

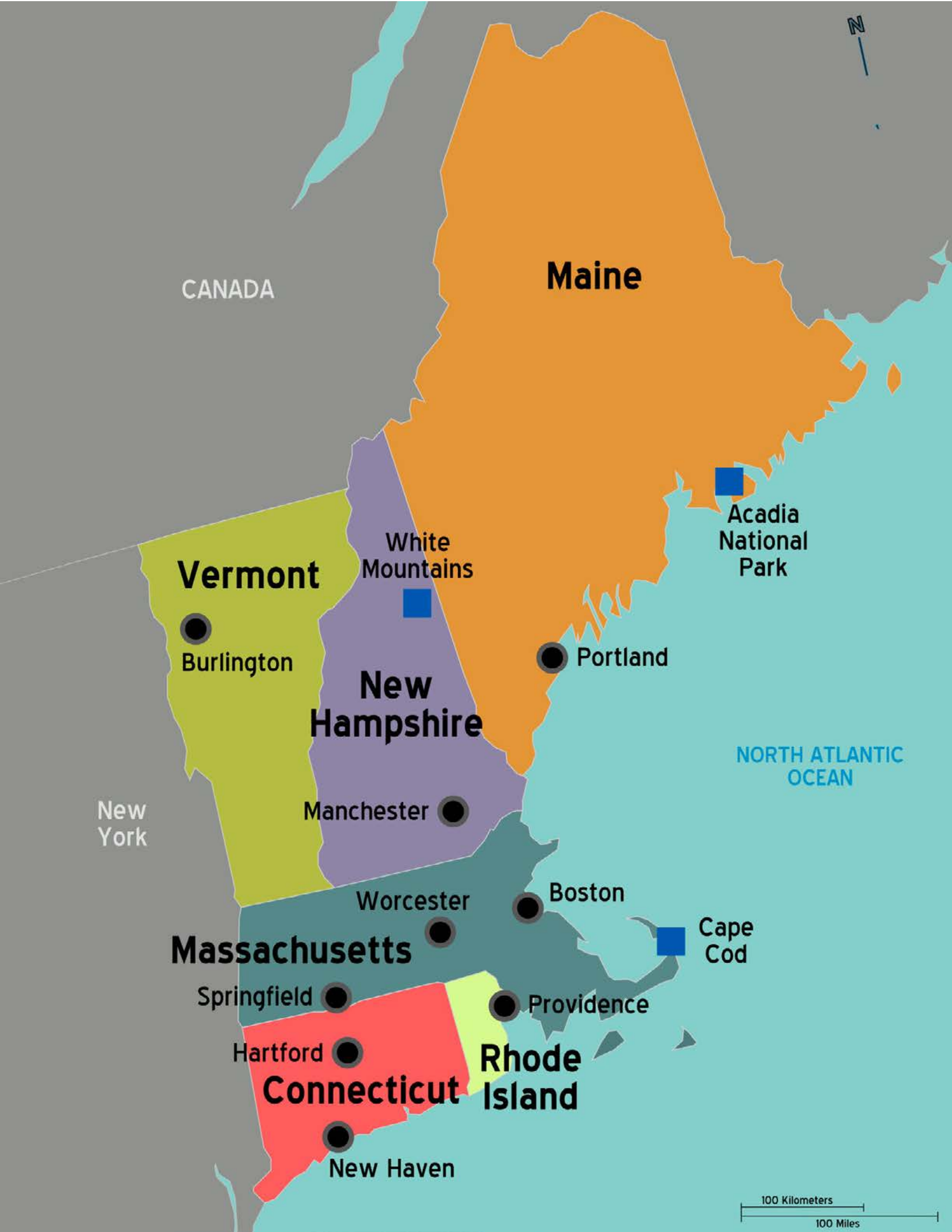
YANKEE

ULTIMATE GUIDE TO

AUTUMN

in New England





CANADA

Maine

Acadia
National
Park

Vermont

White
Mountains

Burlington

Portland

**New
Hampshire**

Manchester

NORTH ATLANTIC
OCEAN

New
York

Worcester Boston

Massachusetts

Cape
Cod

Springfield

Providence

Hartford

**Rhode
Island**

Connecticut

New Haven

100 Kilometers
100 Miles

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FALL TRAVEL

7 FAVORITE PLACES TO EXPERIENCE THE WONDER OF FALL IN NEW ENGLAND

Is there anything more beautiful than New England during foliage season? In fact, you might even say that New England invented leaf peeping as a destination. Here are seven of our favorite places in New England where fall is especially beautiful. Think of them as our unofficial “7 Wonders of Fall.”

VERMONT’S NORTHEAST KINGDOM

The Northeast Kingdom is the Vermonter’s Vermont. It’s a name that fits a world apart, and it comes with a story of its origins. Local newspapermen used it in the early 1940s, but it was Vermont’s legendary Senator George Aiken who first gave “Northeast Kingdom” widespread currency. In fall, we think it’s resplendent.

JENNE FARM IN READING, VERMONT

The picture-perfect Jenne Farm is the most photographed farm in New England, possibly in all of North America. And maybe even, as Rebecca Gibbs in Thornton Wilder’s *Our Town* might say, in the Western Hemisphere. Chances are, you’ve seen it, too, on postcards, or in a calendar or guidebook.

THE CONWAY SCENIC RAILROAD IN THE NEW HAMPSHIRE WHITE MOUNTAINS

The Conway Scenic Railroad runs vintage equipment from the old round-house in North Conway, New Hampshire. From late spring to mid-December, some of the trains go south down the valley to Conway. The other trains run north to Glen and Bartlett. The views are unparalleled.

CRANBERRY BOGS

Each fall, when the berries ripen in cranberry bogs from southeastern Massachusetts to parts of Rhode Island and Down East Maine, the landscape is flooded till a sea of crimson spreads across it, and the harvest begins. Think you can’t get close? A number of farmers welcome visitors, and some even let you get close to the bogs.

APPLE ORCHARDS

Around the turn of the 19th century, John Chapman (a.k.a. “Johnny Appleseed”) departed Massachusetts for the nascent Northwest Territory of Ohio and points west, planting nurseries of apple varieties as he went. By 1905, the U.S. Department of Agriculture counted some 14,000 unique types. Today, only about 100 are grown commercially in any volume, but old apples are finding a new audience — especially in New England. Later in the guide you’ll find our picks for the best apple orchards in New England, nearly all of them growing heirloom apples.

THE KANCAMAGUS HIGHWAY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

This famous paved mountain pass (affectionately dubbed “The Kanc”) just may be the most scenic drive in New England, which is why you want to wake up early to explore it. On crystal-clear October afternoons, this 34.5-mile stretch of Route 112 between Lincoln and Conway, New Hampshire, can feature a caravan of SUVs and Airstreams, but the views are so stunning, you’ll hardly notice.

VERMONT’S ROUTE 100

Leaf peeping is about more than just leaves. It’s about the total foliage experience — farmstands and country stores, craft galleries and hot cider — and Vermont’s Route 100, with its many off-the-beaten-path side trips, offers all of that in one long, winding package. Slow down and enjoy the view.

