

St. Augustine named one of nation's best beach towns

By John Lievonen
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Florida is home to some of the best beach towns in the country, says a new WalletHub study.

The Sunshine State had five cities, Naples (No. 2); Sarasota (No. 3); St. Augustine (No. 5); Boca Raton (No. 7); and Key West (No. 10), among the Top 10 seaside municipalities with a population of over 10,000 residents listed on TripAdvisor.

The financial website considered affordability, weather, safety, the economy, education and health, and quality of life to compare 161 cities and arrive at its rankings. The site also measured 44 lakeside beach towns using the same methodology.

Boca Raton ranked high in the findings due to its weather and quality of life.

Miami Beach tied for first place when it came to the most nightlife venues, even though it ranked at No. 75 overall. Key Biscayne had the third lowest violent crime rate for beach towns, placing behind Marco Island and Rye, New York.

St. Cloud (No. 23) and Sebring (No. 34) were the only Florida cities to make the “Best Lake Beach Towns in America” rankings.

The report used data from the U.S. Census Bureau, National Association of Realtors, Yelp and additional public and private sources to determine the 2018 rankings.

The Top 10 Best Ocean Beach Towns and their points total:

- No.1: Lahaina, Hawaii, 64.9 points
- No.2: Naples, 63.61 points
- No.3: Sarasota, 61.9 points
- No. 4: Mill Valley, California, 60.74 points
- No. 5: St. Augustine, 60.66 points

- No. 6: Santa Monica, California, 60.26 points
- No. 7: Boca Raton, 59.07 points
- No. 8: Kihei, Hawaii, 59.02 points
- No. 9: Westport, Connecticut, 58.99 points
- No.10: Key West, 58.31 points