Community

As a Regional Marketing Director, I saw the amazing results we received from Rent. solutions as a client. Now as a Regional Solutions Specialist for Rent., I get to share with our partners in the industry and give them the same results I experienced. I'm passionate because I get to see our solutions work every single day.

#### Carissa Bruce

Regional Solutions Specialist at Rent.

## **Explore job openings**

Rent. empowers you to learn and grow within a collaborative environment. We celebrate the wins together and always look for opportunities to improve.

If you are looking for a team where you can make a true impact, Rent. is the place for you. We invest in the success of our employees because we know it's our people that make Rent. such a great place to work.

**Explore Positions** 

Competitive Pay & Strong 401K Match
Medical, Dental & Vision on Day One
Generous Time Off

13 Paid Holidays + Rent. Recharge Days
Office, Hybrid & Remote Roles
Employee Assistance Program & Counseling
100% Paid Maternity & Parental Leave
Fertility & Adoption Benefits

## Belonging

Our people create our culture. Our culture drives our mission. That's why we're committed to building a diverse, inclusive space where everyone can bring their best to work every day.

## Start with a spark

All new employees are invited to participate in **RentIgnite.**—a two day program at our Atlanta headquarters that educates new hires on our company, industry, mission, and available benefits.

New team members connect with leaders in-person to learn the ins and outs of our business, the values that drive us, and get fully oriented for long-term success.

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## YouShouldTalkTo podcast interview with Rent. CMO Kathy Neumann

## Atlanta City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

The unofficial symbol of Atlanta is the Phoenix because it is the only American city that has been burned to the ground as an act of war (Civil War). Residents take pride in their resilience and have since turned this city into one of the cultural and cosmopolitan meccas in the country. It is now one of the top filming locations in the world and has a thriving music scene. The diversity rivals some of the larger, more famous cities in the nation, with the third largest LGBT population and a major hub of the Civil Rights movement. If you're looking for an apartment for rent in Atlanta, our Atlanta city guide can help you find the neighborhood that fits your cultural, economic and aesthetic requirements.

#### Atlanta city highlights

When you move to one of the amazing neighborhoods Atlanta has to offer, you'll have access to some of the country's greatest attractions and events.

- Centennial Olympic Park: Atlanta was host to the Summer Olympics in 1996 and the city created this green space around landmarks such as the Georgia Aquarium. The Fountain of Rings is the park's centerpiece and the spouts of water "dance" to a variety of songs from Frank Sinatra and The Beatles to powerful symphony orchestras.
- World of Coca Cola: This iconic facility is located next to the Georgia Aquarium and is a fun way to learn about the history of the famed beverage. They even have a tasting room with flavors from around the globe.
- **Fox Theater**: This 1902s-restored theater is home to a rare Moller organ called the "Mighty Mo" and is one of the favorite theaters of Atlanta residents.

- Here you can enjoy dance performances, Broadway musicals and symphony orchestras.
- Atlanta Sports: If you're a sports-lover, you'll never be bored in Atlanta.
   Spend a day at Mercedes Benz Stadium to watch the Atlanta Falcons take on their NFL rivals. Or head over to Truist Park to watch the Braves. Atlanta has everything professional and college sports, baseball, basketball, soccer and more.
- **SkyView Atlanta**: Looking for a way to take in all of Atlanta? Try the SkyView Ferris Wheel, which sits 20 stories high over Centennial Park. Each airconditioned gondola provides you with panoramic views of the city and even boasts see-through floors for added thrills.

## Atlanta city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Looking for the best place to live in Atlanta? Our Atlanta city guide showcases some of the best neighborhoods in Atlanta. You'll find condos, homes and apartments to rent in Atlanta that fit your needs perfectly.

#### **Atlantic Station**

Located in midtown Atlanta, Atlantic Station is one of the most popular in the city, especially among new-comers and millennials. Growth in the area has skyrocketed in the last decade. The neighborhood is home to high-end retailers as well as affordable shopping districts. Here you'll find restaurants to suit every taste. If you love Italian food, you must try Allora Ottimo Cibo where you can get authentic pizzas to order while sitting in their outdoor patio or a chef's table with a clear view into the kitchen to watch the chefs work their magic.

#### **Buckhead**

Over 40 distinct neighborhoods make up the Buckhead area of Atlanta. Buckhead is a premier area of the city where most residents live a lux lifestyle. Within the area, you'll find homes with larger lots and spacious yards. Buckhead is home to historic neighborhoods with loads of charm, green areas (such as <a href="Atlanta Memorial Park">Atlanta Memorial Park</a>) and one of the best-ranked school districts in the state (<a href="Brandon">Brandon</a>). One of the great things about this part of Atlanta is that you'll get plenty of big-city conveniences but still feel like you're living in a private neighborhood.

#### **Brookhaven**

Looking for a friendly yet fashionable neighborhood in Atlanta? Then, Brookhaven is the place for you! Brookhaven is a suburb of Atlanta and was incorporated in 2012.

The city is centered around <u>Oglethorpe University</u> and while there are plenty of academics in the area, you'll also find many young professionals and older residents who appreciate the private country clubs in the area. The city is designed for residents to live-work-shop, so you'll find that it's a highly walkable area and pet friendly with plenty of shops and restaurants.

#### **Decatur**

Another popular suburb of Atlanta is Decatur, a city with over 24,000 residents. Locals love the town for its high diversity, great schools and excellent nightlife. The area is home to <a href="Emory University">Emory University</a> and is popular amongst young professionals. Young families love the area, too, because of its numerous parks (over 10 of them!) and beautiful landscape. Part of the charm of this area is the differing architecture. The city was built at various periods in history and in a variety of economic climates, which make it one of the more unique cities in Georgia.

#### **Downtown**

Downtown Atlanta is home to its thriving business district. Within the Downtown area are multiple individual neighborhoods, each with their own level of charm. Nearby, you'll find the College Football Hall of Fame, as well as <u>Georgia State University</u>. Downtown is considered one of the best places to live in Atlanta because it has an urban feel with multiple restaurants, cafes, bars, parks and shops.

#### **East Atlanta**

East Atlanta is a neighborhood with just over 11,500 residents. It ranks within the top 10 most diverse neighborhoods in Atlanta. One of the most common comments about the area is how wonderful the food is here. Residents recommend Delia's Chicken Sausage Stand, Banshee and Marrakech Express just to name a few. Another perk of living in East Atlanta is that you'll have easy access to one of the numerous festivals hosted in the city such as the East Atlanta Strut, B\*ATL, the East Atlanta Craft Beer Festival and the East Atlanta Twilight Criterium.

#### **Grant Park**

Do you love the great outdoors? In this picturesque arts-and-crafts style Atlanta neighborhood, you'll have access to a zoo, concerts in the park, farmer's markets and more. Neighbors say the community is friendly, clean, well-kept and kid- and animal-friendly. If you're a history buff, Grant Park is home to the Oakland Cemetery,

which is the final resting place of multiple Atlanta mayors, Margaret Mitchell and Bobby Jones.

#### **Inman Park**

If you like Victorian neighborhoods, Inman Park is ideal for your stylistic sensibilities. It's Atlanta's first electric trolly neighborhood and has beautiful, curved streets and large residential lots. The neighborhood is the brainchild of Joel Hurt who wanted to create a park-like neighborhood similar to those created by famous landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. Inman Park was plotted in the late 1880s and still has plenty of Victorian charm. When you move into your Inman Park apartment, you'll be surrounded by people who love the area and have worked hard to preserve it to its former glory.

#### **Little Five Points**

Looking for a hip, off-beat sort of neighborhood? You need to check out Little Five Points. This neighborhood has plenty of indie stores where you can purchase cool gifts like vinyl records and vintage clothing. You'll also find vegan restaurants, burger joints and global eateries. Love live music? Then you'll love The Variety Playhouse, a live music venue that's been converted from a 1940s movie house. The quirky, colorful, counterculture energy of this neighborhood make it one of the most fun neighborhoods in Atlanta.

#### <u>Marietta</u>

Are you looking for an Atlanta apartment in a neighborhood that's well-known for its high standards and quality of living? Then look no further than Marietta, GA, a suburb of Atlanta that has garnered national attention and accolades for offering a high-quality of living for its residents. Residents of the area are proud of their heritage, as well as the historical significance, landmarks and architecture of the area. The area has a high walkability score and you'll find every convenience imaginable in the picturesque central square of Marietta.

#### **Midtown**

Midtown Atlanta is located in <u>Northeast Atlanta</u> and known as Atlanta's Heart of the Arts. In this neighborhood, you'll have access to multiple museums, historical buildings, art galleries and theaters. Midtown is also home to the <u>Savannah College</u> of <u>Art and Design</u> Atlanta campus. This neighborhood is perfect if you love to walk

and explore. You can stop at one of the local coffee shops, do some people watching, enjoy the work of local artists and then attend one of the many festivals hosted in the area.

#### **Old Fourth Ward**

This historic neighborhood of Atlanta is the birthplace of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It was originally settled as an industrial area of Atlanta in the 1880s. Since then, it has evolved into a trendy neighborhood for those who love food and shopping. You'll find indie and vintage fashion stores and boutiques in the Ponce City Market, located in the 1920s Sears, Roebuck & Co. building. If you love spending time walking and cycling, head over the Atlanta BeltLine's Eastside Trail, which is a converted railway line. Fine, artisanal eateries are scattered throughout the neighborhood, making it ideal for foodies.

#### **Smyrna**

Looking for a neighborhood with a dense, suburban feel? Look no further than Smyrna, GA, a suburb of Atlanta. It is a diverse city of just over 56,000 residents, many of whom are young professionals. Residents rank the area between "very good" and "excellent" for its diversity and Southern friendliness. The town is famous for two Civil War battles that occurred on the same day (July 4, 1864) in different parts of the town: The Battle of Smyrna Campground and the Battle of Ruff's Mill.

#### **West End**

West End is Atlanta's oldest historic neighborhood. It's also now one of the hottest neighborhoods in Atlanta, so named in 2016 by Redfin. This area of Atlanta is known for its elegant architecture. It's home to the Hammonds House Museum which features fine art by African American artists. The Wren's Nest was home to writer Joel Chandler Harris and is a now a heritage museum with original furnishings. The West End community is vibrant and diverse. Its residents come from a variety of racial, ethnic, cultural, economic and religious background. Despite these differences, there's a strong sense of community and residents are enthusiastic about getting involved in community activities.

## Austin City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Austin, Texas has seen explosive growth in the past 10 years, in no small part to its thriving technology industry. Known collectively as "Silicon Hills," Austin's high-tech companies encompass everything from startups and dot-com companies such as PayPal to stalwarts such as Apple, Amazon, AT&T, and Dell (headquartered in the suburb of Round Rock). Austin's unofficial motto is "Keep Austin Weird," which holds creative tension with the rampant business growth. Also known as the "Live Musical Capital of the World," Austin boasts a thriving music scene. This sterling city still offers plenty of quirkiness to maintain its reputation as a hip and happening place for young professionals, while being a relatively safe and inviting city for families.

#### Austin city highlights

Austin is in many ways a perfect size for a city. It's big enough that's there's lots to do, yet still small enough that it's not too overwhelming. No Austin city guide would be complete without mentioning these places to go and things to do:

- **Zilker Park:** Zilker Park is Austin's oldest metropolitan park and the largest at 350 acres. You can hike, you can bike, you can swim, and more. Zilker Park sits right across from Downtown Austin and is home to the Zilker Botanical Garden, the Umlauf Sculpture Garden and more.
- Austin City Limits Music Festival: Held in Zilker Park, the Austin City Limits Music Festival (ACL) is one of the best music festivals on the planet, complete with 8 stages and more than 100 performances.
- The Bats: Austin is not only famous for its live music. It's famous for its bats. Yes, bats, as in Dracula and vampires. Take a boat ride, ideally during spring migration, to watch the thousands of bats that congregate under the Congress Avenue Bridge. The Brazilian free-tailed bat colony has a population ranging from 500,000 to 1.5 million.
- Downtown 6th Street: This walkable section of downtown is where you'll find all the happening bars and clubs, along with Austin's famous music scene. Be sure to check out the Driskill Hotel, an historic way-stop that is said to be haunted.
- **The Domain:** Most of the Austin scene was centered around downtown and South Congress until the Domain was launched. The Domain is an artificial mini-downtown of sorts in North Austin. Sure, it's planned and not historic in the least. But it's a great place to go shopping, get some drinks and enjoy fine cuisine, without having to deal with Mopac if you live up north.

## Austin city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Looking for a great place to live in Austin? Our Austin city guide will help you identify some of the top neighborhoods in Austin. Each neighborhood has its own personality, and many will offer not just apartments but also condos and homes for rent in Austin.

#### **Downtown**

If you really want the urban experience, Downtown Austin has it all, from shops and restaurants to historic theaters and sites. You can enjoy life in a high-rise condo and appreciate an amazing view that encompasses the Colorado River and Hill Country out to the west. You'll also enjoy the mix of old and new architecture, including the iconic Frost Bank Tower, called the "Old Building" because it looks a lot like a big glass owl.

#### **Central Austin**

Central Austin encompasses the main part of Austin north of the Colorado River, west of I-35, and south of 183. Notable neighborhoods include the posh Tarrytown and Old West Austin with its historic homes. Be sure to check out the view at Mount Bonnell.

#### **East Austin**

East Austin is a diverse, historic area of the city that is struggling with the issues of gentrification. In the early 1900s, blacks were segregated to East Austin due to official city policy. Now, the area attracts all races and is a mix of modest, older homes and modern condos next to more upscale restaurants. In short, you'll find everything in East Austin, including a lot of vibrant culture.

#### **Riverside**

Riverside offers low-cost housing and thus is popular with students and has its own thriving nightclub scene you can also check out. Being close to Town Lake/Lady Bird Lake, it's a popular area for dog walkers.

#### **South Austin**

South Austin can refer to the greater part of the south of Austin, pretty much everything south of the Colorado River, or below 71/Route 290 if you want to get more particular about it. It's also a specific residential neighborhood bordered by 290 to the north, South First Street to the east, Willian Cannon Drive to the south, and Brodie Lane to the west. Within are several sub neighborhoods, including Westgate and South Manchaca (pronounced "Manshack"). Be sure to check out the trails at the Sunset Valley Nature Area.

#### **South Congress**

South Congress or SoCo is a trendy area south of downtown that has lots of boutique shops, nightlife, live music, street performers, and popular restaurants. It's known for its eclectic mix of residents from artists to young professionals. The area is also famous for its murals, including one of everyone's favorite neighbor, Mr. Rogers.

#### **Hyde Park**

Filled with beautiful historic homes, many of which are still being restored, Hyde Park is an amazing place to live just north of North University. In Hyde Park, you'll want to visit the Elisabet Ney Museum, honoring the life of the sculptor Elisabet Ney. The museum is housed in her former studio, which looks like a small castle.

#### **South Lamar**

South Lamar (which turns into North Lamar) is a main thoroughfare through Austin. It also has the distinction of being the birthplace of Austin's trendy food truck scene. It started with family-owned traveling taco trucks setting up shop in the early 1990s to target construction workers. South Lamar neighborhood gives you quick access to downtown Austin, and, of course, Austin's famous food trucks.

#### **Clarksville**

Clarksville is located on the north side of the Colorado River across from Zilker Park. It's a great urban area to live and explore, with access to all the amenities of the water. It includes the Clarksville Historic District and the Old West Historic District. It's also nestled right up against the flagship store for Whole Foods, which was founded in Austin back in 1980.

#### **Crestview**

Located in the northern part of Austin next to the Allandale neighborhood, Crestview is conveniently located between Burnet and North Lamar, south of Anderson Lane. This area has a lot of single-family homes, some for rent. Anderson Lane gives you access to stores, yoga studios, and old-school local coffee shops like Genuine Joe House.

#### **Mueller**

Formerly the location of Mueller Airport, the Mueller neighborhood is a planned, sustainable neighborhood situated east of I-35, a little northeast of downtown. The new homes built in Mueller are designed using green building concepts, from recycled materials to resource-efficient designs. This forward-thinking neighborhood also has its own "groundbreaking" on-site power plant designed for energy efficiency.

#### **North Loop**

Don't confuse North Loop with North Austin – North Loop is only "north" in that it is at the northern end of the central core of Austin. This is a small, neighborly community where people get to know their neighbors. You also have access to groceries, restaurants, and cafes. Originally called "Northfield," North Loop used to be mostly an empty field next to a local airport owned by "Doc" Haile back in the 1940s.

#### **North University**

North University, aka North Campus, is located at the north end of the University of Texas. With easy walkable access to campus as well as bars, restaurants, and coffee shops, North University is a great place to live if you are a student. Despite being a college neighborhood, it is quiet and generally attracts older students, professors, and families. Check out the Sparky Pocket Park, a mini-park that is designed with childlike whimsical art where an old electrical substation used to sit.

#### **Westgate**

The Westgate area is in South Austin and provides easy freeway access to 360 and 290. It's also home of the Westgate Shopping Center, an open-air mall that also boasts a movie theater and Central Market, Austin's upscale competitor to Whole Foods. Other than the freeway access, this area is somewhat residential and quiet.

#### Zilker

The Zilker neighborhood of Austin gives you easy access to both Zilker Park and downtown. Enjoy a run around Town Lake (aka Lady Bird Lake) or get your SUP board ready for some fun stand-up paddleboarding. It's also home to Barton Springs Pool, a natural spring-fed pool that was used for sacred rituals by the Native American Tonkawa tribe.

## Baltimore City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Affectionately dubbed "Charm City," <u>Baltimore</u> is one of the most historic cities in the nation, with a rich and fascinating timeline. First settled by Europeans in 1661 (the area had few Native Americans at that time), the city of Baltimore was officially established in 1729. Baltimore was a critical defense for the United States in the War of 1812 with Great Britain. In fact, the national anthem was birthed in Baltimore. Since then, Baltimore has grown and changed considerably. Much of the historic flavor remains in the distinctive rowhouses that line the city, while modern creativity inspires with local art scenes and innovation. The renowned Johns Hopkins University resides here, just one of the many colleges in the area. Be sure to get some crab cakes and craft beer when you visit Baltimore!

#### Baltimore city highlights

When you move to Charm City, you'll soon understand why Baltimore's quirky nickname has stuck. Here are some of the charming places to see in Baltimore:

- Inner Harbor: One of the most favorite tourist spots is the Baltimore Inner Harbor, where you can enjoy shops and restaurants as well as family attractions like the historic ships anchored there. Kids and boat lovers will love exploring the authentic ships, including the last sail-only warship and World War II submarine. Adults will enjoy the top restaurants and nightlife.
- **The National Aquarium:** The National Aquarium in Baltimore is a world-class aquarium with lots of fascinating fish to see and, of course, dolphin shows!
- Fort McHenry: You can visit the location that inspired the U.S. national anthem, the Star-Spangled Banner. This important American defense location survived during the terrifying Battle of Baltimore from September 13 to 14, 1814. Self-guided tours of the fort are available.
- Edgar Allen Poe House and Museum: The famous gothic author lived in Baltimore, and you can visit his house and learn more about the environment that spawned creepy tales such as "The Raven."

• Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum: Do you like trains? You'll want to check out the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum, recognized as the "birthplace of American railroading."

## Baltimore city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Check out some of the featured neighborhoods in our Baltimore city guide to find out about where to search for condos, homes and apartments for rent in Baltimore.

#### **Downtown**

If you want to be where the action is, look for a rental in downtown Baltimore. You'll have access to all the great shops and restaurants, with easy access to the Inner Harbor. With bus and light rail access, you can also easily get around to the other parts of the city. If you like historic religious architecture, check out the beautiful Baltimore Basilica, which features neoclassical style in the first Catholic Cathedral built in America.

#### **Canton**

This waterfront neighborhood runs along the southeast portion of Baltimore and has the distinction of being both trendy and family friendly. Local attractions include O'Donnell Square, the Maryland Korean War Memorial, Canton Waterfront Park and the American Can Company building, which has been restored. It's also a great spot for nightlife and restaurants. You'll find plenty of historic row houses and new townhouses. Because Canton is so popular, you'll want to snap up a rental when you find it.

#### **Mount Vernon**

Mount Vernon in Baltimore (not to be confused with George Washington's Mount Vernon in Virginia) is the city's cultural center. Located just north of the downtown core, Mount Vernon offers modern and historic apartment buildings surrounded by theaters, museums, libraries and performing arts centers. You can check out the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall or survey the city from the top of Baltimore's own Washington Monument.

#### Federal Hill

Baltimore's Federal Hill began life as a place of defense during the War of 1812. Replicas of the original cannons are perched atop Federal Hill as a reminder of its history. With many beautiful rowhouses and 19th century architecture and views of the harbor, it's a beautiful place to live and visit. Be sure to check out Cross Street Market and check out the constant events, including the Kinetic Sculpture Race featuring human-powered "moving sculptures."

#### **Inner Harbor**

When people visit Baltimore, one of their first stops is the Inner Harbor. This formerly industrial area that contained shipbuilders and steel mills now has restaurants, tourist attractions and kitschy gift shops. And while as a Baltimore resident, you probably don't need yet another crab-themed souvenir, you might still enjoy living in the Inner Harbor. This is where you can find a luxury apartment with amazing views of the water and the city.

#### **Northern Baltimore**

Northern Baltimore is the vast area above central Baltimore that includes Hampden, the Johns Hopkins University campus, Roland Park, Mount Washington and other unique neighborhoods. Some areas, such as Roland Park, are among the most affluent. You can also enjoy Druid Park and the Maryland Zoo, which is the third-oldest zoo in America, also known for housing the most African black-footed penguins.

#### **Fells Point**

This waterfront neighborhood was established way back in 1763 and offers a host of boutiques, antique stores, restaurants, coffee shops and bars. This National Historic District contains more than 300 registered historic buildings such as the oldest residence in Baltimore, the Robert Long House (available for tours). You'll also want to visit the Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Maritime Park Museum, which explores the first African American-owned shipyard in the United States.

#### <u>Hampden</u>

The "hipster" area of Baltimore, Hampden has working class roots as a former mill town. The quirky neighborhood honors its blue-collar heritage with "Honfest" to celebrate local history and the unique "Bawlmerese" Baltimore accent. The main drag, 36th Street, is known as "The Avenue." With shops, restaurants, street art and

local parks, this is a great area for the young and active...and the old and adventurous too!

#### **Charles Village**

Charles Village is nestled against the Johns Hopkins University Homewood Campus. This walkable neighborhood is known for its "painted lady" homes, and it was the first "garden suburb" of Baltimore due to its front yards back in the 1890s. Great things to do in Charles Village include the 32nd Street Farmers Market and walking tours of the beautiful Victorian homes.

#### **Northwestern Baltimore**

Officially deemed the Northwestern District, this large grouping of Baltimore communities includes Reisterstown Station, Fallstaff, Park Heights and Hanlon. It's also where you will find the second oldest horse racetrack in the country, the Pimlico Race Course, hosting the Preakness Stakes and a portion of the Triple Crown. Seabiscuit, Secretariat and other famous horses have been seen here. Northwestern Baltimore also has a very strong Orthodox Jewish community, the second largest in the country.

#### **Greenmount West**

Greenmount West is named for being west of the Green Mount Cemetery, one of the oldest American garden cemeteries and the burial place of John Wilkes Booth, who assassinated President Abraham Lincoln. Greenmount West offers lofts and "maker spaces" for artists, and it's located in the heart of Baltimore City's Arts & Entertainment District.

#### **Highlandtown**

Highlandtown was originally called "Snake Hill" (you can see why they changed the name). After Union Troops abandoned Fort Marshall (on Snake Hill), an Irish immigrant built the first house here in the late 1800s. It was actually built out of the cabin of a boat. Thus began the history of this diverse and eclectic Southeast Baltimore neighborhood, filled with historic rowhouses, new apartment complexes and lots of shops, restaurants and bars.

#### **Tuscany-Canterbury**

This historic Baltimore neighborhood is entirely residential (no commercial businesses) and is known for its quaint, European style architecture. The Tuscany-Canterbury neighborhood was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2002. Historic buildings include an original Victorian cottage from 1892, an Italian-style villa called Castalia built in 1928, and Canterbury Hall, a beautiful three-story Tudor-Gothic style apartment building from 1912 that now offers 15 rental units with historic touches such as glass doorknobs and ornamental gas fireplaces.

#### **Mid-Town Belvedere**

Mid-Town Belvedere, on the west side of I-83 across from Johnston Square, offers access to downtown as well as Baltimore's Penn Station. Its namesake, the famous Hotel Belvedere, is now a condominium. As a renter, you have your choice of row houses and high-rise buildings in this happening area filled with restaurants and cultural attractions such as the Lyric Opera House and the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall.

## Birmingham City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

How would you like to live in a city where the Roman god of fire sits atop a mountain ready to protect all the inhabitants? This is just one of the wonderous features of this Alabama city. Birmingham is a beautiful city with rolling hills, lots of green space and lovely neighborhoods. If you love the great outdoors, you're in for a treat. There are numerous hiking and biking trails, as well as places to camp. Some fun facts about the city: First, it's the only place on the planet where iron ore, limestone and coal can be found within a 10-mile radius. These are the raw ingredients needed to form steel. Second, Birmingham was named after a city in the UK, which is apt considering the U.S. city is home to The Jane Austen Society, a *Doctor Who* fan club and the Etiquette School of Birmingham. If you're ready to call Birmingham home, make sure to check out this Birmingham city guide to find a beautiful home or apartment to rent.

#### Birmingham city highlights

When you decide to make the move to Birmingham, you won't be sorry. You'll have access to some of the best events and attractions in the South. Here are just a few.

• Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum: George Barber was a race car driver who won 63 races in his Porsche in the 1960s. When he retired, he built a

- motorsports museum for fellow enthusiasts. But instead of collecting cars, he decided to start collecting motorcycles. The museum is now home to the largest collection of motorcycles in the world, with over 1400 in stock and 650 displayed at a time.
- Birmingham Civil Rights Institute: This institute is a cultural research center
  with the goal of educating future generations about civil rights. They do this by
  investigating the past and working with young ones in the community to create
  a brighter future. In the institute, you'll find archives, temporary exhibits, and
  galleries. Tours are self-guided, so you can take your time to soak in
  everything the institute has to offer.
- Vulcan Park and Museum: Vulcan Park sits on top of Red Mountain. At the
  very peak is a 56-foot-tall iron statue of the Roman god of fire, Vulcan, who
  has been guarding the city since the 1930s. Surrounding the statue is a
  beautiful park with incredible views. People come to picnic, walk, spend time
  with family and friends, watch the 4th of July fireworks display or even host
  their wedding.
- Alabama Theater: This theater was built in 1927 by Paramount Studios so
  that residents of Alabama would have a place to watch Paramount pictures.
  The theater has also been used for the Miss Alabama Pageant and the
  Mickey Mouse Club. In addition to showing films, the theater also hosts 300
  separate events per year.
- Southern Museum of Flight: If you love flying or the history of human flight, you need to visit this museum. The exhibits include over 90 military, civilian and experimental aircraft. Special exhibits also honor the Tuskegee Airmen and showcase Korean War Jets and Vietnam War Helicopters. Tours are offered and you can also host birthday parties at the museum.

## Birmingham city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Finding the right rental property isn't just about finding the best home, condo, or apartment. The neighborhood you choose plays a big role, too. Following are some of the most popular neighborhoods in Birmingham. We'll show you why so many renters flock to these areas.

#### **Southside**

With so much to do and see here, it's kind of amazing that the cost of living is so low. First, Southside is home to the University of Alabama at Birmingham campus. It's also home to Regions Field where the minor-league baseball team, the Birmingham Barons, call home. Residents here frequent the busy pubs, nightclubs and restaurants with live music. They also enjoy a variety of dining experiences – from fine dining to down-home barbeque to chic yet laid-back farm-to-table.

#### **Downtown**

Downtown has ranked #2 on USA Today's list of top neighborhoods in Birmingham. It is popular for its nightlife with restaurants dotting the neighborhood. You'll love all the options – fine dining, local cuisine, breakfast and brunch restaurants and much more! Residents also love that there are a number of shopping opportunities, too. Quaint markets, antique stores, vintage and consignment shops, bookstores and malls with upscale stores. You'll also find several art galleries that display work from local artists and some of which offer classes to the public.

#### **Highland Park**

Another neighborhood that ranks high for its nightlife is Highland Park, part of the Red Mountain community, which consists of three neighborhoods: Highland Park, Forest Park and Redmont Park. This neighborhood is one of the oldest in the city. It's only two miles south of Birmingham's central business district. And because of this, it's one of the more prosperous neighborhoods as well. The majority of the over 7000 residents rent their homes not only because the area is conveniently located but also because the rental costs are lower than the national average. It's a popular neighborhood for young professionals.

#### **Five Points South**

Nearly 18,500 residents live in Five Points South, providing it with a decidedly urban feel. The neighborhood is one of the best in Birmingham according to locals. The nightlife is great, with a multitude of restaurants, shopping and entertainment opportunities. The neighborhood is vibrant, easily walkable and has many points of historical interest. Most residents rent and there are some beautiful rental properties in the area.

#### Crestwood

The Crestwood area consists of two neighborhoods – Crestwood North and Crestwood South. The neighborhoods offer diversity, bustling bars and restaurants. The schools are well rated as well. In total, approximately 9600 people live in the neighborhood. Most own their homes but there are plenty of lovely rental opportunities for young professionals and families alike. Residents say they love the beauty of the neighborhood, as well as the friendliness and sense of community amongst their neighbors. They also call it quaint and quirky with fun events like live music at the local record store.

#### **West End**

The West End neighborhood provides an urban suburban feel to those who live here, with a population of 4600 people. Most in the area rent their homes and there are several single-family rental properties in addition to apartment and condo complexes. The West End is home to Rickwood Field, the oldest ballpark in the country, which has been featured in baseball movies like 42 and Cobb, as well as a baseball documentary. Some of the greatest players of all time stepped foot and shared their talent with baseball fans in this park, including Babe Ruth, Reggie Jackson and Jackie Robinson. There's a great community spirit here, too, with the West End Community Garden being founded in 2008. Residents can purchase produce from the garden on the WE Garden website or the Baptist Princeton Hospital's market each Wednesday.

#### **Forest Park**

Looking for a neighborhood with beautiful, historic homes? This is the neighborhood for you! It was developed in 1906 and residents here had easy access to the Downtown area via streetcar. The style of homes built in the early 1900s range from Queen Anne and Tudor Revival to Neo-Classical and Bungalow-style homes. The neighborhood is also home to quaint shops like home goods stores, nurseries, wine shops and more. Despite the historic nature of the city, it also supplies a decidedly urban-suburban feel for residents, the majority of whom are young professionals who rent.

#### **East Lake**

Over 5800 people live in the East Lake neighborhood, many of them who own their own homes. However, there are some lovely single-family homes and apartment complexes that renters can call home. The suburb was developed in the late-1800s who created a lake in the area by damming Village Creek and Roebuck Springs. They marketed the community as a hotspot for miners. The East Lake Park is ideal for family gatherings, fishing and more. Nearby Ruffner Mountain has hiking trails which take you to one of the best scenic views in Birmingham. Make sure you go there at sunset – it's glorious.

#### **Titusville**

Another historic neighborhood in Birmingham is Titusville, which is a community made up of two neighborhoods: Titusville North and Titusville South, with a combined total population of over 4700 residents. The northern part of the

community has a dense suburban feel, while the south has a sparse suburban feel. Most renters look for rental properties in Titusville North. The community was originally founded by freed slaves after the Civil War. The first airport in Birmingham was located on what is now the Loveman Village housing development. The Black Barons baseball team used to train at Memorial Park and some famed residents who grew up in the area include Condoleezza Rice and Wallace Rayfield.

### Boston City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Boston is famous for *Cheers*, Fenway Park and the Boston Marathon. But there's much more to this city that makes it one of the best places to live in the country. Boston is a city of innovation, so much so in fact that it was ranked #5 in the world of innovative cities. It is also one of the healthiest cities in the nation, ranking in the top 10. And while you get the hustle and bustle of city life in Boston, you'll also have access to an abundance of green spaces, like the 15-acre Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway and the Boston Common. If this sounds like the city for you, make sure to check out our Boston city guide to find an apartment in your favorite part of the city.

### Boston city highlights

Ready to move to Boston but aren't sure which neighborhood to choose? Consider some of your favorite activities or some of the attractions and events Boston has to offer. Then, use our Boston city guide to help you find an apartment in a neighborhood that is closest to those attractions. Here are just a few to consider.

- Catch a Game: Bostonians take sports very seriously. This city is home to the famed Boston Red Sox, Boston Celtics and New England Patriots. As a resident of the city, you'll get to visit Fenway Park, the Green Monster, so named for the 37-foot left field wall that is a popular target for batters, which is also why it's called "hitter's park."
- Walk the Freedom Trail: The Freedom Trail is a three-mile route that takes you to 16 historic sites in the city. The trail is easy to follow just follow the red bricks in the sidewalks and the footprints at crossing areas. You'll get to see where Paul Revere is buried and see Boston's oldest cemetery. The trail ends at the Bunker Hill Monument, an awe-inspiring 220-foot granite landmark.
- New England Aquarium: Located in <u>Central Boston</u>, the New England Aquarium is one of the premier destinations for visitors and residents alike. You can watch whales and visit a variety of sea animal exhibits. You'll also

- learn how you can get involved and help support ocean and sea life conservation efforts.
- USS Constitution and Bunker Hill (Boston National History Park): This is
  the oldest ship commissioned by the U.S. Navy. Navy personnel still
  command the ship, which is open to visitors. You're allowed to go below deck
  where you'll learn about the construction of the ship as well as the action she
  saw while out at sea. The museum provides even more historical context.
  Through the interactive exhibits, you'll learn more about the USS Constitution
  and a World War II destroyer called the Cassin Young.
- Harvard Square and Harvard Art Museums: This is the oldest higher learning institution in the U.S. It was founded in 1636. Visitors get to enjoy walking tours of the campus where you'll learn about the history of the school. The art museums showcase art from the early Renaissance, Expressionists from Europe, Chinese bronzes, Indian Art, Greco-Roman sculptures and Japanese prints.

# Boston city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Choosing the right neighborhood is just as important as choosing the right apartment. Use our Boston city guide to help you find the rental of your dreams in some of the most popular neighborhoods in and around the city.

### **Fenway-Kenmore**

While most people think of Fenway Park and the Boston Red Sox when they hear of the Fenway-Kenmore neighborhood, what they don't know is that this is one of the academic hubs of Boston. Nearly a dozen of the 100 universities in Boston can be found in this neighborhood. You'll also find multiple entertainment venues, museums and art galleries to help feed the mind and soul. This area is buzzing with energy from the students and young professionals. It has amazing restaurants and is perfect for anyone who craves an active nightlife.

### **South End**

Another popular Boston neighborhood is South End. It has a vibrant LGBT+ community and consists of a diverse community of families and young professionals. Victorian brownstone buildings line the streets, as do some of the finest restaurants in Boston. There's also a flourishing art community – so, if you are a creator or simply appreciate the creativity of others, you'll feel right at home here. Craving some green space? You won't be disappointed in South End. There are nearly 30 parks in the area, perfect for working out, spending time with family and friends and taking time to stop and smell the roses.

### **Back Bay**

One of the more affluent neighborhoods in Boston is Back Bay. It's home to iconic landmarks such as the Prudential Center, Boston Public Library and Copley Square. There are numerous bars and restaurants where you can spend your evenings and/or weekends having the time of your life with friends. The Prudential Center is home to several well-known brands, including Anne Taylor and ALDO. If you love to shop, this is the neighborhood for you! You might also enjoy the mix of modern and Victorian buildings throughout the area.

### **Financial District**

Located in Downtown Boston near Government Center is the Financial District. The area consists of landmark buildings including the complexes for Exchange Place and International Place, Custom House Tower and Post Office Square. The neighborhood is a historic treasure trove housing some of the city's oldest landmarks, such as the Old South Meeting House where colonists met to discuss what would eventually result in the Boston Tea Party. Of course, there are also a number of modern skyscraper-type buildings where you can shop, eat or work.

### **North End**

The North End neighborhood is ideal for hipsters, creatives and foodies. You'll find dozens of eateries serving homemade dishes, like fresh pasta, baked bread and handcrafted cannoli. And let's not forget about the authentic cappuccinos. The Italian history here is rich, as is the colonial history. It is, after all, the oldest residential neighborhood in Boston and is where you'll find Paul Revere's house, as well as other Colonial-style homes and landmarks. The neighborhood is full of energy during the summertime festivals where you can feast on amazing food, hear great live music and celebrate the history of the area.

### **Beacon Hill**

Beacon Hill is one of the oldest neighborhoods in Boston. It's also one of the most expensive. But if you can afford it, why not move to this iconic neighborhood? The cobblestone streets and brick buildings give the neighborhood an air of history and dignity. That doesn't make it a stuffy neighborhood, though. It's an upscale neighborhood with mansions and antique shops. Young professionals love living in the area because it has a high walkability score. Not only can you get around the

neighborhood easily, but you can also take a stroll to the Financial District for work or shopping.

### Fenway-Kenmore-Audubon Circle-Longwood

This neighborhood is the ninth most walkable neighborhood in Boston. It also boasts world-class transit and a high bike score, too. Instead of wasting money on gas to do your shopping, you can easily walk from your apartment to your favorite stores and restaurants. The neighborhood is great for families, too, with public schools in the area earning a very-good-to-excellent score. The area is made up of single-family homes, as well as condos, townhouses and apartments, so there's something for every aesthetic and budget.

### **Commonwealth**

Commonwealth Avenue has earned a lot of recognition in 2021. Quite a few businesses in the area have earned "favorite" status, including Lord & Taylor clothing store, Harmony Dental Care, Armando's Pizza and Healthworks Fitness Centers for Women. Commonwealth is an upper-middle class neighborhood with higher rental prices than over 85% of Boston. The nightlife is one of the perks of the neighborhood with plenty of restaurants, bars and other hangouts that residents enjoy.

### **East Boston**

The East Boston neighborhood started out as home to a large population of Italian immigrants and families. In the mid-20th century, more Latino families moved into the area. It's beautifully diverse and is popular amongst young professionals. Residents who live in the area appreciate that most East Boston apartments for rent come at relatively reasonable prices. (If you want something on the pricier side, though, developers have been building several luxury condo and apartment buildings in the neighborhood.) Plus, the neighborhood is in close proximity to Downtown Boston, making it easy to commute to work, shops and restaurants.

### **Jamaica Plain**

Years ago, Jamaica Plain was a resort destination for Bostonians to travel to during the summer months. Now, it's one of the most diverse neighborhoods in the city. You'll find unique shops and plenty of fabulous restaurants. The walkability and bike scores are high, so you'll have no problem getting from your Jamaica Plain apartment to a restaurant, shop or a National Historic Landmark like the Arnold

Arboretum. If you are a fan of green spaces, you'll love Jamaica Pond, a great place to go for an evening stroll or jog for some exercise.

### **Waterfront**

Boston Harbor has played an important role in the history and development of the city. Visitors from all around flock to the harbor each year, particularly during the warmer months. They enjoy the Boston HarborWalk, a public walkway that runs along the water's edge and connects to a variety of Boston neighborhoods. Along the HarborWalk you'll find galleries, indie artists, green spaces, cafes and restaurants – as well as amazing views. And you don't need to be a tourist to enjoy some of the aquatic experiences, such as harbor cruises, whale watching and more.

### Charleston City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

The gorgeous city of Charleston is known for its southern charm, and for good reason. This quaint historic town is known for its beautiful historic buildings and churches that give the city its nickname, the "Holy City." One of the oldest cities in America, Charleston is situated in South Carolina's Lowcountry on a peninsula opening into Charleston Harbor off the Atlantic Ocean. Charleston is nestled between two rivers, Cooper River and Ashley River. With a history dating back to colonial times, Charleston provides a wonderful balance between old and new, with lots of cultural activities and attractions for residents and tourists. The city is the largest in South Carolina and is the center of the Charleston–North Charleston– Summerville Metropolitan Statistical Area. With a population of over 150,000, Charleston proper has grown a lot since its beginnings as a modest settlement in 1670. The town was first named Charles Town after King Charles II of England and was renamed Charleston in 1783. With genuine cobblestone streets and history around every corner, Charleston is a great place to work and play. Our Charleston city guide will help you find a beautiful apartment in this charming city by the sea in South Carolina.

### Charleston city highlights

Charleston has a lot of great things to do, whether you want to explore colonial history, enjoy some live theater or take a stroll in the city to view the beautiful historic

buildings. Our Charleston city guide recommends you start with these great South Carolina attractions:

- Rainbow Row: If you love historic homes, you'll enjoy visiting Rainbow Row, 13 row houses painted fabulous pastel colors such as green, pink, blue and yellow. This is the longest set of row houses in the Georgian style in the United States. You can find them on East Bay Street between Tradd Street and Elliott Street.
  - The Dock Street Theater: Still running today, The Dock Street Theater was built in 1736, and was not only the first theater in the United States but where the first opera performance in America was held. You can find it at the intersection of Church Street and Queen Street.
- Fort Sumter: Originally built (partially) for the War of 1812 with Great Britain, Fort Sumter was never fully completed. Said to be the place where the United States Civil War started, Fort Sumter was left in ruins afterwards. You can only reach the fort by boat but it's a great place to engage with some history.
- The Citadel: If the military fascinates you, then visit the campus of the Citadel military college, which also offers on-site tours. This college was established in 1842 and has the distinction of being one of the six senior military colleges in the United States. It's recognized by the citadel-like main building that almost looks like a castle.
- **The Battery:** This fortified, defensive seawall contains a promenade where you can enjoy the view via a nice stroll along the waterfront.

# Charleston city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Our Charleston city guide is here to help you find the best apartment for rent in the "Holy City." You have a lot to choose from, between historic downtown neighborhoods, pleasant suburbs and beach areas close to the Atlantic Ocean. Some of our favorite Charleston neighborhoods with great apartments and townhomes for rent include:

### West Ashley

The West Ashley neighborhood got its name because it is west of the Ashley River, which is also west of Downtown Charleston. On the other side of West Ashley runs the Stono River, and southeast of West Ashley you'll find James Island. Thus, West Ashley is in many ways its own town while still being a district of Charleston. With so much water around it, you'll find great views and places to live.

### **South of Broad**

Considered to be an "exclusive" section of the city, this historic portion of Charleston has beautiful pastel-colored antebellum homes and mansions, breathtaking gardens and quaint cobblestone streets. Some of Charleston's most expensive real estate is here, and home prices range from \$850,000 to more than \$20,000,000. Fortunately, rent is not quite that high, but you can expect to pay approximately \$2,500 per month here for a one-bedroom, one-bathroom rental. Four-to-five-bedroom homes also rent here for \$10,000 per month or more...and it is well worth it!

### **Downtown Charleston**

You have plenty of great apartments to choose from in Downtown Charleston, whether you want a waterfront view or something closer to cultural hotspots like the College of Charleston. Many of the apartments available in this district are in charming brick row houses or townhouses. You'll also have access to the best that Charleston has to offer in dining, entertainment and shopping. The oldest building in Charleston is at 17 Chalmers Street, and it was built around 1688. It's known as the Pink House because it is made from Bermuda Stone aka West Indian coral stone (though painted today). Formerly a coffee house, tavern and bordello, the building is now valued at over \$1 million. It is also said to be haunted.

### Sangaree

Sangaree is a suburb of Charleston and has a small population of almost 8,000 residents. It is located in Berkeley County. Sangaree is situated inland from Charleston to the northwest and can be reached from the city via I-26. This area is known for being a lot more quiet and almost rural in nature compared to the close quarters of the old streets in Charleston's downtown and historic districts. The neighborhood has many modest as well as luxury apartment buildings for diverse tastes and budgets.

### <u>Melrose</u>

If you are looking for a house to rent near Charleston, you might try the Melrose neighborhood. This suburban area is located due west of West Ashley off of Highway 17. There are also residential apartment complexes nearby with amenities such as swimming pools and jacuzzi spas.

### **Harleston Village**

The historic downtown neighborhood Harleston Village is near two universities, the College of Charleston and the Medical University of South Carolina. It's a great walkable area with lots of shops, cafes, trendy bars and scenic parks. You can get an apartment for rent in the Harleston Village neighborhood of Charleston in an authentic colonial building, some that were originally built in the 1700s.

### **East Side**

Charleston's East Side neighborhood is a historic area where the largest community of free black craftsmen in the south as well as the nation used to ply their trade. In recent years the area has been undergoing revitalization. One of the areas of the East Side neighborhood is historic Hampstead Village founded originally in 1769.

### The Boroughs

The Boroughs is actually four neighborhoods in one in the heart of Charleston. It's also one of five distinct neighborhoods within the Charleston peninsula. The Boroughs have somewhat long, complicated names, and are: Radcliffeborough, Mazyck-Wraggborough, Ansonborough and Cannonborough-Elliotborough. Radcliffeborough attracts college students and medical professionals due to being situated by the Medical University of South Carolina. It has many antebellum mansions as well as upscale newer buildings. Mazyck-Wraggborough Ansonborough runs along Charleston's "Museum Mile." was the first "suburb" of Charleston and contains the oldest residence in Charleston, the Colonel William Rhett house. Cannonborough-Elliotborough is a combination of two previously distinct boroughs. It's now a great place to shop at boutiques and enjoy some fresh bakeries.

### **Avondale**

Known as West Ashley's "funky, fun borough," Avondale is a popular location for young professionals and creatives. Serving as West Ashley's downtown, Avondale is like a little village within the greater West Ashley neighborhood. One of the best places to visit in Avondale is the Triangle, a miniature district between Magnolia Road and Savannah Highway. With boutique specialty stores and delicious and diverse restaurants, the Triangle is a great place to enjoy happy hour or an intimate dinner.

### **Ashley Hall Manor**

Ashley Hall Manor is conveniently located next to West Ashley and has many attractive and affordable apartments and townhomes for rent across the river from Charleston's downtown. This quiet suburban neighborhood also contains many 1960s era brick and stone houses. Many of its residents are highly educated with graduate and postgraduate degrees.

### Charlotte City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Most locals know that King George III named this city after his wife, Queen Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz. Mecklenburg county is named after the part of Germany where Charlotte was born. This city is rich with history. You can find historical landmarks around every corner. But locals love all things modern, too. For instance, their love of NASCAR is almost beyond compare. In fact, over 75% of the NASCAR teams are headquartered within a few hours of Charlotte. One of the great things about living in <a href="Charlotte">Charlotte</a> is that it really is a close-knit community. Everyone here works hard to create a sense of community and make visitors and newcomers feel welcome. If you want a place like this to call home, make sure to check our Charlotte city guide to find an affordable, beautiful Charlotte apartment.

### Charlotte city highlights

Why is Charlotte such a great place to live? It's because you'll have daily access to some of North Carolina's greatest events and attractions. Here are just a few.

- Sherman Branch Mountain Biking Park: Located in <a href="Eastside Charlotte">Eastside Charlotte</a>, this mountain biking park is a great way to get some exercise and have some exhilarating fun. The Park consists of a singletrack loop that is about a ninemile ride. There are plenty of fun features like skinnys, ladder bridges, drops, jumps and a dinosaur back. All levels are welcome as the park has options for all obstacles along the loop.
- **Mint Museum Randolph**: Located in <u>Center City</u>, this is the longest-running art museum in the country. Exhibits showcase artwork from around the globe, including Africa, Europe and the United States. The museum also pays homage to the artists and art aficionados who call Charlotte home. As a new resident of Charlotte, you can become a member of the Mint Museum which entitles you to a variety of perks, like discounted programs and classes, free admission and members-only invitations to special events and exhibits.
- NASCAR Hall of Fame: Southerners are serious about their NASCAR. If you're a fan, too, make sure to visit the NASCAR Hall of Fame which has exciting racing simulators, exhibits with priceless memorabilia and the history

- of some of the famed NASCAR drivers, like Dale Earnhardt and Terry Labonte.
- U.S. National Whitewater Center: Are you a daredevil? If so, you'll want to visit the U.S. National Whitewater Center where you can experience whitewater rafting firsthand. It's an exciting, breathtaking, heart-pounding experience. In addition to time spent on the water, you can also spend some time hiking, kayaking, paddle boarding, ziplining and biking the lovely trails.
- Blumenthal Performing Arts Center: Do you love live theater? Do you crave live music? Then, make sure to get tickets to your favorite shows at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center. The venue has excellent sound quality, and every seat is a great seat. You'll get to see Broadway shows like Wicked and Cats. There's music and dance acts, as well as free events, too.

# Charlotte city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Not sure which Charlotte neighborhood fits your needs the best? Use our Charlotte city guide to help narrow your search. Or check out the neighborhoods below. They're some of the most popular neighborhoods in the city and their style, aesthetic, features and amenities might suit your needs perfectly.

### **South End**

Rental costs in South End are higher than the national average but it's well worth the cost if you can afford it. This lively part of Charlotte is well-known for having a vibrant nightlife. You'll find pubs and craft breweries as well as cozy and high-end restaurants serving trendy menu items or global cuisines. The neighborhood has repurposed an 1800s mill building which is now home to chic boutiques and artisan shops. If you're an art lover, you'll appreciate the numerous fine art galleries dotting the neighborhood. You'll also have access to the Charlotte Rail Trail – perfect for jogging or biking. The neighborhood has a great walkability score, too.

### **Uptown**

Uptown Charlotte has an urban feel with nearly 9000 residents. There are a plethora of coffee shops, eateries and bars. You'll also find that this neighborhood has several green spaces and parks, perfect for exercising or time spent with family and friends on the weekends. A vast majority of the residents in the neighborhood rent their homes with rental costs being a bit higher than the national average.

### **University City**

University City is home to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. There is a definite college spirit in this neighborhood. Members of the community root for the school's sports teams and support the school and students in other ways as well. Due to the high student population, the area has quite a few pubs, restaurants, bars and clubs, making nightlife fun, exciting and entertaining. As you would expect from a college town, most residents rent their homes with rental prices being only slightly above the national average.

### **Southpark**

Looking for a neighborhood catered toward young professionals? This is an upscale commercial and residential neighborhood complete with sophisticated bars, French cafés, sushi restaurants and more. You'll find designer shops mingled with indie fashion boutiques, too. Residents here say they appreciate how their neighbors keep their homes and yards in good order, and that the neighbors are friendly and willing to help when someone needs it.

### **NoDa**

If you love arts and entertainment, you should consider moving to NoDa, also known as North Davidson. It's a welcoming community where people from all walks of life and embraced. Artists and musicians are around every corner. And there's amazing, award-winning food and craft beers, too. The goal of the neighborhood is to promote the arts and the creatives that work hard to produce their art. Another goal is to promote eco-friendly lifestyles and sustainability. The neighborhood is racially, ethically, culturally and economically diverse and everyone here wants to create a culturally enriching atmosphere for all who live and visit here.

### **Westside**

Charlotte's Westside is a historic neighborhood that's been getting new life in the past few years. Here you'll find the Charlotte Douglas International Airport which brings visitors from all around the country. For years, though, the area lacked the amenities that are commonplace in other urban neighborhoods. Developers are looking at bringing in some of those amenities – restaurants, bars, cafés and the like, then doing what they can to bring other businesses and entrepreneurs into the neighborhood. Now is the time to take advantage of lower rent prices, as well as see if this neighborhood is the right one to grow your business or side gig.

### **Plaza Midwood**

The Plaza Midwood neighborhood is trendy yet laid-back. It's known especially for the nightlife with dive bars and more intimate music venues. If you're a foodie, this is the neighborhood for you – there is something for every mood. Barbeque, comfort food, ice cream shops, gastropubs and more. Shops in the area sell vintage clothing, as well as handcrafted jewelry and other artisan goods.

### **Southwest Charlotte**

Two neighborhoods make up the area of Southwest Charlotte: Steele Creek and Berewick. Steele Creek is the more established neighborhood. There are newer communities perfect for middle-class incomes, as well as higher-end, luxury homes for sale. Berewick has a bit more urban feel to it with more retail and entertainment amenities, including big box stores like Home Depot and Target. The residential area consists of single-family homes, as well as multiple apartment complexes.

### **Dilworth**

If you like neighborhoods that are quaint and laid-back, you might want to consider checking our Charlotte city guide for rentals in Dilworth. The tree-lined streets are lovely and make it feel like you're far away from the city even though you're only six minutes away. Nearby Freedom Park has a beautiful lake, as well as walking trails. There are a number of specialty food shops, restaurants that serve global cuisine and clothing boutiques. Schools, household income and employment rates are all high.

### **Elizabeth**

Despite being an urban neighborhood, Elizabeth has a decidedly relaxed atmosphere. Most people rent their homes in this neighborhood with the cost of rent just slightly above the national average. It's one of the top neighborhoods for young professionals and features upscale restaurants, bakeries, bars and ice cream parlors. You can find entertainment at the Visulite Theater where local bands perform alongside big-name touring groups. Independence Park is nearby and there's a reflecting pool that's perfect for meditating and journaling, plenty of walking trails and a gorgeous rose garden.

### **Myers Park**

Myers Park is home to over 13,000 residents and is an affluent part of Charlotte. You'll find gourmet restaurants and grocery stores, as well as high-end fashion

boutiques. It's ideal for people who love spending as much time outdoors as possible. You can visit the Wing Haven Garden and Bird Sanctuary, which has gorgeous flowers and herbs. The Booty Loop trail runs through the neighborhood and is ideal for those who love to bike. The cost of living is higher here than the U.S. average but it's a lovely neighborhood to call home if you can afford it.

### **Ballantyne**

Ballantyne is another affluent Charlotte neighborhood. Here you'll find multiple shopping centers, some that sell major national brands and others that sell chic, high-end fashion only. Parks and ponds can be found throughout the neighborhood, as can an 18-hole golf course that's open to the public. If you're a foodie, you'll be happy to know that there are numerous restaurants that serve global cuisine including Italian, Asian, American and Southern.

### **Huntersville**

Huntersville is one of the best Charlotte suburbs. Nearly 56,000 people live here, and the neighborhood is so spread out that it feels like you're living in the country instead of only 15 minutes away from a big city like Charlotte. Though the majority of people own their homes in this neighborhood, there are still plenty of nice apartment complexes, ideal for young professionals. The neighborhood also has several parks with trails for walking and biking, as well as playgrounds for the kids.

### Chicago City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Chicago is known as the Windy City but not for the reasons you might think. The nickname actually comes from the politicians there who "blow hot air" and have been doing so pretty much since the city's founding in 1833. Of course, being right on the southern shore of Lake Michigan makes the nickname appropriate, as well, and perfect for a number of outdoor activities like sailing, windsurfing, kite flying and more. And while the city has dozens of incredible parks and marinas for these exciting activities, the city of Chicago is also home to over 250 live theaters, dozens of both well-known and obscure museums, art galleries, incredible shopping, historical sites and monuments and incredible dining experiences. If you're looking for a cozy, elegant, or conveniently located apartment in this incredibly walkable city,

our Chicago city guide can help you find the perfect spot for the right price in your ideal neighborhood.

### Chicago city highlights

When you move to one of the amazing neighborhoods Atlanta has to offer, you'll have access to some of the country's greatest attractions and events.