10 BEST FOLIAGE TOWNS

Fall in New England is more than just beautiful leaves. It encompasses a variety of experiences, from apple picking and browsing farmers’ markets to visiting unique shops and, of course, sampling great food. But picking the right autumn destination is no easy matter. To guide you to the perfect fall experience, we’ve put together this list of ten of our favorite foliage towns.

KENT, CONNECTICUT

Set in the heart of Connecticut’s stunning Litchfield Hills region, Kent offers the full foliage experience: farm stands and covered bridges, the waterfalls and antiques stores that provide the eye candy, framed by the colors of our most glorious season. All of these things Kent has in abundance, in a perfect blend of uncommon natural beauty and culture that might shame cities 10 times its size. Don’t miss: Mountain View Farm, which boasts an enviable vista along with a bevy of organic produce.

BETHEL, MAINE

Maine’s mountain gem boasts scenic drives through Evans Notch and a covered-bridge driving tour of the area. On fall weekends, Sunday River Ski Resort’s “chondola” in nearby Newry whisks visitors 1,000 feet up North Peak to the ultimate picnic ground. Don’t miss: Bethel’s townwide Annual Harvest Fest & “Chowdah” Cookoff, where local restaurants compete for bragging rights.

MANCHESTER, VERMONT

The second-highest peak in southern Vermont, Equinox Mountain offers unbroken views stretching miles to the surrounding ranges—a painter’s palette of gold and crimson by the first week of October. In mid-summer the town hosts the annual Southern Vermont Art & Craft Festival, which draws artisans from around the Green Mountains. Don’t miss: Northshire Bookstore, the independent bookshop/café you might have created in your dreams.

WILLIAMSTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

The ultimate college town, sheltered in the arms of Massachusetts’ highest mountain (Mount Greylock, in

nearby Adams), Williamstown's mix of eclectic architecture and inviting quads can't help but inspire lofty thoughts. The drive up Mount Greylock affords dizzying views of the Berkshires and the Taconic Range, but the favorite hike for Williams College students is the two-mile pitch up to Pine Cobble, a quartzite outcropping with a panoramic view of "the Purple Valley" and church spires below. Don't miss: the stunning Impressionist collections at the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute.

MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT

The 16-mile "Trail Around Middlebury" provides an ideal walking route where families can soak in the atmosphere of this vibrant college town. Here the fall foliage harmonizes with the brick architecture and the roaring falls of Otter Creek, with eclectic shopping and restaurants along the way. Don't miss: the A&W Drive-In, where frosty root beers and fried onion rings from one of New England's last car-hop restaurants perfectly complement the crisp fall air.

CAMDEN, MAINE

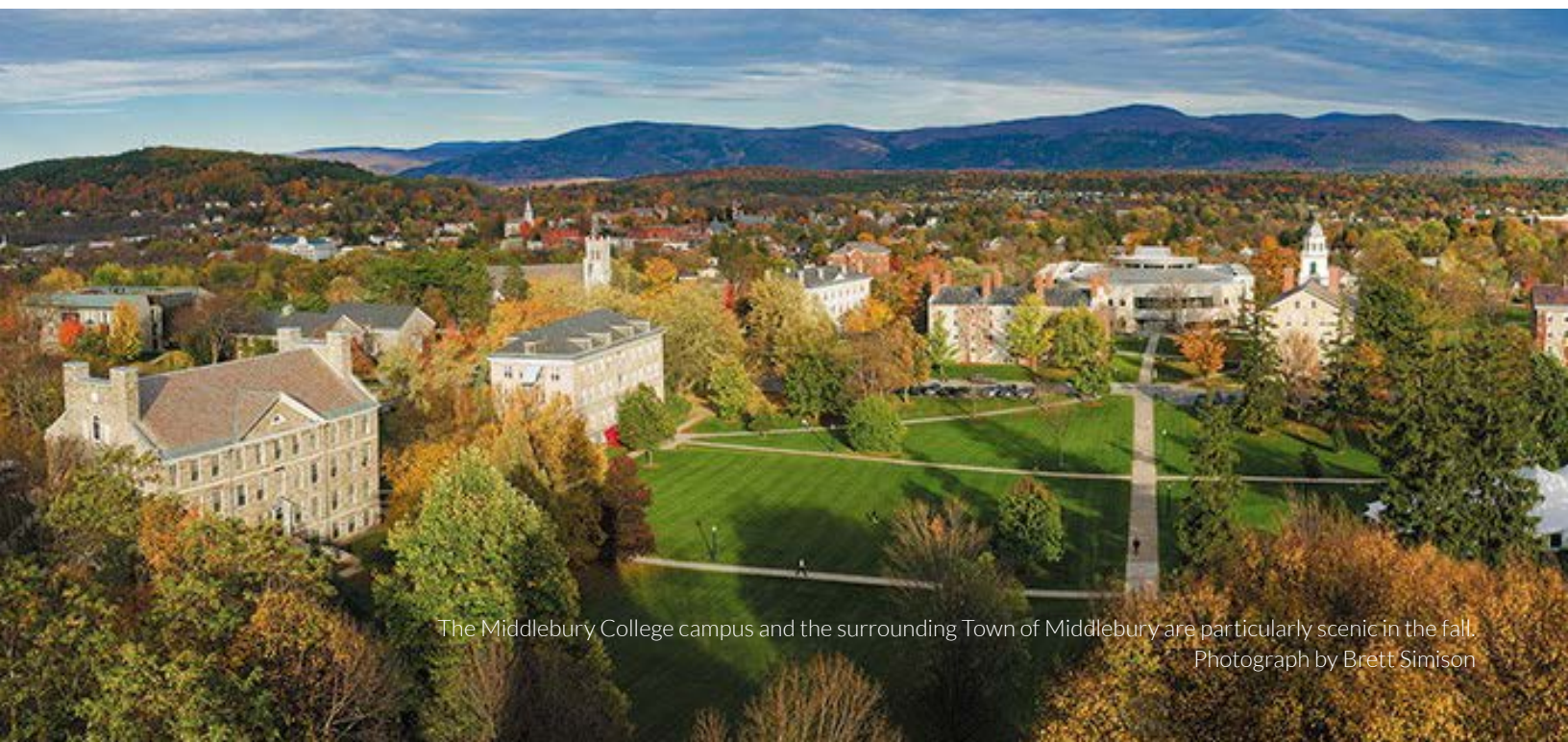
The view from the forested slopes of Mount Battie straight down to the forest of masts in Camden Harbor is one of the most dramatic in New England—and never more beautiful than in fall. For a closer look at the trees, hike nearby Mount Megunticook or Bald Rock Mountain. Don't miss: the crispy cider doughnuts at Boynton-McKay Food Co.

WAITSFIELD, VERMONT

Iconic barns and hillside farmlands carpet this narrow valley between Green Mountain ranges, reflected in the rushing currents of the Mad River. The town has two covered bridges, including the Great Eddy (a.k.a. Big Eddy), the second-oldest operating covered bridge in the state. Saturday mornings bring local residents out for fresh produce, crafts, and music at the weekly Waitsfield Farmers' Market on the Green. Don't miss: the gourmet pizzas at American Flatbread.

CONWAY & NORTH CONWAY, NEW HAMPSHIRE

There may be no better way to see foliage than by train, and the Conway Scenic Railroad is just the ticket, wending its way through White Mountain clefts and over trestles lit by the colors of fall. Restaurants and outlet shopping ensure that you won't sacrifice comfort for beauty. Don't miss: the hike to Diana's Baths, a chain of waterfalls and swimming holes enveloped in foliage.



The Middlebury College campus and the surrounding Town of Middlebury are particularly scenic in the fall. Photograph by Brett Simison

SANDWICH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Sandwiched between the loon-rich shores of Squam Lake and the forested foothills of the White Mountains, the village offers plenty of hiking trails, driving routes, a covered bridge, and an inviting downtown. Don't miss: the annual Sandwich Fair, with midway rides, livestock competitions, and more.

RANGELEY, MAINE

The lakes of Maine's western mountains hold up a succession of mirrors to some of the state's best fall foliage. The must-stop viewpoint in the area is at a small turnout on Route 17, aptly named Height of Land, from which a panorama of five lakes and countless forested mountains stretches in all directions. Don't miss: the annual Maine Forest Museum Apple Festival, where visitors can press their own cider while watching artisans "whittle" away with chainsaws.

A FAVORITE FOLIAGE DRIVE IN EVERY STATE

So many wonderful drives, so little time. To select these tours, we went to the real road warriors — the Federal Highway Administration. They've established a program, National Scenic Byways, that recognizes and preserves roads with beautiful vistas, historic sites, access to public lands, and other qualities that make them more than just a Sunday drive. Throw in spectacular fall color, and you've got a perfect day-trip.

VERMONT | THROUGH THE NOTCH

Thee 18-mile stretch of Route 108 that connects Stowe and Jeffersonville via Smugglers' Notch is a destination in itself, as well as a way to get from one town to another during the spring, summer, and fall. It starts out looking like any other easily negotiable Vermont road, but after it courses past the resort-area businesses that trail north out of Stowe and leaves behind the ski area, it's easy to see why no plow dares make the passage in winter.

Steep slopes crowd close once you reach Mount Mansfield State Forest, and Route 108 narrows to a blacktop corkscrew of a road with a 16 percent grade. On the Stowe side, there's access to the resort's gondola and auto road to Mount Mansfield's summit, along with picnic and camping spots. Near the crest of the notch, where the dark walls of Mount Mansfield and Spruce Peak loom above the road, you can pull over and hike to Sterling Pond, the highest pond on the Long Trail. Here it's never fully daylight, especially beneath the 1,000-foot rise that lofts to the stark rock formation called Elephant's Head. Did smugglers really use this route more than two centuries ago to secretly transport supplies to the Canadian-based British army? If not, they should have: Not only is it the most direct way through the northern Green Mountains, but it's also crammed with rocky nooks and crannies.

Vistas broaden after you navigate the sharp summit turns, and the road straightens on the way down past Smugglers' Notch ski resort and into Jeffersonville. Now you're in northern Vermont, where things are just a bit more rustic, and even a sizable ski area isn't beset by bistros and boutiques. Take time to enjoy it before you make that drive back to the other side of the notch.

NEW HAMPSHIRE | MOUNTAINS AT EVERY TURN

The most dramatic way to enter the White Mountains region is to follow I-93 and Route 3 north through Franconia Notch, then head east along Route 302 to Route 16. The 75-mile winding drive is one of sweeping views, turnoffs to logging roads and hiking trails, babbling brooks, waterfalls, and covered bridges.

Just north of Lincoln, the road narrows between the majestic peaks of the Franconia and Kinsman Ridges. Cannon Mountain's rocky face drops down to Profile Lake, over which the Old Man of the Mountain once



presided. Here Franconia Notch State Park offers much to explore, including the Basin's glacial potholes, the granite walls covered with moss in the Flume, and the Appalachian Mountain Club's (AMC's) Greenleaf and Lonesome Lake high-mountain huts. The Cannon Mountain Aerial Tramway's 15-minute ride whisks you to within a short walk of the 4,200-foot summit, where on a clear day you can see into Vermont, New York, Canada, and Maine.

After the road skirts the Twin Mountains, the grand Mount Washington Hotel (a fixture of the landscape since 1902) comes into view. Stop here, if only to walk the wraparound porch and take in the magnificent view of the namesake mountain.

Now the road widens, edged by wildflower meadows and boggy ditches (a favorite habitat of moose) before narrowing again through Crawford Notch. Just before starting the descent to the Mount Washington Valley, you come to the AMC's Highland Center. New trails crisscross the property, introducing visitors to hiking basics and the concept of ecological stewardship. Inside, mountaineering photos by Bradford and Barbara Washburn rival big-city exhibits.

At about the halfway point of this scenic tour, the Notchland Inn's Tudor-style roofline pokes up out of the colorful foliage of the 778,000-acre White Mountain National Forest. Turn up the drive and discover a refined retreat in the wilds of New Hampshire. The dining room serves a five-course meal most nights, and afterward you can relax with a book or work on a puzzle next to the Gustav Stickley fireplace.



For most of the remaining drive, the road parallels the Saco River and the Conway Scenic Railroad. In Bartlett, a side trip takes you along Bear Notch Road to several stellar viewpoints. Or continue on Route 302, looking for the slopes of the Attitash ski area. Take the scenic chairlift to the top of the mountain for stunning autumn views. Back on the road, a southbound Scenic Railroad train whistles. The first billboards in 25 miles appear, and the number of businesses increases as the

blacktop winds into Glen, North Conway, and Conway. Here there are myriad options for a bite to eat and a little shopping while still being able to see the mountains. End your tour by taking East Side Road through Conway's Saco River covered bridge before heading home. Or, if you haven't gotten enough of the mountains, complete a 110-mile loop by following the Kancamagus Highway (Route 112) back to Lincoln.

CONNECTICUT | A NATURAL GENTILITY IN THE QUIET CORNER

As you drive along Route 169 in the eastern part of the state, it soon becomes clear why this section of Connecticut is called the Quiet Corner. This route, located just off I-395, offers 32 miles of pure, uninterrupted tranquility.

In Lisbon, weathered-clapboard homesteads appear around every bend. Stone walls flank the road to the Prudence Crandall Museum in Canterbury. (Prudence Crandall was a prescient white woman who educated black girls from 1833 to 1834 before a club-wielding mob brought an end to her school.)

Back on Route 169, giant trees cast long shadows on faded red barns. The apple orchards and hiking and biking trails just off the road beckon.

Continuing on, you soon reach the town of Brooklyn, settled in the 1600s. Pass the Brooklyn Fairgrounds, site of the oldest agricultural fair in the country. For a special treat, visit the Golden Lamb Buttery, part of a 1,000-acre estate just off Route 169. For dinner, try the roast duckling (the house specialty), which is so tender it falls off the bone.



Twenty-six miles from the start of your trip, in Woodstock, stands Roseland Cottage, a resplendent raspberry sherbet-colored Gothic Revival house with maroon trim and dark-green shutters. The cottage was built by Henry Bowen, a local boy who moved to New York and struck it rich. He and his family returned to the cottage every summer, and their original furnishings are still on display here.

