

AUTUMN

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NEW ENGLAND SKI JOURNAL



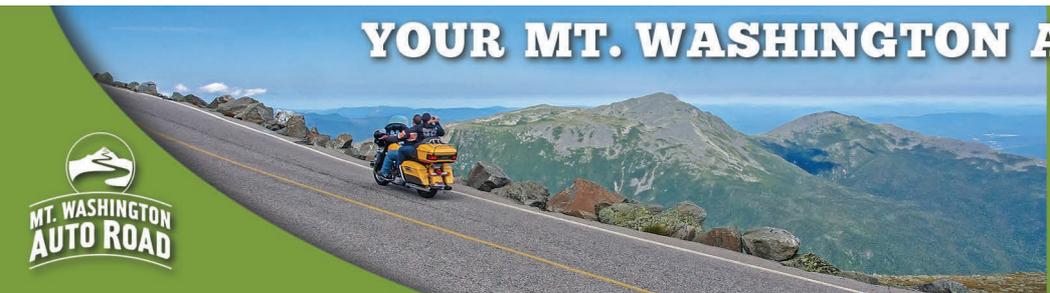
▶ Crescent Lake, southern Connecticut

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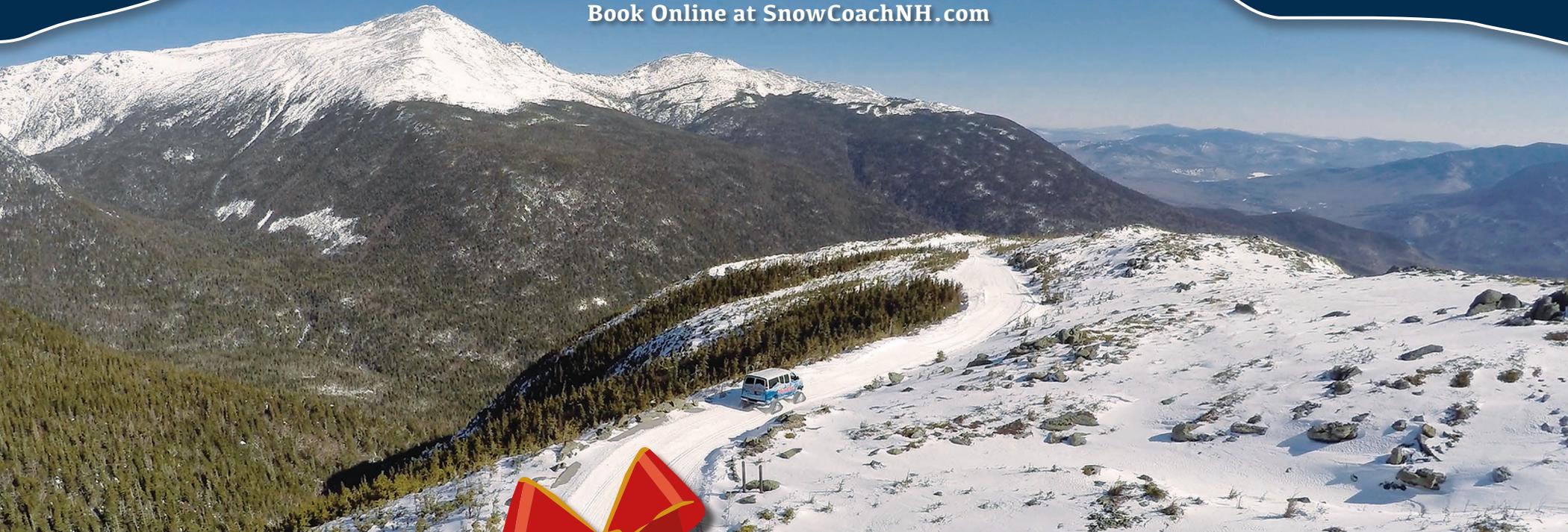
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FOUNDER

Robert J. Seamans, Sr. (1929-2001)

