

Autumn in New England

Fall 2004

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There's something magical about autumn in New England. Between the fall colors, the cool nights, hayrides and pumpkin pies, its both quintessentially American and unique to New England at the same time. Maybe it's our country's pilgrim ancestry, with Thanksgiving being born here, but there seems to be something comforting and warm about these five states and this time of year... Somehow, we all, on some level, consider it "home."

So go. Get in the car, and go visit New England this fall. I'm sure you can almost smell the maple syrup already.

State of Maine fall foliage reports



Each year, Maine's Forest Rangers assess the amount of color change and leaf drop when they are on assignment in the field. These reports represent the official word on foliage conditions in the state of Maine and are provided to the public and media. Maine's Department of Conservation releases weekly foliage reports for the season, showing the amount of color change of the region's foliage. To help you plan your visit, the site breaks the state into seven sections and tells visitors the level of color change of each section as a percentage (20%, 90%, past peak, etc).

These reports are made available to the general public via the Department of Conservation's official Fall Foliage website. The official 2004 foliage season begins September 15, so be sure to check it out to get some great leaf-peeping tips!

Aside from the maps and charts of Maine's foliage, there's also event listings and a forum where visitors can share their favorite locations, tips, and foliage photography pointers. If you're thinking of taking a trip to or through New England this fall, be sure to check the site out at <http://www.maine-foliage.com>

Halloween in Witch City ✓📄🔍

Nobody celebrates Halloween quite like Salem, Massachusetts. Whether you are seeking the changing leaves and cooler weather New England Autumn brings or the ghosts and goblins that Halloween is known for, you will find it all in Salem this October.

Salem Haunted Happenings 2004 will begin on October 13 with the annual parade and will continue through November 2 with events that could keep you entertained for the entire month! All the events and attractions can be found in historic downtown Salem, which will make it easy for you to walk from one place to the next. Bring your walking shoes and experience as much of Salem as possible during America's Halloween Festival.

The museums, attractions, haunted houses and tours extend their operating hours during the month of October so you can take in even more of the sites in Salem. The streets will be bustling with merchants, dramatic productions, psychic fairs and games. Haunted Happenings caters to revelers of all ages and interests and everyone will find something to stay entertained.

With the Bizarre Bazaar street fair, ghost tours, the children's costume parade, classic horror movie festivals, costume contest all over town, and the incredible Mardi Gras-style street party capping the whole thing off, Halloween in Salem is not to be missed.

For more information, visit the Haunted Happenings website at <http://www.hauntedhappenings.org/>

Books on New England driving tours

If you're planning a New England road trip, here's a few planning resources that you should consider (aside from eTravelogue.com, of course!)

- First is [Road Trip USA: New England](#) by Jamie Jensen. This book is packed with attractions, from the touristy to the offbeat, and is sure to give you some direction, if not the motivation to get out there and see it all.
- The second is [Hidden New England](#) by Susan Farewell. This book generally sticks to more of the middle-of-the-road attractions and has good coverage of outdoor attractions such as parks and forests.
- Also consider [Frommer's New England's Best-Loved Driving Tours](#). You really can't beat Frommer's, and this book has good directions and excellent recommendations.

"Leaf Peeping" in New England's National Parks

While there are a number of National Parks and Historic Sites in New England, two stand out when it comes to natural beauty and leaf peeping potential.

In southern Vermont, is Marsh Billings Rockefeller National historic Park ✓📄🔍. Located in, or in some places high above, the picturesque town of Woodstock, the park is made up of 555 acres of forestland climbing the slopes of Mount Tom, a Victorian-era mansion, and a 200-acre working dairy farm and living museum of Vermont's rural culture. The farm produces ice cream for Woodstock's eateries, which makes a great treat for kids and a nice post-hike reward for the grown ups.



A fine way to experience the park is to walk some of the 20 miles of carriage roads and trails that crisscross Mount Tom. You can visit the Pogue, a pond tucked in the cleft of the mountain, and enjoy magnificent views of Woodstock and the surrounding hills from the top of Mount Tom. In winter, the Woodstock Ski Touring Center grooms the carriage roads for cross country skiing and snow shoeing.

The trails are open year round. Tours of the Mansion and gardens are offered Memorial Day weekend to October 31, The farm is open daily May through October then weekends after that, although there some special events such as "Sleigh Ride Weekends" which affect this schedule. More information can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/mabi/> and <http://www.billingsfarm.org>

Downeast Maine is home to Acadia National Park ✓📄🔍, one of the most spectacular places you can visit on this road trip. Acadia National Park encompasses over 47,000 acres of granite-domed mountains, woodlands, lakes and ponds, and ocean shoreline. Such diverse habitats create striking scenery and make the park a haven for wildlife and plants. Because of this, Acadia National Park is a land of contrast and diversity. Comprised of a cluster of islands on the Maine coast, Acadia is positioned within a transitional zone between eastern deciduous and northern coniferous forests, and hosts several species and plant communities at the edge of their geographic range. Steep slopes rise above the rocky shore, including Cadillac Mountain, which at 1,530 feet is the highest point on the U.S. Atlantic coast. While surrounded by the ocean, the entire fabric of Acadia is interwoven with a wide variety of freshwater, estuarine, forest, and intertidal resources, many of which contain plant and animal species.

During the summer, spring, and fall, 45 miles of carriage roads are ideal for walking, hiking and biking. In addition, over 115 miles of hiking trails offer spectacular ocean and woodland views. Trails range from easy to strenuous.



By automobile, visitors can drive the 20-mile Park Loop Road and take the 7-mile spur road to Cadillac Mountain, both of which include views of some of the most dramatic scenery along the eastern seaboard. The road begins at the Hulls Cove Visitor Center and offers access to Sand Beach, Thunder Hole, Otter Cliffs, Jordan Pond, and Cadillac Mountain. There is also the Island Explorer bus, which makes stops at a number of attractions throughout the park. Island Explorer bus service runs from June 23 through October 11.

More information on Acadia National Park can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/acad>