- North Avenue Beach: For beach lovers, walkers, cyclists and joggers, North Avenue Beach is a popular spot along Lake Michigan located within Lincoln Park. North Avenue Beach is considered Chicago's best beach by most, welcoming swimmers and sunbathers, diners and more for a relaxing afternoon filled with sunshine.
- Lake Shore Trail: Running nearly the entire length of the city on Lake
  Michigan, near Lake Shore Drive, the Lake Shore Trail offers outdoor
  enthusiasts 18-miles of glorious foot and biking path with stunning views of
  the water, city skyline and access to many of the city's most popular
  destinations including the Shedd Aquarium, the Field Museum and the Adler
  Planetarium.
- The 606: For folks further inland, the 606 is your go-to cycling, walking and running destination in popular neighborhoods like Bucktown and Logan Square. The linear park and trail network stretches four kilometers through four neighborhoods, on a former elevated train track, providing walkers with beautiful views around the city. You'll find multiple entrances and parks along the way for easy access.
- **Chicago Theatre**: The iconic Chicago Theatre on State Street is in the heart of entertainment, shopping and more. The building, built in 1921, has an interior worth visiting for alone but the on-going stream of high-quality entertainment draws in thousands every year.
- **Wrigley Field**: Home of the Chicago Cubs, Wrigley Field in Wrigleyville is the nation's second oldest ballpark after Boston's Fenway Park. The field was built in 1914 and hosts ballgames, concerts and other broadly appealing events throughout the warmer months.
- Lincoln Park Zoo: An amazing array of world animals including big cats, camels, rhinos and kangaroos finds home at the city's free zoo located in Lincoln Park. The zoo has a beautiful conservatory, over 1,100 animals in residence, exhibits, plenty of walking space (it's a great place to run!) and beautiful landscaping the whole family will enjoy.
- Chicago Water Tower and the Magnificent Mile: Located on Michigan
  Avenue near the lake, the Chicago Water Tower is the oldest standing building
  within city limits. The Tower and Pump House survived the Great Chicago Fire
  of 1871 and remains one of the most iconic spots in the city. It also happens
  to be located on one of the most popular shopping areas in the city the
  Magnificent Mile. Here you'll find stores of all sorts fashion, beauty, jewelry,
  gifts, candy and unique boutique restaurants and sweets shops.

# Chicago city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Love Chicago but not sure which neighborhood will be the best fit for your lifestyle? Our Chicago city guide can help with details about walkability, shopping, attractions and more within the neighborhoods listed below.

### **West Loop**

This centrally located neighborhood in Chicago is at the heart of the city's bustling entertainment and shopping district. Apartments in the neighborhood typically are airy and modern with access to a wide range of amenities, depending on the building. The neighborhood itself is home to multiple big-name tech employers, art galleries, fine dining, historical sites and attractions and amazing bars. You'll also find some amazing shopping and plenty of popular attractions to enjoy with friends and family when they visit. West Loop is incredibly accessible to public transit and is highly walkable for most of your daily activities and needs.

### **Bridgeport**

Bridgeport is a residential, walkable neighborhood on the Southwest Side of Chicago. You'll find charming cottages, landscaped row houses and brick townhouses and flats – all with a beautiful historic charm and great prices for renters. You'll find lovely parks and delicious dining establishments all around, along with the Bridgeport Arts Center with classes and events within easy walking distance.

### **North Center**

North Center is a quiet neighborhood bordering the North Branch, revolving around Lincoln Avenue where you'll find Irish pubs and breweries, plenty of storefront theaters and cozy coffee shops. It's a great neighborhood for students and families looking for plenty of activity without all the bustle of some of the nearby neighborhoods like Roscoe Village and Avondale. Horner Park is a great neighborhood park, along with many others and the longest pedestrian bridge in the city and 312 River Run, leading to Clark and California Parks.

### <u>Uptown</u>

Uptown is an affordable neighborhood with loads of lakeside apartments, lively entertainment and plenty of historical charm. You'll find the Green Mill – Al Capone's

old favorite jazz club – and tons of other live entertainment venues are scattered all around the neighborhood. You'll also find locally owned dining establishments of all cuisine types, easy shopping with boutiques and big box stores and plenty of parks. Public transit is extremely accessible and bike lanes are plentiful. The whole neighborhood is extremely walkable and connects to the Lake Shore Trail.

#### **Lincoln Park**

The neighborhood is home to the city's largest park, which it shares the name with. The Lincoln Park Zoo is also located within the park, along with marinas and unique attractions and lush gardens. The neighborhood offers several lakeview apartments, many trails, a nature museum, history museum and more, plus plenty of shopping and dining. The neighborhood is one of the most popular spots for young couples and families, thanks partially to the nearby attractions but also for the vibrant nightlife and the affordable apartments. The neighborhood is accessible to all forms of public transit and is exceptionally walkable. Joggers and urban cyclists especially enjoy this neighborhood for the many trails nearby.

### **River North**

This sleek, upscale neighborhood is one of the most popular among college students and young adults but is equally loved by mature families who love easy accessibility and plenty of activities. The neighborhood offers some of the finest dining opportunities, dramatic skyline views, an incredible art scene and some of the liveliest nightlife in the city. It's almost one of the most walkable neighborhoods in the city with easy access to public transit as well. There are plenty of walking paths and urban playgrounds, new bars and entertainment venues of all types.

### **Lakeview**

Another popular neighborhood north of the Loop is Lakeview, which, as the name indicates, is situated on the edge of Lake Michigan. The neighborhood is home to Wrigleyville – a smaller neighborhood within a neighborhood – where Wrigley Field resides, along with some of the most enjoyable casual dining in the city. The neighborhood is an accessible arts center in town as well, with eclectic venues of all sorts, quick local eateries and Irish pubs. The neighborhood also adjoins parts of Lincoln Park where you'll find trails and playgrounds, public art and more. Lakeview is another one of the most walkable neighborhoods in the city.

### **Gold Coast**

For those who are looking for the finer things in life, the Gold Coast of Chicago is your must-investigate neighborhood. The trendy neighborhood has the finest luxury apartments and access to the most upscale restaurants and shopping in the city. Here you'll find the Magnificent Mile, the Water Tower, plenty of lakeview apartments and the most celebrity spotting opportunities in the city. The neighborhood is also one of the oldest in the city, so if you're a history lover, you'll also enjoy the many historic sites located throughout the neighborhood. The neighborhood is very walkable, though stress can be crowded during peak tourist season.

### **Hyde Park**

Once home to former President Barack Obama, Hyde Park has become one of the most up-and-coming neighborhoods of Chicago in recent years. With boutique dining and shops, plenty of parks, easy public transit access and beautiful architecture, the newest art center of Chicago is the perfect location for folks looking for plenty of activity without being in the Loop.

### Cincinnati City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Cincinnati, Ohio sits at a transition between the Midwest and the South, and thus you'll find a mixing of American cultures here in this thriving city on the Ohio River across from Kentucky. Nicknamed "The Queen City," Cincinnati gained fame in the 1978-1982 sitcom WKRP in Cincinnati and that same fun, freewheeling spirit still abounds here today. With companies like Proctor & Gamble (headquartered here), Cincinnati provides plenty of opportunity with the beautiful scenery of rolling hills and an attractive riverfront. If you like to bike or commute on human powered wheels, Cincinnati has a biker's dream, the Central Parkway Bikeway. With many attractive public parks, world class art museums and the University of Cincinnati, you'll enjoy much in the way of outdoor and cultural activities in this Midwest city in the hills. You'll learn more about Cincinnati's unique neighborhoods here in our Cincinnati city quide.

### Cincinnati city highlights

With so many great places and events to choose from, it was hard to choose what to highlight in our Cincinnati city guide. Here are some places to see and things to do when you tour Cincinnati looking for your new apartment:

- Purple People Bridge: Formerly known as the Newport Southbank Bridge, this bridge first built in 1872 has recently been renovated and painted purple for its use as a pedestrian bridge and event space. With a length of 2,670 feet, the Purple People Bridge is a great place to take a walk and enjoy the view of the Ohio River.
- Cincinnati Art Museum: If you love art, the Cincinnati Art Museum is a historic museum next to Eden Park. With more than 67,000 individual pieces of art in the permanent collection, plus rotating exhibits, the art museum will give you much to ponder and take in across multiple visits.
- Contemporary Arts Center: When you are done with the Cincinnati Art
  Museum visit the Contemporary Arts Center highlighting "the art of the last
  five minutes." Andy Warhol was featured here early on in his career and the
  Contemporary Arts Center nurtures and supports the avant garde artists of
  today.
- Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden: Founded in 1873, the Cincinnati Zoo is the second oldest zoo in the United States. It's known for its collection of reptiles at the famed "Reptile House." The connected Botanical Garden is a great place to relax and smell the flowers.
- The Skystar Wheel: Enjoy amazing views of the city while taking a ride on the Ferris wheel in Downtown Cincinnati that is 15 stories high.
- Cincinnati Sports: Sports fans have a lot to be excited about in Cincinnati. From football to basketball, there is plenty to cheer for. Cincinnati professional sports teams include NFL football with the Cincinnati Bengals and major league baseball with the Cincinnati Reds. If the Bengals aren't enough football for you, check out the University of Cincinnati Bearcats in college football. If you like men's basketball, the University of Cincinnati offers Bearcats basketball and Xavier University has the Musketeers.

# Cincinnati city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

The best place to live in Cincinnati will depend on what exactly you are looking for. Fortunately, you have many great options in Queen City. Our Cincinnati city guide offers a glimpse of the best neighborhoods in Cincinnati. From modern apartments to quaint townhomes, you'll find plenty of apartments to rent in Cincinnati for your individual needs.

### **Downtown**

Downtown Cincinnati has all the benefits of an urban downtown without a lot of the problems you'd find in a larger city. With the Ohio River nestled against the city, Cincinnati's downtown has much to offer, from enjoyable places to walk to amazing views. More than 13,000 residents live in the downtown core of Queen City, where

they have access to lots of shops, restaurants and clubs. Enjoy the view of the river from Smale Riverfront Park or hop on over to Fountain Square for festivals such as Oktoberfest Zinzinnati. Another popular downtown location is The Banks, a waterside development that has a baseball park, a stadium, 45 acres of green space and many restaurants and bars.

### **Clifton**

This historic area was first incorporated as a village in 1850. Located in north central Cincinnati just three miles from downtown, Clifton was the place for spacious, garden mansions in the 19th century. This charming area still contains many of these mansions and historic houses. It's walkable and close to the University of Cincinnati.

### **Over-the-Rhine**

Over-the-Rhine (OTR) hearkens back to the 1830s, when German immigrants began settling here. With working class roots, the neighborhood has undergone revitalization in recent years, and there's a lot of great architecture to appreciate in the Victorian and Greek Revival styles. The amazing thing about Over-the-Rhine is its recent comeback. This area used to be very crime-ridden. Over the past decade, with considerable effort from the Cincinnati Center City Development Corp, OTR has become a revitalized, much safer place with a colorful main street area, new apartments and a great park known as Washington Park. By the way, did you know that Cincinnati has an abandoned subway tunnel system? Some of it is located under Over-the-Rhine.

### **Hyde Park**

The Hyde Park neighborhood is conveniently located close to downtown and attractions such as the Krohn Conservatory. This east side neighborhood is predominantly affluent, but you can find reasonably priced apartments for rent here as well, some in beautiful art deco buildings. The center point is Hyde Park Square, a bustling shopping area with diverse boutiques, cafes, restaurants and bars.

### **Northside**

The quirky and energetic Northside neighborhood is known for being a creativity hub and a place for small businesses to grow and thrive. It offers plenty of fun nightlife and entertainment options, which are particularly popular with young people and the

young at heart. The vibrant environment is why this hip community attracts a lot of students, artists and young professionals.

### **Mount Adams**

Known locally as the Hill, Mount Adams is a local landmark (because it is an actual hill) as well as a neighborhood. Mount Adams was initially called Mount Ida, named after a woman who actually lived in a sycamore tree up on the hill. With lots of beautiful historic buildings and great views of the city and water, Mount Adams is a great place to live. Check out the local pubs and taverns to experience some local flavor.

### **Pleasant Ridge**

Recognized as one of the most diverse communities in the region, Pleasant Ridge is known for the antique gas lighting that gives a soft glow to the streets at night. This residential area has a home-town feel. You'll find a variety of small businesses to frequent at the business district at the intersection of Montgomery and Ridge Road, including a stained glass studio, a comic book store, a tattoo shop and local restaurants.

### Westwood

The largest neighborhood in Cincinnati, Westwood boasts almost 30,000 residents. With an urban-suburban feel, Westwood has recently undergone community development to build a more vibrant community. This little town within Cincinnati (Westwood used to be its own village), Westwood has a lot to offer, from charming brick homes to local festivals and a lot of positive energy.

### **West Price Hill**

West Price Hill brands itself as "Distinctively Suburban," and this neighborhood, along with next door Delhi Hills, provide a quieter respite west Cincinnati's central core. The neighborhood prides itself on being an "affordable, diverse community" according to the West Price Hill Community Council website. All are invited to participate in the council to have a voice in this thriving suburban community.

### **College Hill**

The history of College Hill goes all the way back to 1813, when William Cary bought 492 acres of land and built a log cabin on it. Eventually his son, Freeman G. Cary, launched a school called the Pleasant Hill Academy in 1833. By 1846, the school had become an agricultural college, which led to the renaming of the area. At some point, it became a wealthy suburb, though you don't need to be wealthy to live there now. Samuel Fenton Cary, an Ohio congressman and leader in the temperance movement, was born in College Hill. College Hill is now a picturesque neighborhood with many boutiques and restaurants in the main-street-like business district.

### Cleveland City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Situated on the Cuyahoga River next to Lake Erie, Cleveland, Ohio is one of the top cities in the Midwest and for good reason. We all know "Cleveland Rocks!" thanks to Comedian Drew Carey – and it's no small part due to Cleveland's rich culture, fabulous amenities and friendly residents. This more than 200-year-old, formerly industrial city is now filled with lots of great restaurants, fascinating museums and welcoming parks. Cleveland's roots include Italian and Polish immigrants, whose influence remains in Cleveland's restaurants and cultural attractions. Cleveland is also home to the respected Cleveland Clinic and Case Western University. With its close proximity to Michigan, Pennsylvania and New York and two airports – Burke Lakefront Airport (BKL) and Cleveland-Hopkins International Airport (CLE) – Cleveland offers many quick getaways. But why leave Cleveland when you have so much to do and see in this fun and friendly city? Our Cleveland city guide will help you find the right apartment to rent in Cleveland in one of the best local neighborhoods.

### Cleveland city highlights

With its access to Lake Erie, Cleveland has a lot of great things to see and do, from a happening downtown to sports venues and family attractions such as the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. Our Cleveland city guide suggests getting started with one of these great Cleveland attractions:

 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame: This massive museum made out of glass pyramids is 150,000 square feet of fun. Also called "Rock Hall," the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame honors rock legends across seven floors, with plentiful exhibits and four theaters.

- Cleveland Museum of Art: This amazing museum is dedicated to transforming people's lives through art "for the benefit of all the people forever." The high-quality art collection includes more than 61,000 works spanning 6,000 years of human history. The Cleveland Museum of Art has a particularly good collection of Egyptian and Asian Art.
- Edgewater Beach: Do you love water? You are in luck with Cleveland being situated on one of the Great Lakes, Lake Erie. For a beach experience, visit Edgewater Beach, located within Edgewater Park. The 2,400-foot sandy beach offers access to the water and great views of downtown (as well as the sunset if you are there at the right time).
- **West Side Market:** This is a market in a beautiful huge building that was completed in 1912. (The architectural style, in case you are curious, is called "Beaux Arts.") This is a great place to pick up some fresh veggies and fruits, locally produced meat and dairy and delicious prepared foods.
- A Christmas Story House: Do you love the classic movie A Christmas Story?
  The original house has been restored and is available for public tours all year
  round. Across the street is the A Christmas Story House Museum with props,
  costumes and toys from the film, such as Randy's snowsuit, the family car and
  the classroom chalkboard.

# Cleveland city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Whether you want to live near Lake Erie or enjoy a more urban vibe, Cleveland has every type of neighborhood. From quiet suburban communities to quirky hipster neighborhood enclaves, our Cleveland city guide showcases some of the best neighborhoods in Cleveland. Whether you want a high-rise apartment, a townhome, or a single-family home for rent, there is a lot to choose from in Cleveland.

### **Downtown**

Cleveland has the largest residential city center in Ohio, making Downtown Cleveland a welcoming place for anyone who wants an urban experience with a community feel. Whether you want a loft-style apartment or a luxury high-rise experience, you can find many wonderful places to live in Downtown Cleveland. With fine restaurants, bars, shops and a walkable experience, Cleveland's downtown is the place to be.

### Old Brooklyn

Drew Carey was raised in Old Brooklyn and the area continues to be a vibrant place embracing creativity and diversity. Located on the west side of Cleveland, Old Brooklyn, abbreviated OBK, is an exciting place to live. Saturday mornings from June through September offer the OBK Farmers Market, with fresh produce and

baked goods. Old Brooklyn also has many great events throughout the year, from street festivals and holiday celebrations to bicycle scavenger hunts.

### **Ohio City**

Founded way back in 1818 as the "City of Ohio," historic Ohio City was an early hub for immigrants from Ireland, Germany and Hungary and later, Hispanic migrants, Asians and Native Americans. Ohio City is the location of the popular West Side Market and birthplace of football coach John Heisman and Pulitzer-Prize winning businessman James Ford Rhodes. After a period of neglect following World War II, a campaign to restore Ohio City was successful, and now the neighborhood is a popular and happening place to be.

### **Little Italy**

This quaint Cleveland community is a haven for artists, many with specialties in ceramic, glass, paper and fabric arts. This historic community is small but packed with amazing shops and delicious Italian restaurants. You'll want to visit Mayfield Road to experience how things might have been back in the 19th century. During the summer, come out for Alfresco Summer Nights for great patio dining, sometimes sweetened with a bit of casual opera singing. Popular Little Italy events include Taste of Little Italy, the Columbus Day Parade and the yearly Bocce Tournament.

### **Tremont**

Another historic section of Cleveland that used to be part of Ohio City, Tremont is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Located on the west side of Cleveland just south of Ohio City, this "urban village" provides access to the Towpath Trail, a 101-mile trail that follows the path of the Ohio and Erie Canal. With amazing views of the city and a lot of great restaurants and shops, Tremont is a wonderful place to call home.

### **The Flats**

Due to a multi-million-dollar makeover, this waterfront community in Cleveland has gotten new life from historic, renovated industrial buildings and warehouses. Here along the water at the Flats, you can enjoy many bars, restaurants and boutique shops. The Flats is divided into two sections, East Flats and West Flats. The West Flats contains the Nautica Entertainment Complex, a mixed-used development on the waterfront along the Cuyahoga River. There you can enjoy a myriad of dining

and entertainment venues, including improv theaters. Don't forget to take a stroll along the Nautica Boardwalk with amazing views and local vendor shops.

### **University Circle**

This Cleveland neighborhood has a wide variety of top educational institutions, museums and art galleries, entertainment venues and parks. Historic landmarks in University Circle include the Cozad-Bates House, the East Cleveland Township Cemetery, the Hart Crane Memorial and the Hessler Historic District. This cultural oasis offers plenty of great places to live, from apartments to new townhomes to single-family residences.

### **Warehouse District**

Recognized in the National Register of Historic Places, the Cleveland Warehouse District is also called "Cleveland's First Neighborhood." With charming Italianate Victorian architecture, this mixed-use neighborhood offers outdoor cafes, fine restaurants, bars, shops and lots of great things to do and see.

### **West Park**

As you would expect from the name, West Park is on the side of Cleveland close to the Cleveland-Hopkins International Airport. The 12.5 square mile area used to be an independent town until Cleveland annexed it in 1923. Four sub-neighborhoods are: Jefferson, Kamm's Corners, Bellaire—Puritas and Hopkins. This more suburban area features a lot of single-family homes in quiet residential enclaves. You also have access to shops and golf.

### **Gordon Square Arts District**

Located in Cleveland's Detroit Shoreway neighborhood, this walkable arts district is a popular place to shop and enjoy a meal with friends. The Gordon Square Arts District was revitalized in the early 2000s but has a history going back more than 100 years. You'll find many murals and sculptures here, dining and shopping experiences and lots of theater to enjoy. Check out the historic Capitol Theatre, which started out as a silent movie house.

# Colorado Springs City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Colorado Springs was home to Nikola Tesla's experimental lab. Residents of the area aren't sure exactly where the lab was, but they believe it was located somewhere in what is now known as Memorial Park. This city is also home to the longest-running women's film festival in the world. Interesting facts aside, Colorado Springs is an amazing place to live due to its natural beauty and close proximity to Denver. Though you don't need to travel to Denver for urban amenities as there are many available in this city of nearly 465,000 residents. The city sits at the base of one of the most famous mountains in the states, Pikes Peak. If you're someone who appreciates wild, rugged natural beauty and spending as much time as possible engaging in outdoor activities, Colorado Springs would be a great match!

### Colorado Springs city highlights

Should you move to Colorado Springs? We think so! There are so many fun things to do and see in this great Colorado city. Here are just a few you'll have access to regularly as a resident of Colorado Springs.

- Whitewater Rafting: There's nothing more exhilarating than whitewater
  rafting, something you can do safely with a quality guide. Various companies
  offer rafting experiences, including gentle, scenic, floating expeditions or
  challenging whitewater rapids. It's a fun experience for the whole family, plus
  you get to see some of the glorious natural beauty of the area.
- Manitou Cliff Dwellings: These authentic, preserved and protected Anasazi cliff dwellings are a treasure to see. The dwellings are over 800 years old. You can tour the dwellings on your own, visiting each room, examining architectural remnants from the culture and enjoying the gorgeous views. There's also a museum and gift shop to help you learn more about the dwellings and even take home a souvenir of the experience.
- Cave of the Winds Mountain Park: This is a natural, historic landmark with incredible, naturally occurring formations. There are two tours the Discovery and Lantern tours. You can also embark on the Wind Walker Challenge Course, which is located on the rim of Williams Canyon which has a 600-foot drop. There are ropes and ladders and a 1200-foot aerial round trip.
- Colorado Wolf & Wildlife Center: About an hour away from Colorado
  Springs is this home to various types of Colorado wildlife, including foxes,
  wolves and coyotes. You'll learn about some of the individual animals, which
  have unique and quirky personalities. You'll also learn about conservation and
  protection efforts.
- The Broadmoor Seven Falls: Seven, gorgeous, cascading waterfalls make up this must-see attraction. The total height of the falls is over 180 feet. The

falls are so popular and breathtaking that they made National Geographic's list of best international waterfalls. To get to the top, you can take an elevator or climb a 224-foot staircase. At night, the falls are illuminated and they're truly inspiring.

# Colorado Springs city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Finding the right neighborhood is half the battle when it comes to moving to a new city. Following are some of the most popular neighborhoods in Colorado Springs:

#### **Powers**

Residents of Powers love that it is a safe, friendly neighborhood. Pets and kids do well here, with over 70% of residents saying it's safe for kids to play outside. They describe the neighborhood as well-kept and say it's a very family-oriented community. The commute is approximately 25-30 minutes to get to Downtown Colorado Springs.

### **Downtown**

Residents of the Downtown area of Colorado Springs like this neighborhood because of its character and convenience. There are a wide array of shopping and dining experiences to be had here, as well as an active nightlife scene. You'll find big chain supermarkets as well as boutique shops. Victorian mansions dot the town, as do Spanish-style bungalows. Rental homes range from cute bungalows to modern lofts to turn-of-the-century single-family homes. Rental costs in the area are slightly above the national average.

### **Northeast Colorado Springs**

There's something for everyone in this neighborhood – from the Rocky Mountain Motorcycle Museum with a plethora of vintage bikes to the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame cowboy museum. If you're more a fan of the arts, you'll love watching live performances at the Ent Center for the Arts. Like most neighborhoods in bigger cities, Northeast Colorado Springs has malls with big-name stores and fun restaurants.

### **Broadmoor**

Broadmoor is an upscale residential neighborhood. Throughout it, you'll find grandiose mansions, high-end restaurants and luxury shops. It wouldn't be an upscale neighborhood without a golf course and Broadmoor has multiple courses. This neighborhood is known for The Broadmoor, an early-1900s resort that has served numerous celebrities, including Kevin Bacon, Payton Manning, John Wayne, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Dwight Eisenhower, Prince Harry and John D. Rockefeller – just to name a few.

### **Briargate**

Briargate is a popular neighborhood for young families. There are great schools, including high-quality preschools. Many of the homes and apartments in the area have amazing views of the Rocky Mountains and Pikes Peak. The community also has several green spaces and community parks that are perfect for weekend gettogethers with friends and letting your kids run and play off some of their energy after school. The neighborhood has convenient shopping, including malls and farmers' markets.

### **East Colorado Springs**

East Colorado Springs is a fast-growing neighborhood with an emphasis on outdoor activities. They have several open space parks, as well as hiking trails and mountain biking. The area is really laid-back, and you'll find pubs, breweries, live music, malls and plenty of tasty restaurants that the whole family will enjoy.

### **Southeast Colorado Springs**

This neighborhood is great for families with most residents reporting that the neighborhood feels safe, and kids can play outdoors. The neighborhood is petfriendly, parking is easy and the streets have well-lit sidewalks. Though there are no public transit options in the immediate vicinity, bus stops can be found nearby and the commute to Downtown Colorado Springs is painless.

### **Old Colorado City**

Residents of Old Colorado city love the quaint atmosphere and global dining options. You can find restaurants throughout the neighborhood that cater to every palate, including American, Italian and Greek dining options. Shops, tattoo parlors, jewelry stores and candy shops fill cool 19th-century brick buildings. There's even a folk doll

museum. Residents here appreciate the amenities of the area and say that, though it is a quaint neighborhood, it's also quite fast-paced.

### **North End**

There are two National Register Historic Districts in this neighborhood, one of which includes nearly 1000 properties in the area. The goal of the neighborhood and the committee that serves it is to "preserve, protect and enhance" the neighborhood. They celebrate the history of the neighborhood with various education programs and conservation efforts. In addition to their preservation efforts, the committee is committed to keeping their neighborhood safe, which they do by improving roads, lighting, and more.

### **Pikes Peak Park**

Pikes Peak Park is a large, sprawling neighborhood, inside of which are large single-family homes with big yards that are perfect for pets and kids. The neighborhood has multiple high-quality schools, yet another reason it's ideal for young families. Pikes Peak Park is a well-established, mature neighborhood, so there are lots of big trees and shaded areas. If you have a family and love being surrounded by greenery, this might be the neighborhood for you!

### **Palmer Park**

Situated around Palmer Park is the Palmer Park neighborhood. The Park extends over 730 acres and there are 25-miles of gorgeous trails for walking, hiking or biking. Some of the trails are leash-free, so you can allow your dog to wander their gorgeous surroundings. The neighborhood has great schools, and the residents describe it as safe, clean, peaceful and family-friendly with a great sense of community pride.

### **Norwood**

Norwood is a family-friendly neighborhood with multiple schools, all with above-average ratings. Residents like the area because it has a quiet, rural feeling to it. There are lots of green spaces, parks and trails for exercise, some meditative moments or to spend time with loved ones. The neighborhood also has plenty of opportunities for hunting and fishing. If you're a fan of disc golf, you can take the family to Cottonwood Creek Disc Golf Course – a fun outing for family and friends.

### Columbus City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Columbus has a diverse job market and lower-than-average cost of living, which makes it a city worth considering if you're looking to relocate. What most people might not know is that Columbus is a trend-setting city when it comes to food. If it's popular here, it will soon be popular throughout the U.S. This makes it an awesome city for foodies! Another reason to consider moving to Columbus is the green spaces. They are in abundance here. Parks, trails, urban parks, forests, botanical gardens – there's so much to see and so many ways to see it. You can bike, hike, walk or swim in just about all of them. If you're ready to make the move to Columbus, make sure to check out our Columbus city guide. Its filter feature will help narrow your search, making rental hunting easier than ever.

### Columbus city highlights

When you make the move to Columbus, you'll get regular access to some of the greatest attractions and events not just in the state – but in the country! Here are just a few.

- Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens: This conservatory consists of 88 landscaped acres that are truly a sight to behold in the spring when the vibrant flowers start to bloom. In winter, you'll see an evergreen tree display. There's a fishpond, too. This is the perfect place to enjoy a stroll as a family or with your significant other. You'll enjoy the beautiful butterflies, as well as a nice latte from the on-site café.
- Ohio Theater: Built in 1928, this historic theater was restored in the 1980s a
  move that, ultimately, saved it from demolition. The modern yet historic theater
  is the place to see everything from ballet and opera to old, Hollywood films
  and Broadway plays. You won't want to miss their Summer Movie Series or
  the Nutcracker performances during the holidays.
- ZipZone Canopy Tours: One of the best ways to experience the green spaces in Columbus is with a zip lining tour. Tours provided by ZipZone Canopy Tours last between an hour and a half to two hours. In addition to ziplines, there are free-fall, quick jump experiences, rappelling and sky bridges.
- Center of Science and Industry (COSI): This facility offers interactive science and technology exhibits, as well as some awe-inspiring planetarium shows. Exhibits are rotated frequently, so there's always something new and exciting to see. An entire floor is dedicated to children under the age of six with plenty of room to run off some energy!
- Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum: If you're one for interesting yet unusual attractions, you should definitely visit this museum at least once.

Named for cartoonist Billy Ireland, this is home to the world's largest academic research facility that showcases original printed comic strips and editorial cartoons. There are around 450,000 original cartoons along with thousands of serials and books.

# Columbus city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

You've decided to make the move to Columbus. Now what? Do you automatically search for an apartment? You could do that. However, checking out the best neighborhoods in Columbus can help you find an apartment that's close to work, has the vibe you're looking for and has all the amenities you need to feel comfortable and at home. Here are just a few of the top Columbus neighborhoods.

#### **East Columbus**

The Near East neighborhood gets a high rating from Niche.com for its nightlife. The over 5600 residents like that this is an urban neighborhood and offers many rental opportunities. There are several coffee shops, bars and restaurants, as well as green spaces to enjoy some fresh air and natural beauty. Rental costs are well below the national average.

### **Downtown**

Downtown is the hub of business, culture and entertainment in the city. When you find your dream apartment, you'll be surrounded by corporate towers and view the Greek Revival-style Statehouse. The neighborhood is diverse and has great nightlife opportunities, including cool restaurants, cocktail bars and brewpubs. If you love performing arts, visit Bicentennial Park where shows are put on regularly at the pavilion. Rental costs are lower than the national average and the livability rate of Downtown Columbus is one of the highest in the nation, according to AreaVibes.com.

### **University District**

If you or a loved one is attending Ohio State University, congratulations! It's one of the best colleges in the country. And the University District of Columbus is a great place to live. It's buzzing with activity, particularly at venues like Ohio Stadium (where you can watch the Buckeyes play football) or Schottenstein Center (where you can go to see sporting events and concerts). You'll find bars, music and gaming hangouts, as well as vintage clothing shops and restaurants, too. When you want to

get away from the hustle of city and campus life, head over to the Chadwick Arboretum where you can get lost in your thoughts as you walk along the quiet paths lined with native trees.

### **Short North**

Looking to move to a hip, artsy and culturally rich neighborhood? Then, check our Columbus city guide for apartments to rent in the Short North neighborhood. You'll find warehouses that have been converted into contemporary galleries, as well as boundary-pushing exhibitions from galleries such as the Wexner Center for the Arts and other museums and galleries. The neighborhood is full of vintage clothing stores, record shops, coffeehouses, casual restaurants and craft beer bars. Most residents in the area rent, though they do pay somewhat higher rental fees than the national average.

### **Clintonville**

Clintonville gets an exceptional livability rating from AreaVibes.com – one of the best in the nation, in fact. The residential neighborhood has a laid-back atmosphere with lots of green space and old-growth trees. You'll find shops that sell records, clothing and locally made crafts. Lining the streets are gastropubs, cafés and trendy restaurants. Bike trails abound in the local parks, some of which wind around the Olentangy River. You can also visit the Park of Roses where you'll find thousands of beautiful, fragrant rose bushes, perennial flowers and herbs.

### **South Columbus**

South Columbus, also known as Southside, was once an industrial powerhouse. The steel and glass heritage of the area is still honored by residents today. It earns an Arating from Niche.com for its diversity. Many of the people who live here are Appalachian migrants, as well as Hungarian immigrants. The people and the neighborhood are a symbol of strength, industriousness and resolve. Rental costs in the area are well below the national average. The split between residents who own and those who rent is about even. Residents like that they're close to everything they could need – from restaurants to shopping centers. They also love the diversity as the city is made up of an array of cultures, backgrounds and ages.

### **The Ohio State University**

The University District is east of this neighborhood, which encompasses Ohio State University. Here you'll find several casual restaurants, pubs, cafés and bars. You'll also find lots of shops. The walkability score in the area is high, which is great for students, making it easy for them to have some fun, get some food or run errands relatively easily. In the neighborhood, you'll have easy access to Lincoln Tower Park, Chadwick Arboretum and Lane Avenue Gardens.

### German Village

If you want to be close to urban amenities without having to be too close to the hustle and buzz of Downtown Columbus, try German Village. This charming, laid-back neighborhood has beautiful brick houses that line the streets. You'll find shops that sell your daily necessities, as well as traditional fudge, books and handmade jewelry. German pubs, artisan cafés and bistros fill the area, as do sophisticated art galleries. Something else that adds to the charm: the Actor's Theatre Columbus stages plays in Schiller Park during the summer. Just imagine enjoying Shakespeare in the park, surrounded by flower beds and water fountains.

### **Northwest Columbus**

Looking for a neighborhood with a dense suburban feel? Try Northwest Columbus, which is home to over 45,000 residents. The neighborhood is dotted with eclectic global eateries including an upscale French restaurant, casual Japanese noodle house, hot stone-pot meals from a Korean restaurant, as well as bars, taverns and American bistros. The parks have plenty of green space for kids and adults alike, including Anheuser Busch Sports Park where you can play in a disc golf, kickball or softball league. Another Park – Antrim Park – is perfect for an evening stroll with the dog or a bike ride for some leisurely weekend exercise.

### Victorian Village

Nearly 10,000 people live in this quaint, tree-lined neighborhood. If you love history and architecture, you'll love Victorian Village. You'll find Gothic Revival mansions, Queen Anne houses and Second Empire villas. The mature trees are beautifully thick with foliage during the spring and summer months and change to gorgeous jewel-tone colors in the fall. You can enjoy them each season as you walk the paths that crisscross through Goodale Park, where you can also enjoy annual music festivals.

### Dallas City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Dallas is a unique large city in that as you walk the streets of downtown, the whole place feels quiet and even peaceful. The fact that Dallas/Fort Worth is the nation's fourth largest metropolitan area – rapidly catching up to Chicago, currently third – makes this quality a surprising, though pleasant, attribute. Of course, Dallas is the home to a large number of unique traits, venues and other factors as well. For example, the frozen margarita machine was invented here and the integrated circuit computer chip was as well back in 1958. The city has a country-meets-city vine with intriguing arts districts, downhome BBQ and a wide range of unique architectural and cultural pieces. If you're looking for the best apartments in this unique big city, our Dallas city guide is here for you. Look below to learn more about the unique attractions and the best neighborhoods around.

### Dallas city highlights

Dallas has a host of interesting cultural and personal experiences to explore from arts districts to six professional sports teams. Just a few of the highlights of this immense city, boasting of more than 1 million people, combining with nearby Fort Worth for nearly 8 million.

- Bishop Arts District: Located just a little southwest of Downtown Dallas, Bishop Arts District is the trendy shopping and entertainment neighborhood of the city. Enjoy colorful public art and a flowing bohemian vibe while you browse the unique fashion boutiques, shops and dining and drinking establishments.
- The Sixth Floor Museum: For those interested in the historical side of Dallas, head over to the Sixth Floor Museum, site of JFK's assassination. The museum is located inside the Texas School Book Depository, the site where Lee Harvey Oswald fired the shots that took the life of the 35th president. At the museum you'll find documentation and historical data and displays about that fateful day and the impact of the event on our nation's history.
- **Dallas Arboretum and Botanic Garden:** For nature lovers, the Dallas Arboretum and Botanic Garden is the place to visit. With 66 acres of beautiful lawn space, sculpture gardens, flowers that bloom year-round and concert spaces, the gardens are a welcome respite from the daily grind.
- Dallas World Aquarium: What city would be complete without an amazing aquarium? The Dallas World Aquarium, located downtown, offers an impressive selection of aquatic life to observe, from stingrays to octopuses and some wildlife in the rainforest shelter like toucans and manatees.

- Dallas Professional Sports Teams: Dallas doesn't just have the Dallas Cowboys and Texas Rangers – the city has a total of six professional teams, including the Dallas Wings (WNBA), FC Dallas (MLS), Dallas Stars (NHL) and the Dallas Mavericks (NBA). They also have NASCAR and indy racing, as well as over 200 golf courses.
- Reunion Tower: For breathtaking views of the city, Reunion Tower is the spot
  to bring your visiting family and friends when they come to your new
  apartment in Dallas. The tower offers views from 470 feet in the air, from the
  360-degree panoramic GeO-Deck. Bring the camera for spectacular shots or
  participate in the Sunset Sky High Yoga offered on the open-air observation
  deck.

# Dallas city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Scouring the ads for the best place to live in Dallas? Our Dallas city guide can help you figure out the best neighborhoods to fit your specific needs – financially, walkability, shopping, dining and more.

### Lakewood

Located on the shores of White Rock Lake, Lakewood is one of Dallas's most popular neighborhoods. The green spaces and recreation outdoors abound, along with beautiful attractions for nature lovers, like the Dallas Arboretum and Botanic Garden. You'll find the neighborhood is fairly walkable and welcoming for folks who love the outdoors and getting exercise. Pick up cute housewares at local boutiques, enjoy nightlife at clubs and dive bars, bike and walk trails, go sailing and kayaking on the lake and enjoy the small shops and markets across the neighborhood.

### **Preston Highlands**

If you're looking for a neighborhood that's great for families and a suburban feel within the city's limits, check out apartments in Preston Highlands. The neighborhood is located near North Dallas and has gained in popularity with school-age families looking for growing room. The neighborhood boasts of great shopping opportunities, convenience and fabulous restaurants as well.

### **Highland Park**

For the upscale life, Highland Park is the place to be. The neighborhood features small-town vibes with lots of room to grow. It's also in one of the best school districts in the state and is incredibly walkable. You'll find the neighborhood is also home to the area known as Dallas' Rodeo Drive – the first contained shopping center in the

country. The area is also beautiful with plenty of outdoor common spaces and parks, including Lakeside Park featuring Turtle Creek.

### **Downtown**

Downtown Dallas is home to the Dallas Arts District, a thriving performing arts and museum center. Take in multiple shows and concerts a week or wander the streets looking for amazing shopping opportunities and delicious eats. You'll find hotels, popular tourist destinations and gorgeous residential spaces throughout.

### **Uptown Dallas**

A walkable, fun, lively neighborhood can be found in Uptown Dallas, just a short distance from the upscale Highland Park and the bustling Downtown neighborhoods. The neighborhood has that delightful reputation of "live, work play" in the community, making it an extremely popular location for singles and younger couples particularly – though anyone who enjoys the nightlife will enjoy living here. The overall vibe is eclectic and welcoming.

### Oak Lawn

Known as the center of Dallas's LGBTQIA+ community, Oak Lawn offers residents and visitors a vibrant nightlife selection of activities and destinations. The neighborhood is host of the city's annual Dallas Pride parade and largely appeals to singles and young couples in their 20s and 30s. There are tons of bars, restaurants and clubs, as well as historical sites and rich architecture for the culture junkies. Overall, the neighborhood is highly walkable, pet-friendly and perfect for runners and cyclists who'll enjoy the many parks and trails around.

### **Preston Hollow**

Preston Hollow is home to many of the city's elite with former U.S. presidents, business moguls and sports legends taking up residence here. The neighborhood boasts many comfortable 1950s ranch houses, though and great places to rent. The local schools are some of the best in Dallas and there's more luxury shopping than you'll know what to do with. Enjoy the local parks, sports fields and fining experiences throughout.

### **White Rock**

White Rock offers residents beautiful homes and peaceful spaces. Located near White Rock Lake – the city's only lake – outdoors lovers' flock here for the outdoors opportunities such as biking and jogging trails, water sports and more. The neighborhood also boasts of beautiful Tudor-style homes and other stunning architecture.

#### **Bluffview**

Once dairyland farms, Bluffview is now home to a tranquil neighborhood in Dallas with single-family homes and a countryside feeling. Oh, and musicians like Don Henley and others. The community is quiet and upscale but just a short drive from the North Dallas Tollway to connect to the rest of the city and close to the North Park Center for shopping til you drop.

### **Deep Ellum**

Deep Ellum used to be the home to some of the greatest jazz and blues artists of all time – Blind Lemon Jefferson and Bessie Smith to name a few. Now, the neighborhood keeps the tradition alive with live music and arts centers. There are also bars and pubs with live music on the regular, great shopping spots, indie bookstores, brewpubs, galleries and indie and blues music venues to enjoy in walking distance.

### **Old East Dallas**

In Old East Dallas, you'll find an urban eclectic vibe mixing with historical fells as you walk along Swiss Avenue, taking in the street murals and craft breweries. You can explore local museums and do vintage shopping on the weekends, pop into delicious bakeries and eateries and overall enjoy the quirky vibe of the whole area.

### **Vickery**

For convenience to shopping at North Park Center and decadent dining, you can't beat the Vickery neighborhood of Dallas. Here you'll find upscale shopping, fine dining, casual eats, entertainment venues and plenty more to keep you busy. You'll also find plenty of sports fields, parks with grilling spots and picnic grounds, playgrounds and other outdoor spaces the whole family can enjoy. Most of the apartment complexes are around the mall and parks, making them especially convenient and walkable for many.

## Denver City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

The Mile-High City has the clearest, bluest sky in the country due to its high elevation and desert climate. The city boasts at least 300 days of sunshine each year, and though hot, the climate is comfortable because of the low humidity. It's well-known for its breweries but it's also becoming a popular destination for foodies. <a href="Denver">Denver</a> is still in the process of becoming a major U.S. city, which means the cost of living is still relatively affordable. U.S. News & World Report recently named the city as one of the top two cities to live in within the country.

## Denver city highlights

Denver is one of the most incredible cities in the U.S. When you move here, you'll have regular access to some of the best hiking and winter sports activities the country has to offer. Here are just a few other events, sites and attractions that draw tourists and new residents every year.

- **Denver Museum of Nature and Science**: Located in <u>East Central Denver</u> is this wonderful museum that's perfect for young and young-at-heart. You'll learn about Stonehenge, dinosaurs and so much more. There's even an IMAX Theater on-site that puts you in the middle of the action with a three-story high screen.
- The Clyfford Still Museum: Clyfford Still was a renowned abstractionist. This museum holds over 3000 of his pieces. On display are some of his earliest sketches, dating back to the 1920s, as well as his masterpieces on canvas (c. 1950s). The museum feels more intimate than other art museums, which is perfect when you want some quiet time to reflect.
- Mount Evans Scenic Byway: Occasionally, it's nice to get out and take a
  scenic drive. After visiting Mount Evans Scenic Byway, we're sure you'll want
  to do this regularly. You pay an entrance fee and then drive from Echo Lake to
  Summit Lake Road. It's the tallest paved road in the country and you'll be
  awestruck as you look out from a vantage point of over 14,000 feet above sea
  level.
- Red Rocks Amphitheatre: Looking for a nice place to spend an evening listening to music or watching a live performance? Look no further than the Red Rocks Amphitheatre, one of the most famous in the country thanks to the natural design and the red sandstone rocks surrounding the theater.
- **Coors Field**: If you're a baseball fan, you need to see the Colorado Rockies play at Coors Field. The stadium can seat 50,000 spectators and covers over 75 acres. When you book your tickets, try to find seats by first base or right field. The views of the Rocky Mountains are spectacular.

# Denver city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Are you ready to settle down in Denver? If so, you need to find an apartment in a neighborhood that suits your needs best. Not every neighborhood fits every personality. Some are more urban, while others have a more suburban feel to them. Look at the options below – some of the most popular neighborhoods in Denver – and see if one speaks to you.

#### **Downtown**

Denver's Downtown neighborhood consists of fewer than 4500 residents. The neighborhood is dense and urban with some of the best bars, cafés and restaurants in the area. Plus, there are several great shopping and entertainment opportunities, like Antique Row or Larimer Square which boasts over 200 high-fashion lines from fashion hot spots around the globe. The city also hosts a few cultural, music and art festivals throughout the year. And don't forget to regularly experience the exhibits at the Denver Art Museum.

#### **Cherry Creek**

Cherry Creek is an affluent residential area with lots of shopping, including elite fashion boutiques. Cocktail lounges, cafés and chain restaurants can be found all around, as can finer dining experiences. The Cherry Creek Trail is a great place to go if you love biking trails.

#### **Highland**

The Highland neighborhood earns high ratings from residents for its elegant, historic homes, riverside trails, jogging paths and trendsetting eateries. The majority of the 10,500 people who live in the area are young families and professionals who rent their homes. The cost of living is higher than the national average. A fun perk of living in this neighborhood is that you're near the Elitch Gardens amusement park which features fun shows, great restaurants and of course, adrenaline-pumping rides.

#### **Capitol Hill**

You might think a neighborhood lined with stately historic mansions might be rather stuffy and uptight. Actually, Capitol Hill has a more bohemian vibe with offbeat

shops, hipster bars, coffee houses that are open all night and shops with a decidedly punk rock aesthetic. The funky neighborhood is in the top five best neighborhoods in Denver. Over 16,000 people call Capitol Hill home, many of them young professionals. Nearly 80% of residents rent, the cost of which is just slightly above the national average.

#### **Washington Park**

Washington Park is a residential neighborhood that is centered around the actual green space of Washington Park, an area with flower gardens, areas to engage in sports and trails for bikers and joggers. Smith Lake is a popular spot for fishing and kayaking. On the east side of two is a shopping district with several clothing boutiques, sports bars, restaurants and bistros, as well as art galleries. About 7500 people live in the neighborhood, made up mostly of young professionals and families.

#### **LoDo**

LoDo is a thriving neighborhood in Downtown Denver with a variety of trendy shops and posh eateries. Larimer Square is lit up each night with string lights to illuminate the beautiful Victorian structures that have been converted into restaurants and boutique shops. There's a weekly farmer's market in the neighborhood, as well as concerts during the summer months.

#### **Stapleton**

The Stapleton neighborhood – also commonly referred to as Central Park – is located east of Downtown Denver. It was built on the former site of the Stapleton International Airport, which was decommissioned and closed in the mid-90s. It's Denver's largest residential neighborhood with nearly 27,000 residents. The population is made up mostly of young families and professionals. The schools are well above average. Residents here love the nightlife, diversity and amenities, as well as the numerous green spaces and parks.

#### <u>LoHi</u>

LoHi, or Lower Highland, is a hip and stylish neighborhood with a thriving nightlife. You'll find plenty of cocktail lounges and restaurants with rooftop views of the Denver skyline. The area has a lot of historical landmarks that have been restored, including the 1912 Bug Theater where you can watch concerts and live plays, as well as indie

films. Another iconic landmark is the oversized milk can, home to the Little Man Ice Cream Shop, which is next to Hirshorn Park. This neighborhood is growing like crazy right now, with new apartment complexes rising all the time.

#### **Baker**

Broadway, the main thoroughfare of the Baker neighborhood, is home to hip brewpubs, bars with live music and dancing, eclectic restaurants and vintage fashion shops. One of the most popular bars in the neighborhood is the Mayan Theater. Built in the 1930s, this Art Deco theater is still open for business, often showing indie movies. In addition to the trendy urban amenities, Baker has beautiful green spaces with riverside trails for bikers and joggers alike.

### **Cheesman Park**

Cheesman Park is an outdoor lover's paradise. The Park that the neighborhood is named after has a neoclassical pavilion, as well as expansive lawns and numerous jogging trails. The neighborhood is popular because it keeps things casual with coffeehouses and restaurants taking on a very relaxed vibe. During the summer months, you'll be able to catch some live concerts at the amphitheater at the Denver Botanic Gardens.

#### **City Park**

City Park is a trendy neighborhood. It was built around a park which means there are plenty of picnic areas, trails along the water for jogging or biking and playgrounds for the kids. On the south side of the park, you'll find retro bars, cafés and a concert venue (the Bluebird Theater) that puts on an amazing show!

#### **Five Points**

Located in North Denver, Five Points is a cultural melting pot. It is a vibrant neighborhood of over 22,500 residents, most of whom are young professionals who rent (76%). You'll find fun dining and nightlife experiences, including the indie and hip-hop acts that perform at the Roxy Theatre and Cervantes' Masterpiece Ballroom. At nearby Mestizo-Curtis Park, there's an outdoor pool to help cool you and your family down during the warmer summer months.

#### <u>Gateway</u>

Though Gateway is a bit more expensive than the national average, it's well worth the extra expense for those who have room in their budget. It's a safe neighborhood that is home to nearly 40,000 people. Thanks to its sprawling nature, the area doesn't feel densely packed. Instead, it feels like a relaxing residential neighborhood with beautiful streets and well-kept yards.

## Detroit City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Known as the "Motor City," this midwestern city hosts a myriad of opportunities for its proud residents. The Detroit River borders the city and provides unparalleled opportunities for play in the summer months. <u>Detroit</u> also has a thriving music scene which lives up to its reputation as the home of Motown. If you are looking for a place to rent in Detroit, our Detroit city guide can help you find the perfect neighborhood that fits your cultural and aesthetic needs.

## Detroit city highlights

When you choose this bustling city, you will have access to some of the greatest attractions and cultural experiences the Midwest has to offer.

- **Detroit Institute of Arts:** Here you will enjoy a diverse representation of artistic creations including more than 65,000 works of art within more than 100 galleries. These galleries host the masterpieces of Rembrandt, Van Gogh, Matisse and Picasso.
- **Motown Museum:** This popular tourist destination is located in the original headquarters and music recording studio for Motown Records. Here you find an impressive collection of artifacts, photographs, and even costumes documenting Motown's history.
- **Detroit Zoo:** Just outside of downtown Detroit, you'll find the home to many different types of animals from around the world. The 125 acre park also features playgrounds, a train ride, picnic areas and a 4-D theater showcasing some amazing films.

# Detroit city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Looking for the best place to live in Detroit? Our Detroit city guide showcases some of the most popular neighborhoods in Detroit.

#### **Downtown**

The heart of downtown Detroit is filled with historic architecture like the Penobscot Building. This 1928 Art Deco building, now a Class A office tower located in the center of what is known as the financial district, is a hub of the city's wireless internet zone and fiber-optic network. This busy downtown neighborhood is lined with an eclectic mix of chain stores and smaller indie shops and merchants. Campus Martius Park hosts a man-made beach to enjoy in the summer months. Baseball lovers will be able to catch a Tigers game at the newly remodeled Comerica Park. Need a break from the game? Be sure to try Coppercraft Distillery where spirits are distilled in classic copper pots.

#### **Midtown**

Midtown has gained a reputation for being one of Detroit's hottest neighborhoods. Just slightly removed from the core of downtown, Midtown is sandwiched between two Detroit neighborhoods, New Center and Brush Park. Wayne State University is Michigan's third largest college and consists of 13 schools and colleges and is known for leading the nation in fields like electric-drive vehicle technology and alternative energy resources. Here you'll also be able to enjoy a fine dining experience at The Whitney in what used to be the home of one of Detroit's most wealthy and famous residents, David Whitney. If paranormal activity is an interest for you, make sure to check out the Ghost Bar located on the third floor.

#### **Corktown**

One of Detroit's oldest neighborhoods, Corktown has the year "1834" boldly emblazoned on its signage. The area is in a growth surge with Ford's purchase of the abandoned Michigan Central Station. Historic landmark plans are in place to build a campus to help revitalize this once mostly boarded up district. Spiritual life is alive and doing well as the historic Catholic roots are part of this neighborhood. If Thai fusion and craft cocktails make your mouth water, check out Takoi on Michigan Avenue.

#### **Woodbridge**

Woodbridge is an active community located in one of the older areas of Detroit. Home to some very famous Detroit residents, Victorian homes are abundant here in this quiet tree lined neighborhood known for its friendly homeowners. Although Woodbridge is primarily a residential neighborhood, it is also home to a growing number of art institutions including the Contemporary Art Institute of Detroit.

Scattered throughout this mixture of fine old homes you'll find a blend of pizzerias, easygoing bars and even some ethnic food choices. If you like authentic Japanese sushi, be sure to check out Izakaya on Trumbull.

#### **West Village**

West Village is on the east side just past the bridge to Belle Isle. This resurging, hip neighborhood is filled with a character all its own. The homes lining these streets are individually different in their architecture. In 2011, Hatch Detroit created a contest giving residents a role voting on what type of retail storefronts they want in their community. Make sure to check out Sister Pie, the 2014 winner of Hatch Detroit's big prize, and try their salted maple pie, a concoction so yummy you simply cannot afford to miss out!

#### **Brush Park**

Brush Park is located between Downtown and Midtown and has recently made significant improvements. Homes are being restored and condo projects are now dotting what used to be weed covered vacant lots, making it a very desirable place to call home. Known as "Little Paris of the Midwest," Brush Park is filled with 22 blocks of bars, restaurants, coffee shops and parks and is a favorite for young professionals. Be sure to check out Grey Ghost, an eatery featuring craft cocktails with a midwestern hospitality, named after a notorious rum-running pirate during prohibition times.

### **New Center**

New Center is known for being Detroit's long time second commercial center, booming in the 1920's as it filled with skyscrapers and office buildings. This is an area that offers great shopping along with diverse entertainment. With approximately 75% of the residents owning homes here, it is a great choice for families. Known for its dense urban feel, you will have the best of both worlds here. New Center is a thriving area for people to live, work and play. Be sure to check out the Fisher Building known as "Detroit's Largest Art Object," where art deco design and one-of-a-kind retailers are abundant. Have a cup of coffee, get your nails done, or simply enjoy the magnificent ambiance.

#### **Southwest Detroit**

Southwest Detroit is a vibrant community with a culture that is as colorful as its eclectic buildings. The air is filled with the smells wafting from homemade warm tortillas. If a wide array of cuisine is a factor for you, you'll enjoy this lively taste of the flavors of Mexico, Venezuela or the Dominican Republic here. Many stores are within walking distance of the friendly, family-oriented residential areas. Residents take both their history and culture very seriously. Be sure to check out Honey Bee Market, a long time family-owned operation claiming the best produce in all of metro Detroit, it's a local favorite.

#### **Eastern Market**

A small population of a little over 2000, Eastern Market offers a smaller urban feel. A fun, lively place with plenty of nighttime happy hours, this is where you'll find craft breweries alongside wine tasting rooms. Detroit residents flock to this area to grab a bite from the many everchanging food trucks. One other thing to note is the bicycle route that was originally a stretch of the Grand Trunk Railroad which is now a paved pedestrian and bike-friendly green area connecting Eastern Market to the downtown Detroit RiverWalk. This area, known as the Detroit International RiverWalk, is fun for the whole family with many attractions for all ages including a carousel and several splash pads.

#### **Cass Corridor**

This is one of Detroit's most popular neighborhoods. Cass Corridor is very pedestrian and bike-friendly making getting around easy for folks who prefer to travel without a car. Over the years, this area has been home to some very notable jazz clubs and was once home to Detroit's Chinatown. You can find both old-school bars and upscale cocktail lounges. And if sports are your cup of tea, be sure to check out the schedule at Little Caesars Arena for those all-important games, home to both the Detroit Pistons and the Red Wings

# Houston City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

<u>Houston</u> is considered the space exploration capital not of the U.S., but of the entire world. If you (or your kids) are a fan of rockets and space, you'll be able to visit Space Center Houston and see all the exhibits there as often as you like if you're a

resident of the city. Back here on Earth, people who live in this great city are major food lovers. In fact, they eat out more often each week than residents of any other city in the country. Because it's the most populous city in Texas (as well as the Southern United States), you can bet that there are a ton of amenities and activities – from festivals and sporting events to job opportunities, as well as great shopping and dining experiences. If you're ready to make the move to Houston, be sure to use our Houston city guide to find an amazing and affordable rental property.

## Houston city highlights

Are you a fan of Houston? We don't blame you! There are so many fun, entertaining events and attractions in the city. Here are just a few that make living here extra special.

- Twilight Epiphany Skyspace: Located at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, the Twilight Epiphany Skyspace has a very precise sound design that comes from its pyramid shape, which was constructed using composite steel, grass, stone and concrete. The structure also projects an LED light sequence onto the ceiling, as well as the 72-foot square roof during sunset and sunrise. The light sequence events last for approximately 40 minutes.
- **Discovery Green**: If you're a fan of the great outdoors, you'll love this park. You can come with your significant other for a romantic picnic, play soccer or just lay on the grass and watch the clouds roll by. The Park is approximately 12-acres in size, giving you plenty of space to run, exercise, stretch and have some fun.
- **Downtown Aquarium**: Do you love the ocean? You'll definitely want to visit this aquarium to witness some of the amazing creatures from the sea and even have some up-close-and-personal encounters with some of them, like the stingrays. The aquarium also has life-like exhibits like Underwater Rig and Shipwreck that are awe-inspiring and educational.
- **Galveston Island**: If you love spending time at the beach, you'll probably make Galveston Island a regular place to visit once you move to Houston. In addition to the beaches, you'll find lots of recreational and artistic activities, as well as restaurants, cafés and fun shops. The island is also home to Schlitterbahn Waterpark, which is rated one of the best waterparks in the United States.
- American Shooting Centers: Located in <u>Westside</u>, this is a shooter's paradise. Established in 1989, this recreational center is located on 563 acres within George Bush Park. They offer trap and skeet shooting, pistol and rifle shooting, as well as sporting clays. If you need any help, the friendly staff is willing and able.
- Minute Maid Park: During baseball season, Minute Maid Park is the place to be! Home to the Houston Astros, this park is a high-quality, closed facility with a retractable roof so you can enjoy the beautiful sky over Houston while your team plays. In addition to the baseball games, the Park also hosts concerts, bringing the likes of Elton John, Def Leppard and Mötley Crüe to Houston.

# Houston city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Are you ready to find the best place to live in Houston? It all starts with the right neighborhood.

#### **Downtown**

Downtown Houston is a bustling community with major attractions, like the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, the Toyota Center (where you can see the Houston Rockets play) and the Houston Aquarium. Dining includes upscale grill and barbeque restaurants, as well as casual sushi restaurants and taquerias.

#### **Midtown**

Located west-southwest of Downtown is the Midtown Houston neighborhood. A little over 15,200 people live in the area, most of whom (76%) rent. Midtown is popular with young professionals. However, if you have kids, you'll be happy to know that all the schools in the area are not just above average – they're excellent. Neighbors say just about everything is within walking distance and that there are plenty of restaurants and nightlife activities for adults to enjoy.

#### **Southwest Houston**

This is an ideal neighborhood for families. Residents of Southwest Houston give the area high marks because it is family-friendly (schools in the area are excellent), neighbors are kind and welcoming, there's a strong sense of community and it is safe at night.

#### **Medical Center**

Medical Center is one of the many neighborhoods that make up the <u>Inner Loop</u> in Houston. It's a popular neighborhood known for diversity, nightlife and family-friendliness. Over 4100 residents live in the area, most of whom rent, which means there are several nice, new, amenity-filled rental complexes in the area.

#### **Montrose**

Montrose is a fun, offbeat neighborhood that is full of eclectic, global restaurants, vintage stores, quaint cafés and gay bars. The neighborhood has indie art galleries, abstract murals and incredible skyline views. Eleanor Tinsley Park is great for a

romantic picnic or volleyball in the sand. Over 33,800 people live in the neighborhood, giving it a dense, urban feel. Most residents rent their homes.

#### **River Oaks**

If you're looking for something that feels more residential than urban, River Oaks might be the best neighborhood for you. There are lots of mature-growth trees in the area, as well as palatial homes, upscale stores, luxurious salons and spas and diverse global eateries. The River Oaks Theatre is an art deco building that provides viewings of indie and foreign films. The neighborhood has an outpost of the Museum of Fine arts called Rienzi, an opulent building that displaces ceramics, miniatures and European paintings.

#### **Westchase**

Westchase is a thriving business and residential neighborhood in western Houston. Nearly 35,500 people live in the area which has an urban feel to it. There are several delicious restaurants, boutiques and shops, as well as art galleries, cafés and entertainment venues. Nearly 90% of the population rent, which means you can find a number of amazing apartments that fit your budget and amenity needs.

#### **Greater Heights**

Also known as The Heights, this neighborhood is home to nearly 47,000 people, many of whom are young professionals. The area is dotted with early-20th-century homes, as well as some contemporary apartment complexes. You'll find quirky shops throughout the neighborhood that sell vintage clothing, vinyl records and more. The area has a very laid-back vibe and neighbors here enjoy listening to live music and watching art-house films, indie movies and documentaries at 14 Pews.

#### **Copperfield**

Copperfield is seven smaller subdivisions in northwest Houston. Residents like living in this neighborhood because it's in a great location, close to shopping, dining and entertainment venues while still keeping its residential vibe. Schools in the area are excellent, too. Copperfield is easily accessible to public transit and major roadways, like Highway 6.

#### **Memorial**

The Memorial neighborhood is one of the most desirable in Houston. The suburban area has mature, leafy trees, multiple community parks and large, mid-century homes. As part of the Energy Corridor, the Memorial neighborhood is home to office buildings belonging to oil companies. In the area, you'll find shopping malls and restaurants, as well as bird-watching trails and areas to walk, jog and bike.

#### <u>Summerwood</u>

Residents like living in the Summerwood neighborhood because there's plenty of outdoor fun for the whole family. You'll find tennis courts, biking and hiking trails and areas to swim. There's a 150-acre preserve, as well as numerous lakes. Residents say the neighbors are friendly, the schools are high-quality and that it's a great place to raise a family. Being a suburb of Houston, you definitely get a residential vibe here, with plenty of peace and quiet. Your commute into Houston will take about 25 minutes, so you're still close enough to the Downtown amenities that you can easily afford to participate in some of the nightlife activities there.

#### **Uptown-Galleria**

This upscale neighborhood is a mixed-use urban development with a shopping mall. If you love to shop, you'll want to live in or around the Uptown-Galleria neighborhood. You'll find chain- and department stores, as well as designer boutiques. There's also a year-round ice rink for skating and hockey. The area is also full of specialty food shops and chic restaurants that serve Japanese, Thai and French foods – just to name a few. Nearly 60,000 people live here, the majority of whom are young professionals.

# Indianapolis City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Indianapolis is home to many iconic sites, like the largest children's museum in the world and the third-largest cemetery in the world. The Slippery Noodle Inn – where you can enjoy "food, booze and live blues – is not only one of the most popular bars in Indianapolis, but it was also a stop on the Underground Railroad. This city is full of history and beautiful parks and neighborhoods. It's a big city with a small-town feel with an economy that's thriving. With nearly 865,000 people calling Indianapolis home, the state capital is the 15th largest city in the U.S. Being home to 60

automakers, Indianapolis rivals Detroit as the center of the auto industry. People who live in the city are friendly and appreciate the diverse community with multiple languages spoken here. If you're ready to make the move to Indianapolis (and why wouldn't you be with the low cost of living and job opportunities?), make sure to check our Indianapolis city guide to find your dream apartment.

### Indianapolis city highlights

Being a resident of a great city like Indianapolis provides you with the inside scoop regarding all the fun activities, events and attractions in the city. Here are just a few that make the city worth visiting – and some you'll want to visit regularly as a resident of Indianapolis.

- White River State Park: This is one of the top-ranked parks in Indiana. It covers over 250-acres and is full of walking and jogging trails. You'll also find beautiful, peaceful areas to simply relax or have a picnic with friends. The Canal Walk is a three-mile loop across the waterfront. It's a lush oasis where you can meditate, do some journaling or simply do some deep breathing.
- Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum: One of the things Indiana is
  famous for is its racing. If you're a fan of auto racing, you need to take a trip to
  this museum, the speedway of which hosts the Indy 500. The museum is a
  National Historic Landmark. It houses a huge collection of racing vehicles, in
  addition to other racing memorabilia.
- The Lucas Oil Stadium: This stadium hosts Indianapolis Colts games, Indy
  Eleven soccer events and even some big-name concerts. If you're so inclined,
  you can even take a guided tour of the stadium grounds, which are offered on
  various days of the week. Within the stadium, you'll find several gift shops and
  eateries, too.
- Holliday Park: This Park spans 94-acres. In it, you'll find an arboretum, as
  well as a nature center. There's a playground for the kids, as well as walking
  trails throughout. The Park has designated picnic and barbecue areas. You'll
  also get to see the ruins of a New York skyscraper that was moved to
  Indianapolis and turned into a work of art.
- The Indianapolis Art Center: This is one of the biggest artistic community centers in the state. There are three galleries that showcase some of the best art in the region. You'll also find an incredible library that is home to over 5000 different titles. The Center also houses 11 classrooms where you can experience exhibits and workshops. There's also an auditorium for live performances of all types.

# Indianapolis city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

What's the first thing you should do when you decide to move to Indianapolis? The first step is finding a neighborhood that fits your needs and personality. Here are a few of the top neighborhoods with apartments for rent in Indianapolis.

#### **Downtown Indianapolis (Mile Square)**

Over 22,000 people live in Downtown Indianapolis, also called Mile Square. The neighborhood is popular with young professionals, which makes sense since this is the business hub of the city. Nearly 80% of the residents rent their homes with the median rental costs being just slightly above the national average. Residents in the area also enjoy walking along the canal or riding a boat on it, as well as listening to live music, and enjoying the abundance of restaurants in the area.

#### **East Side**

East Side has nearly 12,500 residents. The neighborhood is made up mostly of young families. Schools in the area range from average to above average. The neighborhood is impressive for its diversity, both economically and ethnically. Rental costs in the area are below the national average by a few hundred dollars, which is a nice break for families on a tighter budget. Residents say it's convenient to get to public transit stops and grocery stores and restaurants are easily accessible in the neighborhood.

#### **Broad Ripple Village**

Looking to move to a laid-back neighborhood where you can let your free spirit roam, well, free? Then, you need to move to Broad Ripple Village. Amenities in this neighborhood are incredible with lively brewpubs, hip nightclubs, global eateries and cozy cafés. You'll also have access to shops that sell handicrafts, records and vintage clothing. Head over to The Vogue to listen to big-name and emerging musicians. The Monon Rail Trail is popular with walkers, joggers and cyclists – it's a great way to spend some time outdoors while fitting in a workout.

#### **Fountain Square**

If you like laid-back with a splash of quirkiness, Fountain Square might be the hood for you. The neighborhood is full of art galleries, casual restaurants and even a vintage duckpin bowling alley. If you're into nightlife activities, you'll get to enjoy a great mix of comedy clubs, indie music venues, burlesque clubs and craft cocktail bars. You can even attend one (or more!) of the retro dance nights hosted by the Fountain Square Theatre.

#### **Irvington**

Another lovely neighborhood with stunning historic architecture is Irvington. Here you'll find Edwardian and Victorian architecture. For example, the Bona Thompson Memorial Center is a former library built in 1903. Now, it displays artifacts and art from the Irvington Historical Society. Another early-1900s building – the Irving Theater – hosts numerous events, including open mic nights, comedy acts and experimental musical experiences. The neighborhood is full of casual restaurants, along with a brewery taproom. Of the nearly 17,000 residents in the neighborhood, most are young professionals or families.

#### **Near Eastside**

Over 30,000 call the Near Eastside neighborhood home, most of whom are young families. The neighborhood has a sparse suburban feel to it. Nearly 60% of residents rent in the area. You'll find that most of the rentals in the area are single-family homes – definitely a plus for families since having a yard for kids and pets is ideal. The median rental price is below the national average. Residents say they like the diversity in the community as well as the redevelopment projects that have happened in recent years. In those areas, new businesses are moving in, which is helping to grow the local economy.

#### St. Vincent/Greenbriar

Over 15,000 people live in the St. Vincent/Greenbriar area – mostly young families and professionals – and it has a dense suburban feel. Schools in the area rank above average per the parents in the neighborhood. Most residents rent, with rental costs averaging below the national average. It is one of the most diverse neighborhoods in Indianapolis, both ethnically and economically.

#### **Crooked Creek**

This is a popular neighborhood for families and young professionals, with over 16,000 people living in the area. Residents say the neighborhood is friendly, quiet and very family-oriented. There's easy access to grocery stores, restaurants, learning opportunities, shops and drugstores. The neighborhood is easily walkable, though residents lament that there's not enough sidewalk access. Residents in the area take pride in their homes, which are well-maintained with nice yards.

#### **Edgewood**

This dense suburban neighborhood is great for families. The schools are excellent, with 13% more students getting their high school diplomas than the national average and achieving test scores that are over 30% higher than the U.S. average. Overall, the cost of living here is lower than the national average, which makes it a great fit for young families and professionals who are just starting out.

#### **Eagledale**

Eagledale ranks high for its economic and ethnic diversity. It's a suburban neighborhood that's located on the west side of Indianapolis. It consists mostly of single-family ranch-style homes that were built in the 1950s and 1960s. The majority of the 25,000+ people who live in the area are young families. They appreciate having multiple parks in the area. They're great for letting the kids burn off some energy, weekend family picnics and nature workouts.

#### **Mapleton-Fall Creek**

Nearly 8000 people live in this neighborhood, most of whom are young professionals. And it's no wonder since Downtown Indianapolis is only five miles away. Residents love that there are plenty of sidewalks, which make it easy to go on a walk or run some errands on foot.

### **Lockerbie Square**

Massachusetts Avenue, also casually known as <u>Mass Avenue</u>, which is one of four original diagonal streets in the city, runs directly through this neighborhood. If you love historical neighborhoods, you'll enjoy strolling past the beautiful, well-kept Victorian houses and cobblestone streets. Are you a writer? Do you love poetry? Then, you'll probably visit the James Whitcomb Riley Museum Home which has the poet's possessions on display. It's a great place to spark your imagination and get those creative juices flowing. Other landmarks in the area include German Gothic-style structures and the Bavarian restaurants that help preserve the city's German heritage.

#### **Canal and White River State Park District**

White River State Park is an urban park that covers 267 acres. It's situated on the western and eastern banks of the White River. As a resident of this neighborhood, you'll have access to major attractions like Victory Field (where you can watch the Indiana MLB team play), an IMAX Theater and the Eiteljorg Museum. To get some

exercise – or just enjoy some quiet time after a long day at work – take the historic Canal Walk, which is one-and-a-half miles of convenient trails and beautiful scenery.

# Jacksonville City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

What is now known as Jacksonville, Florida is an area of the state that's been inhabited for thousands of years. In fact, some of the oldest pottery remnants found in the U.S. are from Jacksonville, dating back to 2500 B.C. In the 16th century, Jacksonville was inhabited by the Mocama, a subgroup of the Timucua people. Jacksonville is a city that is rich in history but its modern amenities and natural beauty drive 120 million tourists to the area each year – not to mention transplants to the city. Residents love the area because it's a world-class art destination, the weather is amazing, it has great attractions for families, it's a foodie's paradise and it's close to other larger cities, like Miami, Orlando and Atlanta. If you're thinking of making the move to this lovely city, make sure to check out our Jacksonville city guide, which helps make finding an apartment incredibly simple.

## Jacksonville city highlights

Should you move to Jacksonville? It's a great city with dense forests and preserved wetlands, as well as plenty of urban amenities. Here are just a few of the things you'll get to see and do regularly as a resident of Jacksonville.

- Friendship Fountain: This fountain, built in the 1960s, is one of the most iconic destinations in the city. Back when it was built, it was the biggest, tallest fountain in the world. It is now used as a backdrop for fireworks displays. Colored lights highlight the streams of water as they jet into the air. It's a nice, tranquil place to relax, enjoy a meal or even do some yoga.
- 13th Floor Haunted House: Are you one of those people who love the thrill of being scared? If you're a fan of horror films and jump-scares, you'll love the 13th Floor Haunted House with vampires and creepy clowns. The best part? You don't have to wait until Halloween this tourist attraction is open for special events on other holidays, too.
- TIAA Bank Field: If you're an NFL fan, you'll need to visit TIAA Bank Field
  often to watch the Jacksonville Jaguars, as well as your other favorite teams
  from around the league. TIAA Bank Field also hosts rock concerts. The stateof-the-art facility's amenities like their club rooms, swimming pools and
  viewing verandas are open to the (paying) public.
- Museum of Science and History (MOSH): Do you find most museums (and their droning tour guides) to be the epitome of boring? Then, this museum is for you. You'll get to see live animal exhibitions, exhilarating planetarium

- shows and electricity displays. Your kids will enjoy the games and crafting tables that make learning about science fun. Adults enjoy documentary films, interactive workshops and enthralling lectures.
- Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum: If you're a writer, bookworm or
  history lover, this will be the coolest museum you ever visit. It is one of only 10
  museums in the U.S. dedicated to old manuscripts from political leaders,
  scientists, scholars and philosophers. You'll learn about the historical
  significance of each manuscript on display, as well as enjoy a variety of
  artifacts, sculptures and paintings.

# Jacksonville city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

You've decided to move to Jacksonville. Now, it's time to find your dream apartment. To get started, check out some of the top neighborhoods in the city. Once you find a neighborhood that fits your personality, check out our Jacksonville city guide to find an apartment that suits all your living needs in that neighborhood.

#### **Mandarin**

Are you looking for an apartment in a neighborhood with mature trees and lots of green space? Look no further than Mandarin, an area lined with ancient oak trees draped in Spanish moss. Writer Harriet Beecher Stowe and artist Lee Adams once lived in this historic neighborhood, which Stowe called a "tropical paradise." This neighborhood also provides some of the best views of the St. Johns River. Once utilized as an important river port for importing citrus fruits – like Mandarin oranges – the neighborhood is now a nice mix of residential areas and an urban shopping and dining experience. With the area's natural history and beautiful green spaces, it's an ideal place for kids to grow and learn. Plus, there are plenty of nightlife activities for adults of all ages to enjoy.

#### **Northside**

If you're looking for a neighborhood that is less urban and more rural-suburban, Northside can provide what you and your family need. Within the area is the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, a vast wetland where you can take your family birdwatching or spend some quiet time on the water kayaking. The Preserve includes an undeveloped beach near Little Talbot Island State Park. Nearby are two small islands perfect for exploring: Black Hammock Island and Blount Island. Your kids will love the Jacksonville Zoo where they can go on a walking African safari or visit the manatee rescue center to learn about these beautiful creatures and ocean

life conservation efforts. If your family loves to get away regularly for some camping, visit the Cary State Forest with plenty of hiking and horseback riding trails.

#### **Downtown**

Downtown Jacksonville is one of the best areas in town for amenities, nightlife and value. Of the nearly 6000 people who live in the Downtown neighborhood, 90% of them rent, so there are plenty of amazing properties for you to choose from! It's a great neighborhood for young professionals. When you're out dining at one of the incredible Downtown restaurants or enjoying a quiet evening in your urban apartment, you'll be awestruck by the beauty of the Downtown Jacksonville skyline.

#### **Riverside**

The neighborhood is home to over 12,000 residents, most of whom rent and appreciate that this upscale neighborhood has a good mix of urban amenities and suburban features. You'll find trendy restaurants and gastropubs, specialty coffee shops, sophisticated bars and high-quality food trucks for great food on the go. The neighborhood is also home to vintage, eclectic boutiques and the Riverside Arts Market, where you can enjoy live music and the work of local artists. If you want to spend some time outdoors, you can visit the tree-lined paths of Memorial Park or the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, where you can explore the works of Winslow Homer and Norman Rockwell – not to mention the gorgeous gardens.

#### **Greater Arlington**

This neighborhood is a sprawling, suburban area complete with forests and coastal wetlands. You can easily visit the Timucuan Ecological and Historical Preserve from this neighborhood, as well as enjoy the rustic, woodland trails of the Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens. If you love history, you'll definitely want to visit the Fort Caroline National Memorial which used to be a French colony back in the 1500s. Greater Arlington has some great amenities, too, like big-box superstores, malls, fast-food restaurants and family restaurants. Rental costs are slightly under the national average, while all the schools in the area are highly rated.

#### **Southwest Jacksonville**

Another sprawling neighborhood is Southwest Jacksonville, which borders the St. Johns River on the east and Jennings State Forest on the south. The neighborhood is well-known for the Jacksonville Equestrian Center, which hosts regular trade

expos, as well as horse shows. Malls in the area are home to major fashion and homeware retailers, which makes shopping/running errands extremely convenient. But it's not all brand-name retailers. Southwest Jacksonville is also home to quaint shopping boutiques and sophisticated eateries. If you're looking for some outdoor activities, make sure to visit the Branan Field Wildlife and Environmental Area. You can go walking or jogging through the pine forests and might even witness some of the local wildlife, like gopher tortoises.

#### **Baymeadows**

Located in <u>Southeast Jacksonville</u>, Baymeadows boasts a mix of urban-suburban amenities and the vast majority of the over 12,500 residents rent, which means there are some exceptional rental properties in the area. If you're a young family or young professional, this might be the neighborhood for you! Apartment and condo complexes are close to the freeway, making your commute relatively easy.

#### **Northwest Jacksonville**

Northwest Jacksonville is another sprawling neighborhood. You'll find plenty to do in the great outdoors, like visiting the Cary State Forest where you can venture on foot or horseback through the woodland trails. If you really want to get away from it all without having to travel too far, the Cary State Forest also offers campsites. Even if you're not someone who likes to be at one with nature, Northwest Jacksonville is still an ideal neighborhood. You'll find plenty of urban amenities. For example, there are numerous global dining experiences, craft beer pubs and hip bars. If you're an artlover, make sure to regularly visit The Cummer Museum of Art where you'll find bronze sculptures, porcelain artwork and paintings.

#### San Marco

San Marco has a quaint vibe. You'll find indie boutiques, casual dining experiences and trendy bars. The San Marco square is the hub of the neighborhood where you'll find bistros serving pizza, brunch and ice cream – perfect on a hot Florida afternoon. Feeling a bit artsy? You'll love the San Marco Theatre, an art deco building that showcases indie art-house movies, as well as the latest releases. If you need a regular dose of live music, head over to Jack Rabbits Live, an intimate venue where bands and their fans gather. And if you're a history buff and love to explore, check out the old riverfront mansions throughout the neighborhood.

## Kansas City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Kansas City is actually two cities in one, Kansas City, Kansas (KCK) and Kansas City, Missouri (KCMO). These are two separate metropolitan areas with their own governments that are split by the border of Kansas and Missouri. However, the two cities are really part of a greater "Kansas City" that spans both states and comprises the greater Kansas City metropolitan area. Thus, when we talk about Kansas City in general, we're really talking about the two cities combined. Why are both cities named Kansas City? Well, the Missouri "side" first sprouted as a town in the early 1830s. When it came time to name the town in 1838, there was no state of Kansas, because that area was still part of the Nebraska Territory. The town was named as such because it was at the mouth of the Kansas River. Kansas City, Kansas then grew as a "streetcar suburb" of the original Kansas City, Missouri.

The two Kansas Cities now have some distinctions, with the Kansas side being more of a blue-collar town historically. KCK is a very diverse city with a population of more than 156,000. Kansas City, Missouri has a population of almost 510,000 and has lots of arts, culture and entertainment happening year-round. If you need an apartment in the greater metropolitan area, our Kansas City city guide can help you find neighborhood on either the Kansas (KCK) or Missouri (KCMO) side to fit your needs.

### Kansas City highlights

When you move to either Kansas City, Kansas, or Kansas City, Missouri, you have access to some fabulous attractions in the region. Here are some places to start:

- National WWI Museum and Memorial: The National WWI Museum and Memorial teaches visitors about World War I, also called the "Great War." Here you will find the biggest collection of World War I objects and memorabilia. The second-oldest public museum dedicated to the Great War, the National WWI Museum and Memorial has been honored by Congress as America's official World War I Museum and Memorial.
- The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art: With free admission, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art is one of America's top art museums with more than 40,000 works of art. The popular Bloch Galleries house some beautiful Impressionist and Post-Impressionist art. Be sure to check out the Donald J. Hall Sculpture Park, which is a great place to walk and relax amidst gorgeous outdoor sculptures.
- Arabia Steamboat Museum: The Arabia Steamboat Museum is an actual steamboat filled with memorabilia and antiques from the pioneering times of

- the mid-1800s. It takes about ninety minutes to take a self-tour of the museum.
- **Union Station:** Union Station is a historic train station has been restored to its original glory. Attractions at Union Station include a model train display, an interactive science museum for children and a moving Auschwitz Exhibit.
- **Kansas City Zoo:** The Kansas City Zoo is a great zoo experience with more than 1,700 animals. This affordable family outing will keep you busy exploring the 202 acres of the zoo.

# Kansas City guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Looking for the best place to live in Kansas City, Kansas or Kansas City, Missouri? Our Kansas City guide showcases some of the best neighborhoods in the greater Kansas City metropolitan area. You can find fabulous new upscale apartments, townhouses, single family homes for rent and more in Kansas City.

#### **Downtown**

Straddling both the Kansas and Missouri Rivers, Downtown Kansas City (on the Missouri side) has been named by Forbes as one of "America's 10 Best Downtowns." A whopping \$6.5 billion has invested into rejuvenating the downtown core and it shows. Whether you love skyscrapers, access to restaurants and culture or interesting architectural styles like Art Deco, there's a lot to like about living in downtown Kansas City.

#### **Argentine**

Part of Kansas City, Kansas, Argentine grew in early years due to its silver smeltery. With proximity to the railroad, local lumber, and steel manufacturing, the area was originally an industrial haven. After the smeltery closed, Argentine was annexed by Kansas City, Kansas in 1910. Today, this great KCK neighborhood has many landmarks, including the last Carnegie library in the Kansas City area and the grave of Shawnee prophet Tensquatawa at White Feather Spring.

#### Rosedale

Rosedale is located on the Kansas side of Kansas City right on the state line in the southeast corner of Wyandotte County. Notable features of this KCK neighborhood include the Rosedale World War I Memorial Arch and the University of Kansas Medical Center. The town was founded in 1872.

#### **River Market**

The River Market is a beautiful area situated on the banks of the Missouri River with a history going back 150 years. With riverfront access and a farmer's market, this KCMO neighborhood is a great place to visit and live. It's also easy to get to other parts of the city via the free Kansas City streetcar.

#### **Crossroads**

North of Downtown Kansas City, the Crossroads Art District is known as "Kansas City's Creative Neighborhood." This quaint neighborhood in KCMO houses lots of unique boutiques, art galleries and studios, and businesses in creative fields and a fun atmosphere.

#### **Plaza Westport**

Plaza Westport in KCMO is near the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and has some luxury homes and apartments available. It is known for being a quiet neighborhood with a slower pace. Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City is also located here.

#### **Union Hill**

KCMO's Union Hill is a bustling district spanning 16 blocks near Downtown Kansas City, the Crossroads Arts District, Westport and Country Club Plaza. Chock full of businesses, shops, restaurants and bars, it's a great place to work, live and play.

#### **The Northland**

The Northland is in the northern part of Kansas City and follows the winding Missouri River to the west. Yes, it's a suburb, but it's a suburb with a personality. With retail districts such as Zona Rosa as well as riverboat casinos, the Northland is an exciting place to be.

## **Country Club Plaza**

Country Club Plaza in KCMO spans 15 blocks with many retail shops showcasing top designer brands as well as some of the best restaurants in Kansas City. You'll enjoy walking through the area with its sunny, Spanish-inspired architecture and many pleasant fountains.

#### **Quality Hill**

Quality Hill truly lives up to its name. It's not just a quality neighborhood. It's seated on the top of a 200-foot-high bluff (technically a slope or soft, rounded cliff) that looks over the intersection of the Kansas and Missouri rivers that run through the Kansas City, metropolitan area. This historic district is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its many original buildings that give the area an ageless feel. With many businesses (and headquarters), two beautiful cathedrals, shops and entertainment venues, Quality Hill is a great place to rent an apartment in Kansas City, Missouri.

#### <u>Independence</u>

Independence is actually a city-suburb of Kansas City on the Missouri side to the east. On its own, it actually is the fifth-largest city in the state of Missouri. As satellite city, Independence is a popular place to live for people who want to be close to the main Kansas City core but enjoy a more hometown feel. This historic city is also the hometown of U.S. President Harry S. Truman. Thus, it is the location of the Truman Presidential Library and Museum. The nickname of Independence is "Queen City of the Trails" for being a hub of the California, Oregon, and Santa Fe Trails that served as vital "highways" connecting the Midwest and West back in the day. The city is also an important site for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as the location of founder Joseph Smith's 1831 Temple Lot.

#### **Central Hyde Park**

Central Hyde Park is a lovely historic neighborhood in Kansas City, Missouri with attractive beautiful architecture in charming brick buildings. You can also enjoy some nature in the city park (called Hyde Park) in this conveniently-located KCMO neighborhood.

#### **South Side**

South Side covers the vast portion of the southern portion of Kansas City. It's intersected by the Blue River Greenway and also contains the Kansas City Zoo. You can find a wide range of apartment homes here ranging in price from around \$700 to \$1,500 and up for a one-bedroom, one bath apartment.

### How to find your dream apartment in Kansas City

Are you looking to discover a perfect place to live in Kansas City? Our Kansas City guide can help you! With our search function, you can look for specific types of

<u>apartments in Kansas City</u> in the neighborhood of your choice. We're sure this Kansas City guide will help you find just the right apartment in a neighborhood you'll enjoy.

Looking for a beautiful new apartment home in the Kansas City metropolitan area? Check out all the great apartments for rent in <u>Kansas City</u>, <u>Kansas City</u>, <u>Missouri</u> to find your dream location.

# Knoxville City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Founded way back in 1786, Knoxville, Tennessee, is the third largest city in the state (the first two are Nashville and Memphis). With a relatively mild climate (though expect some hot and humid days in the summer), Knoxville is a great place for outdoor activities due to its expansive natural beauty and close proximity to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The city used to be called the "Marble City" during the 19th century due to being a center for marble rock quarrying. Many of these old, abandoned quarries have been reclaimed for parkland, becoming known as Knoxville's "Urban Wilderness." Knoxville is known for its super friendly residents and laid-back atmosphere. This beautiful Tennessee city has many great neighborhoods, so if you are looking for an apartment for rent in Knoxville, you are in luck! Our in-depth Knoxville city guide can help you find the perfect local neighborhood where you enjoy life in this growing, vibrant city in an apartment, townhome or house rental.

## Knoxville city highlights

Knoxville may be a smaller city, but it still has some great things to do and see. If you are looking for a place to rent in a great neighborhood of Knoxville, take some time off to enjoy a few of these attractions, many of which are free:

- Market Square: Knoxville's Market Square is an outdoor pedestrian mall filled with boutique shops and restaurants. With street art and sculptures in the park, it's a great place to take a long stroll with a friend. Be sure to stop by on Saturdays for the farmers' market.
- **Ijams Nature Center**: With a whopping 315 acres, the Ijams Nature Center is a wonderful place to visit with the family. You can hike, bike, canoe, climb and more. Be sure to hike the Keyhole Trail to walk through the famous "keyhole," a tunnel through piles of massive rock blocks. Once through, you can look into

- the old quarry pit and view what's called "God's Chair," made up of humongous limestone shelves.
- The Tennessee Theatre: Planted in downtown Knoxville, this absolutely gorgeous theater was originally built in 1928 as a "movie palace." And a palace it is, with gilded walls, massive, sparkling chandeliers and ornate decorations. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, The Tennessee Theatre is now a popular performing arts venue.
- Knoxville Museum of Art: This modest art museum offers a lot of highquality local art by celebrating the artists of East Tennessee. If you are interested in learning more about art, the museum hosts many free lectures, many by the artists themselves. Admission to the Knoxville Museum of Art is free.
- James White Fort: Located in downtown Knoxville, this small historic fort from 1786 called the "Birthplace of Knoxville" is available for self-guided tours where you step back in time. The main house and kitchen are original buildings furnished with décor and furniture from the time period.

# Knoxville city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Finding the best place to live in Knoxville can be easy with our Knoxville city guide. First, you want to refine your selection by choosing one of the best neighborhoods in Knoxville. Whether you want to rent an apartment, townhouse or single-family home in Knoxville, lots of affordable and attractive options are available. You will want to start with these neighborhoods:

#### **Downtown**

Downtown Knoxville is situated on the banks of the Tennessee River. The districts in Knoxville's downtown include Gay Street, Market Square, Old City, Volunteer Landing and World's Fair Park. Gay Street is the main thoroughfare in Downtown Knoxville, with historic architecture, shows, dining and shopping. Market Square also has shopping (see above) and is also a great place to go ice skating in the winter. Old City is Knoxville's creative hub for artists of all types, including painters, photographers, interior designers and architects. If you like the waterfront, check out Volunteer landing. Or, enjoy World's Fair Park, with greenery and fountains.

#### **Fountain City**

Located in northern Knoxville, Fountain City does have a fountain at Fountain City Lake, a haven for ducks and other birds. The neighborhood enjoys the natural beauty of being in the Appalachian Ridge-and-Valley region, with narrow ridges such as Blackoak Ridge and Beaver Ridge terraforming the landscape.

#### **South Knoxville**

South Knoxville, called "SoKno" for short, lives on the south side of the Tennessee River. This suburb of Knoxville connects to downtown via four bridges, the Gay Street Bridge, the Henley Bridge, the James C. Ford Memorial Bridge and the J. E. "Buck" Karnes Bridge. Many of the buildings in this neighborhood date back to the mid-century modern period of 1940 to 1969. Here's some interesting trivia: South Knoxville contains more people of Scots-Irish ancestry than any other neighborhood in America at about 4.7% of the total population.

#### **Sequoyah Hills**

Sequoyah Hills is one of the most charming and oldest neighborhoods in Knoxville. Filled with tree-lined streets and flowers, Sequoyah Hills is situated on a peninsula jutting out into the Tennessee River. The cherry tree-lined Cherokee Boulevard is where the first Dogwood Arts Trail launched in 1955 to beautify the town after a journalist called Knoxville one of the ugliest cities in the United States. Named after Sequoyah, the creator of the Cherokee Indian alphabet, Sequoyah Hills had its beginnings in the 1920s and many of the original homes were designed by notable local architects, including Francis Keally, Charles Barber and Benjamin McMurry. With ample park space and lovely views of the Tennessee River, Sequoyah Hills is one of the most beautiful neighborhoods in Knoxville.

### **North Knoxville**

The North Knoxville neighborhood joined Knoxville in 1897. Many of the houses that were built in the 1800s through the 1920s still stand here, making this a beautiful historic area. The neighborhood's houses exemplify the architecture of the late 1800s to the early 1920s. Many of the original homes have been restored and new ones have been added that have been carefully architected to maintain the neighborhood's old-time character.

#### **Fort Sanders**

Fort Sanders is west of downtown Knoxville. Due to its close proximity to the University of Tennessee, Fort Sanders attracts many college students. The neighborhood is named for the Civil War bastion where the critical Battle of Fort Sanders was fought on November 29, 1863. Fort Sanders became a residential neighborhood for middle- and upper-class citizens in the late 1800s. The area still

contains many beautiful, historic Victorian homes in the Fort Sanders Historic District, recognized in the National Register of Historic Places.

### **East Knoxville**

East Knoxville contains the neighborhoods Holston Hills, Parkridge, Chilhowee Park, Morningside, Five Points and Burlington, with major thoroughfares such as Magnolia Avenue (US-70/US-11) and Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue. Attractions in East Knoxville include Zoo Knoxville and the Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum.

#### **West Hills**

Located in West Knoxville off Kingston Pike, West Hills was built in the 1950s. This was one of the most substantial new subdivisions built after World War II in the Knoxville area, and it was known for being one of the first with mostly modern ranch homes. After seeing a massive increase in commercial development during the decades of the 1970s and 1980s, the West Hills community went on a proactive drive to maintain the neighborhood's residential character, which is still protecting the community to this day.

#### **Inskip**

Inskip is a cozy suburban neighborhood with many clean, affordable apartments with amenities such as swimming pools and ample parking. If your new Knoxville apartment doesn't have its own pool, you can visit the public Inskip Swimming Pool, which is part of Inskip Park, a great place to take the family on a warm summer weekend.

#### **Bearden**

Another West Knoxville neighborhood, Bearden, aka Bearden Village, was originally an agricultural community in the 1800s. Today it stretches along Kingston Pike with many shops and restaurants. Whether you want BBQ or Mediterranean or craft beer, you can find it here. The neighborhood was named after former Knoxville mayor and Tennessee state legislator, Marcus De Lafayette Bearden, who lived from 1830 to 1885.

## Lafayette City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

As in any city, life in Lafayette is what you make of it. However, some cities just have an extra-special vibe that clicks with certain people more than other cities. Lafayette is made up of incredibly friendly residents, many of whom are God-fearing and attend church regularly. Family and community mean a lot to the residents here. Weather in the area is often ideal for outdoor activities. In fact, it rarely dips below freezing temperatures. However, Lafayette does have a hurricane season, so definitely take that into consideration before relocating. If you're a foodie, Lafayette will seem like heaven – there are more restaurants per capita than any other city in the U.S. They even offer Cajun food tours. Yum! Music festivals are a weekly occurrence during the spring and summer months, too. All around, it's a fun, friendly city and if you're ready to call it your home, use our Lafayette city guide to find the perfect rental.

## Lafayette city highlights

Lafayette has so much to offer in the way of attractions and events. Here are just a few that you'll be able to enjoy regularly as a resident of this fine city.

- Lafayette Swamp Tours: If you live in the South, you need to go on a swamp tour at least once. One travel website said visiting Louisiana without going on one of these tours is like visiting Hawaii and never getting to the beach. There are multiple swamp tour companies that are eco-friendly and will help you safely make your way through the murky waters and cypress trees. You'll see all kinds of wildlife, too turtles, herons and yes, even alligators.
- Children's Museum of Acadiana: Kids often need hands-on experience to
  enjoy learning about anything from art and history to science. This children's
  museum is a non-profit organization that is supported by guests and the
  community. Your kids will get to play with toys that teach them about animals
  and science, build structures and pretend they're first responders in the
  ambulance exhibit.
- Acadian Cultural Center: This center is a part of the National Park Service
  and explains the story of the Acadians who settled in southern Louisiana.
  Exhibits show the origins of these people, as well as their migration and
  settlement. You'll get to enjoy documentary films and ranger talks that explore
  the history of the Acadians, as well as the Atchafalaya Basin, called the
  wildest place in Louisiana. Visitors can also enjoy ranger-guided boat tours.
- Cypress Island Preserve: If you're a bird lover, you'll want to visit this Preserve every January when Little Blue Herons, Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, Cattle Egrets and Roseate Spoonbills make their nests here. As their eggs hatch, the parents raise their babies in the rookery, which you can view

- from March through June. A two-and-a-half-mile walking trail through the area provides amazing scenery and wildlife viewing opportunities. Plus, it's safe for kids
- Jungle Gardens: This is a botanical garden located on Avery Island that
  covers 170-acres of land. It has a lush, tropical conservatory. Throughout the
  year, visitors can see a myriad of wildlife including deer, songbirds, snowy
  egrets, coots, herons and alligators. Flowers include azaleas and camellias.
  You'll also be awestruck by the massive 300-year-old oak trees covered in
  Spanish moss. In the gardens, you'll also find a 900-year-old Buddha sitting
  on a lotus flower.

# Lafayette city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Finding the apartment of your dreams isn't just about finding the best rental. Half the work is finding the right neighborhood for your needs and personality. Below are a few of the most popular neighborhoods in Lafayette. We look at everything from the personality/vibe of the neighborhood to its walkability and whether it makes for an easy commute. Once you find a neighborhood that feels like it fits you to a T, check out our Lafayette city guide to find an equally awesome rental.

#### **River Ranch**

River Ranch is a neighborhood in Lafayette that fully embraces Louisiana's history and heritage. Louisiana is a very diverse state, where cultures and customs abound. That is reflected in the architectural styles of this neighborhood where you'll find Caribbean, Creole, Neoclassical Revival, French, Acadian, American Colonial and Spanish influences, all of which give this neighborhood so much character! You'll find estate homes with carriage houses, cottages, Southern plantation homes, condos and townhouses throughout the area. There's also a thriving small business sector, where you'll find professional services, dining and retail shops. There is a strong sense of community and support in the neighborhood, too.

#### **Downtown Lafayette**

Downtown Lafayette is thriving, with multiple efforts to bring in new businesses and residential buildings. The word of the year for the city in 2019 was "Momentum," and at that time over 100 residential units were under construction. Downtown is where residents of Lafayette come to work and play. Large businesses and small businesses are doing well due to the support of the community. Downtown hosts festivals throughout the year. You'll find several art galleries, museums, music venues, restaurants and shopping boutiques in the Downtown area. It's a bustling

city and growth is projected, so if that suits your personality, Downtown is definitely the right neighborhood for you.

#### **Greenbriar Estates**

Greenbriar Estates consists of some single-family homes made of brick with old-growth trees in the expansive front yard, as well as contemporary apartment and condo complexes. Depending on the newness and size of the rental you're looking for, you can find properties with rental fees that are lower than the national average or those that are quite a bit higher. It's a great place to raise a family with all the schools in the area – elementary, middle and high school – receiving above average and even excellent ratings.

#### **Bendel Gardens**

Bendel Gardens sits on the banks of the Vermilion River in the central part of the city. It's a quiet, peaceful subdivision but you'll still have the convenience of being centrally located and close to numerous urban amenities. Bendel Gardens was originally the home of the Walnut Grove Plantation in the 1800s, which was owned by the daughter of the governor at that time, Alexandre Mouton. You can easily walk, bike or drive to a variety of restaurants, performing arts centers and shops. Your commute to work will be short and easy.

#### **Acadian Oaks**

Acadian Oaks is a lovely neighborhood that's great for families. There are several condo and apartment complexes with rental prices starting just under the national average and going up from there. Schools in the community have exceptional ratings, particularly Plantation Elementary School. Around this neighborhood, you'll find hundreds of shopping opportunities, from major shopping centers with big brand names to smaller boutiques. There are also numerous dining options for special occasions or those nights when you just don't feel like cooking. Gyms and parks are also nearby, so you'll have plenty of opportunities to work out, or simply enjoy a casual stroll with your dog.

#### **Broadmoor**

This neighborhood consists of multiple condos and apartment complexes. A onebedroom, one-bath apartment can cost less than the national average. However, if you want to upgrade to extra rooms or a more luxurious, sophisticated complex, you will pay up to double (or sometimes more than) the U.S. average. The commute to Downtown Lafayette is about 15 minutes, so you'll be close enough to work and the city's amenities that you don't feel deprived of, but far enough away that you'll enjoy some peace and quiet. If you're raising a family or plan to, you'll be happy to know that the schools in the Broadmoor community rank well above average.

#### **Mimosa Place**

Mimosa Place is a very small neighborhood just outside Lafayette. If you live in this neighborhood and work in the Downtown area, your commute will be about 10 minutes depending on traffic. Apartments in the area are affordable, averaging less than the national average. Because it's so close to the hub of the city, you won't feel like you're missing out on much by not living Downtown. With a short drive, you'll have access to all the restaurants, shops, bars, cafés and music and entertainment venues you could want.

#### **River Oaks**

The River Oaks neighborhood is a small community that is centrally located if you like outdoor activities. Surrounding the neighborhood, you'll find the Pa Davis Park Disc Golf Course, Heymann Park and Beaver Park. Also located nearby are the Acadian Cultural Center, Vermilionville Historic Village and the Lafayette Airport. River Oaks is also close to major freeways and U.S. routes, which makes your commute to Downtown Lafayette easier and makes it simple to head out of town on a day trip or longer road trip.

#### **University Courtyards**

University Courtyards is a small neighborhood near Cajun Field, a football field nicknamed The Swamp. If you're a sports fan, you'll definitely be glad to live close to this park. But football isn't the only thing to enjoy there – you can also enjoy concerts, CrossFit competitions, bridal expos and more. The University of Louisiana at Lafayette is also near this neighborhood, which has easy access to public transit, so your commute to and from school is easier than ever. Being near a college, you can find multiple laid-back bars, restaurants and cafés to hang out with your friends.

## Las Vegas City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Las Vegas is most commonly known for being an adults-only playground. However, beyond the famed Las Vegas Strip are lovely suburban communities and beautiful parks. During a typical year, the Las Vegas economy is thriving, which is great for everyone who lives here. The city was developed not with locals in mind but instead, was created for tourists, with millions visiting each year. Besides casinos and entertainment, Las Vegas is also home to several cultural institutions that are educational and entertaining, while offering a respite from the busyness of the Strip. Las Vegas is also home to state and national parks, conservation areas and other ample opportunities to soak up the sun and breathe in some fresh air. If you're considering moving to Las Vegas, be sure to check out our Las Vegas city guide first. It will make finding an apartment easier than ever.

## Las Vegas city highlights

When you move to an amazing city like Las Vegas, you'll never get bored. Besides the casinos and hotels, Las Vegas has some other amazing attractions that will make you happy to call this city home.

- **High Roller**: If you're a fan of the marvels of modern architecture, you're going to love the High Roller, the largest Ferris wheel in Nevada. It's also (currently) the heaviest and tallest Ferris wheel in the world. It is 550-feet tall and can carry over 1100 people. The gondolas are spacious, allowing you to sit, stand and walk around so you can visit with those in the compartment or check out views from all around. The gondolas have floor-to-ceiling glass, so you're sure to see some incredible views of the city.
- Smith Center for the Performing Arts: The Smith Center is home to the Las Vegas Philharmonic and the Nevada Ballet. It's made up of two venues: Reynolds Hall, which has over 5000 seats, is where you'll go to watch Broadway shows; and Myron's Cabaret Jazz, a more intimate venue where you can enjoy live musical performances. Occasionally, the Smith Center will also host events in their outdoor courtyards and lawns.
- National Atomic Testing Museum: Located in Southwest Las Vegas, this museum is dedicated to pre- and post-WWII atomic bomb testing and research that was done in Las Vegas from 1951-1962. It's one thing to read about these events in school textbooks it's quite another to see them in person. Exhibits include propaganda posters, videos, atomic age memorabilia and more.
- The Mob Museum: Located in <u>Southeast Las Vegas</u>, this museum provides a
  fascinating look at some of the most notorious felons in the world. Exhibits
  include touchscreens that provide you with names of mobsters, dates of their

- crimes or incarceration and maps. You'll also see crime scene photos and vintage newspaper clippings.
- Zak Bagans' The Haunted Museum: Do you love the thrills and chills of Halloween but hate waiting all year long to experience them? Now, you don't have to. The Haunted Museum is the best place to visit for an adrenaline-pumping experience. You'll walk around winding hallways, dark rooms and creaking staircases. Real artifacts fill the home, including dead-eyed dolls, dusty bookcases, the Death Van used by Dr. Jack Kevorkian and the Propofol Chair, recovered from Michael Jackson's Neverland estate after his death.

# Las Vegas city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Ready to make the move to Las Vegas? Great! Now comes the search for a new home. Following are some of the most popular neighborhoods in Las Vegas.

#### **Summerlin**

Summerlin is a dense suburban area with over 125,000 residents. Those who live in the area are mostly retirees or young professionals. Approximately 40% of residents rent their homes, some choosing single-family homes or villa-inspired apartment complexes. The median rent price is about \$400 over the national average, though you can expect to pay a lot more if you choose to rent a condo or apartment in one of the luxury complexes.

#### **Centennial Hills**

Residents in Centennial Hills appreciate the urban amenities, like plenty of shopping and eateries. They say the neighborhood is easily walkable, so you can do your shopping or run errands without wasting fuel. Plus, it's a great way to burn some calories! Centennial Hills residents also say it's a family-friendly neighborhood with lots of parks and well-maintained homes/yards. They appreciate that it's a quiet neighborhood – a nice change of pace from the hustle and bustle of Downtown Las Vegas.

#### **Downtown**

If you love the buzz of city living – including lots of flashing lights, music and tourists – make sure to check out the Downtown area. In this neighborhood, you'll have easy access to a 24-hour mall, casual and fine dining experiences, cocktail bars and more. Surprisingly, for being such an active city with lots of tourists, the cost of living (including rental fees) is 16% lower than the national average.

#### **West Las Vegas**

You'll most likely need a car to get to work and run your errands if you live in West Las Vegas. Thankfully, with a car or public transportation, you can get around easily since there are so many amenities nearby. Residents here say the neighborhood is family-friendly, yards are well-kept and the area is safe enough for kids to play outside.

### **East Las Vegas**

Residents in this neighborhood appreciate the easy commute (especially if you know the backroads!). They also note that more businesses are moving into the area, which has had a positive impact on the vibe and economy. The area is family-friendly with parks where you can walk your dogs and let the kids run off some energy after school or over the weekend. Another perk of this community is that public transit is easily accessible.

#### **Arts District**

The Arts District (also known as 18b) is a vibrant, revamped neighborhood. Warehouses have been converted to hold indie art galleries or performing arts spaces. You'll find a great mix of smaller independent galleries and major venues, such as the Arts Factory, which is home to multiple galleries, a bistro and shops. Art Square is another sprawling venue that is home to the Cockroach Theatre, an intimate space where you can enjoy new plays as well as revivals. The vibe of the area is creative and bohemian. There's plenty of nightlife, too, including cocktail bars that serve craft cocktails.

#### **Lone Mountain**

The Lone Mountain neighborhood was named after a solitary hill that is detached from the Red Rock National Conservation Area, a rocky, isolated butte in the northwest part of Las Vegas. There are two parks in the neighborhood – Majestic Park and Lone Mountain Park – as well as other green spaces. You'll have easy access to freeways so you can quickly get to work or a fun day trip into Downtown Las Vegas, which is about 12 miles away. Residents also say the neighborhood is quiet, clean, well-kept and that it's great for families with pets.

#### West Sahara

Rental opportunities in this neighborhood range from large (4-bedroom) single-family homes and Italian villa-inspired condo and apartment complexes. In West Sahara, rent is above the national average —more than double in many cases. It's a beautiful neighborhood with well-maintained yards and safe streets. The neighborhood is clean and easily walkable. Neighbors are friendly, plus there are live music events, as well as nearby restaurants and shops.

#### **Paradise**

This city has low transit, walkability and bike scores, so you'll definitely need to have a car (or access to one) if you decide to move here. The area is made up of a nice mix of young professionals, families and retirees. The area vibe is urban, with a population of over 235,000, but it's a bit quieter and not as busy as Downtown Las Vegas.

#### **Coronado Ranch**

The Coronado Ranch neighborhood features midsize, Mediterranean-style homes that are reasonably priced, while rental prices are well above the national average, often more than double the amount. The community was first established in 2007 and has continued to grow over the years. The walkability and biking scores are both low, so you'll need a vehicle to run errands and get to and from work. The neighborhood is suburban with friendly neighbors, well-maintained homes and yards and quiet streets.

## **Rhodes Ranch**

Rhodes Ranch is like the Coronado Ranch neighborhood in that it's made up mostly of mid-sized homes that are moderately priced. Rental prices can be on the higher end, too. Schools in the area range between average to excellent, so make sure to get the input of other parents in the neighborhood if you have children or plan to soon. Walking, biking and public transit scores are all extremely low, so you'll need a car to run errands and commute to work.

# Los Angeles City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Founded in 1781, the original name for Los Angeles was "El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora Reina de los Angeles sobre el Rio Porciúncula." In English, that means "The town of our lady Queen of the Angels on the Porciuncula River. Since that time, the city has become the heart of the American film industry and the home to many movie stars. The sunny Southern California city has every amenity imaginable while still being close enough to the mountains (for summer hiking and winter skiing) and of course, the glorious Pacific Ocean. If you're ready to put down roots in this richly diverse city, make sure to peruse our Los Angeles city guide where you'll find rental neighborhoods to fit your budget and lifestyle.

## Los Angeles city highlights

Do you love the idea of <u>living in the heart of Los Angeles</u>? We don't blame you. As a resident of this fair city, you'll have access to some of California's greatest attractions.

- The Getty Center: The Getty Center is home to some of the finest works of art in the world. You'll find artwork from a variety of countries and periods in history, making a trip to the Getty Center both educational and enjoyable. If you're a fan of incredible architecture, you'll love the building itself. It's a circular structure made of concrete and steel designed by Richard Meier. Guided tours take you to parts of the museum you wouldn't normally find by exploring on your own.
- **Griffith Observatory and Griffith Park**: The Griffith Observatory is an iconic landmark in <a href="Central LA">Central LA</a> made famous, in part, to its starring role in <a href="Rebel">Rebel</a> Without a Cause, starring James Dean and Natalie Wood. The observatory has an incredible planetarium and multiple exhibits. The Park and Observatory overlook the Los Angeles basin and provide some of the most stunning views in California.
- Studio Tours and Celebrity Home Tours: If you're a fan of the movies, there's no better place to live. The LA area is full of iconic places to visit, including Sunset Boulevard and The Hollywood Walk of Fame, as well as multiple studios such as Sony, Warner Brothers, Paramount and Universal. You'll even find guided tours through the city showing you where today's stars and those of the Golden Age of Hollywood call home.
- Runyon Canyon Park: Just a few blocks from Hollywood Boulevard is Runyon Canyon Park. Besides the beautiful palm trees and sweeping views of Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley, you'll also find Old Hollywoodstyle mansions and estates. Because of the beauty of the area and abundance of hiking trails, the Park is a favorite place for celebrities to get some exercise.
- Hollywood Bowl: The Hollywood Bowl is an outdoor amphitheater built in 1922. It's hosted the biggest names in music including The Beatles and The Rolling Stones. The sound quality is one of the best features of the Hollywood Bowl, making concerts even more enrapturing. The scenic views make this a great destination, too.

- Sherman Oaks Castle Park: Located in South Valley, this Park is ideal for families. Here you'll have access to batting cages, miniature golf, and arcades. The Park allows special events like birthday parties complete with table decorations and a friendly, helpful, accommodating host.
- Natural History Museum of Los Angeles: Located in South LA, the Natural
  History Museum is the largest historical and natural history museum in the
  country. It is home to over 35 million artifacts. Exhibits include the everpopular dinosaurs and bugs to those celebrating the natural beauty of the
  area and the diversity of the city.

# Los Angeles city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Where's the best place to live in Los Angeles? That really depends on your preferences. Our Los Angeles city guide can help you find an amazing apartment in a variety of LA neighborhoods. Here are just a few of the most popular neighborhoods in and around Los Angeles.

#### **Koreatown**

Koreatown has a dense, urban feel to it with plenty of bars, eclectic restaurants and coffee shops. Over 90% of residents in the area rent and most of them are young professionals. It's one of the most coveted communities in Los Angeles due to the affordable residential developments. While those who live in the neighborhood tend to get around by car, developers have made sure to make the area more pet- and pedestrian-friendly in recent years. Developers are planning many renovations in the area, as well as high-end developments, both of which are sure to make this one of the hottest neighborhoods in LA.

### Silicon Beach

For years, Silicon Valley was the place to be for tech startups and innovators. However, prices have soared there, making it almost impossible for anyone but the very rich to call it home. Nowadays, people are migrating away from Silicon Valley to Silicon Beach, home to over 500 tech startups. Multiple cities make up the Silicon Beach area, including <a href="Venice">Venice</a>, <a href="Culver City">Culver City</a> and <a href="El Segundo">El Segundo</a>. While prices in California cities are typically on the higher end, residents love that they're not spending as much as they would in Silicon Valley while they get to enjoy the gorgeous beaches and palm trees of Southern California.

### **Downtown Los Angeles**

Downtown LA is an ideal home for young professionals, foodies, art connoisseurs, creatives and those who love entertainment. It is constantly evolving, making it one of the most fascinating and popular neighborhoods in California. The area is pedestrian-friendly, which is something you can't say about a lot of Los Angeles neighborhoods as it is a city that sprawls across over 500 square miles. The neighborhood is also an interesting mix of low-key and luxury – from restaurants and apartment complexes, there's something for everyone.

### **North Valley**

Located in the northern part of the San Fernando Valley, you'll find an abundance of great restaurants, shops and places to explore the natural beauty of the area. O'Melveny Park on Balboa Boulevard is the second-largest park in LA. It is lush, well-kept and has plenty of picnic tables and trails, making it a great place for some weekend fun or after-work exercise. The local commute takes about 30 minutes and most residents (over 90%) own a car.

### **Miracle Mile**

The Miracle Mile neighborhood is ideal if you like historical architecture (particularly from the Art Deco period) and modern innovation. You'll find multiple museums and art galleries, as well as restaurants that appeal to every palate. The Miracle Mile is one of the few places where you can park your car and take a stroll, run some errands, get a drink or a bite to eat and enjoy some entertainment. Most of the single-family homes in the area were built in the 1920s and 1930s but you can also find townhouses, condos and apartments that have a more modern feel.

### **Silver Lake**

Silver Lake is home to millennial creatives, families and artists who have lived in the area for decades. The area is trendy and hip, but it also has a rich history. Silver Lake was home to the first Disney studio. One of the first protests for gay rights happened in this area, too. Residents love the walkability of the area. Within a 10-minute radius, you'll be able to take a yoga class or get a coffee with friends.

### **Little Tokyo**

Little Tokyo covers about five city blocks and has roots dating back to the late 19th century. It is one of only three official Japantowns in the country, and as of 1995 was declared a National Historic Landmark. Residents of the area love the culture of the

neighborhood with plenty of bars and restaurants, as well as cultural festivals. You'll have access to the Japanese American National Museum, incredible restaurants with delectable menu options, as well as bars, cafes and entertainment venues.

### **East Hollywood**

Looking for a charming, affordable neighborhood that's still close to the hustle, bustle and glamour of LA and Hollywood? Then, you should consider finding an apartment to rent in East Hollywood. This neighborhood was known as Prospect Park in the late 1800s. To make the area more appealing to outsiders, the name was changed to East Hollywood. Since that time, it's become a diverse neighborhood with immigrants from Russia, Armenia, Japan, Mexico and Thailand. You'll find art galleries, restaurants, old Art Deco buildings and beautiful outdoor spaces.

### **Mar Vista**

The Mar Vista neighborhood is tranquil and laidback. Yet, with the tech startups moving into the Silicon Beach area, Mar Vista has become home to numerous eateries (perfect for all the foodies out there), shops and specialty boutiques. While there aren't a lot of parks in this neighborhood, it is home to one of the largest recreational areas in this part of Southern California – the Mar Vista Park. At this park, you'll find places to play soccer, baseball, volleyball, hockey and basketball. It even has a swimming pool, playground, running trails and barbeque pits. The neighborhood is great for students and young professionals as there are plenty of places to study and work, like coffeeshops and specialty dessert shops and restaurants.

### **Santa Monica**

Santa Monica is ideal for families, with excellent schools and plenty of parks and family-friendly activities. Don't worry, though – you won't feel like you're living in Suburbia. Santa Monica has a very urban feel to it with plenty of excellent restaurants, bars and coffee shops. The nightlife is top-notch as well.

### Playa del Rey

Playa del Rey is an ideal neighborhood for just about anyone: Families, singles, empty nesters, young professionals and retirees. Good public transit and walkability scores make this neighborhood even more appealing. It's a mostly residential neighborhood but around the marina you'll find shops, coffeeshops, restaurants and

more. Commute times vary, ranging from 20 minutes to an hour and a half, depending on the area where you work and whether you're going by car or public transit.

### **Mid-Wilshire**

Mid-Wilshire is a neighborhood that is alive with culture and history. In the 1920s, developer A.W. Ross bought land in the area and turned it into a retail hub centered around the automobile. He was convinced he could get shoppers from Beverly Hills and Hollywood to the area if he built it in a way that made shoppers feel like they were in a non-rushed, luxurious area. To this day, everything in the area – from the shops and restaurants to the schools – are considered above average, even excellent. It's a neighborhood that Mr. Ross would still be proud to call his own.

## Louisville City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Louisville is known for a lot of things, especially for horse lovers and boxing fans. Home to the Kentucky Derby – one of the nation's longest standing horse races – Muhammed Ali, the University of Louisville and its Cardinals, Louisville Slugger baseball bats, mint juleps and more, Louisville is a thriving city with plenty to keep you busy. The city's located along the Ohio River at the rapids known as the Falls of the Ohio and remains a central location for transport and destinations between the east and the Midwest. Louisville is also home to multiple Fortune 500 companies, including Humana, Yum! Brands and Kindred Healthcare.

### Louisville city highlights

Louisville is filled with many intriguing opportunities for tourists and locals alike in the mood to explore, play, learn and dine. Some of the main attractions and highlights are incredibly well-known, like Churchill Downs, while others are more along the lines of "hidden gems." They're all worth checking out and enjoying repeatedly during your time here.

• **Kentucky Derby/Churchill Downs:** Churchill Downs, home of the Kentucky Derby, has become synonymous with Louisville. The Derby has been held annually since 1875 at this location and provides enthusiasts of all sorts with incredible cultural moments. Think mint juleps, a fashion show and, of course, one of the world's most renowned horse races.

- Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory: Ever heard of the Louisville Slugger? Well, this city is actually its home and if you're keen, you can visit the museum and factory for a close-up look at the process of making world famous athlete, Babe Ruth's, favorite bat. An exact replica of his famous 34-inch bat rests here, along with opportunities for exploration into the world of sports memorabilia and manufacturing processes of said baseball bats. Don't forget to hit up the souvenir store on your way out, where you can purchase your own mini Slugger to take home or gift to a fellow fan.
- Louisville Zoo: With over 1,500 exotic animals spread out across 134 acres, the Louisville Zoo is a must-see in the area. You'll catch a glimpse of gorillas, tigers, polar bears, penguins, lions and more as you make your way through the many habitats created to resemble the creatures' natural homes. You can also experience some animal interactions with camel and pony rides and parakeet and giraffe feedings.
- Louisville Mega Cavern: Formerly a huge limestone quarry in the mid-19th Century, the Louisville Mega Cavern is now a top attraction in the city. The cavern encompasses about 100 acres of underground space directly below the city and you'll find six ziplines and various bridges incorporated into zipline courses, a ropes course and a guided historic tram tour for exploring the unique under-city world.
- Cave Hill Cemetery: First used in 1848, the Cave Hill Cemetery has both a historic cemetery and arboretum with over 500 trees, shrubs and plants. Several of the trees are the largest of their species in the state. There are monuments, fountains, lakes, benches and even some walking tours throughout the space at various times throughout the year.
- The Louisville Palace Theatre: A prominent architect named John Eberson designed the Palace, which opened in 1928 as a movie theater. The theater has since been restored to emphasize the stunning baroque décor and stunning plasterwork and functions as a performance space with 2,800 seats.

# Louisville city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

If you're not sure what neighborhood might best suit your needs as you move into the city or relocate within city boundaries, our Louisville city guide will help. Check out some of the most popular neighborhoods below and find out which might be the perfect choice for you.

### **Butchertown**

A large meat packer still anchors the neighborhood, but Butchertown is no longer a meatpacking neighborhood. The area is now home to a wide variety of chic boutiques, the city's first brandy distillery, tons of shopping, dining and entertainment. You'll find cuisine of all sorts, from casual American to classic Italian and everything in between. The neighborhood is also home to the Louisville Extreme Park for skateboarding with 40,000 square feet of outdoor, concrete skating surface,

wooden vert ramp and 24-foot full pipe. You'll also find the Thomas Edison House, Hadley Pottery and other unique attractions you'll enjoy over and over or when visitors come to town.

### **The Highlands**

The Highlands is home to the city's original "Restaurant Row" on Bardstown Road. The dining area is surrounded by a unique collection of quirky shops, amazing spots for local nightlife and charming Victorian architecture. The whole neighborhood has an eclectic, charming, homey feel with plenty of shipping, hiking and the Louisville Zoo around for keeping the whole family entertained and happy.

### **Old Louisville**

One of the most picturesque neighborhoods in Louisville, Old Louisville has the largest collection of restored Victorian houses in the nation. The area was built up as a suburb in the 1870s and has nearly 48 city block's worth of Victorian-era homes. It also happens to be the third largest Historical Preservation District in the country. Quaint bed and breakfasts are scattered throughout the neighborhood (great places to recommend to visiting friends!), beautiful old magnolias dot the streets and loads of top-notch dining fill street corners and roads with decadent delights. The neighborhood is highly walkable and charmingly welcoming.

### **South Louisville**

With more and more young families moving into the neighborhood, South Louisville has recently experienced a rebirth. The neighborhood has become one of the most multicultural communities in the city, with a rich, diverse selection of dining, shopping and entertainment to show for itself. Find Asian, Israeli and American food choices here, as well as others, plus many outlets for local artists, museums and quick access to Churchill Downs. In the neighborhood, you'll also find the South Points Scenic Area along the Ohio River, surrounded by thousands of acres of forested and open spaces, the Jefferson Memorial Forest, Waverly Park and others. Festivals, the Kentucky Bourbon Trail and many other exciting events and locales are scattered throughout, making it one of the liveliest neighborhoods in town.

### Germantown

One of the oldest neighborhoods in Louisville, Germantown offers a wide range of popular activities and dining that locals and visitors alike love. The area was first

inundated with German immigrants in the mid-1800s, giving its name. The neighborhood is home to the largest collection of shotgun and camelback houses in the city and dive bars on practically every corner. You'll find casual drinks and food everywhere, many of which are focused on German cuisine and beer, along with cozy shopping boutiques.

### **Portland**

Nestled near the Ohio River on the western edge of downtown, the Portland neighborhood is deeply tied to the river. Originally, the area was an independent river city serving as a port for transport boats shipping goods and people alike around the Falls of Ohio. The area attracted a large group of Irish immigrants in the day – and you can still see these influences throughout the area. You'll find shopping and dining, a winery distillery and brewery and attractions like museums, galleries and artist studios and performance spaces throughout.

### **West Louisville**

West Louisville celebrates its strong African-American heritage with its nickname of "Louisville's Harlem." You'll find many clubs, theaters and restaurants along these themes, as well as the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage and the Muhammed Ali Childhood Home situated here. The neighborhood has many parks and beautiful old houses, incredible dining, fun shopping and exciting events like the Dirt Bowl in Shawnee Park, I Am Ali Festival and the Taste of West Louisville.

# Madison City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Madison, also known as the City of Four Lakes, has the second-highest State Capitol dome in the U.S. Only the one in our nation's capital is higher. People of the state are so proud of the 200-foot-high structure that Wisconsin law states that no buildings can be taller or otherwise overshadow the State Capitol. Besides being proud and patriotic, residents of Madison also love that they have friendly neighbors, many of whom share a strong passion for food. In fact, the city is full of restaurants that are run by award-winning chefs. They also have the largest producer-only farmers' market in the U.S. And the foods on the menus – hand-picked, fresh, local ingredients are used to create fish fries, cheese curds and the to-die-for menu items.

If you're a foodie and looking for a new place to call home, you should definitely consider Madison. Make sure to use our Madison city guide to find your dream apartment, too.

### Madison city highlights

One of the perks of living in an awesome city is all the fun things to do there. Madison is no exception. Following are just a handful of some of the things that make this city such a great place to live.

- Madison Museum of Contemporary Art: This is one of the top places to visit in Madison, in part because of its design. Acclaimed architect, Cesar Pelli, designed the Museum, which is truly a sight to behold. Inside the facility, you'll find numerous pieces from artists like Diego Rivera. Plus, the collection spans a multitude of eras. There's even a sculpture garden to explore.
- Monona Terrace: This is one of the top convention and business venues in the city. Some people even host their weddings in the facility. It was originally conceptualized by Frank Lloyd Wright, which means the building is stunning and an architectural marvel. The facility also hosts community events like wellness talks, yoga and guided meditation.
- Olbrich Botanical Gardens: Located in <u>Southeast Madison</u>, these gardens are sure to calm your senses after a busy work week. You'll have 16-acres of ground to cover with various designated garden areas like the Perennial Garden and the Rose Garden. During the summer, you can visit the Bolz Conservatory where Olbrich's Blooming Butterflies event is hosted.
- Cave of the Mounds National Natural Landmark: Located in <u>Southwest Madison</u>, these caves are a natural wonder. You'll witness incredible crystal formations, as well as underground pools. You can go on a fossil dig or visit the gemstone mine. You'll also find Interpretive Trails, as well as a rock and butterfly garden. If you plan ahead, you can host special events and group programs in this geologic wonder.
- Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park-South: Located in North Madison at
  the head of the lakes in the city, this marsh is effectively a living sponge. It
  helps to filter runoff from the land around it, including excess fertilizer which
  actually helps marsh plants to grow. Over time, the marsh releases cleaner
  water into the lakes below it. This marsh is the largest wetlands in the county
  and is used by students for environmental education. During the winter
  months, there are ski trails where you can ski, though snowshoeing is not
  allowed.
- Allen Centennial Garden: This is a florist's paradise! The Allen Centennial Garden is part of the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Horticulture Department. At the garden, you'll learn why it's important to care for plants and why plants are so valuable to humans, animals and the Earth as a whole. You can take self- or student-guided tours of the gardens, though there is a fee for guided tours if you don't have a group of 10 or more.

# Madison city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Finding a place to live in Madison starts with finding the right neighborhood. Here are a few options. Listed below are some of the most popular neighborhoods in the city. Once you find the right neighborhood, check our Madison city guide for apartments, condos, townhouses, homes or duplexes for rent in the area.

### **Downtown**

Downtown Madison is the heart of the city. The energy is high, and people are busy because there's so much to do here – from working and shopping to dining and enjoying a variety of entertainment opportunities. It's important to note that the cost of living in this city – whether it's gas prices, groceries, parking or rental fees – tends to be higher than Wisconsin, as well as the U.S. average. But those who live here say the urban amenities and close proximity to the business community are worth it.

### **Isthmus**

The Madison Isthmus sits between two lakes: Lake Monona and Lake Mendota. Needless to say, there are plentiful opportunities to enjoy outdoor activities (like kayaking, canoeing, biking and walking along the water) if you live in this neighborhood. Apartment rental fees tend to be high in the area, in some places more than double the national average. Within the community, there are shopping, dining and entertainment opportunities. You can visit the Madison Children's Museum, the Nicholas Recreation Center or the Downtown Madison Visitor Center just to name a few.

### **Schenk-Atwood**

Residents of the area say that the soul of Madison lives in this neighborhood. Years ago, this was an unassuming blue-collar district. Since then, it's been reimagined into a vibrant haven for creatives. The vibe is hip, quirky, cultured and colorful. Water borders the neighborhood on three sides, so you have plenty of on-water activities to engage in, as well as walking and biking trails.

### **Near West**

Near West is a popular neighborhood that consists mostly of older single-family homes. In recent years, though, Near West has seen the development of

townhouses, as well as luxury condo complexes. Because of the sophistication of the design and neighborhood, as well as the amenities offered in these complexes, you can expect to pay well-above national average rental fees. Within the neighborhood are a number of green spaces, so even though you're close to the heart of Madison, you'll still get plenty of opportunities to get some fresh air and sunshine in the great outdoors.

### **South Madison**

South of the city of Madison and the Madison Isthmus is the South neighborhood. Right in the heart of the neighborhood is the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum. Along the outskirts are several natural reserves and the Capital Springs Recreation Center. Needless to say, there are quite a few outdoor activities to engage in during your lunch break, evenings and weekends. You'll find several tasty eateries and cafés in the area, too. The neighborhood is in the midst of a renovation that started in 2019. The 10–15-year plan is being used to help make this area safer while bringing more businesses and residents into the neighborhood.

### **North West Madison**

North West Madison is a popular neighborhood because home prices are more affordable than other neighborhoods near Madison, particularly recently when home prices started a downward trend (2.3% in 2021). However, this doesn't automatically translate to rental prices, most of which are significantly above the national average, though they are on par with the rest of the city. It's a nice neighborhood to raise a family, with many of the schools earning above average to excellent ratings from parents.

### **State Langdon**

The western half of the State Langdon neighborhood sits near Downtown Madison, while the northern part borders Lake Mendota. In this neighborhood, you'll find many of the amenities of the downtown area: global eateries, cafés, shopping malls and boutiques, bars and plenty of entertainment venues, whether you're looking for plays, concerts or ballets. Within the State Langdon neighborhood is the Chazen Museum of Art, which will likely become a regular haunt for art lovers. Due to the lakes and green spaces, you'll have plenty of opportunities to exercise and get fresh air. Residents say it's a great place to live, though some have stated a desire for improvement in neighborhood safety precautions.

## Memphis City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Memphis is a bustling city with some of the most iconic landmarks in the country, many of which have links to Blues and Rock 'n Roll. Many people move to the city because it's more affordable than other major U.S. cities. And with new businesses filling the once empty buildings throughout the city, Memphis is becoming a cultural and financial center of Tennessee. There's still room for growth, though, so if you're an entrepreneur, you should definitely consider a move to Memphis where prices are low, and the opportunities are rich. As far as housing goes, there's something for everyone here. You'll find many affordable housing options, as well as homes in more affluent neighborhoods. Using our Memphis city guide, you'll be able to find the perfect rental for your budget.

### Memphis city highlights

Memphis is rich in history and boasts some of the best landmarks in Tennessee. Use our Memphis city guide to find apartments close to your favorite Memphis attractions.

- **Graceland**: A must-see place in Memphis is Graceland. The mansion/estate turned museum pays homage to the late, great King of Rock 'n Roll. It is one of the most famous buildings in the country. The estate is opulent with a Colonial-style mansion and sprawling gardens. On the anniversary of Elvis' death, there's a candlelight vigil at his gravesite that's open to the public.
- National Civil Rights Museum: The National Civil Rights Movement is an important part of our heritage and Memphis was at the forefront of it all. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in 1968 at a Memphis motel. The city decided to use that location as the foundation for an educational movement, thereby constructing the National Civil Rights Museum around it. The museum is full of exhibits with photos and documents, as well as audio posts so you can learn more about sit-ins and boycotts for justice.
- Beale Street and Sun Studio: Beale Street is one of the most iconic streets in the country and is a major landmark for Blues music history. Due to its location along the Mississippi River, it was a thoroughfare for musicians and travelers, many of whom headed to Sun Studio, the birthplace of Rock 'n Roll music. Elvis and Johnny Cash recorded here just to name a few!
- **Shelby Farms**: Looking for a place to feed your love of nature? Head over to Shelby Farms. There you'll be awestruck by the thousands of acres of Tennessee countryside. The hills, lakes and forests are home to wild bison, rare birds and other wild animals. Visitors can go hiking, biking, horseback riding, swimming and rowing.
- **Orpheum Theater**: Another iconic locale in Memphis is the Orpheum Theatre, which is one of the most prestigious in the country and one of the longest-

running in the state. You'll be able to see Broadway shows, ballet and concerts. It's also said that the theater is home to a friendly ghost who enjoys being entertained just as much as the theater's visitors.

# Memphis city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Are you ready to make Memphis your home? Our Memphis city guide will help you not only find the ideal apartment but will also help you find a neighborhood that fits your budget, needs and aesthetics.

### **Midtown**

Midtown is a sprawling neighborhood that's lively and full of fun nightlife activities. Enjoy going to the theater? Make a date with your significant other to visit the Playhouse on the Square. If you're a fan of live music, there are plenty of venues to visit regularly, including bars that host local bands, as well as concert halls that host larger touring acts. Is there something for the foodies in Memphis? Absolutely! You'll find relaxed joints like pizza parlors and barbeque steakhouses as well as fine-dining establishments.

### **East Memphis**

East Memphis is a major business hub of the city. It's known for its upscale retail shopping centers where you can find designer brands in both fashion and household items and décor. Residents have access to the Audubon Park golf course, as well as the Memphis Botanic Garden and Dixon Gallery & Gardens, which showcases Impressionist art. East Memphis is also a commuter-friendly neighborhood with commutes typically taking less than 30 minutes. The area is also one of the most affordable suburbs of Memphis, making it an ideal place for young professionals and families who either can't afford downtown Memphis or who don't want to be surrounded by the hustle of the city 24/7.

### **Mud Island**

Located in <u>Downtown Memphis</u>, Mud Island is a small peninsula bordered by the Wolf River, Harbor Town and the mighty Mississippi River. It usually takes less than 10 minutes to get from Mud Island to downtown Memphis, making it a great neighborhood for commuters. On the island, you enjoy concerts and views of the Memphis skyline at a 5000-seat venue. Four days a week, the Mississippi River Museum is open to the public. Less than 10% of the population have children, so this

is a nice neighborhood for retirees or young professionals who need an affordable place to live and an easy commute.

### Raleigh

Raleigh is a suburb of Memphis that is made up primarily of single-family homes and high-rise apartment complexes with small studio apartments, as well as larger four-bedroom apartments. New complexes have been built in recent years and some are still vacant – and there's nothing like moving into a brand-new apartment that no one else has lived in! Nearly 5% of households in this neighborhood consist of same-sex couples. That's a higher percentage than 99% of U.S. neighborhoods. The commute to downtown Memphis is approximately 15 minutes.

### Whitehaven

If you're Elvis' biggest fan, you might want to check out apartments for rent in Whitehaven. This is a residential area and the most famous residential home in the area is the Graceland estate. You'll find Elvis memorabilia everywhere. At the Graceland Mansion museums, you'll get to see Elvis' clothes and cars. Nearby, there are Elvis-themed diners. But this neighborhood isn't simply all about Elvis. You'll also find a beautiful golf course at the nearby T.O. Fuller State Park, which also boasts excellent hiking trails.

### **Parkway Village**

Parkway Village is a family-friendly neighborhood with lots of trees and lovely, landscaped yards. It's a quiet, friendly area with a diverse community. When developers decided to turn some farmland into a beautiful neighborhood in 1956, they did so with the idea that it would provide "gracious suburban living." While things have changed in all neighborhoods in the past 60 years, neighbors still feel this is a nice neighborhood to raise a family and build strong bonds with your community.

### **Southwind**

Southwind is a gated community, and the residents' average age is in the mid-50s. Residents describe it as peaceful and secure with well-maintained properties. It's animal- and kid-friendly, too. There are plenty of restaurants, you can go wine tasting and there's even a golf course nearby. In addition to the condos and townhouses in

the neighborhood, you'll also find luxury mansions. Even so, it's still an affordable neighborhood for many.

### **Crosstown**

Crosstown is one of the historic neighborhoods of Memphis. In recent years, much of it has been updated, including its main attraction: The Sears Crosstown building, which is a 1.5 million square foot building that is nearly 95 years old. Originally, it was the Sears, Roebuck &Co distribution center, as well as a retail store. Now, you'll find a wine store, pharmacy, eye doctor and multiple hair salons. Additionally, the building is home to a number of restaurants with tasty menu items, many of which deliver, which is great for young professionals or busy families after a long day of work and errands.

### **Hickory Hill**

Hickory Hill is a diverse, middle-class neighborhood with single family homes and several well-kept apartment complexes. This might not be the best neighborhood if you want to raise a family as some of the schools in the areas have received poor ratings from parents. But if you're looking for something more suburban and away from the hustle of downtown Memphis, you'll find this to be a nice, quiet neighborhood. While there aren't a lot of restaurants or chain retailers in the area, many entrepreneurs and small, local businesses have taken advantage and set up shop in the area. The area has lots of affordable housing, so it's great for folks who are just starting out. Hickory Hill is also home to the largest public community center in Memphis, as well as the longest public golf course.

## Miami City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

The name Miami comes from the Mayaimi people who lived in the area in the 16th and 17th centuries. It's the only city in the United States that was founded by a woman. Her name was Julia Tuttle, and she was a Florida businesswoman. She encouraged developers to extend the Florida East Coast Railroad to Miami, which led the way for the development of this part of Florida. Since then, it's become one of the premier cities to live, work and have fun in Florida. If you want to take advantage

of everything Miami has to offer, check out our Miami city guide to find an apartment in the neighborhood of your dreams.

### Miami city highlights

The beaches, the sunshine, the palm trees and the diversity – this is what draws so many people to Miami. You can also find many amusing, educational and inspiring attractions. Here are just a few to give you an idea of why moving to Miami is a great idea.

- Everglades National Park: Florida is famous for its Everglades. The quiet swamplands are best viewed via an airboat tour where you can get up close and personal with some of the wildlife. From a safe distance, of course. There are, after all, alligators in the waters.
- **Skyviews Miami Observation Wheel**: Enjoy the ocean breeze on your face and unobstructed views of the ocean and the Miami skyline on the Observation Wheel. Rising above the water is an exhilarating experience and the views will take your breath away.
- **Art Deco District**: South Beach is the center of Art Deco architecture. The buildings are fascinating, and you can take a guided tour on a Segway. Enjoy the city without breaking a sweat. You'll witness colorful buildings with intricate details that have over 100 years of history.
- **Hard Rock Stadium**: This stadium is home to the Miami Dolphins football team, so if you're an NFL fan you might want to get season tickets once you find your dream apartment in Miami. In addition to sporting events, the stadium hosts other sporting events like the Miami Open tennis tournament and concerts.
- Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary: There are several snorkeling opportunities in Florida. One you should try – the Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary. You'll get to witness an underwater paradise, complete with coral reefs and tropical fish. This area is protected and is like entering a lost underwater kingdom.

# Miami city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

You've decided to make the move. Miami, here you come! Before you start apartment hunting, make sure to check the following guide to some of the most popular neighborhoods in the city. We're sure there's a neighborhood that will make you feel right at home.

### **Brickell**

Brickell is the center of wealth in Miami. There are glittering high-rise business buildings, as well as luxury condo towers. It's a fashionable, luxurious neighborhood with chic art galleries and fine dining restaurants. You'll get gorgeous views of the

waterfront along Miami Circle Park, too. The luxury neighborhood comes with a luxury price tag, though. Rental prices are more than double that of the U.S. average.

#### **Downtown**

If you want to live in the cultural hub of Miami, you'll want to be in Downtown. The Adrienne Arsht Center hosts both the Florida Grand Opera company and the Miami City Ballet. Are you a fan of contemporary art? Then, you'll likely be a regular visitor to the Pérez Art Museum Miami. Downtown is also home to FTX Arena, which is where the Miami Heat basketball team plays their home games. The Arena also hosts big-name musical acts. The neighborhood is home to over 15,000 residents who love the nightlife and appreciate the many posh restaurants, clubs and bars.

### **Midtown Miami**

Midtown is a nice mix of trendy and luxury. The colorful neighborhood is well-known for its industrial-chic aesthetic and cutting-edge architecture. You'll find art galleries, craft breweries, bakeries and sophisticated dining establishments. Midtown is also known for its world-class shopping experience. The neighborhood is contemporary, cool and trendy-yet-laid-back. Watching locally produced films is a fun pastime for locals and a great way to support some of your creative neighbors. There are brandnew high-rise towers where you might be able to find your new dream apartment.

### **Wynwood**

Are you looking for a funky, colorful neighborhood? Then, Wynwood is the community for you. With beautiful murals and a multitude of buildings and an outdoor museum with large-scale works of art by local street artists, this is a high-energy neighborhood that thrives on creativity and imagination. The locals love the nightlife and there are plenty of trendy bars and restaurants to fit their needs. You'll also find chic fashion boutiques, bistros and craft breweries in converted warehouses. It has a very urban atmosphere and the majority of over 9000 residents are young professionals who rent their apartments.

### **West Flagler**

West Flagler is a part of Little Havana dotted with Cuban bakeries, cafes and restaurants. You'll also find an abundance of Latin grocers who sell imported goods from Latin America. This neighborhood is known as an area where you can enjoy

live music, concerts, casino games like poker and slot machines, live theater and dances. Most residents rent their properties in this neighborhood and rental prices are slightly higher than the U.S. average.

### **Edgewater**

The Edgewater neighborhood is situated on the shore of Biscayne Bay. Along the waterfront are luxury high-rise apartment and condo complexes. To say the views are incredible is an understatement. Along the water are paved trails and picnic areas, perfect for a weekend afternoon with family and friends or your daily morning run. If you're a fan of designer fashion, you'll love the shopping centers and boutiques in this area of Miami. Restaurants in the area range from laid-back cafes and sandwich spots to sophisticated, fine-dining restaurants featuring local, fresh-caught seafood.

### **Coral Way**

Coral Way is a more traditional neighborhood with homes built in the early part of the 20th century. The neighborhood is a little over 20 minutes away from Downtown Miami, and it feels that way! Instead of the hustle of city life, the vibe in the Coral Way neighborhood is quiet, peaceful and laid-back. But being so close to the heart of Miami means that it doesn't take long to get to the city and enjoy all its amenities. That's not to say Coral Way doesn't have anything to offer in the way of shops, restaurants or cafes. There are several wonderful eateries and shops in the area. Residents of the neighborhood also enjoy an abundance of green space in the neighborhood.

### **Brickell Key**

Looking for an island paradise without having to be too far away from the amenities of the big city? Check out Brickell Key, a man-made island just off the mainland. It's adjacent to the Brickell neighborhood and is less than 15 minutes away from Downtown Miami. Brickell Key is a gated community that's just a few minutes from major Miami destinations like the airport and South Beach. The high-rise apartment and condo complexes provide amazing views of the bay, as well as the Miami skyline. The community has some shops and restaurants, so you won't feel too detached from necessary amenities.

### **Little Havana**

Nearly 36,000 people live in Little Havana, a neighborhood known for its exciting nightlife and busy restaurants. You'll find Latin American cafés, clubs, restaurants, art galleries and cigar shops. Head over to Calle Ocho to play a game of dominoes with neighbors in the Maximo Gomez Park, AKA Domino Park. The Tower Theater shows a mix of revival and independent films – perfect for a relaxing night out for the busy professionals who live in the area.

### **Design District**

If you're looking for a diverse neighborhood with a sleek, contemporary design, look no further than the Design District. The upscale neighborhood is made up of modern architectural designs as well as sophisticated art galleries and shops. You'll find luxury and designer fashion and accessory boutiques, celebrity chef-owned (and some operated) restaurants and outdoor public art displays. If you're an art aficionado, you'll want to spend some of your downtime at the Institute of Contemporary Art, which showcases some of the latest, cutting-edge artwork in the county.

### **Upper East Side**

The Upper East Side is one of the top 10 neighborhoods to live in Miami. The mainly residential area features mid-century modern architecture. The condos and other buildings in the area often have extravagant designs that one might describe as playful, unique and fun. The nearly 13,000 residents are made up mostly of young families and young professionals. Most residents rent with rental prices being higher than the national average but lower than many other Miami neighborhoods.

### **South Beach**

Ready for some glamour? Check out South Beach. The city that a diet was named after is well-known for its breathtaking beaches, celebrity chef-owned and operated restaurants and exhilarating nightlife. You'll find indie shops, outdoor cafes and Art Deco-style buildings. The population of this neighborhood is made up mostly of retirees who own their homes but there are still plenty of beautiful apartments for rent in South Beach.

### **Dadeland**

Dadeland is an urban neighborhood located in the prestigious community of Kendall. The walkability score is high in this pedestrian-friendly neighborhood, which has a

tropical yet upscale vibe. Within minutes, you can be at the beach or in Downtown Miami via public transit. The Dadeland Mall offers a high-end shopping experience with several international boutiques. If you're a fan of green space, you can enjoy more than just the beach. The neighborhood has playscapes, walking and biking trails and sports courts.

### **Little Haiti**

Over 17,000 Floridians call Little Haiti home, made up mostly of families. The colorful neighborhood is a nod to the Caribbean lifestyle. Little Haiti has a host of indie art galleries, many of which showcase Afro-Caribbean artwork, dance acts and theater performances. The hip bars and clubs make this a fun after-hours neighborhood. Most residents rent (nearly 90%) and the cost of rent is below the national average.

### **Coral Gables**

Over 50,000 people live in Coral Gables, which includes many young professionals and families. The schools in the area are not just above average – they're excellent. Only a minority of residents rent in the area, which is considered one of the most livable Miami suburbs.

## Milwaukee City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

If you love beer, you'll appreciate touring the numerous Milwaukee breweries, most of which chronicle their role in the U.S. beer industry. But there's so much more to enjoy about this city. For instance, you can visit the Harley-Davidson Museum where you can see classic motorcycles, including one previously owned by Elvis. Milwaukee is also known for its historic, architectural and cultural attractions. You can see structures like the Basilica of St. Josaphat, the Allen-Bradley Clock Tower and houses by Frank Lloyd Wright. The Mitchell Park Horticultural Society hosts an annual flower show which showcases many of the flowers painted by Georgia O'Keeffe. Of course, since the city is situated along the shores of Lake Michigan, there are plenty of water and beach activities to enjoy, too. If you're ready to make the move to this great city, make sure to check out our Milwaukee city guide to find your ideal apartment.

### Milwaukee city highlights

Following are just a few of the events, sites and attractions that tourists and residents alike appreciate about Milwaukee. As a resident of the city, you'll be able to enjoy them regularly!

- Milwaukee Art Museum: The first thing you'll notice about this museum is the structure that houses all the exhibits. It's an architectural wonder! Inside, you'll find nearly 25,000 works of art. Outdoor studios are available (weather permitting) for kids to exercise their creative abilities. Paintings from around the world, quilts, drawings in early manuscripts and more are what you'll find when you visit the museum.
- **Pabst Mansion**: Frederick Pabst (yes, the beer Pabst) had this lavish estate built in 1892. The elaborate mansion has nearly 40 rooms, 14 fireplaces, a grand staircase plus a plethora of hidden compartments. You'll also find a pavilion, carriage house and greenhouse. Take a tour of the house to learn about the family, as well as the Pabst Brewing Company.
- Lakeshore State Park: This urban park has beautiful views of the city skyline, as well as several outdoor activities and attractions. You can head onto a Lakeshore path for a jog with your dog or go skating or biking along one of the many paved trails. The water offers great fun, like canoeing or kayaking. As you dip your ore into the quiet waters, you'll witness the beauty of the area and fantastic views of the city.
- Discovery World: Discovery World is an entertaining science and technology center that makes these intimidating fields more fun and accessible. You'll learn interesting (albeit some say bizarre) facts about the human body, see what it takes to make a robot and learn about Morse code. It's a great place for the whole family to have fun learning.
- The Betty Brinn Children's Museum: This museum offers a fun, educational experience for children. It's an interactive museum with multiple activities and exhibits that help kids learn teamwork and even boost their self-esteem. There are special programs for special needs and low-income families as well. Museum activities and exhibits change often, so it's a fun place to bring your children regularly.

# Milwaukee city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

If you're ready to make the move to Milwaukee, make sure to start by researching the neighborhoods. Below are some of the top-ranking neighborhoods in the city. Once you find one that fits your style, check out our Milwaukee city guide to find an affordable apartment in the area.

### **Downtown**

Downtown is listed in the top 100 neighborhoods for young professionals to live in Milwaukee. Most residents here rent their homes. You can check our Milwaukee city

guide for beautiful rentals in the Downtown area, many of which cost less to rent than the national average. Schools in the area are excellent, making it great for young families, too. Residents like living in this neighborhood because it's small yet bustling, has plenty of attractions for tourists and locals alike, including art galleries, museums, concerts and more. Residents also say that, while people in Milwaukee aren't always quick to talk to strangers, they are still some of the friendliest neighbors you'll ever have.

#### **Lower East Side**

The Lower East Side is a hip neighborhood with a multitude of dive bars, live music venues and cocktail lounges. If you're a fan of spending as much time in the great outdoors as possible, you'll probably want to add Veterans Park to the top of your exercise, recreation and relaxation list. You can jog or walk along the beautiful waterfront trail or go out on the water in a kayak or paddle boat. Don't worry if you don't have your own – you can rent paddle boats and kayaks from kiosks in the park. Just over 11,000 people live in the area, over 80% of whom rent.

### **Historic Third Ward**

As the name implies, this neighborhood is set in a historic part of the city – the warehouse district. In this neighborhood, you'll find a plethora of locally owned and operated businesses, including fashion boutiques, restaurants, art galleries, theaters and spas. The neighborhood is often described as trendy and upscale. Do you prefer shopping at a market rather than a big-box supermarket? Check out the Milwaukee Public Market where you can buy products from fish, cheese and produce vendors. If you're a performing arts fan, you'll love the Broadway Theater Center and Henry W. Maier Festival Park, where you can witness the best concerts and plays.

### **Bay View**

Bay View is young and trendy with a vibrant bar and eatery scene. You'll find global restaurants, as well as casual pubs that serve craft beer and cocktails. Kinnickinnic Avenue is home to record stores, thrift shops and trendy fashion boutiques. When you want to spend time outdoors, head over to South Shore Park to enjoy the beaches and picnic spots. The Park also has a seasonal beer garden! For art lovers, you can see vintage – as well as mainstream – films at the restored Avalon Atmospheric Theater (originally built in 1929).

### **Upper East Side**

The Upper East Side neighborhood is extremely livable. It's probably due to the peaceful green spaces like Riverside Park and Lake Park. Not only will you get to spend time in the grass, on trails and enjoying the mature trees, but you'll also get to experience local artwork at Riverside Park. When you visit Lake Park, you can visit North Point Lighthouse, a historic structure built in the mid-1850s. The Upper East Side is also a great neighborhood because of its diversity. You'll find global eateries, including Italian, Indian, Greek and Chinese restaurants. If you're a history buff, you'll appreciate the Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum, an Italian villa with art displays from the 15th to 19th centuries.

### **Riverwest**

Riverwest is an offbeat neighborhood with funky restaurants and music venues, as well as brewpubs and tiki bars. The neighborhood has a strong community spirit, too. There's a community-run bar, radio station and co-op. If you want something to do that is a good mix of community, exercise and competition, try the Riverwest 24. This is an annual 24-hour street bike race, followed by an all-night block party. Residents love the community spirit and welcoming attitude toward people of all types.

### **Walkers Point**

Another diverse Milwaukee neighborhood is Walker's Point, known for its nightlife, including Latin clubs, as well as LGBT+ bars. The neighborhood has an industrial area that houses distilleries and craft breweries where you can visit the taprooms and on-site bars. The restaurant scene is diverse as well with trendy American eateries, Mexican restaurants and brunch spots. The neighborhood earns a high rating from Niche.com, which lists it as one of the best places in the city to raise a family. Residents say they like that the neighborhood is growing and has plenty of restaurants and shops but that it still has a smaller city feel to it.

### Yankee Hill

Residents of the Yankee Hill neighborhood love that it's a highly walkable area of Milwaukee. You can easily walk to grocery stores, restaurants, appointments and run errands. The neighborhood is dog-friendly with well-lit streets which make it feel safer and more secure. Residents say their neighborhood is diverse and their neighbors are friendly. It's a safe place to live with plenty of restaurants, parks and museums. The neighborhood is full of nice apartment complexes and condos, so if you're looking for a rental, this is a great opportunity.

### **Brewers Hill**

Looking for a Milwaukee rental with amazing river views? Look no further than Brewers Hill, situated on a bluff that overlooks the Milwaukee River. At the turn of the 20th century, Brewers Hill was a residential area for the laborers who worked in businesses that lined the river. At that time, most of the businesses were tanneries, breweries, foundries and mills. Nowadays, you'll still find breweries, which provide interesting tours, some of which are even nationally ranked. On top of Brewers Hill are numerous restaurants, the food of which is complemented by the local brews.

### **Murray Hill**

James Murray was a Scottish immigrant who settled in this area in the mid-1830s before Milwaukee was even a city. Murray was a hardworking man with impeccable business skills. Eventually, his industriousness and business savvy led him to land ownership and development. Over time, this primarily residential neighborhood came to be filled with a mix of elegant homes and simple bungalows, as well as apartment complexes. It's an affordable neighborhood with a friendly atmosphere with plenty of restaurants and shops.

# Minneapolis City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

You want to move to a major U.S. city but don't want to fork out a lot of money to do so. Your options may be limited but not impossible. Some cities – like Minneapolis – are more affordable than you might think. In fact, Minneapolis ranks #21 out of the 25 Best Affordable Places to Live list. The city is also friendly to immigrants. The city streets are named after U.S. presidents and are ordered chronologically based on when the presidents were in office. The city did this to assist immigrants who were studying for their citizenship exams. Minneapolis is also home to numerous craft breweries and incredible eateries. The folks who live here are serious about their food – and you'll benefit from it! Are you ready to make the move to this great city? If so, check out our Minneapolis city guide to find an apartment in your favorite Minneapolis neighborhood.

### Minneapolis city highlights

If you're thinking of making the move to Minneapolis, you're in for a treat! This city has some incredible events and sights to see. The following events and sites will give you just a taste of what's in store when you make your move to this fascinating city.

- Mill Street Farmers Market: As a resident of Minneapolis, you'll need to visit
  this farmers market regularly. The market is open every weekend during the
  summer and every second Saturday in the winter. You can purchase
  everything from fresh produce and seasonal, locally prepared foods to jewelry,
  clothing art and ceramics. You'll also get to enjoy cooking demos and live
  entertainment.
- Minneapolis Institute of Art: Located on an eight-acre campus, this government-funded museum is free to the public and is home to fine art from around the world. The exhibits span 5000 years of history and showcase collections from Oceania, Africa, Asia and the Americas. One exhibit the Minnesota Artists Exhibition Program displays artwork from local artists.
- Children's Theater Company: The award-winning theater specializes in family-friendly shows, plays and concerts, like Seeping Beauty, The Wizard of Oz, Peter Pan and Cinderella. Founded in the mid-1960s, the theater is a leader in the community because of its focus on exposing and educating children to and through the arts. The company even won a Tony Award in 2003.
- Target Field: If you're a sports fan, you'll definitely want to visit Target Field to catch an MLB game, whether you're a fan of the Minnesota Twins or you want to watch them face your favorite team(s). The Park also offers a 90-minute guided tour where you'll get access to parts of the park that everyday visitors don't get to access.
- Chain of Lakes: If you're a lover of the great outdoors, you'll love visiting the scenic lakes of Minneapolis. There are paved paths along the shorelines where you can easily and comfortably walk, jog or bike. There are even some hiking trails. You can get onto the water, too rent a boat, canoe or kayak and enjoy the tranquil waters. This is a great attraction even during the winter months when the lakes freeze over because you can skate or play ice hockey on them.

# Minneapolis city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

You've decided to make the move to Minneapolis. Congratulations! You won't be disappointed. Now, it's time to find an apartment in your ideal neighborhood. Here are just a few of the top neighborhoods in the city according to our Minneapolis city guide.

### **Uptown**

Looking for a hip neighborhood that's buzzing with life? Look no further than Uptown Minneapolis – a great town for those who appreciate great food and artsy entertainment. You'll find indie boutiques that sell designer clothing, as well as vintage apparel. Bistros and gastropubs line the streets. The Uptown Theatre is a classic theater where residents go to watch foreign films and the best indie movies. The theater even has a bar to make the experience even more enjoyable.

### **North Loop**

North Loop has a livability score that's on par with the rest of the nation. Also known as the <u>Warehouse District</u>, the neighborhood is made up of startups, gay nightclubs, the coolest bars in Minneapolis and innovative restaurants. Warehouses built in the 19th and 20th centuries have been converted to house things like the Minneapolis Farmers Market, where you can purchase locally made candy and locally grown produce. The warehouses also house indie fashion boutiques.

### **Dinkytown**

Due to the proximity of the University of Minnesota, Dinkytown is the epicenter of student life in the city. Students and residents alike appreciate the bars, cafés and inexpensive restaurants in the area. You can find everything from burritos to pizza and everything in between. Live music venues host events where local singer-songwriters and indie bands perform regularly. Consignment clothing stores and bookshops can be found in the neighborhood as well. The neighborhood has a hip, eclectic party vibe and is great for singles and young professionals.

### **Calhoun Isles**

The Calhoun Isles community is extremely desirable, mainly for its low crime rate, great schools and urban amenities. The area is quite lovely, as well, with beautiful lakeside parks and the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary where you can witness seasonal blooms in a variety of settings, including prairie, wetland and woodland. The cost of renting in the neighborhood is slightly higher than the national average but with the beauty of the area, the great nightlife and fun indie shops, it's worth it to be in a neighborhood you love.

### **Central Minneapolis**

Young professionals and families make up the majority of residents in the Central Minneapolis neighborhood. The cost of renting is just slightly higher than the national

average. Residents love the diversity of the neighborhood and say that safety in the area has increased significantly in recent years. All the schools in Central Minneapolis are above average as well.

### **Linden Hills**

Linden Hills is a historic neighborhood in Minneapolis. The neighborhood was named for the abundance of linden trees in the area, as well as the beautiful, gently sloping hills surrounding the neighborhood. You'll feel like you're living in a small town but with all the amenities of a big city. The vibe is charming yet hip. Niche.com names it the #1 neighborhood to live in for Minneapolis residents. The cost of living is just slightly higher than the national average but both the schools and the nightlife are excellent. That's a combination you don't see too often!

### **Powderhorn**

The majority of the over 10,000 Powderhorn residents are young professionals and families. Schools in the area are well above average. Residents say their neighbors are friendly and laid-back. It's a very community-oriented neighborhood and newcomers are always welcome.

### **University of Minneapolis**

This neighborhood has a higher-than-state average for livability, which mainly comes down to the amenities. It is, after all, a college neighborhood, and young students need easy (and affordable!) access to restaurants for nourishment, green space for studying (or a respite from studying) and plenty of nightlife to celebrate getting a great grade on an exam. Rental prices are just slightly above the Minneapolis average. Also, the walking, biking and public transit scores are exceptionally high in this neighborhood.

### **Lynnhurst**

Residents of the Lynnhurst neighborhood like living here because of the urban amenities, higher-than-average employment opportunities and excellent schools. Of the nearly 6000 people who live here, the majority own their home. However, there are still some beautiful, affordable rental properties in the area. One of the perks of the neighborhood is its beautiful setting, which is on the southeast side of Lake Harriet. Minnehaha Creek also runs throughout the neighborhood. There are several green spaces for downtime and recreation activities with family and friends.

### **Loring Park**

A charming residential neighborhood, Loring Park is a neighborhood built around the green space called Loring Park. This Park has a lake, as well as numerous walking, jogging and biking paths. Over 80% of the residents who live here, many of whom are young families or young professionals, rent their properties, the cost of which is just slightly above the national average. In the neighborhood, you'll find cozy cafés and upscale restaurants, as well as plenty of shops to browse.

### **Downtown East**

Downtown East is an affluent neighborhood that's home to many young professionals. The area is full of contemporary restaurants and cafés, as well as the historic Guthrie Theater (founded in the early-1960s). At the theater, you'll be able to watch classic plays, as well as those of up-and-coming playwrights or the latest plays from your favorite established writers. The Mill City Museum is a former flour mill that traces the history of the city. The neighborhood also contains multiple green spaces where you can relax and enjoy some time out in nature.

### **Prospect Park**

Prospect Park is a historic neighborhood that's part of the University community. Just over 9000 people live in the area, most of whom are young professionals. However, it's important to note that the public schools in the area are excellent – good news for families that want to move into the neighborhood. Most residents rent in the area, the cost of which is just slightly above the U.S. average. There are three parks and a preserve in the area, so if you love spending time outdoors, you're in luck! The area also has numerous restaurants and even more coffee shops!

### **Armatage**

Armitage is one of the best places to live in Minnesota. Many young families choose to settle down in this neighborhood, attracted by the low crime rates and great schools.

# Nashville City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Nashville is a hotspot for job seekers as it has the second-largest job market in the country – and the job market is projected to grow even more over the next few years. Nashville is home to (or the destination of) many famous and aspiring musicians but this is more than just the Capital City of Country Music. One resident, William Walker, actually became president of another country (Nicaragua in 1956), something no other American has done since. Another resident and student at Vanderbilt University, Morris Frank, traveled overseas to discover how seeing-eye dogs could benefit the blind. He brought back the first seeing-eye dog in the U.S. in 1928. Nashville is a city of hope, made up of friendly residents who have the tenacity to accomplish great things. If you're ready to become a resident, make sure to check out our Nashville city guide to find your dream apartment.

### Nashville city highlights

Nashville has so much to offer – especially to music lovers. If you haven't made up your mind yet to move to this beautiful city, here are just a few attractions that you'll have access to regularly once you find an amazing apartment using our Nashville city guide.

- **Grand Ole Opry**: You can't live in or visit Nashville without at least one visit to the historic Grand Ole Opry. The show has been going strong for over a century and is known as "the show that made country music famous." Visitors won't just get to hear country music, though. There are country, bluegrass, soul, blues, folk and gospel as well.
- **Music Row**: Music Row is the most famous street in Nashville. Many of the side-streets and avenues are named after famous country musicians. You can take a tour to see where artists record their music and there are plenty of landmarks that pay homage to those who made it big in the music industry.
- Vanderbilt Dyer Conservatory: The large, white dome of the Vanderbilt Dyer Conservatory is home to the largest astronomy centers in the state. There are several tours, and you can look at the constellations through telescopes that are open to the public. They even open the grounds to host outdoor concerts under the stars.
- Warner Parks: Feel the need to get away from the buzz of city energy? You're not alone. Warner Parks is a popular destination for people who want some peace and quiet and who want to soak in all the regenerative energy that nature has to offer. The Park has an abundance of trails for walking, biking, running or horseback riding. It even has playgrounds and golf courses. If you use our Nashville city guide to find an apartment near Warner Parks, we're sure it will be a place you visit often.
- Adventure Science Center of Nashville: Love to learn but think talks, seminars and textbooks are boring? You're not alone, which is why we love this museum. It provides a hands-on, interactive learning experience for visitors of all ages. You'll learn things like how to harvest honey from a beehive, spend time in a virtual reality helmet or enjoy yoga under the stars.

# Nashville city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

You've decided to take the plunge and move to Nashville. Congratulations! You'll love it here. Now, it's time to find an apartment. With our Nashville city guide, the process is easier than ever. You'll be able to find a great apartment in one of the many amazing neighborhoods in the city. Here are just a few to consider.

### **Downtown**

If you love being in the heart of a city, Downtown is the neighborhood for you. The energy is high with crowded bars lining Nashville's main street, Broadway. There's music all around as Nashville is where all the action happens for country music artists. The Ryman Auditorium (built in 1892) hosts concerts of some of the biggest names in country – and you can even get backstage tours. If you love the history as well as the artistry of country music, you can visit the multitude of museums, including the Johnny Cash Museum, the Country Music Hall of Fame and the SoBro Museum. When you live in Downtown, you'll always have something to do and see!

### 12 South

Along 12th Avenue, there's a half-mile-long stretch called the 12 South neighborhood. It's a lovely residential neighborhood with lots of greenery and bungalow-style homes. You'll find vintage clothing stores, as well as stores that sell vintage guitars. If you love to shop for quirky items to make your Nashville apartment look truly unique, you will find shops that have fun and funky items to your heart's content. Sevier Park is a lovely place for weekend picnics or daily walking and jogging. There are towering trees and playgrounds, making it a fun place for the whole family to spend some time in nature.

### **Germantown**

Looking for something with some period charm? Look no further than Germantown. This neighborhood is lined with old Victorian buildings that have been restored and are now home to chic restaurants and cafes. The brick sidewalks add to the charm. You'll also find restored warehouses where you can find high-end boutique clothing stores. Adding to the eclectic nature of the neighborhood are the global eateries and the Nashville Farmer's Market where the vendors sell fresh, seasonal produce.

### **West Nashville**

West Nashville is made up of upper-middle-class households. Therefore, it's one of the pricier neighborhoods in Nashville when it comes to rental prices. However, it's a lovely neighborhood with friendly neighbors and a very suburban feel. There are plenty of apartment buildings with studios and small apartments available. Renters who have a family and need a bit more space will be glad to find single-family homes with three to four bedrooms available to rent. Many residents who live in the area are professionals – managers and executives for example. Interesting fact: West Nashville has the highest population density of residents with Canadian or Brazilian ancestry than nearly every other neighborhood in the U.S.

### **Midtown**

Like Downtown Nashville, Midtown is a major hub of activity – especially at night. Crowds pack bars to listen to rock and country musicians. On Church Street, gay bars are packed with patrons who want to see variety acts, drag shows and of course, live music. Midtown is a hotspot for students as well who fill the bars and cafes after a long day of learning at Vanderbilt University. But the neighborhood isn't just all about raucous fun. There's also a huge green space in Centennial Park with a lake and sunken gardens. The Park even has a replica of the Parthenon. It's a great place to get some exercise, meditate and journal or spend time with family and friends. If that sounds like your scene, check out our Nashville city guide for some of the best apartments for rent in Midtown.

### The Gulch

With a population of a little less than 5500 residents, The Gulch is an upscale neighborhood with chic fashion boutiques, fancy hotels and restaurants that continuously set culinary trends. The Gulch wouldn't truly be a Nashville neighborhood without a thriving music scene. You can listen to bluegrass bands at The Station Inn or folk, indie and soul musicians at Mercy Lounge. The variety of nightlife opportunities is one of the reasons Niche.com has given this neighborhood such a high rating. But it isn't just about the music. The Frist Fine Art Museum has a diverse collection of art that you won't want to miss. The schools are above average to excellent and it's a haven for young professionals looking for a place to call home.

### **East Nashville**

Another place that ranks high on the great places to live in Nashville list – again, mainly for the awesome nightlife – is East Nashville. Like Downtown and Midtown,

this neighborhood is buzzing with activity. It's one of the quirkier neighborhoods in Nashville with trendy restaurants, street art and offbeat shops. Nearby is Shelby Park which has a tree-lined path (that's paved for easy walking) along the Cumberland River. If you're a football fan, you might want to purchase season tickets to see the Titans play in nearby Nissan Stadium.

### **Donelson-Hermitage-Old Hickory**

This is a great area to raise a family. There are plenty of wide streets and big yards for children to play and ride bikes. The schools in the area have above average to excellent ratings. While there are some apartment complexes in the area, many of the rentals are larger homes with plenty of space for growing families. This suburban neighborhood also offers some of the most affordable rental prices around Nashville. There are also several bodies of water and green spaces around the neighborhood, perfect for weekend picnics and get-togethers with friends and family.

### **Green Hills**

Do you want to live in one of the most popular, affluent neighborhoods in Nashville? Then, the Green Hills suburban neighborhood is for you. It's well-known for its upscale boutiques and brand-name fashion, like the H. Audrey boutique, named one of the top shops in the country by Elle Magazine. Notable celebrities shop there, including Gwyneth Paltrow and Faith Hill. The famed Bluebird Café – home to established and aspiring singer-songwriters – is nearby as well. It's a great place to raise a family, with top-quality schools and safe neighborhoods.

### **Green Hills-Midtown**

Another great place to raise a family is Green Hills-Midtown. The schools in this neighborhood are some of the best in Nashville, ranging from very good to excellent. This is an affluent neighborhood with million-dollar homes, many of which sell quickly. Rent can be on the higher end but it's a lovely neighborhood to call home if you can afford it. Residents say the neighborhood is friendly and they love that it's close enough for a quick drive into Nashville to go shopping or out to eat but far enough away to experience some peace and quiet.

## New Orleans City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

The Big Easy, Crescent City, NOLA – whatever you call it, New Orleans is one of the most unusual and exciting cities in the USA. With Creole history and fabulous eats, the birthplace of jazz entices millions of visitors each year to roam the streets during its many festivals, Mardi Gras and all summer long. Known for beautiful, colorful cultural experiences and the best gumbo in the world, the city will keep you entertained, intrigued and living high all year-round. If you're ready to look for your new apartment in the Paris of the South, our New Orleans city guide is just the ticket. Check out the neighborhood highlights and best to-dos in town to help find your next best apartment.