PUBLISHER

Eric Seamans eric@skijournal.com

MANAGING EDITOR

Eric Beato eric.beato@skijournal.com

EDITOR / DESIGN

Don Cameron don@skijournal.com

ADVERTISING

Nick Williams nick@skijournal.com

CLIENT RELATIONS

Michelle Seamans michelle@seamansmedia.com

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Tony Chamberlain • Hank Hryniewicz

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Kathy Benharris • Matt Boxler • Tony Chamberlain
Brion O'Connor • David M. Shribman
Cindy Skrzycki • Joan Wallen • Eric Wilbur

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FREQUENCY

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CONTACT US

ADVERTISING 617-773-9955, ext. 222
..... advertising@skijournal.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS 617-773-9955

PRINT SeamansMedia.com/neskiprint

DIGITAL SeamansMedia.com/neskifree

FEEDBACK — feedback@skijournal.com


SeamansMedia

SeamansMedia.com

552 Adams Street, Suite 201

Milton, MA 02186

Phone: 617-773-9955

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FOLIAGE | A primer for leaf peeping across New England, from the hotspots of the magnificent high country to coastal and metro gems, plus lodging and dining options.



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MORE GREAT SKI COUNTRY CONTENT ... skijournal.com



EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday, Sept. 3

Castle in the Clouds — Fun Run/Walk

Sept. 7-8

Smugglers' Notch — Fall Fest

Sept. 7-9

Stowe — Stowe Jazz Festival

Saturday, Sept. 8

Wachusett — Farm Fresh Festival

Saturday, Sept. 15

Cranmore — Jen's Friends Climb Against Cancer

Sept. 21-23

Loon Mountain — New Hampshire Highland Games & Festival

Sunday, Sept. 22

Remick Country Doctor Museum & Farm — Harvest Festival

Sept. 22-23

Gunstock — Tough Mudder Northeast

Sept. 28-29

Killington — Killington Brewfest

Sugarbush — New England Craft Beer Open



NEW ENGLAND
SKI JOURNAL



SUGARLOAF SPECTACLE
Photo by
Evan Schiller Photography

Calendar information is provided by advertising ski areas. To advertise, call 617-773-9955, ext. 222 or email advertising@skijournal.com.

Saturday, Sept. 29

Funspot — Red, White & Brew!

Waterville — 20th annual Chili Challenge & Brews

Sunday, Sept. 30

Omni Mt. Washington Resort — Bretton Woods Fell Race

King Pine Purity Spring Resort — King Pine CX

Saturday, Oct. 6

Attitash — Hills & Hops Trail Run

Okemo — Fall Into Winter

Sunday River — North American Wife Carrying Championship

Oct. 6-7

Mount Snow — 21st annual Mount Snow Oktoberfest

Sunapee — Fall Foliage Pig Roast & BBQ

Oct. 6-8

Story Land — Fall Food Truck Fest

Sunday, Oct. 7

Sugarloaf — Sugarloaf Uphill Climb

Oct. 12-13

Laconia, N.H. — NH Pumpkin Festival

Sunday, Oct. 13

Great Glen Trails — Gorham Community Learning Center 5K

Oct. 19-21; Oct. 26-28

Conway Scenic Railroad — Pumpkin Patch Express

Sunday, Nov. 4

Pats Peak — Oktoberfest/Ski and Snowboard Sale



King Pine CX

Sunday, Sept. 30

King Pine Purity Spring Resort, East Madison, N.H.

With roughly 150 participants and many more spectating, the King Pine CX inaugural event in 2017 saw beautiful weather, top-notch cyclocross racing, a fun kids race and open racing for all levels. For year No. 2, King Pine again partners with Greg Dolbec of Deer Farm CX to host another great event featuring a fun and exciting course that will offer something for everyone, if not a flat-out challenge to some of New England's top cyclocross racers. Visit kingpine.com for details and to register online.