MASSACHUSETTS | WHERE TIME STANDS STILL ON CAPE COD

If you could survey the generations of Cape Cod visitors and draw a composite picture from their most lasting impressions, the result would almost certainly be a sketch of Route 6A, Old King's Highway (named after the cart path that early settlers used to travel to and from Plymouth Colony). This section of the Cape is iconic and timeless, a single 40-mile canvas of demure white clapboards and weathered cedar shingles. You can see it in your mind's eye: the saltbox homes and sharp-steeped churches, the beaches lapped by placid surf, the vintage motel cottages, the ice-cream and fried seafood stands.

A good place to begin is the Heritage Museums & Gardens in Sandwich. The unsurpassed collections of Americana housed here on 100 landscaped acres set the tone for the journey ahead. Continuing east, you pass so many signs for antiques and art galleries that you may suspect every resident sells things out of his or her garage. Around the halfway point, in Yarmouth Port, stop at the Edward Gorey House to browse the original artwork and personal effects of its famous and prolific namesake, whose darkly humorous illustrations are an antidote to everything sentimental.



Cape Cod Bay is largely invisible from the road except in glimpses across the occasional salt marsh, but if you take nearly any left-hand turn, you'll find a beach. The best beaches are in the town of Dennis. For excellent panoramic views of the bay's ever-changing light, visit the Scargo Hill Observation Tower, a small stone observation platform built in 1902 on the area's highest point of land (106 feet).

The penultimate town, Brewster, tempts weary travelers with numerous attractive bed-and-breakfasts, many of which were 19th-century sea captains' homes. Before you know it, the arching boughs over the winding blacktop yield to bustling Orleans, where Old King's Highway ends.

MAINE | LAND OF MOOSE AND RIVERS

Calling the Old Canada Road (Route 201) a scenic byway does a small injustice to this 78-mile drive between Solon and Sandy Bay Township, along the Canadian border. It's not just scenic (think moose) but also grandly historic. Benedict Arnold led troops through this wilderness on his spectacularly ill-fated mission to sack Quebec in 1775. A more lasting trail was blazed in the 19th century by Maine farmers who discovered a better market for livestock and produce in Canada than on their own coast.

The trip north today remains an excursion from the pastoral into the pine forests. You start out flanked by rolling farmland, then climb steadily into commercial timberland, the lair of moose. Logging trucks soon share the winding road with old school buses that ferry white-water enthusiasts to some of the most popular rafting in the East. Head with Raft Maine to The Forks (named after a river juncture) to get splendidly soaked on the Kennebec or Dead Rivers.

One don't-miss detour from the Forks is the hike to 90-foot Moxie Falls, one of Maine's highest cascades. It's just over a mile from the trailhead, which is two miles east of the river on Lake Moxie Road.

Continue your drive past Parlin Pond and the Appalachian Trail to the town of Jackman ("Last Gas in the United States"), one of Maine's famed fishing, hunting, and snowmobiling outposts. Just south of town is Attean Lake Lodge, a family-friendly resort on

a densely forested island.

Continue along route 201 towards Canada, all the while plotting detours for the trip home.

7 FUN NEW WAYS TO EXPERIENCE FALL COLOR

New England's famous fall foliage draws thousands of locals and visitors (or "leaf peepers," as they're affectionately known) to the roads each year, and while a classic autumn road trip may be the most popular way to admire the leaves, it's certainly not the only one. Why not enjoy this year's color from a new perspective?

BY FOOT:

Taking in the fall foliage from a remote rocky outcropping, with views dotted by distant, quaint villages with white steepled churches, is only one reward of a fall foliage hike. The hike itself, through crisp air and whispering forests, or along bubbling streams filled with swirling leaves, is one of the more anticipated autumn activities in New England.

BY BIKE:

The bicycle remains a staple for touring in New England, especially in the autumn season. The carriage roads that wind through Acadia National Park are arguably the best way to see the park. Paved rail trails like the Causeway near Burlington, Vermont, the Franconia Notch Bike Path in New Hampshire, and the Cape Cod Rail Trail in Massachusetts all allow you to take a slower approach to leaf peeping. In many areas, rental bikes are available if you can't bring your own.

BY BOAT:

Canoeing through this mist at dawn's first light, kayaking next to calling loons, or cruising along our rocky coasts — there are so many ways to see the foliage from the water in New England. Many of our largest lakes also have popular tour boats which port in some of our most scenic summer getaways. The insider secret is that these tours are even lovelier in autumn. Try the *Songo River Queen* in Naples, Maine, or the *MS Mount Washington* on Lake Winnepesaukee.

BY CHAIRLIFT / GONDOLA:

Many New England ski resorts spin the lifts before the snow hits to accommodate leaf peeping tourists. Cannon Mountain Aerial Tramway in New Hampshire is perhaps the most famous of these, but resorts from Wachusett to Wildcat also provide opportunities. The gondola ride at Stowe is a great way to see the foliage en route to a stunning trip through Smuggler's Notch.

BY TRAIN:

Passenger rail service still thrives in New England, and brings you through some areas of beautiful fall foliage. Popular routes include Maine's Downeaster as well as the Vermonter along the Green Mountains. Scenic tourism train routes include Connecticut's Essex Steam Train, the Cape Cod Scenic Railroad, and the Winnepesaukee or Conway Railroads in New Hampshire. You can even take the Cog Railway to the top of New England's highest peak during peak colors, so long as the tracks stay snow free.

BY ZIPLINE:

Possibly the fastest growing attraction in New England, adventure courses have popped up near every tourism hub and at many ski resorts. Many let you soar through or just above the forest canopy, ablaze in our famous peak color. The mile-and-a-half long zipline at Gunstock Ski Resort in New Hampshire is the longest



Foliage chairlift ride at Wachusett Mountain in Princeton, MA
Photograph by Brian Mooney

in New England, and perhaps in the country.

BY AIR:

There are so many options for getting above the foliage in New England. Many of the smaller airports throughout the region offer tours by plane or helicopter. Private companies offer hot air balloon flights throughout the autumn season. The Franconia Soaring Association, though, offers one of the most unique options — a towed flight above the highest summits in New Hampshire in an engineless glider.

BIGGEST FALL FAIRS IN EVERY STATE

At the first sign of fall, we start anticipating our region's best agricultural fairs and harvest festivals. This is the season of giant pumpkins, scarecrow contests, cider pressing, tractor pulls, 4-H livestock exhibits, candied apples, and many other fun family activities. We don't have room for a comprehensive list, here's a roundup of the biggest fairs in every New England state while, plus a *Yankee* editor favorite that's on the smaller side but no less worthy of consideration.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Deerfield Fair (late September) dates back to 1876 and bills itself as “New England’s Oldest Family Fair.” It’s also one of the biggest in the state. With livestock pulls and exhibitions, a demolition derby, pig scramble, sheep shearing, the Miss Deerfield Fair pageant, midway rides, live entertainment, 4-H exhibits, and all your favorite fair food.