## New Orleans city highlights

The Big Easy has plenty to offer locals and tourists alike with all sorts of unique attractions, zesty Cajun treats and incredible jazz and blues.

- LaLaurie Mansion: Looking at the LaLaurie Mansion from the outside, you see a beautiful piece of early 19th-Century architecture with a baroque façade and the wrought iron balconies. But inside, there lurks a discover the dark history of one of the city's most notorious slave owners, Marie Delphine Macarty, known as Madame LaLaurie. She's known for having killed and tortured many slaves in the mid-1800s and the mansion's believed to be haunted by many of their un-resting apparitions to this day. Entry isn't permitted, but the mansion and many other spooky spots can be learned all about on one of the many haunted tours of the city.
- City Park: Located on Victory Avenue, City Park is the largest green space in the city. There are over 15 themed rides at the Carousel Gardens Amusement Park including a hand-carved carousel known as the Flying Horse which dates back to the early 1900s and a Storyland garden setting intent on charming every visitor with its beautiful sculptures of storybook characters.
- St. Louis Cemeteries: Dating back to the late 18th Century, the St. Louis Cemeteries are home to some of the tombs of New Orleans's most famous ghosts and former residents. The three graveyards are a bit labyrinth-like in their design and display the mausoleums and above-ground graves in true New Orleans-style fashion. One of the most famous and popular spirits many claim to have seen while wandering the aisles is Marie Laveau, the Voodoo Queen of New Orleans.
- Cajun Restaurants and Fish Markets: If there's anything NOLA is famous
  for its blues and good Cajun cuisine. All around the city, you can experience
  both at once and never run out of new places to try. Crawdad or crawfish,
  gumbo, beignets and more await as you wander the many gorgeous
  neighborhoods of the city.

- The New Orleans Historic Voodoo Museum: Perhaps one of the most unique museums you'll find anywhere is the New Orleans Historic Voodoo Museum. It's not for the faint of heart with its displays of creepy artifacts related to the practice of Voodoo. See candles, altars, dolls, paintings and much more as you learn all about the Voodoo Queen and her fellow practitioners throughout the city's history.
- St. Louis Cathedral: Central in the French Quarter you'll find the St. Louis Cathedral. The beautiful church dates back to the 1700s the oldest cathedral in North America. The beautiful old church is actually the third to stand in that spot since the first two were destroyed. Religious services are still held there, along with multicultural events and concerts.

# New Orleans city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

As a whole, New Orleans is an enticing, bubbling city full of unusual energy and sparkling magic. Each neighborhood here holds its own unique flavors, too – so it's worth checking them out one by one to find the perfect spot for your new place.

### **French Quarter**

The most famous neighborhood in New Orleans has been around since the 18th-Century with its stunning buildings and those famous balconies you see on all the postcards. The neighborhood is chock full of intriguing boutiques, restaurants, art galleries and amazing apartments and townhouses to rent. After a long day of work, head out for some beignets and jambalaya and meet up with friends around some of the famous landmarks or just kick back in one of the local pubs.

### **Uptown/Garden District**

Upriver from the French Quarter sits Uptown and the Garden District. The neighborhood as a whole encompasses smaller residential neighborhoods and draws them together with plenty of amazing offerings and amenities. Included in this part of town is the Audubon Park and Zoo, Tulane University, Loyola University, historic mansions and more. You'll have access to various forms of transportation like the St. Charles Avenue streetcar. The neighborhood is extremely walkable and family-friendly, with casual restaurants, cafes, po-boy shops, dessert shops and unique boutiques. You'll also find parks and plenty of high-end dining.

### **Central Business District**

In the Central Business District – CBD – you'll find yourself just across Canal Street from the French Quarter. The CBD contains the majority of the city's office buildings

and current warehouse district, as well as the recently dubbed South Market District. Here you'll find businesses booming, restaurants serving and bars flowing with delightful drinks. The area is also a blossoming arts district with theaters like the Orpheum and Saenger and the Superdome – home of the New Orleans Saints. While much of the neighborhood is geared towards inexpensive and quick dining for office workers on the go, you'll also find some of the best dining spots in the city right here. And if you're an art lover, the many galleries on "Gallery Row" in Julia Street will keep you coming back over and over to see the latest works of local artists.

### Marigny/Bywater

Across Esplanade avenue and downriver from the French Quarter, you'll find Marigny/Bywater – a blending of two trendy neighborhoods typically thought of as one continuous neighborhood. The area draws people in their 20s and 30s thanks to the many amenities and great nightlife here. You'll find distinctive Creole cottages and boutique shops, small art galleries, record stores and the riverfront Crescent Park. Great little jazz joints are everywhere on Frenchmen Street along other great spots night owls will enjoy.

### **Mid-City**

Home to the local annual Jazz and Heritage Festival, Mid-City is the perfect neighborhood for those looking to be in the city but not quite so close to the French Quarter. The neighborhood is tucked between the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain with easy access to both via streetcar or taxi and rideshare. The Lafitte Greenway runs through with a 2.6 mile paved trail leading to the French Quarter via bike or foot, as well – so everything's truly accessible from this spot. The crowd in Mid-City is artsy and colorful with unique homes and historic landmarks dotting Bayou Road. You'll also find City Park here with its gorgeous 1300-acre green space.

### St. Roch

St. Roch is the historic "real" New Orleans so many are searching for. The neighborhood is filled with opportunities for foodies and art lovers alike with independent galleries, locally owned restaurants and award-winning bars. And if you love seafood, you'll love the St. Roch Market, a former fish market that now serves as a food hall filled with 11 dining options in the seafood realm and more.

## New York City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Here's a crazy fact. The Big Apple is home to over 8 million people. That means that one in every 38 people in the U.S. lives in New York City. People in the city speak over 800 languages and 40% of households speak a language other than English. It's a diverse melting pot with many opportunities. No wonder so many people flock to the city! And people who live and work here are some of the fittest people in the country. They walk everywhere. Walking a few miles a day just to get from home to work and back again is the norm for most New Yorkers, so make sure you have a few pairs of good walking shoes. When you're ready to make the move to the Big Apple, be sure to check our New York City guide to find a neighborhood and rentals that fit your needs and aesthetic.

### New York City highlights

New York City has so much to offer to its visitors and residents alike. Here are just a few of the fun, exciting events and inspiring locations you'll get to experience regularly when you find your dream apartment using our New York City guide.

- Midtown Manhattan: One of the first things people think about when they
  think of Midtown Manhattan is Times Square but it's so much more than
  that. You can also see the Empire State Building, shop on Fifth Avenue, visit
  Rockefeller Center and Grand Central Terminal and enjoy an afternoon at the
  huge New York Public Library.
- **Central Park**: No visit to NYC is complete without an outing to Central Park. It's a beautiful green space for walking, picnicking, jogging or even going for a ride in a horse-drawn carriage. You can even go on a guided bike tour of the park. Central Park is 693 acres of gardens, hillsides and forests. For some locals, it's a must-visit destination on a daily basis.
- Take a Helicopter Ride: There is no greater way to NYC than in a helicopter. This is one of the most popular ways for first-time visitors to see the city, though locals like to do it, too. You'll be able to experience a panoramic view of the NYC skyline, the Hudson River and bay, as well as the major landmarks around the city.
- Whitney Museum of American Art: Fifty thousand square feet of galleries.
  Sounds like heaven, doesn't it? There are multiple outdoor exhibition spaces,
  a bar and a restaurant, too. Head to the top of the building to see panoramic
  views of the Hudson River. Works on display include those by Alexander
  Calder and Jean Michel Basquiat. From paintings and sculptures to incredible
  architecture, this museum has it all!
- **9/11 Memorial and Museum**: Every American should not only take a trip to NYC at least once in their life, but they should also visit the 9/11 Memorial and

Museum. The Memorial and Museum pays homage to what was lost on that fateful day and encourages visitors to reflect live a life full of gratitude.

# New York City guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

One of the first questions you'll need to ask yourself before moving to NYC is which neighborhood is going to fit your unique needs the best. Following are some of the most popular neighborhoods in New York.

#### **Lower East Side**

The Lower East Side is an eclectic neighborhood with a unique mix of tenementstyle buildings and upscale apartments. The neighborhood is diverse and is great for families. The nightlife here is one of the many perks of the neighborhood with all the restaurants, trendy bars and music events. The neighborhood has a strong Jewish heritage which is seen by its traditional delis, old-world fabric stores and museums.

## **Upper East Side**

The Upper East Side is an elegant residential neighborhood complete with designer shops and fine dining establishments. You'll find a mix of lux high-rise apartment/condo buildings, as well as the classic brownstones New York is famous for. As far as amenities go, the Upper East Side has some of the best in the country, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, access to Central Park, the Guggenheim Museum, as well as bars, restaurants, coffee shops and parks. The neighborhood is made up mostly of retirees and young professionals, though there are plenty of families here, too.

## **Chinatown**

Chinatown is a densely populated neighborhood (over 24,000 people) that is a haven for foodies. You'll find it hard to choose which South Asian or Chinese restaurant to choose from – and don't forget the bubble tea shops, as well as the markets that sell fresh fish and Asian herbs and spices. The neighborhood is known for its diversity and nightlife. Most people living in Chinatown rent. Nearly all the schools in Chinatown are not only above average but have reached the excellent range.

## **Greenpoint**

Nearly 43,000 people live in Greenpoint, which has a large Polish American community. The neighborhood is in Brooklyn, and it has a definite hipster appeal. You'll find traditional Polish shops alongside trendy eateries, as well as bars and other venues with live music. Art studios and galleries abound in the multitude of converted warehouses. The East River waterfront area of this neighborhood has several high-rise buildings, some of which are apartment complexes that have stunning views of midtown Manhattan.

#### **Harlem**

Harlem is known for its African American heritage and draws a diverse crowd of visitors and people who want to call this area home. The neighborhood is a mix of high-rise buildings and traditional brownstones, both of which serve as wonderful homes depending on your style and budget. Harlem is known for its jazz clubs, hip bars and overall energetic nightlife. If you're a foodie, you'll love the numerous restaurants, many of which serve delectable soul food. When you move to this neighborhood, make sure to check out the historic Apollo Theater.

#### **Upper West Side**

If you're looking for a neighborhood that oozes luxury, refinement and culture, you need to check out the Upper West Side. This neighborhood is home to the Lincoln Center, which hosts the New York City Ballet, as well as the Metropolitan Opera Company. Because of all the amenities of the neighborhood, it is one that also has the highest price tag.

#### **Prospect Park**

Prospect Park is a New York suburb with tree-lined streets, spacious rental houses and beautiful Victorians. It's a family-friendly neighborhood that's quiet and safe. Residents like living near NYC but they also enjoy the peace and quiet of their neighborhood. The Prospect Park Zoo is in your backyard. It's a fun Zoo for the whole family to enjoy walking tours, animals and summer movies under the stars. The residents of this neighborhood are all about conserving the beauty and slow pace of the neighborhood, so there are plenty of community activities to help do just that.

## **Williamsburg**

Another hip Brooklyn neighborhood is Williamsburg. It draws a lot of young professionals and artists to the area with trendy boutiques, cafés and restaurants. Artists have painted murals and street art throughout the neighborhood making it extra colorful and inviting. There are several outdoor concerts throughout the year, as well as dance clubs and music halls. With nearly 157,000 residents, this is an urban neighborhood. It's filled with young professionals, most of whom rent.

#### **Fort Greene**

Looking for a diverse, accessible neighborhood? Look no further than Fort Greene, a neighborhood of over 39,000 people. It is in the top 10 most diverse neighborhoods in NYC. It's a quiet neighborhood that's family-friendly, made up of row houses and brownstones. There are a few walk-up buildings and high-rises with doormen, though, too. The residents here are down-to-earth and love living away from the Rat Race of Downtown NYC.

#### **Carroll Gardens**

Carroll Gardens is in Brooklyn and is famous for its Italian-American roots. You'll find several traditional Italian shops, cafes and restaurants. The neighborhood is also on the trendy side with lots of hip boutiques, bars and restaurants. The streets are lined with trees and brownstones, as well as single-family residences with lovely front gardens. Most of the residents here are young professionals or young families.

## **Chelsea**

Chelsea was the original bastion of the LGBT+ community, so there are several gay bars in the area. Chelsea also has over 200 art galleries and upscale restaurants. Most residents rent their homes – and they have an abundance of home styles to choose from. Options range from luxury high-rise apartment complexes to townhouses and low-rise apartment buildings.

## <u>SoHo</u>

If you're looking for something more on the high end with a trendy vibe, you should check out SoHo. The neighborhood is made up of high-end designer boutiques, chain stores and art galleries. You'll also find that the streets are full of street vendors during the daylight hours who sell original artwork and handcrafted jewelry. It's a major shopping destination for residents and visitors alike. The neighborhood

has a lot of historic charm, too, with cobblestone streets and cast-iron facades on the residential buildings.

## **Greenwich Village**

Located in Lower or <u>Downtown Manhattan</u>, Greenwich Village is famous for being the mecca of the 1960s counterculture movement in NYC. Things haven't changed much in recent years. It's one of the most LGBT+-friendly neighborhoods in the country. Residents regularly congregate in Washington Square Park, as well as enjoy the numerous restaurants, bars and cafes. The streets are lined with old trees, providing much-needed shade during the hot summer months and beautiful greenery among all the brownstone buildings. Greenwich Village is also home to New York University so expect plenty of students and professors in this relatively safe neighborhood.

## Oklahoma City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Oklahoma City is the "Modern Frontier," a city that pays homage to the tribal nations who called this area home before we ever arrived. New residents and visitors alike are welcomed with open arms by friendly neighbors who value authenticity and kindness. Residents of the city like to create a small-town atmosphere, which is why this city is known as the biggest small town you'll ever see. Known as the "Horse Show Capital of the World," the city (which is home to nearly 644,000 people) provides a nice mix of nostalgia and new growth and innovation. If you're looking for a city that exudes Southern kindness while providing you with many of the amenities of a big city, Oklahoma City might be the right fit for you.

## Oklahoma City highlights

One of the perks of living in a great city is all the events and attractions you get to enjoy on a regular basis. Here are just a few in Oklahoma City that might pique your interest.

• Myriad Botanical Gardens: The botanical gardens are a great place to visit for the whole family. Here you can simply enjoy the scenery or take a class and learn about gardening and how to do it. Other events hosted by the gardens include the Pumpkinville Fall Festival, the Full Moon Bike Ride, concerts, art exhibits by local indigenous artists and more. You can even rent the event for special events like parties, weddings and corporate events.

- Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum: Located in Central Oklahoma City, this memorial is a tribute to all those who were directly impacted by the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995. It also honors those who showed their heroism during that terrorist attack. It was built on the site where the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building once stood. The museum has exhibits that help you learn more about that day. It's an experience that will very likely bring you to tears while you pay your respects to those that were lost in that attack.
- National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum: This museum is a nice mix
  of art and antiquities. You'll learn about the cowboys and indigenous peoples
  of Oklahoma and their history. You'll see beautiful artwork, as well as exhibits
  on topics ranging from the history of tattooing and roads in the U.S. to the
  women of the pioneer/cowboy era and Andy Warhol's take on Western life.
- Oklahoma City Zoo: If you have kids, you'll definitely need to make a trip to the Oklahoma City Zoo occasionally. They'll have so much fun and so will you! At the zoo, you'll see elephants, apes and big, beautiful cats, as well as species that are native to Oklahoma like black bears. The Sea Lion Show is particularly entertaining.
- Take in Some Sporting Events: There is a ton to see in Southwestern Oklahoma City, including the Oklahoma Victory Dolls Roller Derby, watching an NBA game (the Oklahoma City Thunder) or an Oklahoma City Dodgers (the Triple-A affiliate of the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team). If you or your kids want to get some playtime in, head over to Andy Alligator's Fun Park & Water Park.
- Lake Stanley Draper: Located in Southeast Oklahoma City, this is one of three municipal reservoirs in the city that was named after the long-time director of the Chamber of Commerce back in the 1960s. The reservoir has 34 miles of shoreline and is a great place to picnic or go fishing, boating or water skiing. There's even a model airplane flying field.
- Frontier City Theme Park: The motif may be Western, but this theme park will suit thrill-seekers of all kinds. Attractions include rides like the Geronimo Skycoaster, the Diamondback and the Brain Drain. Warning: They are intense! Once you've got your feet safely on the ground again, be sure to watch the Old West gunslinger show. You'll feel like you've been transported back in time.

# Oklahoma City guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

An important part of any move is figuring out which neighborhood you should call home. Choose the wrong neighborhood and you'll be searching for another apartment in no time. Following are some of the most popular neighborhoods in the city.

#### **Downtown**

Recently, the Downtown neighborhood has been undergoing a renaissance. Due to the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, which damaged or destroyed the majority of buildings within a one-mile radius, the Downtown area remained vacant and unchanged throughout the 1980s and 1990s. Today, the Downtown area is undergoing an economic revival with multiple business buildings and condo/apartment complexes being built (including luxury condos that have a contemporary aesthetic), while older buildings are being converted.

#### **Northwest Oklahoma City**

This is a sprawling residential area that borders <u>Lake Hefner</u>. If you love fishing and boating, as well as bike rides, jogs or walks along paved paths, you'll love living in this neighborhood. Nearby Martin Park Nature Center and Bluff Creek Park have trails that take you through beautiful, wooded areas. You'll be sure to get plenty of fresh air and exercise. You'll feel rejuvenated with your time in nature and be ready to get back to work in the big city! Even though there are so many outdoor activities to enjoy, this community also has plenty of shopping and dining opportunities with shopping centers clustered throughout the neighborhood.

#### **Bricktown**

Are you looking for a rental in a neighborhood that has an industrial-chic aesthetic? Check out the Bricktown neighborhood. You'll find repurposed warehouses throughout the area that are now home to wine bars, chic piano lounges and sophisticated restaurants. Shops in the area sell home décor, gourmet condiments, clothing and even handmade chocolates. If you like being on the water, you'll love that you can take water taxis along the Bricktown Canal. You can go on educational water tours or romantic dinner cruises.

## **Midtown**

Midtown is a pedestrian-friendly neighborhood. You'll be able to walk to any number of global restaurants and gastropubs. Of course, you'll find several American dining options with gourmet burgers and waffles. It's a hotspot for food trucks, too! This neighborhood earns a high rating for its nightlife, which includes chic, retro cocktail lounges and beer halls. There is a bowling alley and live music, too. You'll also get to shop trendy boutiques for home décor and designer clothes. If you want to live in an area that's constantly buzzing with energy, look for a Midtown apartment.

#### **Paseo**

Paseo has a decidedly bohemian vibe. The area is filled with chic clothing stores and stylish homeware boutiques. You'll also find several restaurants that serve New American cuisine, a term that encompasses regional, as well as ethnic ingredients, utilizes classical European techniques (or not), as well as the farm-to-table movement. In other words, it's a term that gives chefs the permission they need to get as creative as possible in the kitchen. You'll also find burger joints and Asian eateries. The nightlife scene is bustling, too, with dive bars and cocktail lounges offering live music, billiards and karaoke.

#### **Deep Deuce**

If you're looking for a hip neighborhood with a vibrant nightlife, Deep Deuce is the perfect neighborhood for you. Here you have your choice of cocktail lounges and whisky bars, as well as music venues built in the 1920s where you can listen to the best jazz and blues. There are numerous dining options as well, including restaurants and pubs that serve gourmet hot dogs, have an interesting and creative take on comfort food or those that have New American menus. Deep Deuce is close to Bricktown and Downtown Oklahoma City. In fact, it's only 0.1 miles away from the central hub of the Downtown area.

## Omaha City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

The biggest city in the state, Omaha, Nebraska is situated on the Missouri River a little bit north of the mouth of the Platte River. With a population just shy of 500,000, Omaha is the second largest city in the states of the Great Plains, which include Nebraska, Kansas, North Dakota, and South Dakota. This city has a lot of great things to do, from delicious restaurants to sports to an amazing art scene. It scores high on infrastructure for being easy to travel around (unlike other cities with perpetual traffic jams and road construction).

As a city in the center of agricultural hub of the United States, Omaha benefits from the many farms surrounding it – and of course, Nebraska is known for its tasty steaks! Because of its proximity to so many local farms, Omaha is a leader in the "farm-to-fork" movement of promoting sustainability by sourcing food from local sources when possible. This also means Omaha's many restaurants offer some of

the best, freshest food available! Speaking of food, the Reuben sandwich – corned beef, Swiss cheese, sauerkraut and Russian dressing on grilled rye bread – was invented here in Omaha...not to mention butter brickle ice cream, cake mix and TV dinners. Some bigwig corporations call Omaha their home, including Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway, one of the "The Fab 5" (the others are: ConAgra, Union Pacific, Peter Kiewit Sons' and Mutual of Omaha). Because so many tech startups hitched their wagon here, the area also has gained the nickname "Silicon Prairie." With lots of great job opportunities and many wonderful neighborhoods, Omaha is a fabulous place to live. Looking for an apartment for rent in Omaha? Our Omaha city guide will assist you in finding the neighborhood that fits your exact needs.

## Omaha city highlights

Omaha, Nebraska has many great things to see and do. Here are just a few of the amazing attractions in this lovely plains city:

- Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium: Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium is lauded as one of the world's finest zoos, because of its amazing habitats. These include a massive geodesic dome, the largest indoor rainforest in North America and the biggest indoor desert on the planet.
- **Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge:** Formally known as the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge, locals in Omaha call this 3,000-foot bridge "Bob." The bridge soars over the Missouri River, connecting Nebraska with Iowa. It also provides access to over 150 miles of hiking and biking trails. If you take a selfie on the state line running through Bob the bridge, it's called "Bobbing."
- The NCAA Men's College World Series: If you love basketball, then you'll love having access to the best teams in college baseball as they fight for the championship during the NCAA Men's College World Series.
- **Joslyn Castle:** Joslyn Castle is a regal-looking historic home built in 1903 in "Scottish Baronial" style. It's situated the Gold Coast Historic District of Omaha. This Omaha landmark is available for public tours.
- The Durham Museum: Your first impression when you walk into this gorgeous Art Deco building from 1931 may simply be "Wow!" Originally, the Durham Museum operated as Union Station and was architected by Union Pacific Railroad as its "showpiece," as Omaha was its headquarters. The building is an official National Historic Landmark and now houses hands-on exhibits, including restored train cars, model trains, rare coins and even 1940's storefronts. The museum also has an authentic old malt shop with a soda fountain.

# Omaha city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Looking for a wonderful place to live in the city of Omaha? Our Omaha city guide can help. Check out some of these great neighborhoods in Omaha, Nebraska.

#### **West Omaha**

Mostly west of 72nd Street and beyond Interstate 680, West Omaha is a collection of smaller neighborhoods including Boys Town, Wedgewood, Deer Ridge, Harvey Oaks and more. Known for its restaurants featuring signature thick, juicy steaks as well as pork tenderloin sandwiches, West Omaha also has many great bars and pubs to visit with fresh soup. The Village of Boys Town was named a National Historic Landmark in 1985. A beautiful area with lots of trees, Boys Town used to be a farm that was purchased in 1921 to help youth in need. Currently 400 boys and girls get help at the Boys Town campus in the Village.

#### **Downtown**

Downtown Omaha offers amazing views of the Missouri River, especially if you are lucky enough to get an apartment in a high-rise. It's an exciting place to live, with lots of old-school steakhouses, modern restaurants, bars and music clubs with jazz and more.

#### **Midtown**

Midtown Omaha features many great apartments, including mixed-use locations where you can enjoy a walkable lifestyle with convenient access to shops, pubs, restaurants and movie theaters.

#### **Blackstone**

The Blackstone District is a pedestrian-friendly, historic district in Omaha. The main area runs along Farnam Street from 36th Street to 42nd Street. This revitalized neighborhood offers cultural enrichment, fine dining, shopping and lifetime.

## **Old Market**

A beautiful historic area of town with genuine cobblestone streets, Old Market has been revitalized into a destination with seductive shops, delicious restaurants, nightlife and street performers. You can also find many fascinating art galleries here.

#### **Dundee**

This happening area filled with popular restaurants, shops and bars has a really interesting history. It's actually one of the few places in the United States that a

Japanese balloon bomb exploded during World War II. You can find a plaque marking where the bomb hit in this exciting Omaha neighborhood.

#### **North Omaha**

North Omaha is planted north of Downtown Omaha and offers some of the oldest and quaintest neighborhoods in the city such as Near North Side, Saratoga, Florence and Bemis Park. You'll find a Mormon Temple here and the Mormon Pioneers' Winter Quarters. With a large African-American community, North Omaha is the birthplace of civil right activist Malcolm X.

#### **Northwest Omaha**

Northwest Omaha runs south of the Douglas-Washington County line and west of Interstate 680, approximately 15 miles from Downtown Omaha. This lovely neighborhood features many quiet residential areas and parks to enjoy.

#### **Benson**

Benson is a thriving historic pocket neighborhood in Omaha, Nebraska originally founded in 1887. It's also known as the "party animal of Omaha" because of its happening nightlife and live music. You can find great craft beer here as well as some fab restaurants. Actor Nick Nolte used to live here.

## **Central Omaha**

Central Omaha contains both urban commercial areas and suburban-style neighborhoods, including Old Loveland, Indian Hills Village and West Dodge Addition. The University of Nebraska Omaha is situated here, making it an ideal location for students.

#### **Little Italy**

Little Italy is of course the area where Italian immigrants settled in Omaha, Nebraska. It was also a popular area for bootlegging (illegal alcohol) during the Prohibition years. It still offers many Italian cultural attractions, such as the annual Festival of Santa Lucia and La Festa. Now the area attracts a diverse population who enjoy the neighborhood's unique culture and restaurants.

## **Bellevue**

The historic suburban city of Bellevue was the second oldest settlement in the state, dating back to the 1830s. It's the oldest "continuous town" in Nebraska. Bellevue is French for "beautiful view." And for that beauty, check out the Fontenelle Forest Nature Center with over 1,000 acres of hardwood forest, wildlife and wetlands.

#### **Council Bluffs**

Council Bluffs is actually a separate city located across the Missouri River in Iowa. Originally known as Kanesville, the history of this city dates back to the early 1800s, where it was the start of the Mormon Trail. This suburb of Omaha has many historic attractions, a Harrah's Casino, and lots of lovely parks.

## **Papillion**

Located southwest of Downtown Omaha, Papillion is a suburb of the city with a population of almost 20,000. This town is known for its high quality of life and has actually been nationally recognized for it. In fact, Money Magazine has ranked the suburb in its top ten places to live multiple times. You'll find many great parks here, including the Walnut Creek Recreation Area next to scenic Walnut Creek Lake.

## Orlando City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Orlando is world-renowned for its Disney and Universal theme parks and resorts but there's much more to the city than that. For one thing, visitors come to the area (and people move here) because of the weather. Sunshine almost all year round! The beaches are a definite plus, too. Orlando is also home to over 100 lakes, one of which – Lake Eola – is actually a giant sinkhole that measures 80-feet in depth in some places. Residents of the area say they've seen tremendous growth in the city over the past few years. New residential communities – many of which are ideal for renters – have popped up all over the city. And the food truck industry has exploded, which is great news if you're a foodie. If you're considering making the move to Orlando, be sure to check our Orlando city guide to find a great rental.

## Orlando city highlights

Orlando is one of the top tourist destinations in the world. As a resident of the city, you'll be able to visit your favorite attractions more often. In fact, if you're like other

residents of Orlando, you may have even moved here to be closer to them. It's no wonder – Orlando has some of the best attractions of any city in the world. Here are just a few must-see events and attractions in the city.

- Madame Tussauds: Madame Tussauds is one of the most famous wax
  museums in the country. In addition to historic figures, you'll also see replicas
  of well-known people in our modern era as the museum is constantly updated.
  Nearly everyone in the family will recognize someone in the museum, so it's a
  fun experience for the whole family.
- Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art: The museum hails back to the early 1940s. In the late-1950s, the founder of the museum purchased items from Laurelton Hall, which was ruined and left destroyed after the owner and designer Louis Comfort Tiffany passed away. The museum is hugely popular for its huge collection and is a fun experience for history buffs.
- Old Town: Located in Kissimmee, Old Town is a delight for all the senses. There's an amusement park, as well as numerous shopping opportunities. Covering over 18-acres, Old Town has tons of old-fashioned charm with brick and old-growth trees. You'll think you were transported back in time. Don't forget to visit the huge Ferris wheel, play some games in the video arcade or conjure the gumption to explore the haunted house.
- Bok Tower Gardens: Located in downtown Lakeland, the majestic Bok Tower
  rises above acres of citrus hills. The Singing Tower is an imposing gothic
  structure that is beautiful and mysterious. Surrounding the towers are
  manicured gardens with winding paths to explore. During your exploration,
  you'll be serenaded by carillon concert music.
- Disney's Hollywood Studios: We did say there's way more to do in Orlando than anything Disney-related but let's face it, Disney is one reason people move to Orlando, let alone visit. Can you really call yourself a resident of Orlando if you never visit a Disney site? This particular site is one of the top tourist attractions in Orlando, the theme of which is the Golden Age of Hollywood. It's a magical place to visit, especially if you love old Hollywood films.

# Orlando city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Once you make the decision to move to Orlando, your next question should be: Which neighborhood is going to fit my needs best? Following are some of the most popular neighborhoods in Orlando.

#### **Baldwin Park**

The Baldwin Park neighborhood is known for being safe, family-friendly, and full of a great sense of community. There are plenty of parks in this neighborhood, great for taking your dog for a walk or having a family fun day on the weekends. Rental costs are higher than the national average but with the economy and job rate of the area,

many young families and professionals are happy to invest in a home in this neighborhood.

#### **Metro West**

Nearly 37,800 call Metro West home. It's one of the most diverse neighborhoods in Orlando and is a hotspot for young professionals. However, if you do have children, you'll be happy to know that schools in the area receive excellent marks from parents. Urban amenities in the area are centrally located, so you can easily run all your errands in a single trip. If you're a foodie, you won't want to miss the monthly Battle of the Food Trucks.

#### **Lake Nona**

A little over 11,000 people live in Lake Nona, a trendy planned community with gated communities, sleek, modern homes and classy yet casual bungalows. The Nona Adventure Park is a must-visit for families with wakeboarding and a floating obstacle course. If you're into tennis (or want to be), the USTA National Campus hosts tennis events throughout the year and also offers lessons. In the southern part of the neighborhood, you'll find live music venues, green spaces, volleyball courts and numerous eateries, many of which are delectable and innovative food truck chefs.

#### **Downtown Orlando**

Most people move to Downtown Orlando for business opportunities (since it's also known as the Central Business District) and the urban amenities. As a resident of this neighborhood, you'll be surrounded by a mix of 19th-century buildings and sleek, modern business towers. Besides work opportunities, the Downtown area is also a cultural hub. For example, Dr. Phillips Center hosts operas and musical shows. If you're into concerts and sports, you'll probably be a regular fixture at the Amway Center which hosts Orlando Magic basketball games and big-name concerts. If you love being in the center of everything and like the hustle of city living, check out our Orlando city guide for apartments or condos to rent in Orlando.

## **South Semoran**

Approximately 24,000 people live in this Orlando neighborhood. Residents here feel the area provides an urban-suburban mix. The community is made up of a diverse mix of young professionals and families. Schools in the area have received higher-than-average ratings from parents in the neighborhood. Shopping and dining

experiences are abundant in this area. You'll also find several great cafés to enjoy your morning mocha.

#### **Millenia**

One of the top reasons people love living in this Orlando neighborhood is because it's great for pet owners. The area has well-maintained sidewalks and lots of pet stations for doggy bags and disposal. The neighborhood is also close to I-4, which makes commuting to Downtown Orlando incredibly easy. Millenia is clean, safe and has plenty of parking. Residents also say that apartments in the area are nice, comfortable, clean and in good condition. If this sounds like your type of neighborhood, be sure to check our Orlando city guide to find an apartment within your budget.

#### **Lake Underhill**

With fewer than 3000 people living in the area, Lake Underhill has an urbansuburban feel to it with lots of restaurants, coffee shops, stores and green spaces. It's one of the top neighborhoods in Orlando for young professionals. Residents say the schools are great, as are the amenities. They like that everything is close by, so you can easily run errands without having to drive to Downtown Orlando.

## **Kirkman South**

One of the main reasons people like living in this neighborhood is because of the amenities. You'll find an abundance of restaurants, cafés and shops. Another reason they like it is that it's so close to numerous green spaces and natural features, such as Turkey Lake and Shadow Bay Park. Most residents say you need a car (or access to one) for most commutes. However, the neighborhood is close to public transit, which is helpful to many. If you need to do some grocery shopping, though, the neighborhood and its shopping district are easily walkable.

## Park Central

Park Central is a pet-friendly community. A little over 6000 people live in the area, which has a dense urban feel to it. The commute to Downtown Orlando is less than 15 minutes (6.2 miles), though that time frame is dependent on traffic. The majority of residents are renters and the area is popular with young professionals.

## **Thornton Park**

If you're looking for a charming residential neighborhood, look no further than Thornton Park. You'll find classic Florida bungalow homes throughout the area, with a few contemporary apartment and condo complexes as well. The neighborhood is shaded by old-growth oak trees draped in Spanish moss. You'll find stylish restaurants, cafés with outdoor seating, organic juice bars, wine bars and clothing boutiques that sell beautiful boho-chic styles. Washington Street is the heart of Thornton Park. The decorative fountain there gives the neighborhood a refined European elegance.

#### **College Park**

College Park is an affluent part of Orlando and is well-known for its beautiful (and abundant!) green spaces, lakes and 20th-century cottages. If you love spending time in the great outdoors, you'll love spending some of your recreation time at the Dubsdread Golf Course (developed in the 1920s) and Lake Ivanhoe, where you can go wakeboarding and waterskiing.

## **Kirkman North**

Approximately 21,250 people call Kirkman North home sweet home. The neighborhood has a dense urban feel to it and most residents rent their homes. The community is largely made of young families, with schools in the area earning excellent ratings. It's also one of the more affordable neighborhoods in Orlando.

## **Lake Eola Heights**

Nearly 2500 people live in the Lake Eola Heights community which is home to the Walt Disney Amphitheater where you can go to enjoy concerts and plays. The focal point of the neighborhood is Lake Eola Park, which has incredible walking, jogging and biking paths. If you want to enjoy a romantic moment with your significant other, make sure to take a ride on the lake's iconic swan-shaped paddle boats. Are you a fan of historical architecture? Then, you will love the historic district with brick-paved streets and neoclassical churches, as well as cottages and farmhouses dating back to the 1800s.

#### **Ventura**

Over 17,300 people live in this Orlando neighborhood, which is a little over seven miles southeast of Downtown Orlando. This is another community with an urban-suburban feel to it. A little over half the residents' rent, the cost of which is slightly

higher than the national average. Residents also appreciate that the area is more affordable than the rest of Orlando, as well as the U.S. average cost of living. It's approximately 15% cheaper to live in Ventura than in other parts of the country.

## Philadelphia City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Philadelphia, the City of Brotherly Love, is the sixth biggest city in the United States (in population) and one of the most historic. Due to its colonial roots as a key strategic location during the American Revolution, the "Spirit of 1776" lives on in this culturally rich and diverse city. Philadelphia is the home of the Declaration of Independence and the nation's first capital. (Some claim the first capital was York, Pennsylvania or even New York City, but Philly is where it all started.) Because of Philadelphia's revolutionary past, it's a great town to learn about American history. Philly also has its own culture that has developed over the centuries. Whether you love fresh-baked soft Philly pretzels, cheese steaks, Scrapple, hoagies or arguably better thin-crust pizza than New York, Philadelphia wins in terms of local flavor. Philadelphia sits on the banks of the Delaware River, but also has the Schuylkill River running through it. (Schuylkill River is pronounced somewhat like "school-kill.") With its close location to New Jersey, proximity to Atlantic City and just a short trainride from New York City, Philadelphia has lots to see and do, not just inside the city but nearby. Take a break and go to the Jersey shore or spend the weekend lapping up Philly's rich cultural heritage. Do you need to find an apartment for rent in Philadelphia? Our Philadelphia city guide can show the way, with our top picks for the best Philly neighborhoods below.

## Philadelphia city highlights

There are lots of things to see and do in Philly. Our Philadelphia city guide recommends you check out these famous locations in Philadelphia at least once. Take a break from looking for your new Philadelphia apartment to enjoy some of the cultural enrichment Philadelphia has to offer.

• The Liberty Bell: What's a visit to Philadelphia without seeing the beloved Liberty Bell? The bell has an iconic crack in it that occurred when it was first rung in Philadelphia in the steeple of the Pennsylvania State House, now called Independence Hall.

- Independence Hall: Located on Chestnut Street, Independence Hall is where the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776. It's also where the United States Constitution was signed.
- **Philadelphia Museum of Art:** The Philadelphia Museum of Art is most famous for the scene in the film Rocky, where Sylvester Stallone makes his triumphant run up the impressive front steps. It's also a great place to see world-class art and special exhibits.
- **Reading Terminal Market:** Since 1893, the Reading Terminal Market is the place to go for fresh products, local meats, fresh baked goods and other fabulous foods. It's one of the biggest and longest lasting public markets in the country, as well as a National Historic Landmark.
- The Franklin Institute: This science museum is a fun place to bring the kids. One of the most popular and enduring attractions at the Franklin Institute is the Giant Heart, which has been there for more than 50 years. This massive replica of a heart can be walked through, and its famous ever-present heartbeat has been updated to adjust to mimic a real heart's changing sound as you go through the different heart chambers.

# Philadelphia city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Philadelphia is a great place to live, and our Philadelphia city guide will get you started by sharing some of the top neighborhoods in Philadelphia. Whether you want to live in a high-rise apartment or a classic Philly rowhome, you can find a lot of excellent apartments for rent in Philadelphia.

## **Center City**

Center City is the heart of Philadelphia. Sandwiched between the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers, Center City is where to live if you want that downtown experience. Iconic parts of Center City include the famous LOVE sculpture in John F. Kennedy Park, Rittenhouse Square and the massive Wanamaker Organ (now owned by Macy's as sadly Wanamaker department stores are no more). It's also a great place to live if you are a foodie with so many world-class restaurants.

## West Philadelphia

West Philly is on the other side of the Schuylkill river from Center City, which is easily accessible via public transportation, including streetcar trollies and taxi service. West Philadelphia is a hub for universities and includes the University City neighborhood (see below). With great ethnic food, community gardens and entertainment, West Philly will keep you engaged and enjoying life.

## South Philadelphia

This area between the two rivers (Delaware and Schuylkill) and south of South Street is actually home to 31 distinct neighborhoods. It also has its own accent, though the "Mid-Atlantic dialect" is not exclusive to South Philly and variants of it extend into South Jersey and beyond. The accent may be lessening in modern life, but South Philadelphia's immigrant and working-class roots still live on in the fabulous food and culture here. Best cheese steaks in Philly, so they say.

#### Rittenhouse Square

Part of Center City, Rittenhouse Square refers to both the popular public park and the neighborhood surrounding it. This highly popular "town square" in the middle of Philly has many great shops, restaurants and other attractions.

## **University City**

In the easternmost part of West Philadelphia, you will find University City, named after its proximity to three great universities: the University of Pennsylvania, University of the Sciences and Drexel University. Obviously, this is a great place to live for students.

## Southwest Philadelphia

Southwest Philadelphia used to be a separate hamlet called Kingsessing Township. It's where the Philadelphia International Airport is, along with other neighborhoods such as Angora, Bartram Village, Elmwood Park and Penrose.

## **Fishtown**

Situated northeast of Center City, Fishtown started out as a working-class neighborhood connected to the shad-fishing industry. Fishtown is now a hip and trendy area with quaint rowhomes, small businesses, music venues and art galleries.

## **Old City**

Known as "America's most historic square mile," Old City Philadelphia is filled with beautiful old brick row houses as well as restaurant, pubs, boutiques and art galleries. In fact, Old City is known as a thriving arts district with over 30 art galleries as well as artsy home furnishing showrooms.

## **Chestnut Hill**

Known as Philadelphia's Garden District, Chestnut Hill is a charming neighborhood with boutiques, antique shops, yoga studios and fabulous outdoor dining. Chestnut Hill was named "one of the top seven urban enclaves in the country" by Forbes.com.

#### Roxborough

Roxborough is located southwest of Wissahickon Valley Park. Founded in 1682, Roxborough originally housed stately plantations. It has been the site of actual battles, including a massacre on December 19, 1777, after the capture of Philadelphia in September by British General Sir William Howe. This historic, friendly neighborhood has many great local shops and businesses, as well as many comfortable apartments for rent.

#### **Overbrook**

Overbrook is located on the west end of Philadelphia next to Saint Joseph University. It encompasses Morris Park, a 147-acre park with an easy to intermediate 2.12-mile hiking trail. The park was originally donated to the city of Philadelphia by Wister Morris, a prominent Quaker, in 1891.

#### Passyunk Square

Passyunk Square is a South Philadelphia neighborhood known for great shopping and delicious restaurants. This neighborhood is home to the famous Geno's Steaks, one of the oldest and for some the best purveyor of authentic cheese steaks in Philly.

#### Queen Village

This quaint residential neighborhood is located on the east side of Philadelphia. Queen Village was originally part of Philly's first suburb, Southwark and is now the oldest residential neighborhood in the metropolis. You can find many historic homes here, including the Nathaniel Irish House on South Front Street and the George Mifflin House on Pemberton Street.

#### **Society Hill**

Another historic neighborhood in Center City, Society Hill is one of the most expensive neighborhoods in Philadelphia due to its restored Federal- and Georgian-style brick row houses. (That said, you can still find some reasonable-priced rentals.)

In fact, this area contains the most 18th and 19th century buildings in the entire country. If you love old fashioned streetlamps, cobblestone streets and majestic old buildings, this neighborhood might just be for you.

#### **Manayunk**

Part of Lower Northwest Philadelphia and next to Roxborough, Manayunk sits on the Schuylkill River. It was the home of the first (but uncompleted) canal in the United States. This previously working-class community has since undergone "gentrification" and is a haven for young professionals. It is also known for its rousing nightlife.

## Portland City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Some people call <u>Portland</u> a weird, liberal, even "crunchy" hipster city. Others simply call it unique. But no one can ever claim that Portland is boring. The beautiful city in the Columbia River basin has plenty of natural beauty, including waterfalls, parks, trails, gorges and more. After spending a day in the great outdoors, you'll appreciate the city's healthy food truck obsession. You'll find everything from Japanese and Mexican food to menus with a mishmash of cultural flavors. If you're a fan of tiny homes, Portland is also home to Tiny Heirloom, a custom tiny house company that is family owned and operated (they even had a show on HGTV). Are you ready to make the move to this eclectic city? Make sure to check our Portland city guide to help you find the best rental options for your needs.

## Portland city highlights

Portland has so much to offer to both tourists and residents. Once you move to this great city, you'll have access to the following attractions – just to name a few!

- Portland International Raceway: Located in North Portland, the Portland International Raceway is a fun destination for anyone who loves cars and motorcycles. There's drag racing, motocross, motorcycle road racing and more. You can even learn how to race or browse your favorite classic cars during the summertime Cruise-Ins.
- **Powell Butte Nature Park**: This beautiful park is in <u>East Portland</u>. It's 603 acres of natural beauty. It also offers some of the best hiking trails in the city. Walkers and hikers enjoy the clearly marked trails, as well as the dense

- forests and wildflowers. The Park is ideal for people who want to get some exercise, need time to think and meditate or those who love taking nature photos.
- **Portland Japanese Garden**: Looking for a magical place to visit? You'll love the Japanese Gardens, complete with rock gardens, rock pathways and little bridges throughout. It's the perfect place for some peace, quiet and reflection. There is a fee to access the garden but it's worth it!
- Take a Food Tour: Portland is the perfect place for foodies. There are so many craft breweries and restaurants that even the most passionate foodie might feel a bit overwhelmed but definitely in a good way! To help you enjoy all that Portland has to offer, try taking a food tour, where you'll get to experience everything from international cuisine and food truck fare to fine dining restaurants.
- **Powell's City of Books**: This is one of the most famous bookstores in the country. Within the nine rooms are housed over a million books divided into 3500 sections, making this the world's largest independent bookstore. They sell new books as well as second-hand books.

# Portland city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Our Portland city guide can not only help you find the best Portland apartments in your budget but also the neighborhood that fits your needs best. Make sure you're surrounded by like-minded people or in the midst of the bustling city or living on the outskirts and enjoying the beauty of nature by comparing Portland neighborhoods. Here are a few of the most popular.

## **Northeast Portland**

Northeast Portland is home to the Alberta Arts District. In this neighborhood, you'll find some of the largest, most historic homes in the city. You'll also find quaint and quirky shops, the best eateries and breweries in Portland and the 1920s-built and newly renovated Alberta Rose Theatre. The area is also home to the Rose Garden basketball stadium and the Oregon Convention Center. Each month, enjoy the Last Thursday Street Fair where there's live music, delicious food and so much more to enjoy. The area is diverse and a mecca for hipsters.

#### Nob Hill

If you love repurposed, ornate Victorian buildings, Nob Hill (located in Northwest Portland) is the neighborhood for you. The tree-lined streets guide you to a variety of trendy shops (ideal for some regularly planned window shopping) and incredible dining experiences. You'll get your choice of refined restaurants or more laid-back eateries. International cuisines abound, as do coffee houses. If you want to be

surrounded by natural beauty, you'll love Nob Hill. Here you'll have easy access to Forest Park and its 70 miles of walking/hiking trails, as well as the Portland International Rose Test Garden, home to over 10,000 varieties of roses.

#### **Downtown**

The Downtown neighborhood is in Central Portland. It is a high-energy neighborhood full of indie boutiques, eclectic food trucks and other creative dining and shopping experiences. Each week, you'll be able to visit the Portland Saturday Market where you can experience live music and purchase your fill of leather crafts, art, glass and jewelry. If you want to experience more culture and refinement in your life, you'll probably want to regularly visit The Portland Art Museum (Native American and Asian art exhibits), as well as the Keller Auditorium where you can witness the best ballet dancers and experience enthralling concert performances.

#### **Northwest District**

This affluent neighborhood is a great place to raise a family, with all the public schools in the area highly rated. Residents love the mix of vintage shops, stores run by local designers and big-brand stores. The neighborhood is also home to gourmet restaurants and stylish bistros. The green spaces are gorgeous, with large gardens and areas to hike and bike.

## **Hawthorne District**

Are you looking for a neighborhood that radiates an eclectic, bohemian vibe? Then, you need to check our Portland city guide for apartments for rent in the Hawthorne District. Here you'll find quirky shops, a plethora of bookstores and vintage and retail boutiques. There's a low-key, laid-back energy in this neighborhood, where you can enjoy a night out at a fun pub, beer bar or club. You'll also have access to some of the best vegetarian restaurants in the city. Like most bohemians, you probably thrive in the Great Outdoors. This neighborhood doesn't disappoint. Make regular visits to Mt. Tabor (an extinct volcano) Park, which has breathtaking panoramic views of Portland and several walking/biking trails.

#### **South Waterfront**

Looking to live in a posh neighborhood? The options are expanding! The South Waterfront has been redeveloped and is now home to luxury housing, high-rises and boutique shops. If you're a foodie, you're in luck because you'll find global eateries

and modern restaurants – as well as a few fast-food favorites. If you love experiencing nature, there are walking and biking trails along the South Waterfront Greenway and the Portland Aerial Tram for some panoramic views of the city and surrounding green space. The sophisticated neighborhood has several buildings with lux studios and condos. We're positive you'll find the style of rental that's perfect for your aesthetic sensibilities.

## **Lair Hill**

If you love history, you'll love the Lair Hill neighborhood. This area is packed with Victorian homes built from the 1870s through the early 20th century. Periodically, the Heritage Society hosts walking tours of the neighborhood where you can learn about the history of this part of Portland, as well as the homes themselves. The neighborhood has a laid-back feel to it and there are plenty of outdoor activities you can enjoy often, such as boating and other water activities or waterside walks in Willamette Park.

#### **Alberta Arts District**

Northeast Alberta Street is a residential neighborhood in Portland that eventually transforms (when it crosses Northeast 14th Avenue) into the Alberta Arts District. Here you'll have access to a unique part of Portland that attracts people from all over the city. The motif of the buildings in the area reflects the influences and sensibilities of the African American, Latino and Asian communities. Young professionals and artists alike find the Alberta Arts District to be a thriving yet welcoming haven for all. The Last Thursday Street Festival is evidence of this, where people come together to celebrate each other and their community at large, as well as the unique food and art of the district.

#### **Buckman**

The Buckman neighborhood is a great location if you're looking for an apartment that's near some of the most popular neighborhoods in Portland. Buckman is famous for its food. In fact, they say that there's so much to eat and drink in this neighborhood that you can try a new place every day for a year and still not make your way through all of them. Portland has more microbreweries per capita than anywhere else (we're talking globally!), most of them seem to be in Buckman.

#### **Multnomah Village**

Multnomah Village is a charming, rustic, cozy Portland neighborhood. It's a booklover's paradise, with plenty of bookstores and several sidewalk cafes to enjoy your new book and a delicious latte. The neighborhood has traditional Italian restaurants, modern American cuisine and even funky taverns. At the local shops, you'll find clothing boutiques, home décor shops and antique shops, too. The area is an especially nice neighborhood to raise a family. The schools are high-quality and Gabriel Park has a large sports field, skate park and areas for a lovely family picnic.

#### **Pearl District**

One of the poshest neighborhoods in Portland is the Pearl District. It's a fashionable area with indie boutiques and some of the hippest brands available. Warehouse spaces have been reclaimed and formed into artisan coffee shops and craft breweries. Bars and high-end restaurants abound, too. However, this isn't just a neighborhood for folks who crave a lively nightlife. It's also a very artistic part of the city with multiple galleries showcasing glass art, contemporary paintings and sculptures, as well as photography.

## St. Johns

Over a hundred years ago, there was a small town at the confluence of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers called St. Johns. Since then, the town has transformed into a rustic, cozy neighborhood in North Portland. Cathedral Park in St. Johns is a hub of activity for people who love being outdoors – and for their pets! During the summer months, you can enjoy the Jazz Festival, as well as boating activities on the river. If you want something fun to do over the weekend, make sure to check out the "Brew 'n View" movie theaters where you can enjoy delectable food and drink while watching a movie with your friends and neighbors.

## Raleigh City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Founded in 1792, Raleigh was originally called the City of Oaks by its founders. The city is well-known for its incredible educational opportunities (North Carolina State University, Living Arts College and Shaw University to name a few). It's also known for being a cultural and historic hub with over 40 museums and historic attractions that are open to and free for the public. Though the city is teetering on the edge of a

population of 500,000, most residents feel that it's still managed to maintain a small-town feel with plenty of community spirit and warm neighbors. In Raleigh, the people are friendly, the weather is amazing and it has a thriving economy. If you're ready to make the move to Raleigh, make sure to check our Raleigh city guide first. It will make apartment finding so much easier!

## Raleigh city highlights

As a resident of a new city, you'll have so much to explore. You won't be at a loss for things to do in Raleigh. Here are just a few fun events and awesome attractions that make this such a great city to call home.

- Marbles Kids Museum: If you have kids, you need to bring them at least once to the Marbles Kids Museum. It's a fun place that fosters kids' creativity. The interactive museum provides simulation experiences so younger kids get to see what it feels like to drive or go to school. Treetunes introduces children to music, while Sun Sprouts teaches children about the joy and necessity of gardening.
- Taste Carolina Gourmet Food Tours: Are you a foodie? Then, you definitely need to try one of these tours, which will take you to some of the finest culinary establishments in the state. These are walking tours, so you'll get to experience Raleigh up close and personal and learn about the history of the city plus, you'll be able to walk off some of those calories and make room for more tasty samples!
- **Joel Lane Museum House**: This was originally a plantation home that was built in the late 18th century. Before the plantation was built, the city was much more rustic. Afterward, it ushered in an era of prosperity for the city. The home is in incredible condition and is cared for by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Tours are available and provide a lot of historical information about Raleigh.
- J.C. Raulston Arboretum: If you're a plant aficionado, you'll probably visit the J.C. Raulston Arboretum quite often. There are thousands of beautiful, interesting plants in the facility, including golden chain trees and a muku tree. Other plants include the Twisted Tongue agave and the twin-flowering abelia. Tours are available and recommended so you can have an even deeper understanding of the beautiful plants around you.
- Videri Chocolate Factory: Are you a chocoholic? Then, this should be the first visit on your list and should be visited regularly once you've settled down in your new Raleigh apartment. On the tour, you'll learn just about everything there is to know about chocolate and the history of this company. Once the tour is over, head over to the gift shop and treat yourself to some delectable chocolates.

# Raleigh city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Making a move to a new city is a big deal. You want to take time to ensure you find the best place to live. Part of that involves finding a great neighborhood. Below are some of the most popular neighborhoods in Raleigh.

#### **North Raleigh**

North Raleigh is an urban area with hundreds of restaurants, numerous entertainment complexes and retail stores. However, the residential community is growing exponentially. Besides the amenities for the adults (cafés, bars, etc.), you'll find plenty for the kids to do, too. Just to name a few: Galaxy Fun Park, DefyGravity, Adventure Landing and Launching Pad Trampoline Park. For adults looking for some after-work fun, try Raleigh Room Escapes, a thrilling escape room adventure. Not only is it a fun experience, but it's also great for building bonds and learning to work as a team.

#### **Downtown Raleigh**

Raleigh's Downtown neighborhood has undergone a revitalization in recent years. Now, you'll find indie art spaces in converted warehouses, as well as family-friendly exhibits at the Museum of Natural Sciences. You'll find venues that stage opera and classical music concerts, as well as ballet performances. International cuisine can be found in one of the many global eateries. Cool cocktail bars dot the neighborhood. And if you love to shop, you'll find some great gourmet stores at City Market, which is housed in a building that dates back to 1914. Downtown is a great option if you're looking for a neighborhood with a densely urban feel, lots of amenities and activities and the buzz of living in close proximity to lots of people.

#### **North Hills**

Like the Downtown area, North Hills is a mixed-use development. You'll find lots of clothing boutiques, entertainment venues, sophisticated as well as casual restaurants, commercial offices, a retirement community and residential homes in the area. The Commons area of North Hills features live concerts, a farmers' market and numerous festivals. Just outside the neighborhood, you'll have easy access to North Carolina State University, University Park and North Carolina Museum of Art. This suburb is only about 10 minutes from Downtown Raleigh, which makes for an easy work commute.

#### **Brier Creek Country Club**

Are you looking for a posh home at an affordable price? Look no further than the Brier Creek Country Club community. Here you'll find beautiful homes that are larger than you can find in Downtown Raleigh. The neighborhood was established in 2001 and construction was completed in 2011, so many of the homes are still relatively new. Homes in the area have well-kept yards with beautiful landscaping. The streets are safe, and neighbors feel secure. The nearby golf course and country club give you an opportunity to relax, meet up with friends, get some exercise and get to know your neighbors.

## **Northwest Raleigh**

Northwest Raleigh is a wonderful place to raise a family, as schools in the area are excellent and well above average. Residents here also enjoy great urban amenities with a more residential vibe. The neighborhood is known for being one of the safest areas in the city.

#### **West Raleigh**

West Raleigh is a vibrant, lively neighborhood that's home to the North Carolina Museum of Art. And the setting of that museum is beyond gorgeous: It's set in a sprawling park that's dotted with beautiful sculptures. This is a great neighborhood for families as the schools are above average and kids love going to Pullen Park, which has kid-friendly rides including a carousel that was built in 1911. If you're the outdoorsy type, you'll probably spend a lot of time at Lake Johnson Park where there are biking trails, as well as beautiful woodland areas to hike. If you like spending time on the water, you'll be happy to know that the park rents kayaks to visitors. And of course, we can't leave out the food! West Raleigh has multiple sports bars and global eateries, including Middle Eastern and Mexican restaurants.

