Charming Small Towns Itinerary

Day 1 – Gulf Highlands: beachy base + easy small-town intro

Settle in, slow down, and get your "charming town" rhythm going

🌞 **Morning: Arrive in Gulf Highlands → coffee run → quick shoreline walk to get oriented**

🌤️ **Afternoon: Check-in at hotel The Beach Club Resort & Spa→ pool/beach time → relaxed reset 🌙 Evening: Sunset on the sand → casual dinner nearby in Gulf Highlands**

Day 2 – 🛍️ Eastern Shore charm: Daphne → Fairhope

Boutiques, bay views, and that classic small-town Main Street feel

🌞 **Morning: Drive Gulf Highlands → Daphne (≈ 1 hr 15 min) → quick wander and stretch-stop in Daphne**

🌤️ **Afternoon: Continue Daphne → Fairhope (≈ 20–25 min) → explore the shops, galleries, and bayfront vibe of Fairhope → late lunch/ice cream stop as you fancy**

🌙 **Evening: Drive Fairhope → Gulf Highlands (≈ 1 hr 15 min) → easy evening back at hotel The Beach Club Resort & Spa**

Day 3 – 🧺 Laid-back local towns: Foley → Bay Minette

Low-key Alabama small-town stops—simple, local, and unhurried

🌞 **Morning: Drive Gulf Highlands → Foley (≈ 25–35 min) → browse local shops/markets in Foley**

🌤️ **Afternoon: Continue Foley → Bay Minette (≈ 45–55 min) → short stroll + snack stop in Bay Minette → drive back (≈ 1 hr 15 min)**

🌙 **Evening: Relaxed beach evening at Gulf Highlands → dinner at/near hotel The Beach Club Resort & Spa**

Day 4 – 🌅 "Pretty bay towns" day: Fairhope (deeper dive)

The most "charming small town" day—slow shopping, bay breezes, golden hour

🌞 **Morning: Drive Gulf Highlands → Fairhope (≈ 1 hr 15 min) → coffee + a long, aimless wander (this is the point!)**

🌤️ **Afternoon: Bayfront time and more browsing in Fairhope → optional pop-over to Daphne on the way back (≈ 20–25 min) if you want one more small stop**

🌙 **Evening: Return to Gulf Highlands (≈ 1 hr 15 min) → sunset beach walk → pack up a bit for tomorrow's longer drive**

Day 5 – 🚗 Small-town mountain hop: Gulf Highlands → Chattanooga (via Mentone / Fort Payne)

Swap coastal charm for mountain-town charm and a scenic city finish

🌞 Morning: Check out of hotelThe Beach Club Resort & Spa → start the drive Gulf Highlands → Mentone (≈ 4 hr 30 min)

(Per your road-trip rules, this is a travel/arrival stop—no extra activities scheduled.)

🌤️ Afternoon: Continue Mentone → Fort Payne → Chattanooga (≈ 2 hr 15 min total) → arrive Chattanooga → check-in at hotelHampton Inn & Suites Chattanooga/Downtown 🌙 Evening: Dinner at restaurantState of Confusion → evening stroll in ChattanoogaSouthside

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Day 6 – 🏞️ Scenic small-town edge: Lookout Mountain → farewell in Chattanooga

Mountain views nearby, then a cosy final evening in town

🌞 Morning: Easy start in Chattanooga → drive Chattanooga → Lookout Mountain (≈ 20–30 min)

(Travel/arrival mention only—keeping to your "0-day stops = no POIs" rule.)

🌤️ Afternoon: Return to Chattanooga → downtime and last-minute browsing

🌙 Evening: Farewell dinner at restaurantWooden City---If you tell me what "charming" means to you—(1) historic Main Streets, (2) waterfront villages, or (3) mountain hamlets—I can tighten this further and swap in the best-fit small towns while keeping your4 nights inGulf Highlands and 2 days inChattanooga.