Runner Up: The Sandwich Fair (early October), held in the Lakes Region. It features a midway, animal demonstrations and competitions, skillet toss, 4-H Livestock talks, plus pumpkin carving, oxen pulling, and parades.

MAINE

It doesn't get any bigger in Maine than the week-long Fryeburg Fair (early October), featuring an impressively large display of livestock shows, harness racing, horse pulling, antique farm equipment

Since March 1851, the Fryeburg Fair has grown to become the state's largest agricultural event.
Photograph by Tristan Spinski



demonstrations, gardening and cooking contests, skillet toss, live musical acts, amusement rides, food, and (much) more.

Runner Up: Common Ground Country Fair in Unity (late September) celebrates the rural and agricultural traditions of Maine with animal exhibits, cooking demos, entertainment, crafts, blacksmithing, farm and fiber marketplaces, a Social and Political Action area, delicious food (many of the vendors are organic), children's programming, and more. Hosted by the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association.

VERMONT

The Champlain Valley Fair (late August into September) features ten days of classic summer fair fun with 4-H events, draft horse driving, horse pulling, cooking contests, fiber arts demonstrations, and the judging of everything from fruits and vegetables to home-brewed beer and Christmas trees. Don't miss the Coca-Cola Grandstand, where you can catch a big name concert, circus show, or demolition derby.

Runner Up: The Tunbridge World's Fair (mid-September) got its name when Burnham Martin, the former Vermont lieutenant governor and state senator, referred to it in 1867 as the "Little World's Fair." Featuring animal shows, pig races, antique tractor pulling, live entertainment, competitions, and more.

MASSACHUSETTS

When it comes to "big fairs" in New England, it's impossible to get any bigger than the Big E in West Springfield (mid- to late-September). The sixth largest agricultural fair in the country. It features the Avenue of the States, butter sculptures, cheese competitions, agricultural events and competitions, midway rides, endless selections of fair food, shopping, top entertainment and musical acts, and more.

Runner Up: The Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society Livestock Show and Fair (late August) offers a

unique island agricultural fair experience, complete with rides, games, dog and livestock shows, shucking and husking contests, a skillet toss, pig racing, horse pulling, woodsmen competition, and a fiber-arts tent.

CONNECTICUT

The Durham Fair (late September) features crafts on the green, carnival rides and games in the midway, animal competitions and discovery events on the Corn Stalk Stage, and lots to eat, plus exhibits showcasing livestock, fruits, vegetables, art, crafts, baking, needlework, photography, and more. Those in search of bigger thrills will love the monster truck rally, lumberjack show (axe throwing, anyone?), and big name concerts.

Runner Up: The Goshen Fair (early September) has woodcutting competitions, draft horse shows, live entertainment, truck pulls, giant pumpkins, a bustling midway, fair food, and fun events like an adult spelling bee, hay bale toss contest, pie-eating contest, and skillet throw.

RHODE ISLAND

The five-day Washington Country Fair in Richmond (late August) features daily concerts, special acts and events, a giant midway (including New England's largest traveling roller coaster), the "Battle of the Fishermen," agricultural events such as 4-H shows and a goat obstacle course, tractor and horse pulls, and fine arts competitions.

Runner Up: Although it's more of a harvest fair than an agricultural fair, Autumnfest in Woonsocket (early October) is still plenty of fun. Enjoy a parade, midway, fair food, arts and crafts vendors, live entertainment, and a fireworks finale.

5 DELICIOUS NEW ENGLAND FALL FOOD FESTIVALS

CAPE COD SCALLOPFEST | FALMOUTH, MA

For more than four decades, this popular annual celebration has continued to grow. These days, you'll find the fairgrounds rocking with midway rides and games, live music, and a juried craft fair. At the core of it all, however, the award-winning scallops, seafood, and chicken dinners are the stars.

CHOWDAFEST | WESTPORT, CT

With participants from every New England state and beyond, Chowdafest is one of the largest culinary competitions in the Northeast. Vote for your favorite chowder as 40 award-winning chefs and restaurants compete in four categories—Classic New England Clam Chowder; Traditional Chowders (Manhattan/Rhode Island), Creative Chowder, and Soup/Bisque—with proceeds benefiting local charities.

CRANBERRY HARVEST CELEBRATION | WAREHAM, MA

This fun family event features cranberry bog tours, helicopter rides, pony rides, cooking demonstrations, juried crafters and artisans, musical performances, games for children, and much more.

GLASTONBURY APPLEFEST | GLASTONBURY, CT

A top festival in the nutmeg state, featuring live music, 150+ craft booths, pie eating contest, pie bake-off, amusement rides, pony rides, family entertainment, road races, beer garden, and petting zoo.

BOWEN'S WHARF SEAFOOD FESTIVAL | NEWPORT, RI

Savor the early autumn harvests of the sea—fresh local lobster, chowder, quahogs, clambakes, shrimp, scallops, oysters and clams—presented by area restaurants and fisherman's associations, with continuous live music, all beneath the wharf's colorful tents.

FALL TIPS

AUTUMN LEAF GUIDE

Know your red maple from your sugar maple? How about your speckled alder from your quaking aspen? These handy leaf illustrations will help you to identify many different types of leaves changing color throughout New England this fall. Wondering if this year will be a good show? Bright and cool days followed by chilly, but not freezing, nights lead to the best color.

Yellow Birch

White and mountain birch, colors the high slopes bright yellow in early October.



American Beech

Yellow leaves fade to bronze and often stay on the tree through the winter.



Witch Hazel

Yellow leaves camouflage small yellow flowers.



Pin Cherry

Purple-green leaves, changing to red and orange.





White Birch

Bright yellow in early October.



Large-Toothed Aspen

Has larger leaves than quaking aspen, but has the same color changes.



Basswood

These large leaves turn pale yellow; basswood is also known as linden.



Quaking Aspen

Leaves stay green until late in the season, then turn yellow, often after other trees are bare.



Tupelo

Commonly found near swamps; leaves turn red.



Sumac

Dark red or purple leaves; fuzzy twigs resemble antlers “in velvet.”

Northern Red Oak

Leaves turn deep red and orange, then a warm dark brown.



American Mountain Ash

Bright red berries and red leaves; prominent on high ridges in early fall.



Striped Maple

Its huge leaves turn bright yellow or a cream color; stands out in mid-October.

Red Maple

Stands out early; bright red with yellow, orange; bare by mid-October; also called swamp maple.

Sugar Maple

Yellow, orange, and sometimes red; mid-October's most prominent colors.



White Ash

Yellow, purple. Stands out in October; leaves fall with first heavy frost after changing color.



Speckled Alder

Doesn't change color, so stands out in swamps; green leaves brown a little and fall in November.



Tamarack

The only local conifer that sheds all its needles; yellow needles stand out in swamps.

—illustrations by Erick Ingraham



HOW TO TAKE YOUR BEST FALL FOLIAGE PHOTOS

In 1935, Kodak introduced modern color film and along the way sparked a foliage-photography revolution. Nothing brought out the hunger to capture beauty like a real New England autumn—the time when “the red gods call,” as *Yankee* writer Ben Rice wrote more than 60 years ago, quoting Kipling. During her 15-year-career as *Yankee*’s photo editor, Annie Card reviewed more than 500,000 foliage pictures. The best ones, she said, made you want to climb right into them. So, what makes for a great foliage picture? For some advice, we talked to three of our favorite foliage shooters: Steve Muskie, Kindra Clineff, and Alison Shaw. Here are their special tips.