## **Tryon Place**

Just shy of 1500 residents, the Tryon Place neighborhood has a sparse suburban feel. Most of the residents own their homes and are of retirement age. However, there are still plenty of rentals, most of which are single-family homes. And the area is great for kids, too, as most of the schools are well above average. Residents say the neighborhood has a small-town vibe but there are plenty of intriguing places to experience, including an old movie theater that occasionally plays old Hollywood films. You'll also find several clothing stores, art galleries and restaurants. If you're a

fan of performing arts, head over to Tryon Little Theater where you can see some popular productions, like *Mama Mia!* 

#### **Cameron Village**

Cameron Village is a compact neighborhood that unusually walkable and bike-friendly. You'll find a good mix of single-family homes for rent, as well as apartment and condo complexes. Many of the homes have an old-style feel to them with plenty of brick, while the condo/apartment buildings often have a more contemporary feel. In the neighborhood, you'll find the chic Cameron Village shopping center where you'll be able to purchase national brands as well as local goods. Small businesses sell home goods, gifts and fashion. Nearby Fletcher Park has winding paths and a water garden – perfect for some quiet, meditative moments. Restaurants in the area range from casual Southern establishments to sophisticated Latin-American-inspired restaurants.

#### **Southwest Raleigh**

Southwest Raleigh is safe and family-friendly. The neighborhood boasts well-lit streets, plenty of parking and homes that are well cared for. Close to public transportation, the area has multiple restaurants and shopping opportunities. You'll also find several green spaces – perfect for a casual stroll with the dog after work or a weekend barbeque with your friends and family.

## **Crabtree**

This neighborhood has fewer than 1800 residents and provides residents with a suburban-rural feel. Most people in the area own their homes, though there are still some really nice rental properties available, including single-family homes and contemporary apartment complexes. The cost of rent is less than the national average, which makes this a great opportunity for young families or people who are just starting out. Public schools in Crabtree are above average.

## Reno City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Reno is renowned for its thriving tourism industry, in part due to the casinos throughout the city. However, that's not to say that there's no culture or urban amenities in Reno. You'll find some of the greatest artwork and museums in the country in Reno, as well as some of the most beautiful green spaces and places to ski or snowboard during the winter months. Tech giants have moved into the area as well. Reno is also a foodie's heaven because you'll find some of the best food in the world in this city. Another nice thing about living in Reno is that you'll get to experience all four seasons each year. It does snow during the winter, but the snowfall levels are typically manageable and nowhere close to extreme like other parts of the country. If you've decided you'd like to call Reno home, check out our Reno city guide for apartments that are affordable and have the amenities you need.

## Reno city highlights

When you move to a new city, you'll get to enjoy everything that the city has to offer. Following are just a few examples of the fun, interesting places to visit in Reno.

- Rancho San Rafael Park: This Park spans hundreds of acres and offers a variety of scenery including mountain and desert landscapes, wetland habitats, a xeriscape and massive lakes. What started as a cattle ranch was converted into a public park in 1979. In addition to enjoying the scenery, you can also go fishing, walk the trails, play volleyball and more.
- Nevada Museum of Art: This is the only accredited art museum in the state
  of Nevada. Exhibits are housed in an imposing building designed by famed
  architect Will Bruder that's four stories tall. The focus of the museum is the
  environment and the relationship we have with it. Outside you'll find sculpture
  gardens, while inside you'll find rotating exhibits. The museum is home to over
  2000 pieces of art. Once a month, the museum hosts an event featuring talks
  and live music.
- **Mount Rose Ski Resort**: If you love to get out into nature all year round, you'll love the Mount Rose Ski Resort, which spans over 1200 acres. It's located in the center of the Toiyabe National Forest and has over 60 runs and multiple lifts. Mount Rose has 1800 vertical feet for skiers, the longest run of which measures two-and-a-half miles.
- National Bowling Stadium: Called the Taj Mahal of Tenpins, the National Bowling Stadium was made famous in the 1996 film *Kingpin* starring Bill Murray and Woody Harrelson. On top of the roof sits an aluminum bowling ball that spans 80 feet. There are 78 lanes for tournaments and room enough for thousands of participants, all spread across 8-acres of floor space and five stories.
- **Great Reno Balloon Race**: Whether you want to ride the hot air balloons or just want to observe, this annual event is fun for the whole family. On average, 120,000 spectators come to witness the event that is free of charge. The first race was held in 1982 with 20 balloons. Now, approximately 100 balloons enter the race. The event happens every September and lasts for three to four

days. Those on the ground are treated to special events for kids and adults, as well as smaller competitions and photo ops.

# Reno city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Before using our Reno city guide to find your ideal apartment, it's imperative that you find your ideal Reno neighborhood. Not all neighborhoods are created equal. Some have amenities that others don't. Some are quieter, cleaner and safer than others. Find the neighborhood that suits your needs first by considering some of the options below on our list of the most popular neighborhoods in Reno.

#### **Stead**

The Stead neighborhood borders Silver Lake and the Sierra Nevada Zoological Park. There are several other green areas and smaller bodies of water in the neighborhood as well. On the northern border of this neighborhood is the Reno-Stead Airport, which is a large public and military general aviation facility. Each year, the airport hosts air races, which you'll have a front-row seat to as a resident of this neighborhood.

#### **Double R Boulevard**

Another nice neighborhood in Reno is the Double R Boulevard area. Here you'll have access to the Silver Bear Swim School, perfect for little ones to learn the life-saving skill of swimming while having a whole lot of fun. Nearby Alexander Lake is a reservoir where you can go fishing for a variety of fish including largemouth bass and rainbow trout. The neighborhood also borders State Route 659, which makes commuting a breeze.

## **Downtown Reno**

Downtown Reno is a great place to live if you're looking for an urban setting at a low price. Rental fees here are 11% lower than the state average. It's a wonderful place to live for young families and professionals alike. Many in the area like that much of the city is quite walkable, making running errands, getting to appointments and meeting up with friends easier and more affordable since you're spending less money on gas. There's a host of global restaurants in the area that pay homage to the diversity of this neighborhood. If you're an entrepreneur or small business owner, Downtown is the ideal place to live and work since many small businesses thrive in this community.

## **Smithridge**

Smithridge is a small neighborhood located nearby the Reno-Tahoe International Airport. Residents say the neighborhood is clean and safe. There's a friendly, welcoming atmosphere here that encourages a sense of community. You'll find plenty of shopping and dining options. It's a wonderful neighborhood for families. One school in particular – Smithridge STEM Academy – has a 15-1 student-to-teacher ratio and is an above-average school. The neighborhood is diverse, neighbors take care of their yards and there are plenty of hiking and outdoor recreation opportunities.

## Virginia Lake

The Virginia Lake neighborhood is named for Virginia Lake, located in the northwestern part of the neighborhood. Residents of the area love to visit the Lake because of the hiking and walking trails, as well as the beautiful scenery. There's a playground for the kids to have fun and run off some of their energy. If you're a fan of green spaces, you'll love this neighborhood because there's more to love than just Virginia Lake. You can also visit Tighe Park (where you can play baseball or softball) or Moana Hot Springs (where there's a municipal sports area and plans for a pool).

## **Donner Creek Village**

Residents of Donner Creek Village say it has a peaceful, relaxing atmosphere with lots of hiking and camping opportunities. The neighborhood is safe, easily walkable and pet-friendly. Residents say there's a friendly, community spirit and many of the neighbors in the area take time out of their busy schedules to volunteer regularly. Besides getting in your regular walks around the residential neighborhood, you can try another type of exercise: Karate at the Body Mind & Spirit Academy of Martial Arts.

## **University of Nevada**

The University of Nevada, Reno was founded in the mid-1870s and offers undergraduate- and graduate-level programs. Being a college neighborhood, there are plenty of cafés, restaurants and bars for students to unwind and have some fun. The neighborhood surrounding the college has multiple green spaces, including Dick Taylor Memorial Park, a 15-acre park with picnic shelters, tables and benches and a barbeque area. Visitors also have access to a playground for the kids, tennis and basketball courts and fields to play football, soccer, baseball and softball.

#### Wells Avenue Neighborhood

If you're someone who wants to live in a neighborhood where you don't have to spend a lot of time in your car, the Wells Avenue neighborhood is for you. Both the walkability and biking scores are quite high – 82 and 76 respectively. The public transit score is about average, so if you need to commute you might want to consider investing in a vehicle. The Wells Avenue neighborhood is very close to Midtown Reno, where you'll find farm-to-table restaurants with delectable cuisine and industrial-chic cafes. If you enjoy the late-night action from time to time, Midtown will be a nice little getaway where you can visit bars that feature DJs and live bands. Of course, Midtown is also the cultural hub of Reno, so you will have plenty of museums, art galleries and science exhibits to explore on your days off.

#### **Idlewild Park**

The Idlewild Park community is in the western part of Reno. Its namesake is a 49-acre community park that sits on the Truckee River. The Park has children's playground parks, a dedicated skatepark and a pool. You'll also find duck ponds and beautiful rose gardens. Each year, there's an Earth Day celebration at the park.

#### **Renown Medical Center**

The Renown Regional Medical Center is a non-profit hospital and home to the only level II trauma center in the region. The small community surrounding the hospital has some cozy rental homes, as well as contemporary apartment complexes. It's a great neighborhood if you work at the Renown Medical Center, are looking for a job there or want to break into the medical field.

## Richmond City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Richmond, VA is a vibrant, creative city with tons of natural beauty to recommend it. As a resident of Richmond, you'll have beautiful views of the James River and access to amenities that will rival any city in the country – especially when it comes to food and drink. There are already over 30 different brewing companies, and it's expected to continue growing. The arts are thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by residents here who love watching Broadway shows at the Altria Theater. Plus, the city has a great reputation for being one of the friendliest. Neighbors know and help

each other and appreciate the strong sense of community in each of the Richmond neighborhoods. If this appeals to you, it might be time to plan a move to this beautiful city. Our Richmond city guide will help you find an apartment or home to rent in one of the many picturesque Richmond neighborhoods.

## Richmond city highlights

Wondering if you should make the move to Richmond? When you become a resident here, you'll have constant access to some of the most incredible attractions in the state of Virginia. And yes, some of them are absolutely worth making the move to this fine city. Here are just a few that locals and tourists alike love to frequent.

- Broad Rock Sports Complex/Broad Rock Park: Located in South Richmond, this park was long-neglected. Now, thanks to activist Lorenzo Trent, the area is getting a major upgrade. Due to the efforts of the Broad Rock Tennis Association and generous donors, the tennis courts have been repaved and painted. It's now a lovely spot to spend some of your recreation time or get some exercise playing tennis.
- Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden: Biodiversity is the goal of this botanical garden, which is home to a variety of plants from around the world, divided up into specific regions like Cherry Tree Walk and Asian Valley. This is a beautiful and educational destination that the whole family can enjoy. There's even a Children's Garden and a tea house and café.
- **Metro Richmond Zoo**: The Metro Richmond Zoo is one of the best zoos in the U.S., which has over 200 exotic species to observe. The Zoo also has a special breeding program to help encourage the growth of rare or endangered species populations. Spending a day at the Zoo will be fun for the whole family!
- The Edgar Allan Poe Museum: If you're a literary buff, you'll need to make a
  trip (or frequent trips, depending on your love and appreciation for Mr. Poe) to
  this museum, where Mr. Poe's genius is honored. It is a testament to how
  writers (and other artists) can touch the lives of people generations after
  they've lived. Come to learn and to spark your creativity.
- **Belle Isle**: If you want to experience the quieter, calmer, more relaxing activities that Richmond has to offer, you need to visit Belle Isle, one of the most beautiful places in the country. You'll see acres upon acres of unspoiled natural beauty. There are trails for hiking or bike rides, too.

# Richmond city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Once you're ready to make the move to Richmond, the next step is to figure out which neighborhood will fit your needs the best. Our Richmond city guide can help you find a neighborhood that fits your budget and amenity sensibilities. Following are a few of the most popular neighborhoods with apartments for rent in Richmond.

#### **Downtown**

This area is a unique mix of urban amenities and Southern-style charm. From restaurants and cocktail bars to art galleries and music events, Downtown has something for everyone. The nightlife is some of the best in the state. If you're one who loves history, you'll love being near the 1920s theater The National, where you can attend concerts, as well as the Black History Museum where you can learn so much about the area through interactive exhibits. The neighborhood is relatively safe, though there are some higher-crime areas. The cost of living here may be higher than in other neighborhoods but it is lower than the national average.

#### The Fan

Most of the residents here rent, which means there are plenty of well-kept apartment complexes, condos and townhouses to choose from. Residents love that The Fan is a highly walkable neighborhood. You can get from your home to restaurants, shops, coffee shops and more with ease. The neighborhood is centered around Virginia Commonwealth University, where you can enjoy concerts and plays year-round. The neighborhood is an architectural wonder with Tudor mansions and Queen Anne-style homes. The Fan is even home to the Branch Museum of Architecture and Design.

#### **East End**

If you're looking for a neighborhood that easily blends eclectic and historic architecture, East End is the neighborhood for you. Here you'll find numerous homes that were built in Greek Revival and Queen Anne styles. This historic district is home to several green spaces, such as Gillies Creek Park where there are well-marked walking and hiking trails, as well as a disc-golf course. History buffs will appreciate living in a neighborhood that is home to two cemeteries — Oakwood Cemetery and Evergreen Cemetery. These are the final resting places for Civil War soldiers and famous civil rights activists like Maggie L. Walker. As a resident of East End, you'll have plenty to choose from in the way of dining and entertainment opportunities, too.

#### **Near West End**

The West End neighborhood is close enough to Downtown Richmond to enjoy the excitement and amenities when you want to but far enough away to feel like you have the space and peace to thrive. The affluent neighborhood comes with a higher rental rate, though, but for most residents, it's worth it. Most of the homes in the area were built between the 1930s and 1950s, made of brick with slate roofs. There are a

few pockets with other styles, like Capes and ranch homes, as well as post-war bungalows. You'll also find numerous locally owned clothiers and boutique grocers in this neighborhood.

#### **The Museum District**

Nearly 9000 people live in the Museum District, also known as Upper Fan, a compact neighborhood that residents describe as "pleasantly residential." Within walking or biking distance are grocery stores, nice restaurants, bars and entertainment venues. Nearby, is the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, which showcases works by the likes of Fabergé and Picasso. Also housed in the Museum District is the Virginia Museum of History & Culture. Exhibits teach visitors about the heritage of the city and state. Along the streets of the neighborhood are old-growth trees, as well as bold, colorful murals that add to the trendy yet relaxed vibe of the neighborhood.

#### **Scott's Addition**

Scott's Addition is one of the top 10 neighborhoods in Richmond. It's also the fastest-growing! Since 2005, the neighborhood has experienced a renaissance of sorts. The revitalization has produced several distilleries, cideries and taprooms – all in converted warehouses. The result: Scott's Addition is the mecca of Richmond's brewing scene. You'll also find bright murals, a retro bowling alley and nationally recognized restaurants. Residents of Scott's Addition are proud of their part of the city, and they work hard to keep it that way. If you move into this hip neighborhood, you'll feel a strong sense of community and a fun, friendly vibe.

## **Shockoe Bottom**

As a Shockoe Bottom resident, you'll have access to live music and festivals year-round. There's also a weekly farmer's market, posh cafes and brunch spots, as well as delicious seafood restaurants. Residents say it's a safe neighborhood with reasonable rental prices. The restaurants are amazing, and most are within walking distance. There's close access to the interstate, so getting to Downtown Richmond if you're a commuter is super easy.

#### Carytown

Looking for a neighborhood that vibes with your bohemian spirit? Then you need to check out Carytown. You'll find indie boutiques, vintage emporiums, beautiful murals

on several buildings, record stores, cool cafes and more. Craft cocktail bars are open in the evening, and you'll find some of the best farm-to-table restaurants in the city in Carytown. To satisfy your passion for wine, film and fashion, Carytown hosts several festivals each year to honor the amazing creators amongst us.

## **Chippenham Forest**

Are you in search of a quiet, peaceful neighborhood to raise your family? Look no further than Chippenham Forest. It is known for its nightlife and amenities, including restaurants, bars, coffee shops and shopping centers. Neighborhood schools are highly rated. Nearly 80% of residents commute to Downtown Richmond for work. Thankfully, the commute is under 25 minutes.

## Sacramento City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Even if you don't have political ambitions, the California state capital is a great place to live. Not only are there a ton of urban amenities that help make life easier and more enjoyable but living in Sac means you're close to just about everything. Within a few hours, you can be in Napa, Yosemite, Tahoe or Monterey. Residents here like that, while it's a large city (with a population of nearly 600,000), it doesn't feel like a "big city" such as New York, Chicago or San Francisco. Sacramento, also known as the City of Trees, is also a city that tries to hold onto nature like few do, so you'll find an abundance of green spaces. And in keeping with the nature-city balance is the multiple restaurants that only serve farm-to-table cuisine. If this sounds like the city for you, be sure to check out our Sacramento city guide to find the apartment of your dreams.

## Sacramento city highlights

Living in the capital of California has numerous perks, one of which is being near some of the best attractions and events in the state. Here are a few you'll get to enjoy when you become a resident of Sacramento.

Sutter's Landing Regional Park and Sutter's Fort State Historic Park: If
you're a fan of history and nature, be sure to visit these two parks in <u>Central Sacramento</u>. Sutter's Landing Regional Park has areas to work out and for
kids to play, as well as plenty of native plants, paved trails and more. Sutter's
Fort State Historic Park was originally an agricultural and trade colony. Now,

it's a great place for kids and adults to learn a little more about the history of Sacramento and California.

- The State Capital: You must visit the State Capital at least once even if you're not that into politics. The architecture alone makes this a fascinating destination. You'll also get to see the vast gardens that extend over several city blocks where you'll see tall palm trees, native plants and a variety of colorful flowers. There's also a museum if you want to learn more about the history of the building and politics/politicians in California.
- **Sacramento Zoo**: Covering 14-acres of land, the Sacramento Zoo is home to 200 reptiles and over 500 exotic animals. Many of the animals here are either rare or endangered. The Zoo's goal is to help educate the community about conservation and get some much-needed support.
- California State Indian Museum State Historic Park: To understand
  California, you need to go back to the history of the people who first inhabited
  the land. This museum has numerous exhibits showcasing the lifestyle and
  beliefs of indigenous peoples. You'll learn about what was most important to
  them: Family, Spirit and Nature. The museum showcases ceremonial objects,
  hunting tools and a beautiful basket collection.
- Run to Feed the Hungry: A Thanksgiving Day tradition, this charity event allows you to do something for a great cause, while also getting a workout and spending time with friends, family and your community. Over 25,000 people attend the event each year. To participate, you'll walk or run either a 3.1-mile or 6.2-mile course. The event benefits the Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services.

# Sacramento city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

If you're not sure which Sacramento neighborhood to move to, you're not alone. There truly is something for everyone in this great city. To help you find the best apartment, check out our Sacramento city guide where you'll find the best apartment for your needs in some of the city's most popular neighborhoods. Here are just a few neighborhoods to consider.

### **Midtown**

Midtown Sacramento is a diverse area of the city with several gay bars, trendy restaurants, exciting nightclubs and craft breweries. The neighborhood has several vintage shops, music venues and fashionable clothing boutiques as well. The Midtown Neighborhood Association is committed to keeping the community livable and vibrant.

### **Downtown**

The Downtown neighborhood is made up of a little over 9000 residents. It is set in the hub of all things political and financial, including the State Capitol building and museum. You'll find an abundance of restaurants serving diners looking for everything from a fine dining experience to a laid-back, farm-to-table experience. There are performing arts theaters and fine art galleries throughout the neighborhood. The Crocker Art Museum also has a massive collection of paintings, sculptures and more from California artists.

### **Greenhaven**

This suburban neighborhood is about five miles outside of Downtown Sacramento, making it close enough for an easy commute but far enough away to not be constantly bombarded by the buzz of city energy. Still, being so close to the city makes this suburban area feel a bit more urban with plenty of shopping, dining and entertainment opportunities. It has also made the top 10 list of the most ethnically and economically diverse neighborhoods in Sacramento. Greenhaven is an older neighborhood with mature-growth trees lining the streets, giving residents a park-like atmosphere to call home.

### **North Sacramento**

North Sacramento is a well-established, historic community. It sits north of the Sacramento River and is made up of several older bungalow-style and craftsmantype homes. The area is well-kept and is a nice place to go on a stroll with the family. Residents say it has a small-town feel with a strong sense of community, as well as all the amenities you could want from a more urban setting. Stores, restaurants and transit are all within walking distance. The commute to Downtown is relatively short and doesn't require a car. You can take the light rail to work instead.

### **East Sacramento**

East Sac is also an older part of town with a lot of mature, leafy trees and plenty of green space in places like McKinley Park. If you want to enjoy nature with a bit of entertainment, you'll be glad to live near this park as it has a vast rose garden and hosts movie nights, food and food truck events, as well as concerts. Residents in East Sacramento are true foodies. You'll find everything here from family-friendly burger joints and craft breweries to sophisticated farm-to-table restaurants and artisan coffee shops. This is a great neighborhood for sops, too, many of which sell gifts, crafts and antiques.

### **North Natomas Town Center**

Another neighborhood ranked in the top 10 best places to live in Sacramento is North Natomas Town Center. It's one of the best places to settle down and raise a family. It has a dense suburban feel with over 20,000 people calling it home. The neighborhood is made up of a mix of families and young professionals. While many residents own their own home in this neighborhood, there are still plenty of rental opportunities, many of which are gated which increases the feeling of safety and security in the area.

### **Pocket**

Another suburban community within five miles of Downtown Sacramento is the neighborhood of Pocket. Nearly 30,000 people call this area home. It has a dense suburban feel to it, which means you get the best of both worlds when you move here. Once you've used our Sacramento city guide to find your ideal apartment, you'll be pleased to find that the neighborhoods are well-kept and quiet. And yet, there are numerous amenities (cafes, shops, restaurants and entertainment) that make life more convenient and fun.

### **Southwestern Sacramento**

Southwestern Sacramento is a largely residential area just south of Downtown Sacramento. In the center of the neighborhood is William Land Regional Park, perfect for kids and grownups alike. There's a pond and beautiful pathways through the park where you can go jogging or take a quiet stroll. The Park also has an amphitheater where you can watch plays and concerts. The Sacramento Zoo and Fairytale Town are here, too, both of which are popular attractions for kids and those who are young at heart. If you'd like to spend more time playing golf, you'll be happy to know that there's a nine-hole course in this neighborhood.

### **Del Paso Heights**

Del Paso Heights is a dense suburban neighborhood with lots of parks. Many families live in the area. Most of the people who live in this neighborhood rent, so there are plenty of apartments, condos and rental homes to choose from if you'd rather rent than purchase a home. Most residents say the streets are well-lit and the sidewalks and yards are well-kept. Kids can play safely outside, and you don't necessarily need a car to run errands, though you may need it for your commute.

### Salt Lake City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Utah is an amazing state with some of the most beautiful national parks in the country such as Bryce, Zion and Arches. The urban crown jewel of Utah is Salt Lake City, a friendly yet bustling city with lots of things to do and fun places to visit. Beautified by the surrounding nature, Salt Lake City provides ample opportunity for residents to get outside and access hiking and biking in the foothills of the Wasatch Mountains that frame the city. With a large Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) population, Salt Lake City is known for its hospitable residents and a more welcoming vibe than most metropolises. But the city is also a home to knowledge, arts and culture; for example, the University of Utah resides here. Our Salt Lake City guide will help you find the best apartment for rent in this growing Western city. Whether you want to rent a chic apartment in a modern, new building or cozy it up in an old-fashioned homestead, Salt Lake City has plenty of options in its wonderful, diverse neighborhoods.

### Salt Lake City highlights

Salt Lake City is a great place to live and work. It's also a great place to explore and have fun. This mountain town has plenty of indoor and outdoor events and happenings going on all year round. Of course, if you love the snow and skiing, you'll really love winter in Salt Lake City. But don't forget to check out these other attractions:

- Temple Square: Whether you are or are not a Mormon, Temple Square is a fascinating place to visit. The 35-acre district is home to one of the first Mormon temples, the Salt Lake Temple, which is an architectural wonder. While non-Mormons can only view the outside, it's still worth checking out. Be sure to catch the world-famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir in person if you can.
- **Family History Library:** Genealogy is an important part of the Mormon tradition; thus, the Family History Library was born. This is a free library that anyone can visit. This library, run by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, is one of the largest genealogical libraries in the world.
- **Gilgal Sculpture Garden:** This public park features beautiful and intriguing rock sculptures made by the mid-20th-century Mormon artist Thomas Battersby Child, Jr. You'll even see a miniature sphinx in this "visionary art environment."
- Salt Lake City Sports: Sports is a big deal in Salt Lake City, especially since the metropolis hosted the Winter Olympics back in 2002. Of course, there's skiing, and you can still visit the Winter Olympics facility at Olympic Cauldron

- Park. For spectator sports, check out the NBA basketball team the Utah Jazz at Vivint Smart Home Arena. Or join some local fun at a minor league game at Smith's Ballpark.
- Chase Home Museum of Utah Folk Arts: If contemporary folk art is your thing, check out the Chase Home Museum of Utah Folk Arts, a unique museum in all of the United States. Or, if cars are more your thing, check out the nearby Land Cruiser Heritage Museum.

# Salt Lake City guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

If you need to find an apartment to rent in Salt Lake City, one of your biggest challenges will be trying to decide between all the great options? Our Salt Lake City guide will help you choose out of the best neighborhoods in Salt Lake City. You'll find condos, homes and apartments to rent in Salt Lake City to suit every taste and budget. Here are some of the best SLC neighborhoods:

### **Sugar House**

Named for the sugar beet farms of the early pioneer settlers, Sugar House is a quirky, hip community filled with shops, boutiques, food trucks and even all-day-breakfast diners. The Sugar House Park provides beautiful views of the Wasatch Mountains and is a hot spot for winter sledding. You can also enjoy visiting the tiny campus of Westminster College – while the campus may not be big, its graduates are, with more winter Olympians coming from Westminster than any other college in the country.

### <u>Downtown</u>

The unique Mormon culture gives life to downtown Salt Lake City, which is home of Temple Square. Commercial businesses dot Main Street and other open-air shopping opportunities abound at the Gateway District. You'll find a mix of charming old apartment buildings and sleek modern complexes to suit every urban taste. The Salt Lake Center Station provides transit access, including the TRAX light rail system running through downtown as well as FrontRunner train service that connect Salt Lake City with Provo and Ogden, Utah.

### **The Avenues**

The Avenues, or "the Aves" for short, is one of Salt Lake City's oldest neighborhoods and is thus built on a street grid (which is where the name "the Avenues" comes from). With easy access to the University of Utah and the City Creek Natural Area,

the neighborhood also connects to North Bonneville, Arlington Hills and Memory Grove Park. Along with modern, trendy apartments, you will also find Victorian and Queen Anne architecture here among the shops and art galleries.

### **Central City**

This "hipster" area of Salt Lake City is situated east of downtown. You'll find boutiques and cafes at Trolley Square and light rail connects you to the rest of the city. There's even a small lake at Liberty Park. With new condos and bustling restaurants, this is a popular location to be in SLC.

### **Central Salt Lake City**

Central Salt Lake City encompasses a variety of smaller SLC neighborhoods and sections, including West Drive, Ballpark, Woodbury, East Central, Central City, Woodmansee, Liberty Wells, Temple View and West Temple Addition.

### **East Central**

If you want to be close to what's happening downtown as well as the University of Utah, the neighborhood of East Central may be for you. You'll find both college students and families in this quiet SLC neighborhood and an ample number of nearby shops, cafes and parks to enjoy.

### Rose Park

This cozy community is in the northwest of Salt Lake City and offers a lot of outdoor amenities with two public golf courses and two parks. The neighborhood got its name because the streets are designed to serve as "rose petals" with the main thoroughfare (American Beauty Drive) serving as the stem of the rose. The original roofs of the planned homes also had either red or green shingles to add to the rose-like effect. It's west of I-15 near the Salt Lake City International Airport.

### **Capitol Hill**

The Capitol Hill neighborhood boasts many historic buildings and houses the Utah State Capitol. It's also got beautiful views of the city and Salt Lake. If you love nature, you can trek through City Creek Canyon. Or enjoy culture by visiting the Pioneer History Museum, John Platts Home and Lake City Theater.

### 9th and 9th

Located at the intersection of 900 East and 900 South, 9th and 9th is another "hipster" area of Salt Lake City where you can get your yoga on and then hang out at a local café for a refresher.

### People's Freeway

Conveniently located to the east of Dwight D. Eisenhower Highway (I-15), People's Freeway is located southwest of Salt Lake City's downtown core. You can find single family homes for rent here as well as some apartments. Nearby parks include Smith's Ballpark and Jefferson Park.

### **Millcreek**

Millcreek is more than a neighborhood, it's a city in its own right a bit southeast of downtown Salt Lake City. With more than 60,000 residents, Millcreek, Utah is more of a suburban location, though Highland Drive is being established as its "downtown core." The inventor of headphones, Nathaniel Baldwin, lived here.

### **Murray**

Murray, Utah is another city that is part of the greater Salt Lake City metropolitan area. It used to be an industrial city but now offers more commercial businesses and shops, especially at Fashion Place Mall. Called the "Hub of Salt Lake County," Murray has a popular park known as Murray City Park offering team sports and areas to relax with nature.

### **West Jordan**

West Jordan is a suburb southwest of Salt Lake City with a population of almost 120,000. However, you don't have to live in a suburban environment here; you can enjoy semi-urban living at Jordan Landing, a major mixed-use development with a whopping 2 million square feet of shopping and dining.

### San Antonio City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

If you are looking for a place to live, our <u>San Antonio</u> city guide will help you choose from some of the great neighborhoods in this south-central Texas city. Located on the south end of Texas Hill country, San Antonio is a thriving, multicultural metropolis of 1.5+ million residents. The modern city of San Antonio was founded as "Villa de Bejar" by Spanish explorers on May 1, 1718. Prior to that, Native American tribes such as the Payaya Indians lived in the area. San Antonio today is a mix of cultures and people. Top universities in San Antonio include Texas A&M University – San Antonio, the University of Texas at San Antonio, St. Mary's University and Trinity University. San Antonio is a transportation hub with the San Antonio International Airport. It's just a few hours away from Houston and an hour and a half south of Austin. With many things to see and do in this multicultural city, you will definitely enjoy your new apartment home in San Antonio.

### San Antonio city highlights

San Antonio, Texas has a lot of fun attractions, events and historical sights to see. Here are some of the best things to do in the city of San Antonio:

- The Alamo: Who can forget the Alamo? This historic Spanish mission was a key location during the Texas Revolution. The Battle of the Alamo spanned 13 days in 36, where Texas troops held the location against Mexico's General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna before being defeated. Their bravery inspired other Texas fighters to "Remember the Alamo." You can tour the mission and see first-hand where the band of Texans took their last stand in the Alamo.
- San Antonio River Walk: River Walk, aka "Paseo del Rio" is a fun retail and entertainment district along the San Antonio River. River Walk is a great place to enjoy a nice meal and hang out with friends.
- San Antonio Sports: With many sports teams to enjoy, from professional basketball to minor league baseball, San Antonio is a great place for fans. At the AT&T Center, you can check out the San Antonio Spurs basketball team or enjoy Rampage hockey. For baseball, enjoy the San Antonio Missions at Nelson Wolff Stadium.
- San Antonio Zoo: Located in Brackenridge Park, the San Antonio Zoo spans 35 acres and houses more than 3,500 animals from 750 species, including Asian elephants and other fascinating animal species. When you are done, visit nearby SeaWorld San Antonio to get in touch with animals from the ocean.

# San Antonio city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Want to find the best place to live in San Antonio in an ideal neighborhood? You can find some great apartments via the neighborhoods listed here in our San Antonio city guide. Whether you want an urban apartment or a townhome in a more suburban

neighborhood, you can choose from many attractive apartments to rent in San Antonio.

### **Downtown**

If you love living in an urban environment, Downtown San Antonio may just be the thing. You can find affordable studio apartments here as well as luxury apartments with wide balconies with great views of the city. It's a great place for professionals and downtown workers who want to avoid traffic and a long commute. There are also many new apartment buildings in the hip Pearl Brewery District. Check out a local's favorite, Hemisfair Park, built in 1968 to commemorate the 250th anniversary of San Antonio.

### **North San Antonio**

North San Antonio isn't just one neighborhood, it's a collection of neighborhoods and suburbs north of the city. It's also the location of the San Antonio International Airport, so frequent flyers may choose to live up here to be able to hop on a plane at moment's notice. If you like amusement parks, you have your choice: Six Flags Fiesta Texas with amazing rollercoasters like the new Dr. Diabolical Cliffhanger rollercoaster with a 95-degree, beyond vertical drop launching in 2022, and Morgan's Wonderland, the world's first "ultra-accessible" theme park for guests of all ages and abilities.

### **Central City**

If you want to be in the heart of the city of San Antonio, live in Central City. This is really the core of San Antonio, the main urban sprawl that includes many thriving neighborhoods and districts, such as Olmos Park, Loma Vista, Palm Heights, Fort Sam Houston, Central Los Angeles Heights, Donaldson Terrace, Avenida Guadalupe and of course Downtown and Midtown San Antonio. Some of the most well-established, respected communities are King William and Alamo Heights, but each community has its own flair and positives. For example, Beacon Hill is a neighborhood conservation district with a public art installations, a popular community garden, a neighborhood linear park and lots of cute cottages and bungalows. You'll also be close to downtown attractions here, including the Witte Museum and San Antonio Museum of Art.

### **Far West Side**

Less urban than areas close to the downtown core, the fast-growing Far West Side of San Antonio is a mix of smaller residential neighborhoods such as Meadow Village, Rainbow Hills, Pipers Meadow and "Far West Side" proper. Nearby Lackland Air Force Base makes the area attractive to military families. You will also find SeaWorld San Antonio here.

#### **Stone Oak**

Stone Oak, located in Far North Central, has many beautiful luxury apartments to choose from. The area is west of U.S. Route 281 and north of E. Charles William Anderson Loop (Texas State Highway 1604). You'll find pet-friendly modern apartment complexes here with pristine swimming pools and great views of the Texas sunset.

### **West San Antonio**

With many master-planned communities such as Northwest Crossing and Alamo Ranch, West San Antonio is a favorite for families. It's an affordable area with lovely homes and amenities. You'll also have access to nature, with Government Canyon State Natural Area close by in West San Antonio. If you want to be close to the city, and yet have access to the wide-open space and big skies of Texas, then West San Antonio may just be the place for you.

### **East Side**

San Antonio's East Side, aka Near East Side, extends past downtown to East San Antonio. You'll find a mix of commercial and residential areas in the East Side, along with parks such as the Martin Luther King Park. You can also access the 82-mile Howard W. Peak Greenway Trail System via the Salado Creek Greenway.

### **River Walk**

Running along the San Antonio River, River Walk is where people in San Antonio go to enjoy shops and restaurants along the river. You can take a boat ride or get up early to walk or run before the Texas heat and the crowds show up! With an apartment on or near River Walk, you can have an amazing urban lifestyle that is the envy of your friends. River Walk is also near tourist attractions as well as the venerable Alamo. It's a fun and exciting place to live and work.

### **East San Antonio**

The area denoted East San Antonio spans many neighborhoods in the east to northeast portion of greater San Antonio (beyond the East Side), including Windcrest, Park Village, Northeast Side, Woodlake, Brentfield, Meadowbrook and more. Many of these residential areas have nice apartment complexes with pools and amenities. Next to I-35/I-410 and intersected by I-10, East San Antonio is nearby the party town of New Braunfels and a hop and a skip from Austin, or three hours to Houston.

### **Far North Central**

Like many large cities, San Antonio has its upscale suburban areas for successful professionals, well-off retirees and prosperous families...and perhaps a few luminaries. Far North Central has been home to celebrities, including the Desperate Housewives actress Eva Longoria and professional wrestler "Stone Cold" Steve Austin. Far North Central contains several planned communities with luxury homes, including the Encino Park and Stone Oak neighborhoods. Rents here can range from \$800 to \$2,500 per month for a one-bedroom apartment.

### San Diego City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Why do people move to <u>San Diego</u>? For two main reasons. First, it has what many people describe as "perfect" weather. Second, its proximity to the turquoise waters of the Pacific Ocean. San Diego is also home to Camp Pendleton, making the U.S. Navy the top employer in the city. If you love marine life (and you kind of have to when you live so close to the ocean!), you'll love that San Diego has the largest oceanographic museum in the country. And while downtown living means the hustle and bustle of a big city, you'll find that people who live in this city love and appreciate nature. You'll have access to a variety of farms, nature reserves, lagoons and canyons to explore. When you're ready to find your dream home in this beautiful city, check out our San Diego city guide for the perfect apartment within your budget.

### San Diego city highlights

Southern California is a major move-to destination for thousands of people. And no wonder! Not only do you get the perks of living in a large city – and one that's close to LA and Hollywood – but you also get access to some of the most beautiful

coastlines in the world. Here are a few more things you can enjoy when you find your dream apartment in San Diego.

- San Diego Zoo: The San Diego Zoo is one of the top tourist attractions in Southern California. It's a great place to bring your kids and spend the day enjoying all the exotic animal exhibits. Unfortunately, one of the greatest attractions the Giant Pandas is no longer available as the pandas were sent back to China as part of the conservation agreement between China and the zoo. Still, there are plenty of other beautiful animals to view and a day here will be fun and educational.
- Gaslamp Quarter National Historic District: Adjacent to Petco Park is the Gaslamp Quarter National Historic District, which is the best place to go for some nighttime fun. Victorian buildings in the area are home to shops, restaurants, entertainment venues and art galleries. It's a very diverse area with food and music from nearly every corner of the globe.
- Old Town San Diego State Historic Park: This historic park celebrates the rich culture of early San Diego. You'll find authentic Mexican crafts, food and music. The historic buildings including original adobe structures have been restored and are part of daily walking tours offered. You can also visit the Old Town State Historic Park, one of the most popular parks in the state.
- Tecolote Canyon Natural Park and Nature Center: Head over to <a href="Western San Diego">Western San Diego</a> and you'll get to see this park, which runs along the coast and the mouth of Tecolote Canyon. The Park was dedicated in 1978 with members on the advisory committee who are dedicated to preserving the natural state and beauty of the canyon. The Center provides educational seminars and other special events. There are miles of walking/hiking trails, too.
- University of California San Diego: Located in Northern San Diego, the
  University of California, San Diego is one of the leading public research
  facilities in the world. It was founded in 1960 and is ranked #35 in National
  Universities, #15 in Best Colleges for Veterans and #173 in Best Value
  Schools.

# San Diego city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Are you ready to take the plunge and find a new apartment in San Diego? Our San Diego city guide can help you through the process. It can help you find the best condo, apartment, or home in your neighborhood of choice. Not sure which neighborhood to choose? We've got you covered. Here are some of the most popular rental neighborhoods in the area.

### **North Park**

North Park is a revitalized neighborhood in San Diego. Within its boundaries are numerous 1920s Craftsman-style homes. It's a neighborhood that thrives off community and creativity. Trulia calls the neighborhood a hipster's paradise.

However, there are several highly rated public and private schools in the areas, so families can thrive here as well. The Farmer's Market is ideal for foodies, as are the craft breweries, restaurants and coffee shops. The highway is easily accessible for car owners but there's plenty of public transportation options available, too.

### **Ocean Beach**

Most residents here give Ocean Beach an excellent rating for livability. The walkability rating is high and it's a great place for people who want to walk for exercise or who want to take a stroll at night with their pets. Being so close to the beach is a definite perk but residents do say that you definitely pay for the privilege when it comes to the cost of rent. However, for most residents, the cost is worth it to be able to access the beach and the Pacific Ocean on a regular basis.

### **Downtown**

One nice thing about living in Downtown San Diego is that you have easy access to just about anything you could possibly need – work, restaurants, entertainment and more. A potential downside is the number of people in the area. If you're an extrovert and thrive off the buzz of people all around, Downtown might be the perfect place. Those who want to live in a more quiet, peaceful atmosphere might want to consider another neighborhood.

### **Mission Valley**

Most residents in this neighborhood rent their homes/apartments. This area has an urban feel, which is great since you'll have access to everything you need within a matter of minutes. Mission Valley was one of the first major shopping centers in Southern California and currently has three major shopping malls, as well as multiple boutiques and retail stores. The neighborhood is close to major transit sites and there's easy highway access. The area is also ideal for families with many of the schools earning above average scores from Great Schools.

### **City Heights**

City Heights is a cultural melting pot with people from Mexico, Vietnam and Middle Eastern countries. You'll find culturally diverse markets and restaurants. More traditional malls are found in other San Diego neighborhoods, so if you want to frequent those types of facilities, you'll either need to make a day trip or consider

living in a neighborhood that's in closer proximity to a major shopping mall. Besides the diversity, residents say the safety of the neighborhood is one of its perks, too.

### **Little Italy**

Located just north of Downtown is the historic neighborhood of Little Italy. It started out as an Italian fishing area but has evolved into a neighborhood with incredible restaurants, import shops, galleries and more. Within the 48-square block radius are condos, single family homes, apartments and townhouses. Amici Park is a nice outdoor space in the neighborhood that has a dog park and amphitheater. The walkability score is high for this neighborhood with few people needing vehicles. However, there is easy access to public transport as well.

### **Hillcrest**

Another neighborhood where residents don't need to be reliant on vehicles is Hillcrest. Both the walkability and bike scores are high, making it easy to do your shopping, run errands and get around with relative ease. Accessibility is definitely one of the blessings of living in this San Diego neighborhood. The area is also ideal for families due to its multiple parks and playgrounds. The daycare centers and preschools are also highly rated.

### Mira Mesa

Mira Mesa was originally an area for the army and navy, used as an auxiliary landing area and for tests during World War II. These days, Mira Mesa – one of the oldest San Diego neighborhoods – is an affordable neighborhood for families and boasts great schools. The area is ethnically diverse, being home to residents of Vietnamese, Filipino and Mexican cultures just to name a few. Mira Mesa has a great community park, plenty of businesses and quite a few rental complexes.

### **Balboa Park**

If you love history, beauty and culture, you need to check out Balboa Park. The area is home to 16 museums and a plethora of artistic and entertainment venues. You'll also have access to gorgeous gardens and trails where you can walk, run or hike – whatever type of outdoor exercise you prefer. The transit score for the area is about average, while the walkability and bike scores are lower, so you'll need to have access to a vehicle to get around.

### **East Village**

If entertainment and nightlife are important to you, you should check out our San Diego city guide for East Village apartments to rent. East Village has live music, bars, galleries, pubs, shops, boutiques and cafes. Residents say there's a decent mix of age groups living in the area – from singles in their 20s to retired couples. Many people who live here are outgoing and friendly and they love to socialize with friends and neighbors.

### **Linda Vista**

Looking for something that has a bit more of a suburban feel to it without being too detached from city life? Check out Linda Vista, a suburban/urban neighborhood. It boasts great nightlife and highly-ranked schools. Residents love that there's plenty to do here, such as visiting indie art studios and dining at great restaurants.

### **Mission Bay Park**

According to a SanDiegan.com, Mission Bay Park was ranked #1 by readers for livability. Not only do residents get amazing views of Mission Bay, but they also have easy access to freeways, several shopping venues, world-class microbreweries and great restaurants. Even better – there are fewer crowds here than in other Southern California cities and neighborhoods. It's an ideal place to engage in outdoor activities, like paddleboarding, sailing and jet skiing.

### **South Park**

Do you love the look of Craftsman and Spanish Colonial-style homes? That's exactly what you'll get in this quaint, quiet neighborhood. Residents here say it's a great spot for planting roots and growing a family. The neighborhood has a high walkability score and is pet friendly. Popular neighborhood events include the Old House Fair and the South Park Walkabout where you can get to know your neighbors and enjoy historic home tours.

# San Francisco City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

<u>San Francisco</u> is rich in history – from the Gold Rush, Alcatraz and the drafting and ratification of the United Nations Charter to the final Beatles concert and the famed cable cars, San Francisco has a unique appeal to multitudes of people. The city survived the Great Earthquake of 1906 (a 7.0 magnitude quake) and the Great Depression. Interesting fact: Not a single bank failed in the city during the Depression. In fact, the city had enough money to build the Golden Gate Bridge and the Oakland Bay Bridge during one of the darkest periods in our country's history. If you've fallen in love with the city and want to make it your home, our San Francisco city guide will help you find the best neighborhood for your cultural and economic sensibilities.

### San Francisco city highlights

San Francisco is a hot destination for nearly 26 million people per year. As a resident of the city, you'll have constant access to the natural beauty of the area and the fun features that draw tourists year-round.

- Golden Gate Park: Located on the northern edge of <u>Southwest San</u>
   <u>Francisco</u>, <u>Golden Gate Park</u> is not just for tourists. Locals love to come to the
   park for a morning jog or to spend some time meditating in nature. Within the
   park is a flower conservatory, the California Academy of Sciences and the de
   Young Art Museum just to name a few attractions.
- Haight-Ashbury: Haight Ashbury is adjacent to Golden Gate Park and first became famous during the 1950s and 1960s as a bohemian enclave. The beautifully restored Victorian homes are a sight to behold! Every June, you can attend the Haight Street Fair, hosted by a non-profit organization committed to preserving the unique history and culture of the area.
- Walt Disney Family Museum: Do you love all things Disney? Then you need to visit this museum, a non-profit organization that features exhibits narrated by Walt Disney, alongside an early model of Disneyland, cartoon drawings and more. Walt's daughter, Diane Disney Miller, is the founder of the museum and is committed to keeping the creativity and imagination of her father and future generations alive.
- Oracle Park: Oracle Park is home of Giant's baseball. But it's not limited to
  America's pastime. You can also attend concerts, races and other public
  events. Or if you want to treat your family and friends to something extra
  special, you can host private events at Oracle Park, whether in the park or on
  the water. Events can be catered by the park's incredible chefs who can
  create classic ballpark fare or a customized menu for your event.
- Palace of Fine Arts Theater: The Palace of Fine Arts Theater was originally constructed in 1915 for the Panama-Pacific Exposition. From 1964-1974 it was completely rebuilt, and the monumental structure is the only original building that survived. Events include concerts, comedy acts, hypnotism, dance and orchestral performances just to name a few. The Palace is also open to private galas, weddings and corporate events.

# San Francisco city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Are you looking for a home in San Francisco? Our San Francisco city guide allows you to explore the best neighborhoods in the city. Here are just a few you might want to consider.

### **Northwest San Francisco**

Northwest San Francisco is a densely populated neighborhood in San Francisco. Over 70% of residents rent a home, apartment, townhouse or condo in the area, making it an ideal place to settle if you're looking to rent. Fewer than half the households in the neighborhood have children and residents love that it is a quieter than average neighborhood. You can get to and from some areas (shops, coffee shops) without a vehicle, but you might want one since the average commute is between 35 and 40 minutes.

### **Northeast San Francisco**

This popular San Francisco neighborhood is on the pricier side, but it's a lovely place to live if you can afford it! (Check out our San Francisco city guide to see if rentals are available within your budget.) Sixteen public schools in Northeast San Francisco have received above average or excellent ratings from GreatSchools. You can also find multiple private and charter schools in the neighborhood as well. This part of the city has hundreds of stores, shops and restaurants, including Trader Joe's, Whole Foods and more.

### South of Market

South of Market, also called SoMa, is a warehouse district with access to Oracle Park, where the San Francisco Giants play. The neighborhood has a high walkability score, is pet friendly and well-lit streets. Restaurants, grocery stores and cafes are within walking distance. Residents here love the community vibe of the neighborhood, with many mentioning how friendly their neighbors are and how respectful they are toward animals. If you need to commute to work, to an event or to another city, the neighborhood provides easy access to the highway.

### **Mission District**

The Mission District is in <u>Southeast San Francisco</u>. It is one of the hottest destinations for renters and shoppers alike. Here you'll find trend-setting boutiques, restaurants, bars and cafes. The area is full of green spaces and murals are painted on many of the buildings. It's perfect if you love getting outside, enjoying some fresh air and sunshine and doing a bit of people-watching. The skyline view is incredible, too. The neighborhood has one of the highest walkability scores (98), though it is ranked #17 in San Francisco for its walkability. The neighborhood's transit and bike scores are also high, 87 and 97 respectively.

### **Rincon Hill**

Rincon Hill is one of the original "Seven Hills" of San Francisco. It is a compact neighborhood of just over 10,000 residents. Schools in the area are highly rated. The Rincon Hill neighborhood is ranked #9 in the best places to live in San Francisco. The walkability score is high and it's a great neighborhood for pets as well. The neighborhood has an urban feel and there's always something new opening – a new restaurant, entertainment venue or parks. Residents also appreciate the civic projects and community events in the area.

#### **Treasure Island**

Treasure Island is an artificial island in San Francisco Bay that's home to fewer than 2500 people. The island was built between 1936 and 1937. In 1939, it hosted the Golden Gate International Exposition. Various parts of Treasure Island have served as film locales for major motion pictures including *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, *Charlie Chat at Treasure Island*, *Flubber*, *Patch Adams* and the 1998 remake of *The Parent Trap*. Schools in the area are above average to excellent. It takes approximately 20 minutes to commute to downtown San Francisco. Developers have started and are planning to build thousands more homes on the island, as well as more parks, restaurants and shops.

### **Mission Bay**

The Mission Bay neighborhood is across from Oracle Park and is a newer neighborhood in San Francisco with a decidedly contemporary atmosphere. If you're looking for a modern luxury apartment, you should consider moving to Mission Bay. The neighborhood is ideal for young, ambitious professionals and has all the urban amenities you could desire. Plus, there are plenty of green spaces around the neighborhood to appease your desire to get out into nature!

### **Nob Hill**

Historic mansions, luxury hotels and beautiful rentals make up the neighborhood of Nob Hill, one of San Francisco's signature neighborhoods. Old, restored Victorian buildings contrast with the urban sophistication of the neighborhood. It receives high ratings from residents for its bustling restaurant and bar scene. You'll also find a number of eclectic, high-end shops where you can find some essentials or simply window shop. From Nob Hill, it takes about 10 minutes to commute to the Financial District and 25 minutes to get to downtown San Francisco if you're traveling by car.

### **Bernal Heights**

Bernal Heights is one of the hottest neighborhoods in San Francisco. From 2010 to 2016, home prices appreciated by over 110%. For years, it felt like the best-kept secret in San Francisco, but renters and homeowners alike feel like they've found a hidden gem and are spreading the word. Residents love that the neighborhood has a small town feel while still being in a central San Francisco location. You'll find cafes, restaurants, small markets, nail and hair salons and just about anything you need within walking distance.

### **Hayes Valley**

One of the hippest neighborhoods in San Francisco, Hayes Valley has grown quite a bit in the past few years. Residents love the high-end boutiques, cafes and restaurants located in the plaza. Once here, many residents stay for decades. Beside them, you'll find young professionals who love the option of new housing or refurbished Victorians. The central green space is a nice place to hang out after a day of shopping at the indie bookstores and pop-up art galleries. Getting around the neighborhood on foot or bike is convenient, while getting to downtown San Francisco is a breeze.

### **Marina District**

Looking for an apartment along the bay with picturesque views? Then you need to move to the Marina District. The neighborhood has boutique-lined streets (great for shoppers and foodies!) and an abundance of green space for you to get out and enjoy the great outdoors. Many of the houses in the area are upscale mansions but there are some rentals available as well. Residents say the area is an eclectic, beautiful mix of California, Italy and New England.

### **Noe Valley**

Noe Valley is home to just under 20,000 residents. It is one of the best neighborhoods in San Francisco to raise a family with all the public schools earning A to A+ ratings. All reviewers on Niche.com give the area the highest score possible (five stars = excellent), stating that the neighborhood is friendly and open to newcomers. People who have lived in various parts of San Francisco say that their favorite neighborhood is by far Noe Valley. It's quiet, safe, has plenty of restaurants and shops and is great for evening strolls and walking the dog.

### eattle City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

The Pacific Northwest is a surprisingly temperate region of the USA – with typically cooler summers and warmer winters and rain. The city of <u>Seattle</u>, on the coast of Washington State and easily within a short drive of a few different National Parks and incredible mountain ranges, is a quirky, natural-focused city with a lot of opportunities for folks looking for amazing apartments with beautiful views. The city itself offers many unique marketplaces, natural wonders and amazing coffee. If you're looking to move to this beautiful city – known as the Emerald City – our Seattle city guide can help you find the right neighborhood and apartment for your unique needs.

### Seattle city highlights

Seattle draws in the tourists by the millions and it's no wonder with all the amazing attractions and amenities the city has to offer. These wonderful features make Seattle not just a great place to visit though, but an amazing place to live.

- The Space Needle: Probably the most famous Seattle image is the Space Needle. The iconic landmark was originally constructed for the World's Fair in 1962 and remains one of the city's main attractions both for tourists and locals when they feel like getting their "local tourist" on. The Space Needle offers incredible panoramic views of the city, thanks to its 600-foot height towering above the city.
- Puget Sound: Puget Sound is one of the most picturesque aspects of the already beautiful city. The Sound is dotted with beautiful islands you can explore, an inlet with an incredible skyline view of Seattle, natural beauty for outdoors enthusiasts and more. While on the Sound, you may enjoy whale

- watching, sea kayaking and much more. Ferries provide regular rides to the beautiful islands multiple times a day.
- Chihuly Garden and Glass: Perhaps one of the most distinct attractions in Seattle and one of the top artistry focuses of the city is blown glass, as found in Chihuly Garden and Glass. The unique museum is dedicated to the local glass-blower, Dale Chihuly, with galleries of fine art crafted from blown glass. The Glasshouse, the museum's central attraction, holds an incredible vividly colored glass sculpture dangling 100 feet from the ceiling. The gardens contain colorful highlights as well, with unique pieces like the Reeds on Logs and Crystal and Icicle Towers nestled among the plants and trees.
- **Historic Underground Tunnels**: Found in one of Seattle's first neighborhoods, Pioneer Square, the historic underground tunnels are available for visitors and locals alike toe explore. Walk beneath the city streets and learn about the history of the city, including the Great Fire of 1889 and the pioneers who once settled the area.
- Snoqualmie Falls: Snoqualmie Falls is not technically within Seattle, but close by. The sparkling falls are located about 30 minutes from Seattle and are known as one of the greatest local wonders in the area. The falls drop almost 270 feet, which can be viewed from two different observation decks. There are hiking trails and parks surrounding the waterfalls, along with a gorge which offers additional vantage points for viewing the falls.
- **Seattle Waterfront:** Seattle is a waterfront city with amazing boutiques and beautiful views of Elliott Bay and the Olympic Mountains. Souvenir shops, dining establishments, museums, the Seattle Aquarium, Seattle's Great Wheel and the Seattle Sculpture Park not to mention Pike Place Market are all located on the waterfront.
- **Pike Place Market:** Perhaps the other most iconic spot in Seattle is the Pike Place Market. The world-famous neon sign rests above the marketplace, drawing in locals and tourists for their marketplace needs. Artisans, grocers, produce sellers, flower sellers and more set up their booths here, selling their wares. The famous fish-tossing market, live music and more offer some entertainment while you shop.

# Seattle city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Looking for the best place to live in Seattle? Our Seattle city guide showcases some of the best neighborhoods. You'll find condos, homes and apartments to rent that fit your needs perfectly.

