



# The best walking cities

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Whether you're hoofing it for fitness or to help the environment, here are the most walker-friendly locales in America and what makes them special, based on our annual survey with the American Podiatric Medical Association and Sperling's Best Places.

### 1. San Francisco, CA

Why it made our list: The city government devotes 12 agencies to walking issues.

### 2. Boston, MA

Why it made our list: Improvements such as longer WALK signals and bright, patterned intersections encourage more people to walk.

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### 3. New York, NY

Why it made our list: Residents log the fewest vehicle miles.

### 4. Philadelphia, PA

Why it made our list: A high density of schools keeps speed limits low in many neighborhoods, making the streets safer for walkers.

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### 5. Chicago, IL

Why it made our list: The 18.5-mile Lakefront Path along Lake Michigan is easily accessible and connects a variety of neighborhoods.

### 6. Washington, DC

Why it made our list: Its extensive public transit system makes it easy to hoof it around the city and its nearby suburbs.

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### 7. Seattle, WA

Why it made our list: It has the highest number of rail lines converted to trails.

### 8. Honolulu, HI

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Why it made our list: There's a good mix of desirable destinations such as stores and restaurants within walking distance.

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#### **9. Portland, OR**

Why it made our list: For more than 10 years, a Pedestrian Advisory Committee made up of residents has worked with City Council on transportation issues.

#### **10. Oakland, CA**

Why it made our list: It converted a parking lot into a town square, linking its shopping district to public transit.

#### **11. Minneapolis , MN**

Why it made our list: Eight miles of skyway, the largest in the world, connect its downtown to area attractions.

#### **12. San Diego , CA**

Why it made our list: Some of the many improvements include new street lights, crosswalks, and curb pop-outs in desirable downtown locations. And a new pedestrian bridge is in the works.

#### **13. Los Angeles , CA**

Why it made our list: Once a cement pipe storage yard, the Augustus F. Hawkins Natural Park offers lush vegetation and paths for strolling on 8.5 acres right in the heart of the city.

#### **14. Milwaukee , WI**

Why it made our list: The RiverWalk, a 3-mile walkway that winds down the Milwaukee River to Lake Michigan , connects to both downtown destinations and to state parks and trails.

#### **15. Baltimore , MD**

Why it made our list: The Heritage Walk, a 3-mile tour of the city, links 20 historic sites and museums just beyond Inner Harbor .

#### **16. Rochester , NY**

Why it made our list: The safest of our Top 25 Best Walking Cities due to low crime and pedestrian fatalities.

#### **17. Santa Ana , CA**

Why it made our list: The city partnered with the Historical Society to offer 3-hour walking tours of the city's cultural downtown.

#### **18. San Jose , CA**

Why it made our list: It has more hiking and walking trails than any of the cities we reviewed.

#### **19. Denver , CO**

Why it made our list: A varied and diverse downtown features an outdoor mall for only pedestrian traffic and public transportation on 6 out of 7 days.

#### **20. New Orleans , LA**

Why it made our list: It's one of the oldest cities in the United States and walking tours abound through richly historic neighborhoods.

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