GO FOR BIG COLOR

If your camera offers a choice between “auto white balance” and an optional setting, Steve urges you to choose “daylight.” It’ll give you daylight “film,” so that when you shoot a brilliant red or yellow tree at sunset, the camera will read those colors or even exaggerate them a bit. If you shoot the same sunset photo at the “auto white” setting, the colors will be neutralized and you’ll be disappointed.

COMPOSITION

Keep it simple. Look for a dominant element, such as one tree in a field or a single branch of leaves against the sky. Alison suggests that photographers “isolate elements by using a shallow depth of field. This allows one tree or part of a tree to be in focus while everything else is out of focus.” The sharp part of the photo is then your dominant subject.

“Change your point of view,” Kindra advises. “Get down on your belly and shoot through things, letting objects in the foreground go out of focus. This will give you a nice wash of color in the foreground and lead you into the background, which you’ve kept in focus. Or you can keep the foreground sharp and let the background go soft.”

WHEN TO SHOOT

Early morning and late afternoon provide the most interesting light, but don’t grumble on an overcast or rainy day. “Overcast days will show color better than sunny ones,” Alison notes. Early morning is also the best time to capture reflections in a lake or pond; the water is more likely to be still, and you may get mist rising off the water.



20 LEAF PEEPER DO'S AND DON'TS

Ready to finally hit the road and get your leaf-peek on? To send you on your way, here's a helpful list of "20 Leaf Peeper Do's and Don'ts" from the editors of *Yankee Magazine*. Along with a camera, full tank of gas, and hefty bag of apple cider donuts, we think the following tips will help ensure an awesome autumn. We hope you enjoy your fall foliage visit to New England, and we'll see you next year!

1 DO get lost. Carry a good map and get a little lost. With 7,401 miles of unpaved roads in Vermont alone, there's ample opportunity to find adventure.

2 DO observe proper foliage etiquette. Locals use the back roads to get from here to there as promptly as possible. If you're oohing and ahing at five miles per hour, pull over when someone's behind you. And **DO** ask a landowner's permission before tramping into the fields.

3 DO get out of your car, and walk, and smell, and listen. Foliage is the most sensual of New England seasons, from the sweet aromas of our apple orchards to the swirling of leaves and wind, from that first whiff of wood smoke on a frosty fall day to the crunch of dry foliage underfoot. Seeing foliage is only half the fun. Many of us remember our parents shoving us into the car when we were young and driving for hours with out-of-town relatives. We hated it.

4 DO pick up a parking pass for New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest to avoid a parking ticket. Funds go to protecting the forest habitat. Day passes can be purchased at on-site, self-serve pay stations. Annual passes can be purchased in multiple ways, including online.

5 DO as professional foliage photographers do when composing photos. A single crimson maple in the foreground with a white church behind and a little blue sky showing will translate better than a 40-mile-distant panoramic view sees the vivid colors.

6 DO look for changing views. Search out roads with hills and curves, roads that meander through changing vistas of woods and farms and small villages. If there is a better combination than water and stone (stone walls, stone bridges) and autumn leaves, we don't know it.

7 DON'T be a hit-and-run leaf watcher. **DON'T** rush. A picnic by a waterfall beats dashing all about, hoping to see just one more place before dark.

8 DON'T panic that "peak" is passing you by. Peak color is a continuum, not a moment fixed in time. Within a few miles you'll see different stages, depending on types of trees and elevation. "Seeking peak is missing the point," says Kit Anderson, a Vermont cultural geographer. "It's like condensing the entire season and the entire experience into this one moment, like a sound byte, and people miss it."

9 DO respect "Moose Crossing" signs. Northern New England is moose country. Cars and passengers do not always survive collisions with 1,000-pound moose.

10 DO wake early. The colors will be most vivid with the morning dew and morning light. Watching the dawn mist rise off our forest-ringed lakes and rivers may be the best treat of all.

11 DO linger to enjoy the late-afternoon light. The deep shadows late in the day set off all colors against areas of darkness.

12 DO have lodging reservations during the prime leaf-watching period of late September to mid-October. **DON'T** expect to stay for just one night. Most places require a two-night minimum during foliage.

13 DON'T let your lack of lodging stop your visit. Local Vermont chambers of commerce, for instance, keep a quiet list of hospitable locals who open up that spare room in their homes for intrepid leaf watchers. If possible, **DO** come midweek.

14 DO look skyward, especially if you're hiking. Mid-to late September is when thousands of broad-winged hawks ride the thermals south. The raptor migration is worthy of a trip in itself.

15 DON'T be a color snob and ignore everything except bright reds. Trees exhibit an astonishing range of colors. Foliage season means subtle shadings of peach and corals and apricot, the delicate yellows of beech and birch, the soft browns and purples. **DON'T** let rain keep you indoors. Wet weather brings out the most vivid colors.

16 DO go beyond where most people go. Vermonters have a saying: When good people die, they go to Vermont. When good Vermonters die, they go to the Northeast Kingdom—but relatively few tourists do.

17 **DO** visit northern Maine for wondrous color with few crowded roads. But **DON'T** ever think you have the right-of-way when approaching a logging truck on the narrow roads.

18 **DO** let New Englanders help you find the prime local foliage spots. Best bet for advice: district forest rangers. Many of them are “leaf spotters,” asked by the state to report daily and weekly on foliage conditions in their area. Their pride in their home vistas spills over if you stop in at their headquarters and ask where they would go.

19 **DO** include valleys and the seacoast in your travels. Though most people head to the mountains, in fact the lowland areas boast the brightest and earliest colors. Look for the swamp maples surrounding the marshes.

20 **DO** show us your New England foliage adventures on social media by tagging @yankeemagazine and using #mynewengland. We just might share your photo!



Available for the iPad/iPhone
Kindle and Android devices.

EVERYTHING APPLES

BEST APPLE ORCHARDS IN NEW ENGLAND

Autumn is a magical time of year for many reasons, but one of our favorite fall traditions is the annual trek into the orchard to gather up as many apples as we can carry. Looking for a few good places to pick? There are hundreds of wonderful orchards in every corner of New England offering not just fresh fruit but everything from cider donuts to hay rides to pumpkins, but some orchards show a particular love to New England's heirloom varieties that we find extra admirable. We asked Amy Traverso, *Yankee* senior food editor and author of the award-winning *The Apple Lover's Cookbook*, for a list of her favorite heirloom-minded apple orchards.

The apple harvest runs through early November, so don't miss your chance to seize the season.

VERMONT

Champlain Orchards

This family owned farm in Shoreham overlooking Lake Champlain is one of the oldest continuously operating orchards in Vermont. Find more than 100 varieties of apples, along with berries and stone fruits, grown using Integrated Pest Management techniques that minimize the use of pesticides (eight acres are also certified organic). You can stop by the farm's market, where you'll find a range of Vermont-grown-and-made products, or pick your own.