### **West Seattle**

West Seattle has an expansive waterfront and quiet feeling that entices many families. The neighborhood is filled with plenty of residential spots as well as trails for rollerbladers and cyclists, burger shacks, beachfront and more – as well as parks such as the Jack Block Park nestled among the shipyards. The whole neighborhood

is a great place for families, couples and singles alike with much to offer on walks and casual outings.

### **Belltown**

Located between the Puget Sound, Pike Place Market and South Lake Union, Belltown has become known as Seattle's unofficial nightlife and entertainment hub. The high-rise condos, entertainment venues and trendy restaurants appeal to a wide range of locals, along with the bars and beautiful views. The neighborhood is home to The Crocodile bar, where Nirvana once played and is extremely walkable for just about anyone.

### **Downtown**

Downtown is absolutely the heartbeat of Seattle with Pike Place Market, Pioneer Square and other iconic spots located within. From downtown, you can look out over Elliott Bay, visit the Seattle Art Museum, or hit up the Showbox for a concert or show. Traverse along the bike lanes or public transit for the greenest travel around and enjoy the many fine restaurants and shops all within easy walking distance.

### **Ballard**

Ballard has roots of Scandinavian seafarers who formerly made much of their living via fishing for salmon. The neighborhood is located just north of Downtown and the famous Seattle salmon still run through the functioning Ballard Locks even now. The waterfront neighborhood boasts of many trendy restaurants and shops, with quieter residential areas as well. Plus, the sparkling sandy beach offers views of the glorious mountains in the distance.

### **Capitol Hill**

Located northeast of Downtown, Capitol Hill is one of the city's most densely populated areas. The neighborhood has old and new homes and condo and just happens to be considered Seattle's LGBTQIA+ capitol. The neighborhood is diverse and enjoys plenty of gay bars, nightclubs, shopping, indie coffee houses and is a foodie's paradise. Don't forget to visit Volunteer Park and the Seattle Asian Art Museum for some outdoor fun and culture.

### **Central District**

On the eastside of Seattle, you'll find Central District with a nice balance of close-by amenities and a quiet residential feel. The neighborhood has easy access to public transit and is fairly walkable for most, while offering plenty of coffee shops, bars, nightlife and cultural activities. You'll also find an emerging food scene with original locations like Reckless Noodle House and Ezell's Famous Chicken, along with art centers and museums for the more culturally minded.

### **South Park**

South Park is a historically immigrant and Latinx neighborhood in Seattle. The neighborhood has fought off gentrification for many years and maintains its reasonably priced houses with yards and parking while embracing and celebrating its history of diversity. The neighborhood is home to walkable streets and cozy coffee shops, walking paths, great restaurants and beautiful venues and studios for yogis and dancers.

### **Fremont**

Fremont is the self-proclaimed "Center of the Universe" thanks to its many eclectic Seattle residents and families who enjoy the quirky vibe. The neighborhood is located northwest of Lake Union and is home to yoga studios, Thai restaurants, bike shops, coffee shops, fun boutiques and beautiful markets and a fabulous Oktoberfest each year.

### **Greenwood**

Located north of Greenwood Lake, Greenwood is laid out like a grid – straightforward and easy to navigate. The residential area is great for young families for its quietness and easy access to downtown, just 15-minutes away. The neighborhood is filled with local bars and cafes and most are family-friendly and great for groups.

### **Columbia City**

Columbia City once was considered the hidden gem of the city because of its lovely, affordable housing and great amenities while being located a bit farther away from downtown than many of the most popular neighborhoods in the city. Columbia City remains one of the most affordable neighborhoods for families, located in the Rainier Valley on the west side of the city. There are many pubs with live music, cafes and restaurants and more and it remains one of the most diverse areas in Seattle.

### **Queen Anne**

Queen Anne is one of the most recognizable neighborhoods in the city because of its distinct location on the map. The homes are atop the highest hill in Seattle. The neighborhood is named for its distinct architectural style – Queen Anne – and offers a beautiful, elegant vibe. The neighborhood is on the quieter side and remains one of the more affluent areas with fenced yards front and back within city limits. Despite being stately, the area remains wonderfully low-key and comfortable.

### How to find your dream apartment in Seattle

If you're ready to start shopping for your dream apartment, our Seattle city guide is here to help! Search for the type of rentals you're looking for or search by neighborhood. You'll find an amazing place to relocate to in no time.

Looking for the perfect apartment in Seattle? Check out the <u>apartments for</u> <u>rent</u> to find the right location in the Seattle or the surrounding area.

### Tampa City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Tampa is a sprawling city with numerous attractions and amenities. Many of the neighborhoods in the city are affordable, some having a cost of living that's lower than the national average. Yet, the neighborhoods are highly rated and have some of the highest livability scores in the nation. Fun fact about the city – you can visit Cuba without leaving Florida. Cuba officially owns Jose Marti Park, which was gifted to Cube in the mid-1950s. The Park is named after a Cuban poet and patriot who spent most of his life working to liberate Cuba. If you want to immerse yourself in the rich culture, history, heritage and sunshine of the area, check out our Tampa city guide to find the apartment of your dreams.

### Tampa city highlights

Why is Tampa such a great city? The following list will show you what's in store when you move to Tampa. These events, sites and attractions aren't just great for tourists – they fill residents of the area with pride.

• **Tampa Theater**: The theater has been a centerpiece of Tampa for nearly 100 years. Originally built in the mid-1920s as a movie palace, it's a lovely place to visit simply for a Florida history lesson. But the theater is still in operation

- today! You'll be able to watch the latest foreign films, documentaries and indie masterpieces in the plush red seats.
- The Tampa Museum of Art: The museum is one of the most interesting you'll ever experience. The floors are made of stone. The ceilings are translucent and have fiber optic lights. Inside the museum are exhibit display rooms and lecture halls. Kids can learn how to watercolor while their parents enjoy learning about Roman sculptures or other art exhibits.
- **Busch Gardens Tampa**: Animal exhibits, bumper cars, zip lines and roller coasters this amusement park has everything! You can get up close and personal with some of the wildlife, climb to observation decks nestled in the treetops, get some tasty treats, watch a movie, enjoy a concert and more. And don't forget to pick up a souvenir at the gift shop.
- Tampa Bay Downs: Horse racing is one of those things that most of us watch on TV but few of us ever get to see it in person. As a resident of Tampa, you'll get to spend a day at the races whenever you like. The arena is slightly outside Tampa city limits, but the trip is worth it. You can watch from the stands or in lounge rooms that have the race on TV screens. Snacks are available and you can make bets if you're feeling lucky.
- Empower Adventures Tampa Bay: Do you crave fun and adventure? Do you thrive off adrenaline-pumping activities? Then, you need to visit this destination where you'll get to do some zip-lining, walk across suspended rope bridges and make your way through obstacle courses. You'll need to plan in advance as reservations are required but it's a great place to enjoy the Florida skyline and get your thrills in, too.

# Tampa city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

You're ready to move to Florida and are confident that our Tampa city guide will help you find the best apartment for your needs. But how do you know which neighborhood to choose? Below, we break down some of the features of the best neighborhoods in Tampa so you can find the one that suits your needs, wants, budget and personality the best.

### **Downtown**

Downtown Tampa is part of the Tampa business district. AreaVibes.com gives it a higher-than-average livability score, mainly for the urban amenities, cost of living and housing. The cost of living is about 8% less than the national average, while rent is about 10% less. If you're wondering about the amenities, you'll be pleased with what Downtown Tampa has to offer: The Tampa Museum of Art, Glazer Children's Museum (with interactive exhibits), The Straz Center (for live plays, musicals and opera) and a plethora of global eateries.

### **Hyde Park**

Hyde Park is an upscale neighborhood that's renowned for its nightlife. You'll find cocktail bars, global restaurants, steak houses and fine dining opportunities. The Hyde Park Village Shopping Center provides visitors with an eclectic mix of merchandise, from indie boutiques to international chain stores. The cost of living in the area is nearly double the national average.

### **New Tampa**

Another highly livable Tampa neighborhood is New Tampa. This is a residential neighborhood that's known for its beautiful golf courses and hiking trails through the Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Reserve. If you're an adventure seeker, you can visit the New Tampa Nature Park to have a go at their climbing wall or to go zip lining. Upscale restaurants dot the neighborhood. You can find coffee shops, chain restaurants, upscale American dining and Asian cuisine. Big brand clothing stores fill the strip malls in the area, too.

### **Southwest Tampa**

Do you love Tampa's historic district? Do you dream of living near the water? Then, Southwest Tampa should probably be one of the neighborhoods to check out for apartments. Southwest Tampa is a dense urban-suburban neighborhood. Most people in the area own their homes. Still, with lower-than-the-national-average rental costs, over 46% of residents choose to rent. The neighborhood is known for its gorgeous homes, indie restaurants, boutique shops and of course, the historic district.

### **Channel District**

Looking for a funky, bustling area for the whole family? The Channel District is perfect. You and your kids will be able to visit the Florida Aquarium to see sharks and go on dolphin cruises. Head to Amalie Arena for a hockey game or concert. High-rises abound, housing shops, eateries and residents. The area is pedestrian-friendly and there's so much to do on the waterfront for recreation with family and friends. Visit Sparkman Wharf for even more fun – from colorful murals to an outdoor theater and lightning games to creative restaurants and more.

### **South Westshore**

The main attraction in South Westshore is the Palma Ceia Golf and Country Club. There, pros and amateurs mingle and play, enjoying the beautiful greens and vistas

surrounding them along the way. The number of renters and homeowners in the area is almost equal. And with rent costs around the national average, South Westshore is a great place for young families and those who are just starting out.

### **Northeast Tampa**

Middle-aged homeowners make up the majority of residents in the area. However, there are quite a few families in the area, too, and with exceptional schools and plenty of parks, you'll find that it's a great place to raise your family, too. Rental costs are on par with the national average, making this one of the more affordable Tampa neighborhoods.

### **Tampa Heights**

Tampa Heights is the city's oldest suburb but as of late it's experiencing a renaissance. Repurposed warehouses are home to some incredible shops. For instance, you'll find the Heights Public Market Food Hall at Armature Works. There, you'll be able to purchase cocktails, ramen, coffee, pizza and more from independent vendors. The neighborhood is also home to several art galleries that display the works of local artists. The cost of living in the area – particularly rental prices – is below the national average.

### **Bayshore Beautiful**

In Bayshore Beautiful the crime rate is low, the schools are excellent and the amenities are amazing. The cost of living is higher than average, with rental prices coming in at almost double the national average. And less than 20% of residents in the area rent. However, you'll find that the apartments available in the area are highend and well-maintained, as is the neighborhood as a whole. It's also just over 15 minutes to get to Downtown Tampa.

### **Davis Islands**

As a resident here, you'll be surrounded by pastel-colored, Mediterranean-style structures that were built in the 1920s. You're sure to find your favorite café or pub in the area as there are many clustered in the area. There are plenty of green spaces, too – some with playgrounds for the kids. And let's not forget, it's an ideal place to spend time on a sandy beach, soaking in the sun and admiring the boats owned by neighbors and visitors alike.

### Harbour Island

Harbour Island is luxury living at its finest! You'll find homes of all kinds here – from single-family properties to enormous estates, from simple apartment complexes to condos in high-rise buildings. You can become part of the Yacht Club, fill your evenings with time spent at fine-dining restaurants and night clubs and spend your days shopping high-end boutiques and taking a break in a quaint neighborhood coffee shop.

### **Tampa Palms**

Tampa Palms is a lovely neighborhood for families. Residents say the area is petfriendly, safe and well-maintained. Most families in the area rent their apartments, the cost of which is just slightly higher than the national average. There are numerous green spaces to spend time with pets and kids or to plan get-togethers with family and friends while enjoying the sunshine, ponds and palm trees.

### **Seminole Heights**

Seminole Heights – located in Central Tampa – is a historic neighborhood full of old-style bungalows. It's one of the most diverse neighborhoods in Tampa and has a bohemian, hipster vibe. It's full of young families, professionals and creatives. Glass art is popular in this neighborhood, and you can often find glass-blowing demonstrations by local artists. Every month, the Second Sunday Morning Market pops up on the front lawn of the Hillsborough High School, which hosts over 100 vendors selling plants, local produce and gourmet foods.

### **University Square**

Over 15,000 people live in this Hillsborough County neighborhood, made up mostly of families. Rental costs are just under the national average, depending on the type of apartment you're looking for. To see what kind of selection the neighborhood has, be sure to check out our Tampa city guide. Residents in the area like the easy commute to Downtown Tampa and say there are a lot of amenities that are within walking distance.

### **Ybor Heights**

Residents of Ybor Heights appreciate the low cost of living in this area, which is approximately 15% lower than the Tampa average. Rental costs are also below the

national average. Residents also appreciate the short commute to Downtown Tampa (less than 10 minutes). The schools in the area earn very high ratings, too. People who live in the neighborhood say it's quiet and safe, with well-kept yards and friendly neighbors.

# Washington D.C. City Guide: Neighborhoods & Things to Do

Of all places to see Darth Vader's head, you might not automatically think of the National Cathedral. But the Vader gargoyle was added to the cathedral in the 1980s and is just one of the many quirky facts about our country's capital. Of course, the city is the most important in the nation, with political decisions here impacting every citizen in the country. Politics aside, though, <a href="Washington, D.C.">Washington, D.C.</a> is a lovely city with beautiful historic buildings and an abundance of green spaces to help residents stay active and find some respite from the hustle of Washington politics. If you want to be at the heart of this country, be sure to check out our Washington, D.C. city guide to find your ideal apartment.

### Washington, D.C. city highlights

Washington, D.C. has so many places to explore. Here are just a few of the attractions you should check out at least once.

- Rock Creek Park: Do you love being active in the great outdoors? Then, this will be your new favorite place. The Park extends over 1800 acres and has 32 miles of trails for jogging, biking, horseback riding and skating. There are also historic landmarks in the park as well.
- Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden: This is a cylindrical building that
  was built in the mid-1970s to house the art collection of Wall Street millionaire,
  Joseph Hirshhorn. The collection houses multiple new and rare pieces, too,
  including Yoko Ono's A Wish Tree for Washington, D.C. If you like, you can tie
  your own wish (written on paper) to the tree.
- National Gallery of Art: Located on the National Mall, this gallery showcases
  countless notable works of modern art, as well as classics, including van
  Gogh's self-portrait and Leonardo da Vinci's Ginevra de Benci. There are
  paintings, sculptures, and other works of fine art. Some exhibits are
  permanent, while others are temporary.
- Mansion on O Street: This is a luxury boutique hotel with eccentric décor and a mind boggling layout, including over 30 secret doors. Apparently, the mansion was used by J. Edgar Hoover's G-men in the 1930s as rooming houses. It is now mainly a private club, as well as an event space. And if you

- see something you like as far as décor goes, there's a high probability that it's for sale.
- Annapolis: It's pretty much a rite of passage for residents of Washington,
  D.C. to spend a day sailing in Annapolis. The capital of Maryland is charming,
  and you can sail the Chesapeake Bay in about two hours with a charter
  company. While there, make sure you soak in all that Annapolis has to offer,
  including the U.S. Naval Academy.

# Washington, D.C. city guide to the best neighborhoods for renters

Are you ready to start your Washington, D.C. apartment search? Use our Washington, D.C. city guide to narrow your search. You'll find condos, homes, townhouses and apartments that fit your needs perfectly. Here are just a few of the neighborhoods where you could find your dream apartment.

### **Northwest Washington**

If you want to live in a historic neighborhood that has plentiful landmarks, you should check our Washington, D.C. city guide for apartments to rent in Northwest Washington. Right in your own backyard are the Smithsonian Museums. You'll be a neighbor to whoever is living in the White House. This neighborhood extends from the National Mall all the way to Maryland. Living here, you'll also have easy access to the National Zoo and the National Cathedral. And of course, there are plenty of restaurants, bars and cafés to keep you nourished and entertained.

### **Southeast Washington**

Another popular neighborhood with plenty of historic landmarks is the neighborhood of Southeast Washington, which stretches from Capitol Hill south to the Anacostia River. You'll be able to tour the Library of Congress, as well as the U.S. Navy Museum. Want something to do that's not related to our political history? Then, how about purchasing season tickets to Nationals Park to watch the Washington Nationals home games. You can also attend other sporting events or concerts at the D.C. Armory arena or visit Fort DuPont Park for their summer concert series.

### **Bellevue**

Bellevue is a residential area that stretches from the far southeast to the far southwest areas of Washington, D.C. Employment, housing, schools and amenities are all rated highly by residents of this area. It could be due to the fact that there are multiple green spaces in the area – plenty of space to play, get away from the stress

of the city, enjoy the sunshine and breathe the fresh air. Most of the nearly 10,000 people who live in the neighborhood rent, so you'll be in good company!

### **Northeast Washington**

Do you want to live in a neighborhood with plenty of green space? Then, Northeast Washington is for you! It's home to the U.S. National Arboretum – nearly 450 acres of tree-lined paths and gorgeous gardens. If you're a foodie or love the occasional brew, head over to City Winery for indie concerts, brewpubs and distilleries. Or head over to the H Street Corridor for some of the most eclectic restaurants you'll ever find.

### **Connecticut Avenue – K Street**

This downtown business district is home to multiple political lobbyists and law firms. The neighborhood adjoins the White House complex. If you work or dream of working in government, this neighborhood may be a perfect fit. And getting your midday meal is incredibly easy because food trucks abound in Farragut Square. After a long day at the office, you'll have plenty of restaurants and lounge bars to choose from to wind down and spend time with friends and co-workers.

### **Dupont Circle**

Dupont Circle is a great neighborhood if you're looking for something that has a more residential vibe but still has adequate nightlife options. In this neighborhood, you'll be near coffee shops and bookstores (a great combination for bookworms!), as well as eclectic restaurants, bars and clubs. It's a great neighborhood for young professionals as well as families as the schools rank well above average.

### **Capitol Hill**

If you want to be in the hub of the U.S. government, Capitol Hill is the best neighborhood for you. Over 10,000 people live in this neighborhood, many of whom are like you – young professionals who want to see the U.S. Capitol, Senate, Supreme Court and the House of Representatives on a daily basis. As you travel to and from work each day, make sure to head over to the Eastern Market to pick up meat and cheese for your weekly meals. Or you can go to Barracks Row for some global restaurants, pizza or delectable bakeries.

### **Navy Yard**

Do you crave living near the water? This neighborhood runs along the Anacostia River, and you'll have easy access to the Riverwalk Trail for exercise or an outing with friends or your significant other. The Yards Park holds summer concerts and has a great boardwalk to explore. Most of the people (97%) who live here rent but it's important to note that the cost of rent is more than double that of the national average.

### **Columbia Heights**

The Columbia Heights neighborhood has an eclectic mix of buildings, from grand embassies to humble, historic rowhouses. The neighborhood of nearly 36,000 people is made up of a mix of international professionals, as well as creatives who enjoy the multiple parks with mature trees and lots of greenery, as well as trails for biking and walking. Buildings in the area have beautiful architectural embellishments, like stained glass windows and balconies. A grand mansion that was, at one time, the Embassy of Mexico, is now home to the Mexican Cultural Institute. It's a fun, diverse neighborhood that you should definitely consider.

### Georgetown

Georgetown is a charming neighborhood with cobblestone streets and old-style architecture. Along the streets, you'll find upscale restaurants and fashion boutiques. The nightlife is one of the things that gives this area its high score. You'll find college bars, intimate music lounges, taverns and more. When you want to spend some time outdoors, you can take a walk along the Waterfront Park promenade and visit the gorgeous gardens.

### **NoMa**

NoMa is a neighborhood located north of Massachusetts Avenue. It's recently been undergoing a regeneration period with industrial lots being transformed into modern developments. On the eastern end of the neighborhood is Union Market where you can buy artisan cheeses, home décor, international street food and more. Union Market also hosts a pop-up outdoor theater where you can enjoy a great indie movie with friends and neighbors. The new developments are giving way to edgy restaurants, hip shops and modern apartment complexes, perfect for renters like you!

### **McLean Gardens**

Do you want somewhere to call home that has a residential feel with lots of trees and natural beauty? This neighborhood is 23 acres of wooded gorgeousness. Vintage architecture from the 1940s abounds but the interior of the complexes in this area have been converted into modern flats, duplexes, lofts and condos. The neighborhood is home to an outdoor pool (which is heavenly during the hot, humid summer months), as well as a fancy ballroom for parties and other events.

### **U** Street

The U Street neighborhood has great cultural and historic significance to the African American community as it was a cultural, musical and nightlife hub from the 1920s through the 1940s. For example, Duke Ellington and other jazz legends performed at the U Street Lincoln Theatre. The nightlife in the area is still going strong with DJ lounges and music on rooftop bars. Vibrant murals bring life to the neighborhood. As far as dining options, you'll be blown away by the options – from the unique flavors of Little Ethiopia to the iconic Ben's Chili Bowl and everything in between.

### **Brookland**

Brookland has a thriving foodie scene. If you love Italian food, you're in for a treat. You can get wood-fired pizzas and other delectable Italian dishes in Little Rome. If you're a fan of performing arts, you might want to visit the Dance Place, an establishment that's been around since the late-1970s and hosts multiple musical acts and dance troupes throughout the year. Brookland is also home to some of the most beautiful historic churches and monasteries in the county.

### **Woodley Park**

Woodley Park is an affluent D.C. neighborhood with nearly 7000 residents. The livability score is higher than the national average and even the D.C. average due in part to the lower crime rate (50% less than the average in Washington), excellent schools and amenities. The Smithsonian National Zoo is nearby, which is in Rock Creek Park, a park that has miles of hiking, walking, jogging and biking trails. There are plenty of delicious global restaurants in the area, too.

### **Apartment Hunting**

Apartment hunting doesn't have to be a headache. Rent makes it easy to find an apartment that best suits your wants, needs and budget. Our experts cover everything from <a href="https://www.needs.ne

# A place of your own may cost more than you think.

Moving out of your parents' house for the first time has been your goal for your entire life. Freedom, quiet and no one telling you what to do. It might seem simple — pack your stuff in <u>a few boxes</u>, hop in the car and party time. If you have a job that pays you a couple grand a month, a rent of \$800 or so for your first apartment seems easy-peasy to afford.

Not so fast. Moving into your first apartment isn't as easy or cheap as you might think. There are a number of <a href="hidden expenses">hidden expenses</a> you might not have thought of. You'll have to budget properly so you don't find yourself out <a href="hidden">on the street</a>, and consider how much money you're going to need to save before you move out of your folks' place.

Just because you have enough cash in your bank account to pay rent each month doesn't mean you have enough to move out. In order to be financially safe, <a href="mailto:experts">experts</a> <a href="mailto:suggest">suggest</a> saving up four months' worth of expenses before taking the plunge. So how much will you need?

### How much do you have now?

Before you do anything, you'll need to get an idea of how much you can afford. Grab your last six months of bank statements. (Don't have a bank account? You're not ready to move out.)

Itemize your expenses by category and see how much you're using every month at home <u>for things like</u> transportation and gas, going out to eat, entertainment like movies, bars and concerts, clothing, video games, vapes, coffee, your phone and streaming services. Now you have an idea of what you're currently spending.

Also take a look at your debts. If you're shelling out for student loan payments, car payments, credit card debt or paying your parents' back for raising you and won't be able to keep up regular payments *and* also pay your rent, you'll have to pay down your loans (or at least a chunk of them) before moving out.

### The cost of moving

Then there's the cost of actually moving. Depending how much stuff you have, how much furniture you're bringing with you and how far away you're moving, your costs will vary. The <u>average cost of moving</u> for a studio apartment is about \$420 to \$700, a one-bedroom around \$700 to \$1,100 and between \$1,100 and \$1,500 for a two-bedroom. Save some cash by having friends help or borrowing a truck.

Regardless of your furniture situation, you have to budget paying for some. If you're moving your own furniture to your first apartment, you're going to need a bigger truck or professional movers to haul that bed, couch and dining room table.

Maybe you'll buy your own furniture, so budget for that and try to keep costs down by hitting thrift stores and Craigslist. Or, renting a partially furnished apartment may be the most efficient option even if you'll pay a bit more in rent.

#### You might also like

This is the Smartest Way to Create Your Apartment Budget

How Much Do Movers Cost: What You Can Expect to Pay When Moving Apartments

10 Things to Know When Looking for Your First Apartment

### Paying the rent and more

You should be spending <u>no more than a third</u> of your monthly take-home income on rent. That's your max. Now that you know how much you can spend, take a look at <u>the average monthly rent</u> in the city or area you wish to find a place. This will give you an idea of where you can afford to live and how much you'll expect to pay.

But rent is just part of what you'll pay to lease your first apartment. Before you even move in, before you even sign your lease, expect to pay a bunch of fees. Get ready

to shell out for an application fee (up to \$100), background check fee (\$35 to \$75), credit check fee (\$30 to \$50), security deposit (equal to or double one month's rent), first and possibly last months' rent (to assure you don't skip out on your lease), move-in fees and pet fees.

### Basic necessities

But all those fees aren't the only things you'll need for your first month. Your apartment is empty, your cupboards are bare. You have to stock up on cleaning and cooking essentials.

Before you settle in, you'll need to hit Walmart or the dollar store and grab toilet paper, tissues, paper towels, garbage bags, laundry soap, dishwashing liquid, all-purpose cleaner, lightbulbs and any other necessities.

Don't expect to eat out or get <u>Uber Eats</u> every night. You'll have to cook your own food to keep expenses down. In the kitchen, the cabinets and fridge will need to be filled with basic necessities like flour, sugar, baking soda, vegetable oil, seasonings, ketchup, mustard, bread, peanut butter, honey, barbecue sauce, sponges, sandwich bags, aluminum foil and anything you personally need, not to mention pots and pans. That's a lot! Be prepared to pay upwards of \$150 to \$200 to fill your pantry and supply closet.

### Utilities and recurring expenses

There's no grace period. As soon as you move in, you'll have to start to pay your monthly bills for recurring expenses. Utilities will consist of your electric bill to run your heat, air conditioning and appliances, your water bill and (in some apartments) a natural gas bill. Expect to pay between \$125 and \$175 a month in basic utilities.

There are additional monthly utility costs, as well, including Internet access and cable or satellite TV, not to mention your streaming services. If you're cutting the cord and can still stay on your parents' Netflix and Hulu, you'll save a ton, but you'll still need an internet connection from your cable company or another provider.

It's also possible you could be on the line to pay monthly for garbage pickup, recycling, sewer and even parking. And don't forget about your cell phone bill.

Do some <u>Google research</u> on the average costs of these services in the area to which you're planning to move, and calculate how they fit into your budget. Pay all

your bills on time, and don't make the mistake of falling into debt and ruining your credit, and your future.

#### Hidden costs

Think that's it? Far from. There are plenty of other recurring costs to add in.

To pay for your first apartment, you'll need to have a job, and you'll have to get there. Live in the city and plan on taking public transportation? A New York MTA Metrocard, for example, is \$120 a month and a 30-day pass for L.A.'s Metro is \$100.

Going to drive to work? Be sure to factor in gas for your daily commute, and parking if you'll need to stash your car in a lot or garage at the office.

You're going to have to eat. Between groceries and dining out, figure somewhere between \$100 and \$200 a month, depending on how frugal you are. And you'll need to look dapper when you go out or head to work, so make sure to include a few dollars in quarters each week in laundry if you don't have an in-unit setup, and supplies and a higher water bill if you do.

You'll have to protect your stuff, too, or you'll be back under your parents' roof in a heartbeat, so <u>renters insurance</u> is a must and will cost about \$10 to \$12 a month.

No problem, you say, my paycheck will take care of all this. Well, you won't be taking home as much as you think, because you'll be shelling out for things like taxes, a 401(K) and healthcare every two weeks before your check is even deposited.

#### Do the math

Aside from all that, you should put away as much as you are able in case of emergency or job change. Always keep somewhere between \$500 and \$2,000 aside for unexpected health, car or other circumstances — and don't touch it.

Now that you know the true cost of leaving the nest, you can compare it to your paycheck and determine if you can afford to move out, how much rent you can manage and how much you must save. Remember, you'll need to be able to cover four months of these expenses to be comfortable. The worst thing you can do to yourself is miscalculating your real-world expenses and have to cut back to barebones or worse, move back in with your folks.

## **Apartment Living**

They say home is where the heart is and our expert advice makes it easy to absolutely love apartment living. We'll walk you through how to meet your neighbors, practicing proper grill etiquette and even setting up a picture perfect home office space for working from home. Additionally, you can find general tips on how to thrive as a renter in a world where renting is quickly becoming the best option for many people.

### No grill? No problem!

It's finally <u>grilling season</u> around the country after a long winter. And as the nation continues to stay home more, an increasing number of people are interested in grilling at home, although they might not have done it before. But what about apartment-dwellers? Many are wondering how to grill when you live in an apartment, especially if you don't have an outside?

While many apartments have porches, patios and balconies, most buildings and complexes, as well as local municipalities, have rules and regulations against gas and charcoal (or any flame) grills in close proximity to an apartment due to fire hazards.

So, how do you grill when you <u>live in an apartment</u>? Here are some suggestions for how to still host a summer grilling party and barbecue in an apartment.

### 1. Oven broiling

No flames allowed? Let the oven do your work for you. Even aside from preheating, broiling meats and <u>vegetables in the oven</u> is a much longer process than flame grilling, and is also a bit more complicated (and occasionally messy). But what broiling brings to the table (excuse the pun) is heat and a lot of it.

Broiling your barbecue foods uses the same (although not direct) intense heat as grilling to create caramelization and charring. For best results, cook with the oven door slightly ajar, use a proper and preheated broiler pan and stick to lean cuts of meat and thicker marinades to cut down on heat and smoke in your kitchen.

#### 2. Indoor electric grills

An indoor countertop electric grill can be a great alternative for your barbecue, even though it lacks a direct flame and doesn't allow for the high temperatures and sear you would get on the grill or in the oven. Not only are they portable and convenient, but they offer simple cleanup.

With an indoor grill, however, you're basically contact-cooking the food on the outside with electric heat, so be sure to cook your meats well enough to get done on the inside.

However, an electric grill achieving that signature smoke flavor can prove to be difficult, so utilize a few drops of liquid smoke and your favorite smoky barbecue sauce. The upside is that most units have ribbed cooking planes so you can actually achieve faux grill marks! As long as you have an outlet on your balcony (or an extension cord), an electric grill is easily used outside for that real grilling atmosphere.

Models come in all sizes and types, from a small cooktop that fits a couple of burgers to larger family units with bells and whistles like the Kenyon Portable City Grill that heats to 600 degrees Fahrenheit in seven minutes with no smoke and the George Foreman GFO3320 indoor/outdoor stand-up grill from the master of home grilling that comes with his signature "drain away the fat" sloped surface.

#### You might also like

7 Best Grills for Apartments

17 Safety Tips for Grilling at Your Apartment

How to Deal with Neighbors Who Smoke

#### 3. A grill pan for your stovetop

Grilling on your stovetop isn't much different than cooking with a cast-iron pan on the burner. But stovetop grilling is more about the right pan and the right preparation. A good grill pan will mimic a griddle pan or flattop with a large square surface. The best pans will provide sharp, raised edges and well-spread elevation grooves that will

allow the fat to drain away from your meat without causing a mess, with some pretty authentic grill marks to boot.

The primary benefit of using a stovetop grill pan over a standalone electric grill is your ability to baste your meat as it cooks, giving it more flavor and tenderness. While the direct heat from a grill pan on a gas stovetop will provide more char and caramelization than the electric grill, you will still need to prepare your meats marinated with liquid smoke and coated with flavorful barbecue sauce. Also, be aware that most pan grilling will result in a smoky kitchen and pan cleanup can be difficult.

### 4. Roasting with wood chips

Want a method that's a little more hands-off, easier to clean up and allows you to cheat your way to a pretty authentic smoky flavor? Try roasting your meats and vegetables over soaked wood chips. The roasting process is really no different than any other form of roasting food you would normally use, but with a little different prep.

Wood chip roasting involves soaking your favorite flavor of wood chips for two to three hours (and draining), creating a foil pouch that's placed at the bottom of the oven and waiting for 10 to 20 minutes for the chips to begin smoking. After that, just add your meat and vegetables and cook as you normally would for roasting. Boom, instant fake outdoor grilling taste.

### 5. Solar cooking

No gas or charcoal on your patio to grill when you live in an apartment? How about the sun? They can't outlaw the sun! OK, a solar cooker is never going to replace your favorite local barbecue joint, but it does let you be outside cooking on your patio or having a barbecue on an apartment balcony with your friends and not trapped in the kitchen.

It's also a green solution to reduce carbon emissions from traditional grilling and costs zero dollars to operate.

### 6. Get off the porch

It may not be the most convenient alternative, but you can try grilling away from your porch. Many apartment complexes and apartment buildings offer a space on the

grounds with a public grilling patio, whether it be standalone, by a pool or on a rooftop. Keep a grill bag handy with your favorite cooking, cleaning, prep and serving supplies, along with spices and sauces so all you need to do is bring the meat.

Just be sure to clean the grill before and after you use it, sign up for a scheduled time if your management requires and always follow all the safety and community grilling <u>rules and etiquette</u>.

No grill in your complex? No problem. Many cities and municipalities have public spaces for community grilling. Check parks, campsites, piers and public pools for grills you can use and sign up to throw yourself a barbecue party!

#### How to grill when you live in an apartment

Sure, you may not be able to throw a block party barbecue like your neighbors with houses and lawns, but by using a little creativity with how you grill when you live in an apartment you can roast, broil, fry and season your way to a great meal.

And no matter where you do your apartment-safe grilling, you'll always have that sunny patio, inviting porch or comfy living room to serve up your chicken, ribs, steak and crisp veggies for everyone (or just you) to enjoy.

### So long, NYC and LA; these small cities are on the rise thanks to their affordable cost of living and quality of life

With the cost of living in major metro areas rising higher than a skyscraper, many renters are ditching the big city for small cities. When the pandemic began and remote work became available to most, many renters left big cities seeking more space. Several years later, trends are showing that people are <u>still leaving big</u>, <u>expensive cities</u>. Where are they going? Smaller, up-and-coming cities that offer affordability and better quality of life.

Defined as cities with a population of 100,000 or less, small cities are offering renters everything a big city can but at a fraction of the price. Many small cities have their own robust economies and industries. But remote work no longer makes that a prerequisite for choosing a specific city.

With vibrant arts and cultural scenes, exciting dining options and shopping, many small cities now offer renters all the same perks of living in a big city. It can also give renters things many big cities can't, like near-instant access to nature for outdoor

sports. Plus, living in a small city allows you to better connect with your community. On top of all that, small cities are generally more affordable, giving you a stellar quality of life for less.

If you're considering moving to a small city, these 11 spots around the U.S. should be on your radar.

# The 11 best small cities to call home around the U.S.

Trendy craft breweries. Compact and walkable city centers. Historic architecture mixed with modern innovation. Rivers where you can surf in the middle of town. These are just some of the things these 11 small cities across the U.S. have to offer renters, and why you should consider them for your next home.

This list is not ranked based on specific criteria or data.

#### 11. San Luis Obispo, CA

If you want to live in <u>California</u> without breaking the bank, looking for a small city is the way to go. Within half an hour's drive of both the beach and the mountains, the laidback town of <u>San Luis Obispo</u> could be just the ticket. Located along the Central Californian Coast, this historic town of 47,545 residents is well-known for its slow-living, relaxed quality of life.

Home to one of the campuses of the California Polytechnic State University, SLO attracts its fair share of students and young adults. With farmer's markets, local wineries and a robust dining scene, residents can enjoy the fresh fruits of the local agricultural industry. With city parks like Laguna Lake Park and access to both the mountains and ocean, it's also incredibly easy to get outdoors. Plus, major cities like <u>San Jose</u> and <u>Los Angeles</u> are about three hours away by car.

Compared to many major California cities, the cost of rent in San Luis Obispo is a breath of fresh air. The average monthly rent for a one-bedroom apartment is \$1,700. The city also has a wide range of rental options to choose from in varying styles. For a more contemporary look and top-notch amenities like a fitness center,

check out the units at <u>Connect Apartments</u>. However, you can also find <u>charming</u> <u>older homes</u> that have been converted into duplexes with lots of character.

#### 10. Fort Myers, FL

With one-bedroom apartments costing an average of \$1,711, Fort Myers is a great choice for affordable coastal Florida living. Located on the Sunshine State's southwestern coast, this small city of around 92,245 residents is a more budget-friendly option than other nearby cities like Tampa and Miami. With units starting around \$1,332, complexes like the Park at Positano come with fantastic amenities like outdoor swimming pools.

But Fort Myers still has everything we all know and love about Florida. Situated close to where the Caloosahatchee River reaches the Gulf of Mexico, sunny beaches and watersports are both close at hand. For land-based fun, wilderness preserves like Bob Janes Reserve and Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park offer hiking, walking and more close to the city. <a href="Everglades National Park">Everglades National Park</a> is also about two hours away by car.

#### You might also like

The Best Small Cities for Improving Your Health

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With its beautiful year-round weather, lovely beaches and scenic wildernesses, outdoor access is a big plus of living here. But it's not the only perk. Sports fans will love getting to watch both major and minor league games, especially during spring for MLB spring training. From fresh seafood to barbecue, the dining scene has the foodie crowd covered with several local craft breweries to wash it all down. Festivals like ArtFest and galleries infuse the community with a creative spirit, and charming neighborhoods of historic houses make for great afternoon walks.

#### 9. Marfa, TX

If you're a remote worker who doesn't mind being really remote, you may be interested in the small city of <u>Marfa, Texas</u>. Despite being a small city of under 2,000 residents, this compact community is a renowned destination for arts and culture. From the Chinati Foundation to famous art installations like the Prada Marfa storefront, it's an exciting place to be an artist on a budget.

With funky community spaces like the Sentinel Marfa, a newspaper-office-slash-coffee-shop and fantastic dining, this small city delivers world-class entertainment and culture in the middle of the Trans-Pecos desert.

Plus, nearby national parks like Big Bend offer outdoor recreation, dark sky gazing and trying to spot the famous <u>Marfa Lights</u>. The only downside of Marfa would be its isolation, with the closest big city being <u>San Antonio</u> nearly six hours away. But as you can see, Marfa offers plenty to keep locals entertained within its small city package.

#### 8. Lancaster, PA

Ranked the <u>best small city to live in by WalletHub</u>, this historic small city of 57,503 in southeastern <u>Pennsylvania</u> ranks big on affordability, quality of life and robust economic health. Surrounded by lush Amish and Pennsylvania Dutch farmlands, the rich agricultural bounty of the region yields a delicious locavore dining scene.

Dating from the early 1700s, <u>Lancaster</u>'s compact town center is rife with historic architecture and landmarks that support a thriving tourism industry. With healthcare as another top industry, local health is a big deal and residents enjoy a high quality of life. Plus, all that scenic countryside is great for outdoor recreation like golf and hiking.

With one-bedrooms going for an average of \$1,481 a month, there is plenty of affordable housing to be found. The <u>Courts at Wetherburn Commons</u> offers spacious, pet-friendly units with perks like in-unit washers and dryers. If you want high-end amenities like a swimming pool, check out the <u>Kensington Club</u>.

#### 7. Bloomington, IN

A bustling college town with a population of just under 80,000 (depending on whether school is in or not), <u>Bloomington</u> buzzes with that classic university-town energy. From wandering the walkable downtown for shopping or grabbing a drink at local craft breweries like Upland, Bloomington keeps locals entertained throughout the year. There's live music, outdoor sports to be found at nearby forests and lakes and exciting nightlife. With family-friend activities like bike paths and parks, it's also a great place to raise a family.

The cost of rent isn't too bad either. One-bedroom apartments go for an average of around \$1,127 a month. There are more budget-friendly options like the \$995+ units at <u>Bloom Apartments</u> or top-of-the-line complexes with pools and other cool amenities like <u>Hayden Flats</u> at <u>Haley Farms</u>.

#### 6. Portland, ME

Portland, Maine is here to prove that it's not playing second-fiddle to Portland, Oregon anymore. It has its own hip craft breweries, trendy restaurants, local boutiques and outdoor fun, all with signature coastal New England charm. Grab a lobster roll from a food truck, stroll the quaint waterfront, explore Casco Bay by boat. Avail yourself of the dynamic art scene with festivals, performances and much more in this vibrant, artsy city by the bay. From the quality of life to the affordability, it's also considered one of the best places to live in Maine.

From <u>industrial-chic units</u> with rustic brick walls to amenity-stocked modern complexes like <u>Liberty Commons</u>, renters have tons of different options for places to live. Price-wise, the average monthly rent for a one-bedroom apartment is around \$2,100.

#### 5. Eau Claire, WI

Sitting along the banks of the Chippewa River, this small city of just under 70,000 in northwestern <u>Wisconsin</u> is ready to win renters over with its live music scene, foodie

offerings and welcoming atmosphere. <u>Eau Claire</u>'s biggest claim to fame is its arts and cultural scene, most notably with live music and the performing arts. In addition to being the hometown of <u>Bon Iver</u>, Eau Claire has several renowned music festivals including the two-day <u>Eaux Claires Music & Arts Festival</u>.

Along with the creative energy, Eau Claire also has funky craft breweries, hip coffeehouses and diverse dining options. Residents can stroll along the picturesque riverfront, go hiking in urban nature preserves and enjoy watersports at nearby lakes and rivers. Also home to the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, this small city appeals to everyone from students to families. It's easy to see why it's one of the best places to live in Wisconsin.

With so much to see and do, Eau Claire's affordable housing is the icing on the cake. One-bedroom apartments go for an average of \$895 a month, with options ranging from charming single-family houses to luxury apartment complexes.

#### 4. Missoula, MT

With its cool small cities and pristine nature, <u>Montana</u> has become an increasingly popular destination for renters leaving big cities. Of its up-and-coming small cities, <u>Missoula</u> definitely stands out. Located in the western part of the state, it has a decidedly youthful air thanks to being the home of the University of Montana. But everyone from families to young professionals can find something to love here. There are hip craft breweries and restaurants, outdoor sports and plenty of arts and cultural offerings like festivals, galleries and performing arts. Plus, with a population of just under 75,000, it's easy to know your neighbors and be connected with the overall community.

Missoula's affordable housing rates and cost of living are other perks. One-bedroom apartments go for an average of around \$1,095 a month and renters can choose between <u>older buildings with tons of character</u> and <u>newfangled complexes</u> with updated appliances.

#### 3. Asheville, NC

Set against the spectacular backdrop of the Blue Ridge Mountains, <u>Asheville</u> boasts an outsized reputation compared to its small population of just over 94,000. From the grand Biltmore Museum to converted artist studios in the River Arts District, arts and culture is alive and well here with galleries, museums and more. Dining options range from trendy eateries to hip craft breweries, and the temperate climate and nearby mountains and forests allow for year-round outdoor recreation.

On top of all that, Asheville offers renters an affordable cost of living. The average monthly cost for a one-bedroom apartment is around \$1,484, and apartment communities like the <a href="Forest at Biltmore Park">Forest at Biltmore Park</a> and <a href="Skyland Exchange">Skyland Exchange</a> come with posh amenities like outdoor swimming pools.

#### 2. Santa Fe, NM

With a population of around 88,193, renters have been falling for the charms of <u>Santa Fe, NM</u> for a long time. Located in the high mountains of central <u>New Mexico</u>, Santa Fe is mainly known for its multicultural arts and culture scene. With gallery hubs like Canyon Road and world-renowned museums, artists come here for the eclectic community and stunning high desert scenery that inspired the likes of Georgia O'Keeffe. From the thriving film industry to the <u>Santa Fe Opera</u> to boundary-pushing arts collectives like <u>Meow Wolf</u>, everyone from actors to multidisciplinary artists can find a niche here.

But the City Different also charms potential new residents with its delicious New Mexican cuisine, unique architecture, beautiful nature and outdoor sports like hiking and skiing. Renters can expect to pay around \$1,734 for a one-bedroom apartment in the Santa Fe area. At complexes like Olympus Rodeo, units start around \$1,585 and come with attractive community amenities like a swimming pool and in-unit washers and dryers.

#### 1. Bend, OR

Move over, <u>Portland</u>. <u>Bend</u> is becoming the new, hip place to <u>live in Oregon</u>. Located east of the Cascade Mountains, this <u>growing city in central Oregon</u> has a <u>population</u> <u>just over the small city limit</u> at around 102,059. In 2020, that number was 99,126. So

it may not remain a small city for long. But it's easy to see why so many are flocking here.

For one, you can <u>rent a one-bedroom apartment</u> for around \$1,750 a month. Renters have living options ranging from modern apartment complexes with pools like <u>Solis</u> at Petrosa to spacious townhouses.

Although tech, IT and healthcare are leading industries here, Bend's reputation as a "Zoom town" has drawn remote workers in droves. With access to hiking, skiing and climbing in the mountains and desert nearby, Bend appeals to the outdoor set. With the Deschutes River running right through the center of town, you don't even need to drive out of the city to spend time in nature. Locals can stand-up paddleboard, float and kayak through the heart of Bend. At Whitewater Park, there are even some manmade rapids where you can surf.

Plus, there's plenty to do when you're not outdoors. Shop and dine at the Old Mill District, a former industrial-area-turned-outdoor-retail-mall. Refresh yourself with a craft brew from local breweries like the Crux Fermentation Project, catch live music at the Hayden Homes Amphitheater and more.

### Find the best small U.S. city for you

From exciting live music to trendy farm-to-table dining, these top small cities have everything big cities have but in a more close-knit, secluded package. Check out the listings on Rent.com to find your dream apartment in your dream small city.

# Basketball is a universally played sport known by all.

The sport has some of the most recognizable names in history and has given people a fun game to play and plenty of teams to cheer for. Originating in Massachusetts, it's no surprise that the U.S. has some of the most passionate fans of basketball throughout the globe.

Though it brings people from geographical distances together to root for their shared team, basketball is best enjoyed together — whether in an arena, a watch party or a crowded bar. The excitement is palpable when you visit or live in a town engulfed in your chosen fandom.

From big cities on the East and West coasts to small towns in the Midwest, here are some of the best basketball cities and a few facts about what makes them go crazy for the game.

#### Durham, NC

<u>Durham</u> has a long history of basketball, which involves multiple college basketball teams. The well-known Duke University Blue Devils have won five men's Division I national championships and many players from the team have gone on to play in the NBA. Some of these players include Zion Williamson, Grant Hill and Kyrie Irving.

The Blue Devils play in the well-known Cameron Indoor Stadium, which was named after the team's basketball coach Eddie Cameron, who lead the team from 1928 to 1942.

The lesser-known North Carolina Central University also has a good basketball team and competes in the NCAA. The team has won multiple men's Division I conference championships. Durham is also the birthplace of Hall of Fame star John Lucas, who spent an incredible 14 years in the NBA.

On top of all the basketball stuff, Durham has a cost of living that is 5 percent under the national average, making it affordable while still giving you a city vibe.

Check out these rentals in Durham:

- Icon Downtown Durham
- Edge at West End
- Station Nine

### Chapel Hill, NC

<u>Chapel Hill</u> has certainly seen its fair share of basketball. The UNC Tar Heels have won six men's national championships, which comes as no surprise when you factor in the number of incredible players that the team has seen over the years.

One of the most famous basketball players of all time attended college in Chapel Hill. Michael Jordan played for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, along with other legendary basketball stars, such as James Worthy and Vince Carter.

#### You might also like

Top 10 Most Fit U.S. Cities for Athletes

The Best State Capitals to Call Home

The Best Cities for Musicians to Live in America

To celebrate its love for basketball, the UNC campus houses the <u>Carolina Basketball Museum</u> and holds plenty of photos and memorabilia for basketball fans to enjoy. The city saw many other great players when it hosted the 1987 U.S. Olympic Festival basketball game, taking place in the large Smith Center and holding a crowd of over 23,000 people.

Chapel Hill has a booming job market and is expected to see 39 percent growth in the next 10 years, making it an easy place to find good work.

Check out these rentals in Chapel Hill:

- The Apartments at Midtown 501
- Regent Place
- Notting Hill by ARIUM

#### Lexington, KY

In <u>Lexington</u>, basketball is taken very seriously and is a big focus even for high schools. Each year, the Sweet 16 high school basketball tournament is held in Lexington, when the top 16 teams in Kentucky compete while being broadcast on statewide television.

Moving on to college, the University of Kentucky Wildcats are known to have some of the most passionate and dedicated fans in the nation. The men's team has won eight national championships and fed plenty of players to the NBA, such as Karl-Anthony Town, Anthony Davis and John Wall.

Rupp Arena, where the Wildcats play, is located in downtown Lexington. The arena can hold 20,500 people and has seen record numbers of basketball fans attend games. For the 2014 and 2015 seasons, the Wildcats ranked second in the U.S. for home game attendance.

Lexington has a relatively low cost of living compared to the rest of the nation and is even noticed for having one of the most vibrant LGBTQ+ communities in the U.S., providing a welcoming environment for anyone to enjoy the game or the city.

Check out these rentals in Lexington:

- Bridle Creek Apartments
- Raintree Apartments
- Veridian of Lexington

### Syracuse, NY

Syracuse has seen success in both men's and women's basketball. Syracuse University's men's basketball team has won a national championship and produced a number of NBA stars, which include Derrick Coleman, Dwayne "Pearl" Washington and Carmelo Anthony. The team plays in the nation's largest on-campus basketball arena, the JMA Wireless Dome, which can hold more than 35,000 people at once, and has seen full-attendance games where the arena is completely full.

The women's team has made appearances in the NCAA Tournament and players from the team, such as Kayla Alexander, Tiana Mangakahia and Brittney Sykes, have continued on to play for the WNBA.

Beyond college basketball, Syracuse was home to the former NBA team the Syracuse Nationals. The team was active from 1949 to 1963 — only 14 years — but still managed to win the NBA championship in 1955. The team even saw some Hall of Famers during its short run, including Earl Lloyd and Dolph Schayes.

Syracuse is one of the safest places to live and has a low crime rate. According to CrimeGrade.org, it has an <u>overall crime grade of A-</u>, meaning it is a very safe metro area.

Check out these rentals in Syracuse:

- Clarendon Heights
- The Meadows
- Madison Towers

#### Los Angeles

As the home to not one, but two NBA teams, <u>Los Angeles</u> has seen some of the greatest players in basketball history on its courts. The Clippers have never won a championship, but have appeared in the playoffs many times, while the Lakers have won an incredible 17 NBA championships, putting them right alongside the Boston Celtics with the most NBA championships in history.

With so many wins, it's no surprise that some of the greatest basketball players of all time have spent time on Los Angeles teams. Kobe Bryant, Magic Johnson and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar are only a few of the many famous stars that have contributed to the success of LA's basketball teams. These famed names play at the Crypto.com Arena (formerly known as the Staples Center), which the Lakers and Clippers, along with a variety of other professional sports teams, call home.

Los Angeles is known for many other great entertainment options apart from basketball, including vibrant nightlife, tons of restaurants — and it's near the beach!

Check out these rentals in Los Angeles:

- Jasper
- Broadway Palace Apartments
- The Medici

### Philadelphia

Winning three NBA championships, the Philadelphia 76ers has featured a handful of great basketball players, such as Allen Iverson, Julius Erving and Wilt Chamberlain.

Outside of its professional team, the city has seen other NBA stars on its courts. While Kobe Bryant played for the Los Angeles Lakers, he started playing basketball in his hometown in a <a href="Philadelphia">Philadelphia</a> suburb. Bryant played high school basketball and spent time playing in the Sonny Hill League, which is a summer basketball league in

the city that helps showcase the skills of young players. This league saw other notable players such as the legendary Wilt Chamberlain, who went on to play for the 76ers, and Rasheed Wallace, who played for many NBA teams, including the Detroit Pistons.

Philadelphia has a basketball rivalry between five colleges in the area, which is appropriately called The Big 5. The schools involved in this rivalry are La Salle University, Saint Joseph's University, Temple University, Villanova University and the University of Pennsylvania.

The Palestra, otherwise known as the Cathedral of College Basketball, has hosted some of these rivalry games, along with many others. In fact, the Palestra has hosted more basketball games, including the most NCAA tournaments, than any other college basketball arena.

Philadelphia's rich history doesn't end with basketball — it's one of our nation's oldest cities and is home to Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, the Betsy Ross House and the National Constitution Center, along with many other significant sites where you can further explore American history.

Check out these rentals in Philadelphia:

- Solo on Chestnut
- The Glen at Shawmont Station
- Tower Place

#### **Boston**

<u>Boston</u> is home to multiple college basketball teams with well-known programs. These schools include Northeastern University, Boston College and Boston University, which have all made appearances in the NCAA tournament.

On the professional side, the Boston Celtics have won 17 championships and are tied with the Los Angeles Lakers for the most NBA championships in league history, making Boston one of the nation's best basketball cities. The Celtics team has seen plenty of basketball legends throughout its history, namely Bill Russell, Paul Pierce and Larry Bird.

TD Garden, the arena where the Celtics play their home games, is the most visited entertainment arena in all of New England, seeing millions of fans each year along with the many incredible players that come to challenge the Celtics.

The Boston Shootout is held each year in the city, which is a tournament that features the top high school players from New England. The tournament has featured notable NBA players, such as Patrick Ewing, Kevin Durant and Carmelo Anthony.

Yet another city full of American history beyond basketball, Boston is where the Boston Tea Party took place, and the Paul Revere House is located here. Plus, there are plenty of other sports-related sites, such as Fenway Park, home of the storied baseball franchise the Red Sox.

Check out these rentals in Boston:

- 345 Harrison
- West Square
- AVA Theater District

### Lawrence, KS

<u>Lawrence</u> is home to the University of Kansas Jayhawks team, which has won four NCAA championships and made it to the Final Four many times. The school saw the skills of many would-be NBA players, such as Wilt Chamberlain, Paul Pierce and Andrew Wiggins.

The Jayhawks play in The Phog, or Allen Fieldhouse arena, where nearly 40 NCAA tournament games have been played. This arena has been named the loudest in the nation and even set the record for the loudest roar in 2017.

Lawrence hosts the Jayhawk Invitational each year, which is a high school basketball tournament for teams from all over the nation and has been a way for many future college players to get in front of coaches. Some of the players who have participated in the tournament have later become NBA players.

Lawrence is known for more than sports. Its art scene is quite vibrant, it invests heavily in public education and even has specialty learning schools such as Montessori, Waldorf and private religious schools. Plus, foodies enjoy it as it has a

heavy focus on farm-to-table food. With so many nearby farms located around this Great Plains state, it's easy to find sustainable produce, meat and dairy products.

Check out these rentals in Lawrence:

- Hawks Pointe
- Chase Court
- The Greens at Alvamar Apartments

# A sport loved by all — especially in basketball hub cities

While there are some places known for being basketball cities, there are fans of the sport all over the world. There's a reason basketball is featured in the Olympic games and why even young children enjoy playing at the park — it's simple, fast-paced and fun.

Wherever you find yourself, you're sure to come across others who love the game as much as you do! Start your <u>search here</u>.

## City Living

Get to know your city before you even move in. We've consulted with local experts to highlight the best (and some of the worst) things about the most popular cities across the country. From cost of living trends to finding the best neighborhoods to call home and even recommendations for a night out on the town, we've got you covered. Read on to learn everything you ever wanted to know about living in your city.

## Crime & Safety

Whether you own or rent, it's important to take your safety and security seriously. At Rent, we've got you covered for important apartment safety tips like <a href="mailto:childproofing">childproofing</a>
<a href="mailto:your apartment">your apartment</a>, fire prevention, <a href="mailto:tornado preparedness">tornado preparedness</a> and more. For apartment security advice, don't miss our posts on <a href="mailto:how to add extra security to your apartment">how to add extra security to your</a>
<a href="mailto:apartment">apartment</a> and <a href="mailto:burglary prevention">burglary prevention</a>. With help from our experts, you'll be better prepared in the event of an emergency.

