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ROAD TRIP

10 Coolest Small Towns, N.H.

A little bit hip and a little bit homey, these up-and-coming towns guarantee a fun detour on your next road trip. You'll be browsing the local real estate pages before you know it.

By Melinda Page, September 2007 issue | Subscribe to the magazine

Harlow's Pub in Peterborough (courtesy Pamela Gleeson)

Peterborough, N.H.
Population: 5,883
Nearest City: Boston, 73 miles

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Harlow's Pub in Peterborough (courtesy Pamela Gleeson)

Not too many small towns are home to two theater groups, or, for that matter, The MacDowell Colony, the country's oldest artists retreat. "There's a cool blend of artists and regular folks here, but there's no attitude," says Dave Chicane, a chef late of Cambridge, Mass., and now at Peterborough's **Pearl Restaurant & Oyster Bar** (1 Jaffrey Rd., 603/924-5225, scallops $18). In 2003, Dave Szehi saw the community spirit firsthand when neighbors helped him renovate and expand **Harlow's Pub** (3 School St., 603/924-6365, harlowspub.com). Nearby, gourmet market **Twelve Pine**, inside a refurbished railroad warehouse, makes its own gelato (11 School St., 603/924-6140, twelvepine.com). In the summer, there are music jams in the

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park, pickup dodgeball games, and movies that kids can watch while floating in the community pool. Outdoors lovers know Peterborough because **Eastern Mountain Sports** is headquartered here, and accordingly, every other car has a kayak on top. EMS's flagship store is at 1 Vose Farm Road. (603/924-7231, ems.com).

COOLEST SMALL TOWNS

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Note: *This story was accurate when it was published. Please be sure to confirm all rates and details directly with the companies in question before planning your trip.*