Scott Farm

This 626 acre property in Dummerston, owned by the non-profit Landmark Trust USA, produces 120 varieties of “ecologically grown,” low-spray heirloom and unusual apples, such as Roxbury Russet, Belle de Boskoop, Winter Banana, and Hidden Rose. There are classes on pruning and grafting, apple pie baking, hard cider making. Fun Fact: It also served as the primary location for the filming of the movie *Cider House Rules*.

MAINE

Cayford Orchards

Six generations, 18 acres, 1200 trees, 57 varieties. These numbers form the broad outline of the Cayford operation in Skowhegan, but for Jason and Heather Davis, now in their third decade of running the farm, this work is rooted in a passion for preserving their family’s heritage as well as that of the apple itself. Unlike some of our favorite farms, which more recently swapped out rows of Red Delicious and McIntosh for heirlooms, the Davises found many surviving antique trees on the property when they set out to revive it in the early 1990s. So they tended to those and added a few more and soon had customers young and old asking for the old apples in addition to Cortlands and Honeycrisp.

MASSACHUSETTS

Clarkdale Fruit Farms

Tom and Ben Clark, the father-son team behind Clarkdale farm in Deerfield, are two of the most personable growers you’d ever hope to meet. But that is just one of the charms of this hilly parcel located just off the Mohawk Trail. True apple aficionados, the Clarks replant about five percent of their orchard every year, adding 19th century heirlooms, along with popular modern cultivars like Honeycrisp and Suncrisp, to their collection. Currently, they offer about 60 different apple varieties, but that number grows each year. At the farm’s rustic store, you’re invited to taste unfamiliar cultivars and ask about their best uses (the pick-your-own operation is limited to McIntosh trees). And don’t forget to pick up a gallon of Clarkdale’s excellent pear and apple ciders.

Nashoba Valley Winery

Set in a historic region for fruit production in New England, this beautiful winery/restaurant/wedding destination in Bolton is also home to acres of pick-your-own Cortland, McIntosh, and Roxbury Russet trees, as well as a spectacular antique apple orchard stocked with rare finds like Pink Pearl, Ashmead’s Kernel, and Esopus Spitzenburg—nearly 100 in all. You do need to make an appointment to pick from the antique orchard, but all it takes is a phone call. Tack a wine tasting and dinner at J’s Restaurant onto your day and you have the makings of a harvest festival.

Red Apple Farm

Red Apple Farm in Phillipston, run by fourth-generation farmer Al Rose, offers the full gamut of apple orchard attractions (a farm stand, weekend barbecues, hay rides, cider donuts and fudge, farm animals to pet) while also operating an diverse horticultural program with more than fifty apple varieties, from Arkansas Black to Roxbury Russet. Right by the entrance, you’ll find an apple tree that has been grafted with nearly all fifty of the farm’s varieties sprouting off a single trunk—a spectacular sight that alone is worth the trip.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Gould Hill Farm

Is this Contoocook farm the most beautiful orchard setting in New England? We certainly haven’t seen another one that matches its 75-mile view, which can spread as far as the White Mountains. It’s worth coming back just for that. You can also make a project of tasting the seventy-plus apple varieties. One in particular is



Alyson's Orchard in Walpole, New Hampshire.
Photograph by Brenda Darroch

worth noting: Hampshire, a tree that sprang up from seed on this very farm and, with its abundant juice and rich flavor, makes a great pie. There's also live music, a pumpkin patch, a farm store with cider donuts, and a charming little nature museum.

Alyson's Orchard

The view from Alyson's hilltop orchards in Walpole is a close second to the one at Gould Hill Farm, with long views to the west toward Vermont. The orchard is run by Homer Dunn, a true-blue New Englander who takes tremendous pleasure and pride in his fruit. He grows all the regular favorites but has a soft spot for rare heirlooms like Ashmead's Kernel, Hudson's Golden Gem, Belle de Boskoop, Reine des Reinettes, and Esopus Spitzenburg. The orchard (which also grows peaches, plums, nectarines, and berries) spreads over 450 acres and there's a seasonal farm stand, plus family-friendly entertainment on weekends.

Poverty Lane Orchards

Get two experiences for the price of one on this beautiful hilltop farm in Lebanon overlooking the Connecticut River Valley: Poverty Lane Orchards, with its dozens of antique and unusual apple varieties, and Farnum Hill Ciders, where complex ciders are made from the aforementioned apples. Both are worth exploring for their nuance and quality, whether in the pick-your-own orchards or in the farm stand/tasting room.

CONNECTICUT

18th-Century Purity Farms at the Hall Homestead

At Purity Farms in Plainfield, you'll find nearly 90 varieties of heirloom apples, all grown without pesticides. We especially love 'Westfield Seek-No-Further' (a Massachusetts native), 'Newtown Pippin', and the wondrous 'Hidden Rose', whose bland green-brown skin gives way to bright fuchsia flesh that tastes of raspberries. Open Saturday afternoons in the fall.

RHODE ISLAND

Rocky Brook Orchard

Greg and Katy Ostheimer grow more than eighty varieties of apple on Aquidneck Island in Middletown. Among the dozens of cultivars available at this pick-your-own farm (open weekends only) is Rhode Island Greening, Little Rhody's own namesake apple, which was first discovered near Newport (not far from Rocky Brook) in the mid-1600s. Terrific in pies, it has a tart-sweet, lemony flavor and, true to its name, bright green skin.

WHERE TO FIND THE BEST APPLE CIDER DONUTS

ATKINS FARMS | AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

Made by hand using a recipe that includes the farm's own apple cider, the cider donuts at Atkins Farm are the perfect mix of sweet and spicy. A coating of cinnamon-sugar seals the deal.

B. F. CLYDE'S CIDER MILL | OLD MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT

B. F. Clyde's is a popular spot to stock up on both sweet and hard apple cider (it's the oldest steam-powered cider mill in the country), but you don't want to miss the homemade apple cider donuts. They're perfectly moist and sweet with a cinnamon-sugar coating.

COLD HOLLOW CIDER MILL | WATERBURY CENTER, VERMONT

Located just outside the Green Mountain tourist town of Stowe, Cold Hollow Cider Mill uses fresh-pressed apple cider and their heavenly apple cider doughnuts to satisfy a year-round stream of visitors. Made fresh daily, the donuts at Cold Hollow come unadorned, allowing their big apple flavor to truly shine.

ROCKY RIDGE ORCHARD | BOWDOIN, MAINE

Sweet and sugar-coated, the cake cider donuts at Rocky Ridge Orchard are a Midcoast Maine favorite. While you munch, pick up some of the farm's apples, sweet cider, whoopie pies, or other tasty treats like homemade pickles and local cranberries.

RUSSELL ORCHARDS | IPSWICH, MASSACHUSETTS

The made-from-scratch cider donuts at Russell Orchards have the farm's own cider (made from the farm's own apples) right in the batter, giving them their terrific flavor. It's also a lot of fun watching them go from batter to fryer to your waiting paper bag.