# Interested in finding the best outdoor security cameras? We've handpicked these just for you.

As more people are living in apartments, outdoor security cameras have become a popular way to <u>enhance the safety and security</u> of their homes. However, with so many options available on the market, it can be challenging to choose the right outdoor security camera for your apartment.

To get a better idea of the best outdoor security cameras out there, check out these top-performers. They make the list based on features such as video quality, motion detection, night vision and mobile app integration. This is a great place to start as you research ways to keep your apartment safe and secure.

### Why you need an outdoor security camera

An outdoor security camera monitors and records the activity that occurs outside your apartment. These cameras are typically weather-resistant and can be mounted on walls or other surfaces to capture a wide view of your property. They work by using a combination of motion detection sensors and video recording technology to capture footage of any activity that takes place in their field of view. Some cameras even have night vision capabilities, which allow them to record clear footage even in low-light conditions.

In recent years, the popularity of outdoor security cameras has grown significantly as more and more people are looking for ways to enhance security around their homes. According to a recent survey, more than 25 percent of US households now have some form of home security system, with outdoor security cameras being one of the most popular components. With advancements in technology and increased accessibility, outdoor security cameras have become a valuable tool for homeowners looking to keep their property safe and secure.

There are several compelling reasons why you may need an outdoor security camera in your apartment. These cameras can:

- Deter burglars and intruders from attempting to break in.
- Provide evidence to authorities in the event of a break-in.
- Monitor your property while you're away, giving you peace of mind.
- Send notifications directly to your mobile device of any motion detected outside your apartment.
- Keep an eye on deliveries and visitors to your apartment.

- Monitor the activity of neighbors and others who may be near your property.
- Record any accidents or incidents that occur outside your apartment.
- Ensure the safety of children or pets playing outside.
- Monitor your parking spot or garage to prevent theft or damage to your vehicle.
- Provide additional security and peace of mind for those who live alone or are vulnerable.

Outdoor security cameras provide a visible indication that your apartment is being monitored, which can make it less attractive to criminals who are looking for an easy target. Additionally, if a break-in does occur, an outdoor security camera can provide valuable evidence to the authorities, which may help them identify and apprehend the culprit. Overall, an outdoor security camera can be an essential tool in keeping your apartment safe and secure.

#### You might also like

Best Doorbell Cameras of 2023: Secure Your Home with Our Top Picks

7 Best Security Cameras for Apartments

Best HD Antennas of 2023: Top Picks for Clear and Reliable TV Signals

### Features to look for in an outdoor security camera

When it comes to purchasing an outdoor security camera for your apartment, there are specific needs to consider, the primary one being the size of your apartment and the area that needs to be monitored. Since apartments typically have limited outdoor space, you may need a camera with a narrower field of view to focus on a specific area.

Additionally, many apartments have shared outdoor spaces or are located near busy streets or public areas, so it's important to consider the potential for false alarms from passing pedestrians or vehicles. It's also important to choose a camera with mobile app integration, so you can check the live feed or receive notifications from anywhere, giving you peace of mind when you're away from home. And since you

may not have the ability to hardwire your camera into your apartment's electrical system, choose a camera that is easy to install and can be powered by batteries or a solar panel.

#### Other features include:

- **Video quality**: Look for a camera that can record high-quality video footage, ideally at a 1080p or higher resolution.
- **Motion detection**: Choose a camera with motion detection technology, which can send notifications when motion is detected outside your apartment.
- **Night vision**: Consider a camera with infrared or other low-light technology for clear footage when it gets dark.
- Two-way audio: Some cameras include two-way audio, allowing you to communicate with visitors or deter intruders through a speaker and microphone.
- **Mobile app integration**: Look for a camera that integrates with a mobile app, so you can check the live feed and receive notifications from anywhere.
- **Weather resistance**: Choose a camera that is designed to withstand extreme temperatures, rain, snow and other weather conditions.
- **Power source**: Consider the power source of the camera, whether it is battery-powered, wired or solar-powered.
- **Field of view:** Look for a camera with a wide field of view to cover as much of your outdoor space as possible.
- Cloud storage: Consider a camera that offers cloud storage for video footage, so you can access and review recordings from anywhere.
- **Easy installation**: Choose a camera that is easy to install and doesn't require professional installation, particularly if you are renting your apartment and can't make permanent modifications to the property.

By considering these specific needs, you can choose an outdoor security camera that is tailored to your apartment's unique requirements and provides the best possible protection for your home.

# Top picks for the best outdoor security cameras for apartment renters

Choosing the right outdoor security camera for your apartment can be a daunting task. To help you narrow down your choices, we've hand-selected a list of the best outdoor security cameras specifically tailored for apartments.

Our selection takes into account the unique needs and requirements of apartment dwellers, such as limited outdoor space, shared areas and ease of installation. Whether you're looking for a camera with top-notch video quality, advanced features or an affordable price point, our list has got you covered.

With these top picks, you can have peace of mind knowing that your apartment is well-protected with a reliable and effective outdoor security camera.

#### Gerdviaw Outdoor Security Camera

#### Source: Amazon.com

With 2K resolution, two-way audio and a built-in spotlight to deter intruders and provide clear footage even in low-light conditions, the <u>Gerdviaw Outdoor Security</u> <u>Camera</u> is an excellent home security option. Its mobile app integration and cloud storage capabilities allow you to monitor your outdoor space from anywhere, making it an ideal choice for renters or those who travel frequently.

With easy installation and a competitive price point, the Gerdviaw Outdoor Security Camera is a top pick for apartment dwellers looking to enhance their home security.

#### Wireless Outdoor Security Camera by ZUMIMALL

#### Source: Amazon.com

The <u>Wireless Outdoor Security Camera by ZUMIMALL</u> is an excellent choice for apartment dwellers who prioritize easy installation and low-maintenance monitoring. With wireless connectivity, rechargeable batteries and an eco-friendly solar panel, this camera can be easily placed anywhere outside your apartment without needing

to worry about wiring or outlets. With up to a 130-degree field of view, four-times digital zoom, two-way talk, advanced motion detection and 2K color night vision features, you'll get clear and reliable footage day and night. There's no reason to wait to add this camera to your existing security.

#### REOLINK 4G Cellular Outdoor Security Camera

#### Source: Amazon.com

Featuring a built-in cellular network, the <u>REOLINK 4G Cellular Outdoor Security</u> <u>Camera</u> can work without WiFi, making it an ideal option for apartments with poor or unreliable internet connections. The camera's 2K Super HD gives you excellent clarity, while the 355 degree pan and 140 degree tilt helps you always have the perfect view.

Smart motion technology allows this camera to differentiate between people and vehicle shapes to reduce false alarms, and provide instant alerts when it matters most. Store video locally on an SD card or in cloud with this easy-to-install, wireless camera. Get the <a href="REOLINK 4G Cellular Outdoor Security Camera">REOLINK 4G Cellular Outdoor Security Camera</a> today and enjoy reliable surveillance without the fuss of wires and WiFi.

#### JCNART Solar Wireless Outdoor Security Camera

#### Source: Amazon.com

The <u>JCNART Solar Wireless Outdoor Security Camera</u> provides high-quality video and audio capabilities. Its 4MP lens captures detailed footage and provides a clear picture even in low light conditions. The camera also includes smart PIR human motion detection and two infrared LEDs for night vision, and the two-way audio allows you to communicate with anyone on your property. With its easy installation and user-friendly app, monitoring your apartment has never been easier.

#### MUBVIEW Outdoor Security Camera

#### Source: Amazon.com

The <u>MUBVIEW Outdoor Security Camera</u> is the perfect choice for an apartment, thanks to its 2K HD resolution and two-way audio feature. The camera's wide-angle lens can capture a panoramic view, preventing blind spots.

A built-in motion sensor can also detect human movement, sending a message and triggering an audible and visual alarm if necessary, day or night. Plus, with its durable and weatherproof construction, you can rely on <a href="this camera">this camera</a> to withstand the elements.

#### uniwatch Wireless Outdoor Security Camera

#### Source: Amazon.com

Wireless and rechargeable, the <u>uniwatch Wireless Outdoor Security Camera</u> offers a wide-angle view and crystal clear 2K video day and night. There are even three modes of night vision — Intelligent vision, full-color night vision and IR night vision. This security camera also includes two-way talk, so you can speak in real time and the ability to customize alarms and alerts. Solid weatherproofing means <u>this</u> <u>camera</u> can withstand extreme conditions like rain, hail, snow and intense sun.

#### Ring Stick Up Cam Security Camera

#### Source: Amazon.com

If you're looking to pair your security camera with your Alexa system, you'll need a Ring Stick Up Cam Security Camera. With easy setup, all you have to do is plug in the solar panel and connect the system to your WiFi. Once it's ready to go, you can see, hear and speak to people from your phone, tablet or Alexa device. This customizable <a href="mailto:camera">camera</a> lets you set privacy zones and audio privacy zones to focus on what's important in any given area. It also lets you record all videos for up to 180 days, which you can also share.

#### Blink Outdoor Camera System

#### Source: <u>Amazon.com</u>

Available as a single or in a bundle of up to eight cameras, the <u>Blink Outdoor</u> <u>Camera System</u> is wireless, with batteries that offer a two-year life. This HD security

camera lets you monitor your home day and night, storing video clips and photos in the cloud. Set up takes minutes and you can customize motion zones through the app. Use the two-way audio feature to see, hear and speak to anyone close by in real-time no matter where you're at.

#### LaView Security Camera

#### Source: Amazon.com

Versatile and sleek, the <u>LaView Security Camera</u> features 1080P resolution and night vision for clear footage both day and night. The advanced motion detection feature sends intelligent, real-time alerts to your phone, while the microphone and speaker lets you talk to people through the camera. Weatherproof, with a rechargeable battery that can last up to 180 days, you get <u>24-hour, wide-angle protection</u>.

# Choosing the right outdoor security camera for your apartment

Outdoor security cameras just one piece of <u>technology every apartment needs</u>. They're an excellent investment for anyone who wants to enhance their safety and security. With the advancements in technology, there are many options available on the market, but choosing the right camera for your apartment can be challenging.

By considering features such as video quality, motion detection, night vision, mobile app integration, power source and weather resistance, you can choose an outdoor security camera that can provide the best possible protection for your home. Good luck shopping.

When you buy through links in this article, we may earn an affiliate commission.

# Stay safe and free of clutter thanks to a new apartment with a garage!

When looking for an apartment, you always keep in mind a list of common requirements that are must-haves for you, like <u>gated communities</u>, <u>pet-friendly</u> amenities and a convenient location. One thing you may not think about during your apartment tour is finding apartments with garages for parking, storage, safety and more.

Most apartment complexes offer a run-of-the-mill shared parking lot with no assigned spots, but there are advantages to checking out their garages for more privacy and storage space. Think of garages as an extension of your apartment and an upgrade. Your car is safer from thieves and the elements if you park in it, for example.

## Decorating

Decorating your apartment is a fast and easy way to make it <u>feel like home</u>. Our team of experts has compiled the best apartment decorating ideas for small, medium and large spaces. We cover everything from organizing your kitchen to beautifully <u>decorating your apartment balcony</u>. Read below for even more apartment decorating tips and inspiration.

#### Benefits of apartments with garages

The average car is parked <u>95 percent of the time</u>, and if it's going to spend some of that time at your apartment complex, it might as well be safely tucked in inside a garage. Here are nine benefits of apartments with garages.

#### 1. Privacy

The main benefit of a garage is the privacy it provides for storing your car, your extra boxes and furniture and it can even function as a place to decompress when you get home. You can be as loud as you usually want since you don't have immediate neighbors sharing walls with you.

#### You might also like

7 Must-See Apartments with Garages

3 Things to Know About Covered Parking

#### 2. Extra space for hobbies

From woodworking to making music, having space for your hobbies can certainly trigger your creativity further. By renting a garage at your apartment complex, you can have dedicated square footage to your tools, materials and in-progress projects without making your apartment dirty or disturbing your neighbors.

#### 3. Keep your car away from the elements

Hail, UV exposure, tree sap, pollen — mother nature has many things that can damage your car. Let's not forget to spend half an hour scraping ice off your windshield. The garage provides a little haven from extreme weather and keeps your car cleaner and in better shape for longer.

There's also the advantage of keeping your car's interior more climate controlled. You don't have to wait for the A/C or heat to kick up to enter the car safely.

#### 4. Staying safe at night

The benefit is very straightforward here: <u>Statistics</u> show that cars in garages are less likely to be stolen or vandalized. This statistic in itself keeps both you and your property safe. Plus, once you close the garage door after parking, you can take your time to gather your things at night versus staying alert at all times.

#### 5. Lower insurance costs

Call your insurance company and share with them your plans to get a garage to store your car. You may get a better rate and save money on your premium by adding a garage to your lease. Many insurance companies offer discounts for customers who park their cars inside a garage rather than out on the street or in a shared parking lot.

#### 6. Extra storage for decor

Why get a bigger apartment with more square footage just to store things? Save money on your apartment lease by choosing <u>a smaller apartment</u> and renting a garage in the complex instead. Renting an apartment with a garage will allow you to double your storage space for Christmas decorations, furniture, boxes with photo albums and more — no more clutter in your house.

#### 7. Never worry about your parking spot

There's nothing more frustrating than getting home after a long day and not finding a spot to park near your unit. It's definitely not fun when carrying groceries with you from your car. Apartment complexes often don't have assigned spots, especially the bigger ones. Garage parking offers a convenient space, always waiting for you, no matter what time of day.

#### 8. No dings on your doors

There's nothing worse than walking up to your car and seeing a significant dent or scratch on your newly waxed car door. No matter how well you park, neighbors and guests in your complex get distracted and swing their doors open without looking — boom, a ding on your door. An apartment with a garage protects your car from someone careless and keeps it safe.

#### 9. Protect yourself from the elements

No matter where in the U.S. you live, witnessing unexpected inclement weather when you're driving home from the grocery store is not pleasant. Trying to find a parking spot, carrying all your bags and making it up the stairs to your apartment will leave you soaked in the pouring rain or sleet. A garage can keep you dry and help you escape the cold without much fuss.

Many apartments have attached garages to the actual building, while others have detached garages — make sure you check during your tour if it's worth it for your lifestyle.

#### Choose an apartment with a garage next

When you're home at your apartment, you want a space free of clutter and for your property to be safe from unwanted intruders or outside elements. Renting an apartment with garages available is worth the splurge as it can save time and money and give you peace of mind. Start your <u>search here</u>.

## DIY

Want to bring your apartment up to date without spending a lot of money? We've compiled a list of fun and easy DIY ideas to decorate or upgrade your apartment. Give your balcony a boost with a <u>DIY garden box</u>, or <u>help a small bathroom feel bigger</u> with DIY organization tips. Our experts share these and even more DIY apartment ideas below!

## Food & Entertaining

Whether you're whipping up dinner for two or hosting Thanksgiving, the experts at Rent are here to guide you. We've got <u>low-cost recipe ideas</u>, hosting tips, local restaurant recommendations and more to help you enjoy everything from <u>growing your own herbs</u>, to quick dinners and themed apartment parties. Check out all of our easy to execute ideas below!

## Holidays

The holidays are the perfect time to spread joy. Rent's experts cover fun and <u>inexpensive holiday decorations</u>, hosting tips, party ideas and more. So start planning your next <u>Galentine's Day</u> event, <u>Friendsgiving potluck</u>, or homemade Christmas gifts. You can make each holiday special with the great ideas below!

## Money & Finance

Being a renter is a great financial choice for many. Check out the expert advice below for saving and managing your money while renting an apartment. We'll walk you through <u>submitting proof of income</u> when applying to rent, <u>saving money on</u>

<u>utilities</u>, and even <u>getting tax deductions for your office while working from home</u>. For all of your financial questions, the Rent team has you covered!

## Having a co-applicant is much more than having a roommate.

There's nothing worse than finding your dream apartment only to discover that you don't quite meet the income requirements to qualify. Maybe you have poor credit or maybe you don't make enough money each month to cover the rent. Whatever the reason, you know that you're not quite what the landlord is looking for in a tenant. If you still have your heart set on that unit, you can bring in a co-applicant.

But there are benefits and drawbacks to co-applicants that you should know and consider before going down that road.

### What is a co-applicant?

A co-applicant is an additional person you add to the rental application and resulting lease agreement for an apartment. If you have poor credit or your finances are in shambles due to recent bankruptcies, they boost your application with their improved assets like income or a great credit score.

Along with you, they jointly sign and bear the financial responsibility for paying rent for the apartment for the entire lease term. You both sign the lease agreements and are equally responsible for the apartment's costs, but there is typically a primary applicant and then a secondary co-applicant. Think of it as a co-borrower when taking out a loan. You're both taking out a stake to live in this apartment complex, and you'll both be on the hook for costs. They also have the same rights to live in the apartment as you.

Both you and the co-applicant will need approval from the landlord. You'll both need to submit apartment applications with all your personal information, rental history and employment history. The landlord will also need to run a background check and credit check to retrieve information on both you and the co-applicant to make sure you both qualify.

# What is the difference between a co-applicant, a co-signer and a guarantor?

Terms like co-applicant, co-signer or guarantor are sometimes used interchangeably during the process of applying for a rental property. But in fact, there are key

differences that separate all three. It's also important to know and understand the differences between the three types in case you still need a third party to sign your lease but don't necessarily want to live with that person.

#### Co-signer

A co-signer is a third-party person who signs a lease agreement along with the applicant, but they generally won't live on the property. Similar to a co-applicant, they do have the right to live in the apartment or have access to it. People usually ask family members or friends to act as their co-signer and help vouch for them as tenants.

A co-signer is an insurance policy of sorts. By co-signing the lease, they're guaranteeing that they'll cover the rent in the event that the tenant fails in their responsibilities or falls behind on regular payments. For younger applicants just starting out who don't have a good credit score or a well-paying job, many landlords prefer the stability of having someone co-sign.

#### You might also like

3 Ways To Find a Co-Signer for Your Apartment Lease

Guarantor vs. Cosigner: Important Differences You Need to Know

What is a Guarantor on a Lease: Do I Need One To Rent?

#### Guarantor

A guarantor is a person who also signs the lease as a third party, but they aren't entitled to live on or have access to the unit. Their relationship to the agreement is strictly financial, guaranteeing that either you or they will pay rent each month.

# What are the pros of getting an apartment with co-applicants?

There are all sorts of benefits to renting an apartment with a co-applicant, from companionship to having someone to help with monthly rent payments.

#### Improves the odds of having your application accepted

Do you know that saying that two heads are better than one? Well, if you have bad credit or your monthly income is too low, two applicants are far better than one.

When you apply to an apartment with a co-applicant, their credit history, income and other assets are jointly considered along with yours. If you're adding someone with more financial stability and overall better financial standing than you, it can greatly improve your odds of being accepted for the apartment.

#### Having someone to help pay rent

If you're going to live with your co-applicants, odds are you're both going to pay rent. With rental rates climbing ever higher, having someone to split the cost of the rent payment is a big money-saver.

#### Having an emergency fallback

Life happens and sometimes you come up short on rent on the first of the month. Knowing you have someone else you can turn to for help not only reduces stress but ensures you stay on good terms with the landlord and don't have late payments added to your record.

#### Potentially lowers costs

Bringing on a co-applicant with excellent credit history can also help you save money. A good credit history shows that the co-applicant is financially responsible and more likely trustworthy. This can incentivize the landlord to reduce some fees like the security deposit.

#### Getting to live with someone else

Whether friend, <u>partner</u> or family member, living with someone you know and get along with has far more than financial benefits. It gives you the chance to create wonderful memories during a certain chapter in your life.

# What are the cons of leasing an apartment with a co-applicant?

At the same time, you want to use care on who you sign a binding legal contract. People can reveal a whole different side of themselves when they move in. That's true even individuals you've known for years like friends or partners.

That's why it's important to consider the ramifications of adding a co-applicant to the application process. It's also why you shouldn't simply sign a lease with someone you don't know that well.

#### They have the same legal rights to the apartment

Co-applicants have the same rights to the apartment as you since both yours and their names are on the lease as co-signers.

If they don't make sure that their share of the rent gets paid, you could be on the line for repayment.

## Late or missed payments could damage the credit of both applicants

If you're the primary applicant for the property and your co-applicant doesn't pay their share of the rent, it could hurt your credit. Their credit will also be impacted.

#### Your relationship with the co-applicant could be impacted

If things go south between you and the co-applicant, it's more than your finances that could be impacted. It could <u>damage your relationship</u>. That's why one of the key takeaways in this debate is that you need to fully understand the ramifications of signing a legally binding document to live with someone.

### Carefully consider who you want as your coapplicant

It's all well and good to need someone to act as a fail-safe to help you get started as a renter. A co-applicant can bolster you. But, they can also become a hindrance if they're not reliable since they have the same rights to the apartment.

# How does a credit report really impact your chances to rent an apartment?

Most landlords look at a <u>variety of information</u> when they submit a rental application. They do a background check, look at employment history and will even go as far as talking to your previous landlords and property managers to figure out if you're a strong rental candidate. However, the one piece that's really going to seal the deal either way is your credit report. But, what do apartments look for on credit checks?

Just about any prospective landlord will want to look at your credit history to better understand how you've managed your money in the past, and how responsible you really are when it comes to paying bills, making on-time payments and taking rent seriously.

### How do apartments look at your credit history?

The first step to performing a check credit is to get your permission. The <u>Fair Credit Reporting Act</u> protects you in that it doesn't allow just anyone to run apartment credit checks. They need a specific reason. On your rental application, you should see a section asking for your permission for a credit check. You'll also need to provide certain information to get the process started, including your full name and social security number.

#### The three major credit bureaus

Next, most landlords will look at credit scores from more than one of the major credit bureaus. This way they can get an average credit score and make sure your credit is within a range they're comfortable with for potential tenants.

There are three major credit bureaus:

- Equifax
- Experian
- TransUnion

A credit bureau generates a credit report that goes deeper than just your credit score. Reports will include information like payment history and related public records.

There are also a few primary credit scoring companies that will just provide a credit score. Since not all landlords need a thorough apartment credit check, they may instead contact FICO or VantageScore for your information.

#### What does a credit report show for renting?

Overall, all the pieces of a credit report demonstrate what your financial habits are like. Beyond whether you have a higher credit score or a low one, landlords and property managers want to see your payment history and how you manage your responsibilities when it comes to money. Many will interpret your pattern of behavior as a solid example of whether you'll make a responsible tenant overall.

## What are landlords and property managers really looking for?

The specific details within your credit report really shed light on your ability to meet your financial commitments. To see that you're responsible when it comes to money, they use a credit check to look at:

#### You might also like

This is What Landlords Are Really Looking For in Your Rental History

9 Reasons Why Landlords Run Background Checks for Apartments

Does Breaking a Lease Impact Your Credit Score?

- 1. Bill pay history how often you pay on time, are late or missed payments altogether
- 2. Credit card account balances how high and how many cards you have
- 3. Outstanding loans
- 4. The size of your credit limits
- 5. Whether any existing accounts have gone into collections

Many landlords will also look at any additional public records that relate to your financial background, using it all to assess you as a potential tenant.

This is all in addition to your actual credit score, yet another important piece of any credit check.

#### The ideal credit score range

The sweet spot when it comes to <u>your credit score as a renter</u> is pretty large. Even what you may consider a low credit score could count as fair enough to get you an apartment when combined with the rest of your rental history and a strong background check. There's also the fact that multiple credit checks won't always pull the same number, so one reporting agency could end up giving you a higher score.

#### According to Equifax:

- Fair credit score is 580-669
- Good credit score is 670-739
- Very good credit score is 740-799

Credit scores that come in at 800 and higher are excellent, and will really make your own credit report stand out.

You'll get a bad credit rating with any score that falls below 580.

#### Potential red flags

Rental credit checks may also bring up certain red flags that could affect your chances of getting approved for an apartment. This could include a bad credit score but also may mean a specific line item within your credit history is worrisome.

Certain things like applying for a new credit card or making a large purchase could temporarily lower your credit score. Other issues like missing a payment or closing a credit card account and decreasing your overall credit limit can also lower your score.

The best way to prepare for this situation is to get out in front of any issues, especially those that are easy to explain. In order to prepare yourself, run a free credit report on yourself before you start looking for apartments. Then, provide a heads-up to landlords and property managers before they run any credit checks. Not

only will this prevent any misinterpretation of your credit reports, but it lets you show off you're an honest person of good character.

# Does an apartment credit check negatively affect your credit score?

There are two types of credit pulls, and each affects your credit score differently. A soft credit pull is typically what happens when you go to rent an apartment. Soft inquiries won't impact your credit score at all because a soft pull isn't coming from someone directly connected to a credit application of any kind. When you pull your own credit history, it's also considered within the soft credit checks category.

A hard pull comes from a lender looking at your financial history because you're applying for a new credit card or loan or asking to increase your line of credit. When a hard pull happens, your credit score can dip down a few points, which is really only significant if you're right on the cusp of a credit score range. If you're close, it's best to wait to apply for that loan or credit card until after you've signed your lease.

## What can I do if I don't have good credit?

Having an apartment credit check turn up with lower results than you'd anticipated does not mean you're ineligible to rent an apartment. Yes, a potential landlord may have a minimum credit score in mind and may worry if your credit check comes back lower, but you can take certain steps to convince them you're good at paying rent no matter what.

There are a few ways to go about doing this, including:

- Offer more money upfront. This can include making a few additional rent payments in advance, as well as offering to pay a higher security deposit.
- Collect character references from a friend, employer or family member to show you're responsible. You can also ask previous landlords to write a referral.
- Bring in a co-signer to ensure monthly rent gets paid no matter what. Just
  make sure you've set up clear parameters on how this relationship will work
  should you need help.
- Provide extra proof of your current financial stability including documents related to your gross income and not just your salary, although pay stubs help, too.

If pulling together extra cash, and making a gesture like a larger security deposit or extra rent upfront isn't possible, you can also spend your next apartment search looking for potential landlords that don't run credit checks at all. These units may still require some background information but won't dig into the details of your available credit.

You can also look for a rental that's only for a short period while you work to build your credit back up.

#### Building up credit scores

Once you've reviewed your own credit report, it's possible to positively impact your score before a property manager needs to review it. If you start early enough, you can raise your score by paying down existing balances, paying bills on time, handling anything that has gone into collections and using a secured credit card.

You should also carefully look through the credit screening document to make sure there are no errors. If you find something that isn't right, dispute it before an apartment credit check gets run.

## Credit reports and renting go hand-in-hand

Although it's stressful to think about what apartments look for on credit checks, don't let it stop you from going for that perfect apartment. Make sure your credit check won't dig up any surprises and do your best to manage your finances responsibly. Credit reports shouldn't intimidate. They're a positive that convinces your next landlord you're the perfect renter.

## Prices are on the rise across the country.

The cost of living in many major U.S. cities increased between 2021 and 2022. Wages that struggle to keep up with rising inflation, higher fuel costs and historically high rent and housing prices across the country mean that many Americans are spending more on necessities.

In June, the <u>U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics</u> reported that the cost of food, energy and housing rose to the highest levels since the early 1980s. The Consumer Price Index (which measures the average price change for goods and services) <u>increased</u>

by 9.1 percent year over year. That's the largest 12-month spike since November 1981.

## What is the cost of living index?

The cost of living index is different than the consumer price index. The consumer price index measures the rates charged for goods and services across the nation over a period of time.

In contrast, the cost of living index is a tool that cities, states and countries use to determine the amount of money needed to maintain a certain standard of living in a particular geographic area. Breaking down average monthly expenditures by category calculates the score.

Estimated monthly costs vary from place to place. People can compare the cost of living indexes from two different cities to see which option is the most cost-effective. Moving to a more affordable city can substantially lower a household's estimated monthly costs.

## Comparison to the national average

The number 100 represents the national average. If a city scores above 100, that means the cost of living is higher. For example, a score of 105 means that a community is 5 percent more expensive than average.

If a city scores under 100, residents pay less for basic expenses every month. A cost of living index score of 95 means that a city is 5 percent lower than the average price.

# Cities with the highest and lowest cost of living in the U.S.

Residents of New York City (<u>Manhattan</u>) face the highest cost of living in the country. A score of 253.5 means that living there is 153.5 percent more expensive than the national average.

The fourth most expensive city on the list, <u>Brooklyn</u>, is in the same metropolitan area. The cost of living for Brooklyn residents is 180.1, or just over 80 percent more expensive than the average.

#### You might also like

The Cost of Living in New York in 2022

The Cost of Living in California in 2022

The Cost of Living in New York City in 2022

Across the country, <u>Honolulu</u> (197.0) and <u>San Francisco</u> (193.8), take second and third. <u>Washington, D.C.</u>, comes in fifth. It scored 160.3, so it's 60 percent more expensive to live here than the U.S. average.

The five lowest-cost communities are in the Midwest and the South. <u>Kalamazoo</u>, MI, is the most affordable place to live in the nation. A score of 75.6 means that Kalamazoo's cost of living is just over 25 percent less than the U.S. average.

Two Texas towns, <u>Harlingen</u> (No. 2 at 76.5) and <u>McAllen</u> (No. 3 with 76.9) have a very similar cost of living. The city with the fourth-lowest cost of living index is <u>Muskogee</u>, OK. <u>Jackson</u>, MS, comes in at No. 5.

# How median family income relates to the cost of living

According to the <u>U.S. Census</u>, the median household income is \$64,994. That dollar amount will stretch further in a single-person household than in a large family with children since a family will often spend more on utilities, dining, healthcare and other expenses.

But a family may also have more people contributing to the household budget. So, you can split the rent or a surprise monthly fee between multiple wage earners.

## Breaking down the cost of living by category

The cost of living index has six categories — housing, grocery items, transportation, healthcare, goods and services and utilities. Major expenditures like rent, groceries and goods and services are given more weight.

The cost of living indexes also accesses data from several subcategories. They include the fee for major investments, like the price to buy apartment homes or single-family houses, for instance. Depending on the index, the data may also track smaller expenses like newspapers or dinner at a mid-range restaurant.

### Housing

Low inventory and a booming housing market made it a challenge to buy apartment units, condos, townhouses and single-family homes in 2021 and 2022. Homes in the five most expensive communities cost several million dollars. Home prices rose across the country, as well.

Renting an apartment wasn't much cheaper. One-bedroom apartment rent increased by 39 percent between July 2021 and July 2022, according to the <u>August 2022 Rent Report</u>. Two-bedroom apartment rent went up 38.3 percent during the same period.

#### The most expensive markets

Manhattan topped the list of the most expensive markets for both renters and buyers. Residents paid 431.7 percent more than the U.S. average to live in this community. The typical Manhattan home sells for \$2,356,897. The average rent for an apartment is \$4,604 a month.

Housing costs are high in San Francisco, too — over 238 percent above average. The average home price is \$1,418,093, with rents at \$3,718 a month.

It costs more than 200 percent more than the U.S. average for housing in Honolulu and Brooklyn, too. Rent is \$329 a month less in Honolulu than in Brooklyn. But, homes cost more on the island. Houses sell for an average of \$1,465,575 in Honolulu, compared to \$1,282,511 in Brooklyn.

Housing in Washington, D.C., is 164 percent more expensive than average. Monthly rents hover around \$3,085. Home prices are \$1,078,116.

#### The most affordable markets

In contrast, housing costs in Kalamazoo are more than 50 percent lower than the typical rate across the country. A home there averages \$218,717. The monthly rent is just \$553.

<u>Hutchinson</u>, KS, <u>Anniston</u>–<u>Oxford</u>, AL, and Muskogee, OK, are in a three-way tie for second place with a housing cost of 58.5. The average home price in all three markets was less than \$250,000. Rents stayed between \$675 and \$739 a month.

The next most affordable housing market is McAllen, TX, (58.8). A typical home here costs \$242,139. The monthly rent is \$664.

#### Food

Three of the most expensive places for grocery items are outside of the lower 48 states. The other two are in the country's largest metropolitan area.

Groceries are the most expensive in Honolulu. Two Alaska cities, Kodiak (No. 2) and <u>Juneau</u> (No. 4), also show up on the list. Alaska's relatively small population and remote location drive up costs in this category. But, groceries are expensive in densely populated Manhattan and <u>Queens</u>, too.

Grocery items are much cheaper in Texas. Although Kalamazoo boasts the nation's cheapest foodstuffs, the next four most affordable places in the U.S. to buy groceries — Waco, Harlingen, Temple and Cedar Park — are all found in the Lone Star State.

#### Utilities

Utilities, which include water, heating and cooling and electricity and gas, are another monthly investment. A large household or family will typically have a higher bill since there are more users.

Geography played a role in higher utility costs. Several cities outside the continental U.S. recorded the highest utility costs, including <a href="Fairbanks">Fairbanks</a>, (217.6), Honolulu, (170.4) and San Juan, Puerto Rico (161.1). Two California communities, <a href="Bakersfield">Bakersfield</a> and <a href="Stockton">Stockton</a>, also landed on the list of the top five communities for expensive utilities.

Utilities are much more affordable in Louisiana. <u>Baton Rouge</u> and <u>Lake Charles</u> tied for the most affordable rate in the nation. <u>New Orleans</u> was next, followed by <u>Westminster</u>, CO, and <u>Wenatchee</u>, WA.

### **Transportation**

Transportation is a major part of the household budget, especially for commuters. The five most expensive markets for transportation are all on the West Coast. They include <a href="Eugene">Eugene</a>, OR, (148.0) and four California cities — San Francisco, <a href="Qakland">Qakland</a>, <a href="San Diego">San Diego</a> and <a href="Modesto">Modesto</a>.

<u>Thomasville</u>—<u>Lexington</u> in North Carolina has the cheapest transportation costs in the United States. It's followed by Jackson, <u>Amarillo</u>, <u>Morristown</u>, TN, and the <u>Augusta</u>—<u>Aiken</u> community, which spans the Georgia/South Carolina border.

#### Healthcare

Four of the five metros with the highest healthcare costs are found in Alaska — Kodiak, Fairbanks, Juneau and Anchorage. Healthcare is between 48.6 percent and 56.3 percent more expensive than the U.S. average in these communities.

Residents of the Tri-Cities of <u>Kennewick</u>–<u>Richland</u>–<u>Pasco</u>, WA, and San Francisco both face high healthcare bills. These communities tie for the fifth most expensive place for healthcare.

The most affordable healthcare cities show much more geographic variety. San Juan, Puerto Rico is the most affordable at 28.1 percent below average. McAllen, TX, Fayetteville, AR, Lexington, KY, and Richmond, IN, followed close behind.

#### Goods and services

Goods and services is a broad category. It includes ongoing expenses like phone bills and dry-cleaning, as well as occasional fees like appliance repairs and movie tickets.

Manhattan tops this list, as well, with a score of 133.2. <u>Seattle</u> and Honolulu follow close behind. <u>Boston</u> and <u>Kitsap County</u>, WA, round out the top five most expensive markets for goods and services.

Two Texas towns, McAllen and Harlingen, tie for the most affordable goods and services title. Both recorded a score of 77.7. Two Kansas communities, <a href="Topeka">Topeka</a> and <a href="Salina">Salina</a>, come in close behind. Richmond, IN, and Kalamazoo, MI, complete the list of most affordable metros for goods and services.

## Cost of living in every state in the U.S.

Some states are more affordable than others. Learn more about the price of living in each of the 50 states by selecting from the options listed below.

- <u>Alabama</u>
- Alaska
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Florida
- Georgia
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Indiana
- <u>lowa</u>
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- New York

- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- <u>Tennessee</u>
- <u>Texas</u>
- Utah
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming

## Cost of living in major U.S. cities

Money goes further in a low-cost city. Moving to Kalamazoo from New York City can save residents a whopping 90.71 percent on housing costs alone.

People planning a move should consult cost of living information for major U.S. metropolitan areas. These guides also help residents learn more about costs in their current city.

- Atlanta
- Austin
- Baltimore
- Boston
- Charlotte
- Chicago
- Cincinnati
- Colorado Springs
- Dallas

- Denver
- Detroit
- Houston
- <u>Indianapolis</u>
- Kansas City
- Las Vegas
- Los Angeles
- Miami
- Milwaukee
- Minneapolis
- Nashville
- New Orleans
- New York
- Oklahoma City
- Orlando
- Philadelphia
- Phoenix
- Portland
- Reno
- Sacramento
- Salt Lake City
- San Antonio
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- San Jose
- Seattle
- St. Louis
- <u>Tampa</u>
- Washington, D.C.

## The takeaway

It's getting more expensive to live in the United States. Inflation and the high cost of living are ongoing challenges for residents across the nation.

The Cost of Living Index comes from <u>coli.org</u>. It includes data from First Quarter 2021 through First Quarter 2022.

The rent information included in this summary is based on a calculation of multifamily rental property inventory on <u>Rent.</u> as of August 2022.

This information is provided for illustrative purposes only. This information does not constitute a pricing guarantee or financial advice related to the rental market.

## Money & Finance

Being a renter is a great financial choice for many. Check out the expert advice below for saving and managing your money while renting an apartment. We'll walk you through <u>submitting proof of income</u> when applying to rent, <u>saving money on utilities</u>, and even <u>getting tax deductions for your office while working from home</u>. For all of your financial questions, the Rent team has you covered!

## Moving

Moving soon? You've come to the right place! The Rent team makes it easy to find an apartment, prepare for the move, and then move in with as little stress as possible. Read on to learn where to get moving boxes for free, tips for packing to move, how to move with pets, how to prepare for the cost of moving and much more.

## **News & Trends**

Rent makes it easy to stay up-to-date with the latest rental trends and rental market news. Discover where the cost of renting is rising, the best place to raise a family, and the data behind renting versus buying a home. Love TV trivia? We even cover cool filming locations where you can rent your next apartment!

- News & Trends
- 04.1.2023

#### Best Cities for Celebrating Earth Day in 2023

Cities across the U.S. celebrate Earth Day in unique ways, promoting sustainability and inspiring others.

## Pets

Pets bring immeasurable joy to our lives. That's why Rent makes it easy for you to find pet friendly apartments where your whole family can thrive. We'll help you find the <u>best apartment dogs</u> and cats, prepare a <u>pet resume</u>, and even <u>introduce your new pet to others</u>. Read more below to be the best pet parent you can be!

## Roommates

Living with roommates is a great way to reduce financial stress while renting an apartment. Read below for expert advice on finding a roommate, learning how to be a good roommate, and <u>solving roommate problems</u> if they arise. We'll even help you <u>write a roommate agreement</u> so that everyone is prepared to be the best roomie possible!

- Roommates
- 02.18.2023

#### 11 Tips for Finding a Roommate

Now that you've decided to find a roommate to share an apartment with, start searching for the perfect candidate with

Read this before you room up.

Now that you've decided to find a roommate to share an apartment with, start searching for the perfect candidate with these tips for snagging the perfect one. Knowing you need a roommate is a tough decision. Finding a roommate can be even tougher.

If you already have a friend or relative you plan on rooming with, lucky you. You get to avoid most of the difficulties and annoyances of finding a stranger. But if you're starting from scratch, you'll need some tips on how to kick off the process.

Of course, the details of <u>finding a roommate</u> when you already have a rented apartment, when you're looking to move into someone else's existing apartment or if you're both finding a new apartment together, differ in each case. But you can apply the tips below to your individual scenario.

## Know what you want in a roommate

Before you start finding a roommate, you have to know what you want in one. And if you're what they want in return. And together, are you looking for the same living situation or apartment type?

#### 1. Make a list of preferred qualities

Decide what traits you want in a roommate. Not necessarily needs but qualities you prefer. Make a wish list of personal characteristics you are looking for in someone who will be sharing your space. Figure out what's significant to you in a living situation. You'll need to know what you want as you meet potentials.

Of course, you (probably) won't find anyone who checks every box, but it's a good start.

Prioritize them. Or even weigh them based on how important each is to you and calculate a total score. These are some (but not all) to consider:

- Good financial responsibility
- Previous rental or roommate experience
- Dietary needs or restrictions or food preferences
- Cooking, eating and kitchen habits
- Cleaning and personal care habits

- Exercise routine
- Pet preferences
- Roommate gender preference
- Morning person or night owl preference
- Time at home versus time out of the house
- Values such as religion, orientation, politics or pandemic comfort level
- Boundaries such as sharing food, clothes or personal space
- Personality traits such as introvert versus extrovert or laid-back versus excitable
- Roommate <u>relationship expectations</u>: a new friend versus someone to rent a room
- Accessibility needs

#### You might also like

How to Find a Roommate For Your Apartment

3 Things to Know About Roommates

10 Steps To Follow When Renting an Apartment

## 2. Decide what helps make your apartment preference a match

Personal qualities aren't the only important traits. It is key to know what you both are looking for in an apartment. As you <u>search for a new roommate</u> – whether moving in with them or them moving in with you – it will be essential to both of you to know things like:

- How much rent you're willing to pay
- Your desired location
- Apartment size and number of rooms
- What amenities standard (like washer/dryer or storage) and luxury (like smart kitchen or swimming pool) – do you both wish to have?

#### 3. Allow as much time as possible for your search

Give yourself as much time as you can to find the right person. The last thing you want is to rush into a roommate relationship. They will be a person in your space for a significant time period.

## Places for finding a roommate

Now it's time to start looking for <u>that compatible roommate</u>. Whether trying to find someone you're already connected with or searching from scratch, there are many places to look.

#### 4. Ask friends, family and co-workers

People you already know can be a great resource in finding a roommate. Second- or third-level connections already have an implicit endorsement. If they are being recommended to you by someone you trust, that's a good sign they might be a quality roommate (but still do your due diligence).

- Reach out to your family and see if anyone your age is looking in the same city. Find that one relative that knows everyone else's business.
- Ask around your friend group if they know anyone who is searching for a roommate. Expanding your circle into their circles increases the list of potentials exponentially.
- And feel free to ask at work as well. Talk to your work friends and see if
  there's anyone they know who might be a good fit. Place a flyer on an office
  kitchen bulletin board, or ask everyone companywide on Slack. Maybe one of
  your co-workers is looking.

If you're considering rooming with a good friend or close relative, make sure you would be well-matched as roommates if you didn't already know them. Just because you enjoy spending time out with your bestie doesn't mean you'll be compatible as roomies.

#### 5. Utilize your alumni network

If you are connected to your college alumni network (or even high school), see where you can ask about roommates. Do they have a bulletin board on an alumni website? Post your search there. Reach out to old college friends and see who they know who may be looking. Same with sorority or fraternity networks.

Similarly, you can do the same thing with other organizations you may be attached to. Religious institutions, Boy or Girl Scout communities, civic organizations, pub trivia leagues. Any group you are involved with can be a network for connections.

#### 6. Post on your social media

You have 2,000 Facebook friends and 3,000 Instagram followers. Use them. Write a post indicating you are seeking a roommate, add a few wants from them, a few things about you and click send.

Get it out there everywhere: Facebook, <u>Twitter</u>, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat. And you have the benefit of seeing how you are connected through your network. Just, as always on social media, be safe.

#### 7. Roommate finder apps and websites

Much like dating or apartment hunting, possibly the best place to find a roommate is online. There are numerous apps and websites that are specifically designed to help you find that perfect roommate by swiping, searching and posting.

These are a few of the most popular to check out:

- Roomi
- Roomies
- RoomieMatch
- Padmapper
- SpareRoom
- Diggz
- Rainbow Roommates (serving the LGBTQ+ community)
- Roommates.com
- Bumble BFF (yes, Bumble is for more than just dating)
- Craigslist
- <u>Reddit r/RedditRoommates</u> (most cities have a separate subreddit like <u>r/NYCApartments</u> and <u>r/LARentals</u>)

- <u>Facebook Groups</u> (similarly, most big cities have dedicated roommate finder groups)
- Facebook Ads (yes, it works)

#### 8. Be detailed in your roommate or apartment posts

Whether you post on social media or on a finder app, make sure you provide <u>as</u> <u>many details as you can</u> so people scrolling or swiping know if they and/or the situation are compatible.

Indicate your personal preferences and qualities, the hours you work, if you have pets, how many rooms you have, the parking situation, all of it. Share your interests too. The more they know, the more your search can narrow.

## Get to know your potential roommate

You've figured out what you want out of a roommate, you searched and found one (or more!) great candidates. Your journey isn't complete just yet. After you choose a potential roommate, you need to get to know them, see if you are compatible, understand their vibe and assess their financial situation.

#### 9. Run landlord-style background checks

If you are going to be financially (and possibly legally) tied to someone, you will need to do your due diligence. Before agreeing to anything, you need to know their background and financial situation. Run your own background check, credit check and criminal history.

This can be done at first online. Most information you will need can be found through Google. Then back up your research by asking them for the requisite information as well. Of course, they have every right to ask the same of you. And if someone is hesitant to provide information, that might be a red flag itself.

Ask for references, including previous roommates, previous landlords, co-workers and friends. Expect to provide references of your own. Also request employment information, income and about job satisfaction, like, will they be staying in this job?

#### 10. Spend time together before deciding

Never agree to live with someone without meeting them in person. Everyone is different behind a text or email or Instagram than they are in real life.

Meet up with them (in public) and make sure you have good chemistry, and the candidate doesn't feel unsafe or unfriendly. Never sign anything or share financial information until you check their vibe and feel comfortable.

#### 11. Conduct an interview

Your last step in finding a roommate <u>is the interview</u>. This is your chance to find out everything about them. You are going to be in a shared space with them for many months, even years. Now is the time to ask everything you need to know to make sure the situation is right and answer for them as well.

#### Here are a few examples:

- Why are you looking for a roommate?
- What did you like or dislike about your previous living situation?
- What qualities are you looking for in a roommate?
- Have you ever paid your rent late and, if so, why?
- How long do you expect to be roommates before moving out?
- What time do you wake up and go to bed?
- Do you shower in the morning or evening?
- What are your typical cleaning and organizing habits?
- What are your cooking habits and what is your eating schedule?
- Do you have dietary needs or restrictions?
- What is your preferred thermostat temperature?
- How much time do you spend at home versus out of the house?
- What is your work schedule?
- Do you work from home and, if so, how often, and do you require quiet and a dedicated space?
- How social do you want to be with a roommate, friends or just roommates?
- What are some of your hobbies?
- How do you spend your weekends?

- How often do you expect to have visitors? Do you have a partner that will stay overnight?
- Do you like loud music?
- Do you smoke or use recreational drugs?

## Your next steps in the roommate hunt

Now that you've found and chosen that perfect roommate (and made sure you were perfect for them as well), get everything in writing in a <u>roommate agreement</u>. And at whatever point in the process you will need to find that perfect apartment for the two of you, be sure to check out all the <u>latest listings</u> on Rent.

## The Lease

At Rent we make it easy to understand your apartment lease before and after you sign. We'll walk you through common terms to help you <u>understand security</u> <u>deposits</u>, renter's insurance and more. We also cover common events like <u>requesting to sub-lease</u>, lease renewals, and <u>how to get out of an apartment lease</u>. Read more to better understand your apartment lease today!

#### What percentage of income should go toward rent?

A general guideline is to spend up to 30% of your gross income on rent. So, if you make \$60,000 per year (\$5,000 per month), you should be paying a maximum of \$1,500 per month for rent.

However, while the 30% rule is a popular guideline for how much of your income you should spend on rent, you should also consider your lifestyle and any debts or financial obligations you have to pay off each month. If you have student loans to pay off, you may want to keep your rent closer to 15–20% of your income to account for the additional monthly costs.

#### How do you calculate if you can afford rent?

Additional methods used to calculate if you can afford rent include the 50-30-20 rule and the  $\frac{1}{3}$  of net income rule.

The 50-30-20 rule states that you should spend 50% of your after-tax income on needs (including rent, food and utilities), 30% on wants and 20% on savings. With this rule, you can afford a higher rent if you carefully determine the rest of your budget.

The  $\frac{1}{3}$  of net income rule follows the idea that you should spend no more than 33% of your post-tax salary on rent each month. If you make \$5,000 per month (\$60,000 per year) and take home \$3,750 per month after taxes, this rule states that you should spend no more than \$1,238 on rent.

#### What rent can I afford on 50K?

If you make \$50,000 per year, your rent should be no more than \$1,250 per month using the 30% rule or \$1,111 using the  $\frac{1}{3}$  of net income rule. Using the 50-30-20 rule, your rent, food and other needs should cost no more than \$1,667 total. As a ballpark average, you can afford rent of around \$1,200 per month on a \$50,000 salary.

#### How much rent can I afford on minimum wage?

The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour and has not been adjusted since July 2009. At a rate of 2,080 hours per year, this would bring your total annual income to \$15,080, meaning you could afford up to \$377 in monthly rent with the 30% rule.

Some states and cities abide by a higher minimum wage, so be sure to check the labor regulations in your area.

#### How much does the average person spend on rent?

While rent prices in the U.S. vary greatly by region, the <u>national median rent</u> as of December 2022 was \$2,007.

Many people choose to live with roommates to save money on rent. However, if you choose to live with others, it's important to be clear on how much rent each roommate will be paying.

#### How to split rent with roommates?

Splitting rent or bills with roommates is an important topic to discuss before moving in together. Here are a few ways to determine how much rent each roommate will pay.

- **Even split:** An even split is perhaps the easiest way to determine rent splitting, but it's important to make sure all roommates are satisfied with the agreement since it might mean some roommates get better living spaces than others.
- **Split by income:** When splitting by income, roommates use their salaries as a basis to determine what they can afford. This would be determined by dividing each roommate's personal income by the sum of everyone's income to determine the percent of rent each person pays.
- **Split by square foot:** Splitting by square foot is an unambiguous way to determine how much rent each roommate would pay. To split by square foot, calculate the square

footage of each roommate's personal areas (including bedrooms, bathrooms and closets) and divide this by the total square footage.

#### How to split rent with a couple?

Splitting rent with a couple can be a tricky situation to navigate. Since the couple shares one room, splitting by square footage would mean the single roommate ends up paying a much larger share of the rent.

A good way to determine how to split rent with a couple is to use the "perks" approach. Starting with a number in the 60-40 range (60 total for the couple, 40 for the single person), you can bargain up or down based on the perks each roommate receives.

For example, if the couple has an ensuite bathroom, you can bump that number to 65-35. Since rent splitting with the "perks" method is a little more ambiguous, it's important to do periodic check-ins to make sure each roommate feels they are paying a fair share of the rent.

https://www.rent.com/blog/rent-calculator/

## **Moving 101**

# The complete renter's guide to moving into an apartment

Whether it's your first move or you're a seasoned renter with a number of relocations under your belt, we've got everything you need for a smooth moving experience.

## Get Free Moving Quotes

## Preparing to Move Out (Letters and Paperwork)

Moving out is full of headaches. From booking movers to reading the fine print on a new lease, it's an overwhelming process. The earlier you start your paperwork with your property manager, the better.

Before scheduling apartment tours, alert your landlord that you're vacating soon. Follow the timelines listed on your lease and get the OK so there are no blockers, and you get your security deposit back. If your search takes a little longer, ask for an extension with plenty of time. Here's how you can get it done quickly.

- How To Write a 30-Day Notice Letter To Your Landlord
- How to Get Your Security Deposit Back After Moving Out of Your Apartment
- How to Write a Lease Extension Letter (With Sample Template)

## Moving Checklist and Tips

Whether moving down the street or across state lines, preparing for moving day is a long road filled with little tasks. But don't worry. If you stay organized and break it down, it's manageable. Once you have a move-out day approved by your landlord, ask for referrals, book your movers and get to purging.

We've got tips for everything from how to get free boxes and moving with pets to time-saving hacks that will save you hours leading up to moving day (label everything!). Remember to do a final inspection before you turn in your keys.

- How to Move: The Ultimate Game Plan and Timeline
- Knowing These Tips Will Save You Hours on Moving Day
- The Best Places to Get Moving Boxes for Free
- 33 Expert Apartment Moving Tips for an Easy Relocation
- Moving with Pets: Helpful Tips For a Successful Relocation

### How to Pack an Apartment

In the words of Marie Kondo, "Does it spark joy?" Moving is the perfect time to declutter, sell and donate things. Once you've decluttered, a few hacks can help you pack more efficiently yet keep your apartment from falling into chaos.

From packing books, jewelry and fragile items to making sure that you don't pack away your toiletries for those last days, making a plan and following a particular packing order can save you a lot of headaches. Here are some secret tricks to pack your belongings to prepare for your next chapter.

- 29 Packing Hacks and Tips to Crush Your Next Move
- What Should I Pack First When Moving: Follow This Order For a Smooth Move
- How To Pack Boxes For Moving: 13 Tips for a Smooth Move

- How to Pack Jewelry When Moving Apartments: 6 Easy Tips Anyone Can Follow
- 6 Bright Ideas for Packing Lamps When Moving Apartments
- How To Pack Toiletries for Moving
- 10 Hacks to Pack Books Like a Moving Pro
- How to Pack Art for a Move So Nothing Breaks
- Easy Tips For Packing Your Kitchen Items for Moving
- We've Found the Ultimate Way To Pack Bedding When Moving Apartments
- How to Pack a Television When Moving Apartments
- 8 Tips to Pack Clothes When Moving Apartments
- 8 Steps You Need to Follow When Moving a Couch From Your Apartment
- 5 Secret Tricks To Move a Heavy Dresser By Yourself in an Apartment
- How to Easily Move a Washer and Dryer From Your Apartment

## Hiring Movers

Gone are the days of paying your friends with pizza to help you move. Hiring professional movers can ease some of the stress of moving out, but start searching early. Look for moving companies that fit your circumstances, like a local move versus out-of-state. Once you have your move-out day finalized, start calling.

Keep an eye out for demeanor and customer service, and ask if they are licensed and insured. Get a few estimates and then narrow it down to the winner. From red flags to how to prepare your apartment for the movers and tipping, we've got it all here for your seamless move.

- 22 Vital Steps To Follow When Hiring Movers
- How Much Do Movers Cost: What You Can Expect to Pay When Moving Apartments
- How Much Should You Tip Your Movers
- This is How Far in Advance You Need to Book Movers at Your Apartment
- How to Get Ready for Movers: Everything You Need to Do to Prepare Your Apartment

## Moving Out of State

Maybe you found a new job or want to move closer to family — either way, moving out of state is a whole different journey than moving across town. After traveling back and forth to find the perfect apartment, it's time to make a plan to move your things across state lines. Find a moving company with excellent reviews that can safely transport your things, decide if you're driving or flying there and update your job with your new location.

From picking up boxes to driving there and updating your mailing address, here's what to do before, during and after you move out of state.

- 25 Must-Follow Tips When Moving To a Different State
- How to Ship a Car When Moving
- How Short-Term Leases Help During an Interstate Job Move

## **Downsizing Apartments**

No matter the size of your current apartment or how organized you are, there's going to be clutter. There's always a junk drawer or closet filled with things that haven't seen the light of day in months. Do you really need it? Getting rid of things, whether selling, donating or recycling, doesn't just need to happen if you're downsizing.

It can mean the difference between saving a few hundred dollars while moving or getting a bigger, more expensive apartment. Your city offers recycling and donation methods for mattresses and furniture in their last legs and there are plenty of apps for selling items in good condition. Here's what to consider.

- 11 Furniture Donation Pickup Methods
- 6 Things Every Empty Nester Should Consider When Downsizing
- 15 Experts Explain What to Get Rid of Around Your Apartment Today

## Settling In at Your New Apartment

Settling into your new apartment is a wave of relief after a grueling moving checklist. Maybe some things went wrong, but you made it! Unpacking, setting up your new utilities, changing your address, registering to vote — there are a lot of things on your list as you settle into your new home.

After you do all the admin tasks, don't forget to have some fun and schedule your housewarming party as a reward. Get settled fast with these tips.

- 15 Tips for Unpacking Moving Boxes
- Utility Deposits: What to Expect When Moving In
- How to Change Your Address with the USPS
- Setting Up Utilities in your New Apartment
- How Does Mail Forwarding Work?