ROAD TRIP Northern New England

TAKE THE HIGH ROAD

Resorts, parks, idyllic towns serve up the funscapes across New Hampshire,

HEAD

Maine and Vermont

By Brion O'Connor

When my editor suggested a story based on a “one-day road trip” across northern New England, I just laughed. “One day?” I replied incredulously. “You’re kidding, right?”

Fortunately, I have a good relationship with my editor, and he didn’t take offense. But I was serious — I couldn’t imagine why anyone would try to cross the northern tier of the region in the span of 24 hours. My wife, Lauri, and I typically put aside three days to a week to do it right. That means packing the bikes (two gravel bikes, two mountain bikes and an extra set of “road wheels” with 700-by-28 tires for asphalt), hiking boots, a good pair of swim trunks (for paddling and pond jumping), and plenty of extra energy bars.

So the following is a composite trip, where you can pick and choose the activities that interest you most.

Starting in western Vermont, up by Burlington, the Island Line Trail is 14 miles of pure bliss (28 out and back), encompassing the Burlington Pike Path, Colchester Park and the Allen Point Access Park. Pedaling along the shores of Lake Champlain is one of life’s great pleasures. Even less crowded is the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail, a ribbon of gravel that winds through Vermont’s spectacular northern rural farmland from St. Albans to Richford for more than 26 miles.

Taking the short jaunt southeast of Burlington on Interstate 89, I always have a decision to make when we get to Waterbury. If I drop south onto Route 100 along the Mad River Valley, I can get my fill of fat-tire fun on the super-secret singletrack trails in Waitsfield and Warren (yes, you’ve got to invest some time in the local shops, getting some intel). However, the wonderful loops at Blueberry Lake off Plunkton Road in Warren — an International Mountain Bike Association “Gateway Trail” — are well-marked and well-maintained, with enough switchbacks to make you dizzy. For a bird’s-eye view of

Continued on Page 8

It doesn’t get much better than an autumn day at Stowe, dominated by Vermont’s highest summit, majestic 4,395-foot Mount Mansfield.

Jesse Schloff/Stowe

ROAD TRIP Northern New England

Continued from Page 7

the surrounding foliage, treat yourself to a glider ride with Sugarbush Soaring in Warren. You won't regret it.

On the other hand, if I head north on Route 100 in Waterbury, I love to stop in Stowe. Here, I can pedal up and over Route 108 (before it closes for the winter), past the ski resort on my way to Smugglers' Notch, while my wife can go crazy hitting the arts and craft shops in town. If we're feeling adventurous, we might take a gondola ride to the resort's Cliff House on Mount Mansfield, followed by a howling ride on Stowe's ZipTour Adventure, including the 4,462-foot-long Nosedive Zip at 180 feet above the ground.

Farther north, in Morrisville, we can jump aboard one of the two completed sections of the four-season, multi-use Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT). This ambitious project will eventually run close to 100 miles, from St. Johnsbury to St. Albans. The 17.5-mile Morrisville-to-Cambridge track features undulating terrain, some impressive old railroad bridges, great views and the strategically placed Lost Nation Brewery (the perfect watering hole after a good spin).

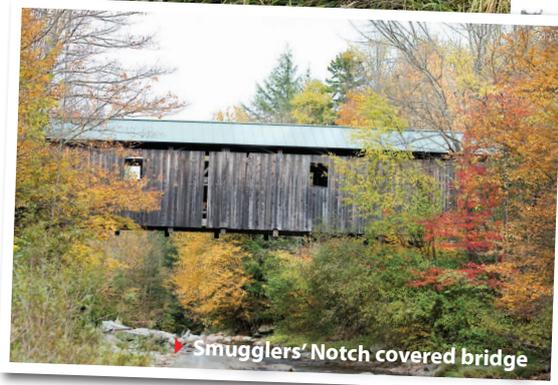
Another nearby option off I-89, especially if you love knobby tires, is the one-of-a-kind Millstone Hill trail system nestled amid the granite quarries of Barre. