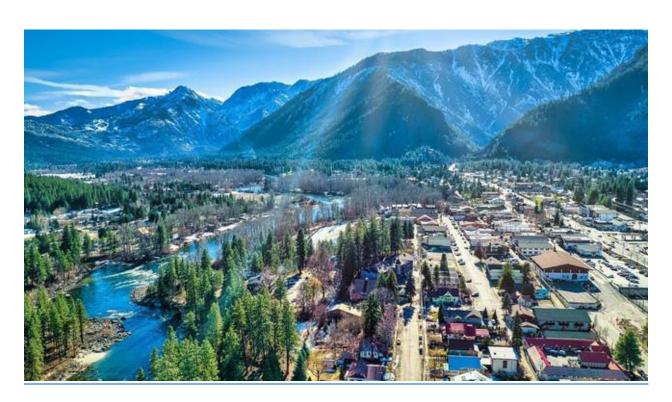
## This Washington state town was named 1 of country's best to visit

(Courtesy of Danny Schmidt, KOMO News)









LEAVENWORTH, Wash. — One Washington state small town was named among the 50 best to visit in the United States, and two others placed in the top 150.

Vacation website <u>FamilyDestinationsGuide.com polled families</u> to identify the country's favorite small towns, and both Hawaii and Alaska placed two towns in the top 10.

Leavenworth, an evergreen state favorite, ranked No. 44 on the list. A popular destination in both the snowy winter and sunny summer months, Leavenworth, home to Oktoberfest, features "stunning natural beauty, outdoor activities, and a unique Bavarian-style village," the report said.

"Located in the Cascade Mountains, Leavenworth offers a variety of outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, rafting, and skiing," the report said. "The town also features a variety of shops, restaurants, and attractions, all with a Bavarian-style theme, with its picturesque scenery, family-friendly activities, and unique atmosphere."

Sequim ranked 70th on the list and Coupeville came in at No. 147.

In Sequim, "families enjoy a variety of activities such as hiking, biking, kayaking, fishing, and beachcombing," the report said. "There are also plenty of restaurants, shops, and galleries to explore. As well as Coupeville, which offers breathtaking views of the Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains, as well as a variety of historical sites, including the Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve and the Coupeville Historic Waterfront District.

The top 10 in the U.S., according to FamilyDestinationsGuide.com is the following:

- 1. Holualoa, Hawaii
- 2. Ely, Nev.
- 3. Anna Maria Island, Fla.
- 4. Old Koloa Town, Hawaii
- 5. West Yellowstone, Mont.
- 6. Gatlinburg, Tenn.
- 7. Chincoteague, Va.
- 8. Sitka, Ala.
- 9. Sedona, Ariz.
- 10. Ketchikan, Ala.

"Visiting small towns has become increasingly popular as travelers seek authentic and personalized experiences that provide a break from the fast-paced, commercialized world," Rose Ackermann of FamilyDestinationsGuide.com said in a statement. "These hidden gems offer a unique opportunity to immerse oneself in the local culture, connect with friendly communities, and escape the stress of everyday life."