Cider Donuts from Cold Hollow Cider Mill in Waterbury Center, Vermont
Photograph by Aimee Tucker

THE YANKEE GUIDE TO APPLE VARIETIES & HOW TO USE THEM

Old School

Colonists loved the versatility of the Roxbury Russet, a Massachusetts variety and the oldest named American apple. “It’s good for cooking, good for cider making, and can be stored until April,” Watson says. How? Put it in a plastic bag, punch a few holes for some air, and keep it in a root cellar.



Going Green



The Rhode Island Greening is a dessert and baking favorite that was adored so much by Providence founder Roger Williams that he was reportedly buried beneath an apple tree. “Great texture, nice flavor,” Watson says. “One of the best pie apples. It kicks Granny Smith’s butt.”

Livin’ Large

Like something with a little heft? Then go for the Wolf River, which can weigh up to a pound and a half each. When Watson recently got his hands on one, he gave it to his local general store. “Everybody commented on it,” he says. “Customers were snapping pictures of their babies next to it.”



ILLUSTRATIONS BY ERICK INGRAHAM

Hill Country Treat

Old-time Mainers know all about the Black Oxford, a native variety that ripens in mid- to late October. It stores well and offers the right sugar/acid balance, giving it both sweet and tart flavors for great off-the-tree eating.



Flavoricious

Different apples deliver different tastes. Take the Granite Beauty (LEFT), a New Hampshire variety that serves up a warm, spicy taste (think cardamom or coriander). The Mother (BELOW), which originated in Bolton, Mass., is a dessert apple with a pleasant balsamic flavor.

Get Proactive

If you want something different, ask for it—and your local orchard is a great place to start. Two of Watson’s favorite New Hampshire orchards: Alyson’s in Walpole and Gould Hill in Contoocook. “[An orchardist] may know where to go,” Watson says, “or they may have one or two trees themselves. They just haven’t put them out because they don’t think anybody wants them.”



– Ian Aldrich

HOW TO MATCH THE APPLE TO THE RECIPE

A

pple varieties are as individual as people, with their own quirky flavors, textures, and strengths. Some perform best in desserts, others in salads. You can't tell by simply looking at them. We've taken some of the guesswork out of this process by organizing dozens of popular varieties into four simple categories, which correspond to their best uses in the kitchen: firm-tart, firm-sweet, tender-tart, and tender-sweet.

—Amy Traverso

FIRM-TART

These apples, which hold their shape when cooked, are best in rich baked desserts like pies or pastries—anything that benefits from a bit of acidity.

Calville Blanc d'Hiver
Esopus Spitzenberg
GoldRush *
Granny Smith
Northern Spy
Rhode Island Greening
Rome
Roxbury Russet
Sierra Beauty
Stayman Winesap *

FIRM-SWEET

These varieties work best in sweet and savory baked dishes that need a firm fruit with more sweetness.

Baldwin
Black Oxford
Blue Pearmain
Braeburn
Cameo
Ginger Gold *
Golden Delicious *
Honeycrisp
Jazz
Jonagold
Mutsu
Pink Lady
SweeTango

TENDER-TART

These apples break down easily during cooking, which makes them best for soups and sauces.

Cortland *
Empire *
Jonathan
Macoun
McIntosh

TENDER-SWEET

Use these in salads, dessert sauces, and the occasional quick-cooked dish, or enjoy them right out of your hand.

Ambrosia
Cox's Orange Pippin
Fuji *
Gala *

* apple variety that doesn't brown quickly when sliced; a good choice for salads



MCINTOSH



CORTLAND



ROXBURY RUSSET



BALDWIN



RI GREENING

3 EASY APPLE RECIPES

Now that you've got your apples and know how to use 'em, here are three of our favorite easy apple recipes that will have you enjoying their sweet flavor with minimum effort.

APPLE CIDER DONUT MUFFINS

These fantastic cider doughnut muffins pack all the flavor of apple cider doughnuts without the fuss and the frying.

Total Time: 55 minutes

Hands-On Time: 20 minutes

Yield: 12 muffins

For the Muffins:

Ingredients

- 2 cups sweet apple cider
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened, plus more for pan
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs, at room temperature
- 1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2-1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1-1/4 teaspoons ground nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon table salt

Instructions

Preheat your oven to 375° F and set a rack to the middle position. Lightly grease a standard 12-cup muffin pan and set aside.

Put the apple cider in a large saucepan over high heat and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat slightly and simmer until the liquid is reduced to 1 cup. Set aside to cool.

Using a standing or handheld mixer, cream the butter with the sugar in a large bowl at medium speed until fluffy, about 4 minutes. Add the eggs, one at a time, blending well after each. Add the vanilla extract and blend.



Apple Cider Donut Muffins
Photograph by Carl Tremblay

In a medium-size bowl, whisk together the flour, nutmeg, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Add a third of this mixture to the butter mixture and beat just to combine. Add half the reduced cider and beat to combine. Repeat with another third of the flour mixture, then the rest of the cider, then the remaining flour mixture. Divide the batter evenly among the prepared muffin cups and transfer to the oven. Bake until tops are firm and a tester inserted into the center comes out clean, 15 to 17 minutes. Remove from the oven and let cool 10 minutes.

For the Topping:

Ingredients

- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 3 tablespoons ground cinnamon
- 4 tablespoons salted butter, melted

Instructions

Now, prepare the topping: In a medium-size bowl, whisk together the sugar and cinnamon. As soon as the muffins are cool enough to handle, brush their tops and sides with butter, then roll in the cinnamon sugar to coat. Serve warm or at room temperature.

ORCHARD APPLESAUCE

This homemade applesauce recipe is great eaten straight from the jar, but we've also been known to pair it with grilled pork chops or potato cakes.

Total Time: 30

Yield: 4 cups



Ingredients

- 8 assorted apples (mix of any varieties)
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 1 cup sweet apple cider
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 2 tablespoons apple or pear brandy (optional)

Instructions

Peel and core apples; cut into big chunks. In a medium-size saucepan, toss apples with lemon juice. Add cider, sugar, and cinnamon; bring to a boil. Reduce to a simmer and cook until tender, about 15 minutes. Let cool 20 minutes. Discard cinnamon. Mash to the consistency you prefer. Stir in brandy. Cool to room temperature; then cover and refrigerate.

OLD FASHIONED APPLE CRISP

Easier than apple pie but with plenty of buttery apple and cinnamon flavor, this old-fashioned apple crisp recipe is always a big hit. Serve with a dollop of whipped cream or a generous scoop of ice cream.

Yield: Serves 12

For the Apples:

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1 tablespoon cinnamon
- 6 to 8 apples, peeled and cored



Instructions

Preheat oven to 350° F. Chop up the apples into 1-inch pieces. Toss the sugar, flour, and cinnamon with the chopped apples. Place the apple mixture in a greased 9x13-inch baking pan and make the topping.

For the Topping:

Ingredients

- 1 cup unsalted butter
- 3 cups old-fashioned (not instant) oats
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 3/4 cup brown sugar (light or dark)
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Instructions

Mix the topping ingredients in a bowl until the butter is thoroughly incorporated and the mixture is the consistency of fine meal. Cover the apple mixture with the topping. Bake until golden brown, about 30 minutes, or until apples are tender and topping is crisp. Serve hot.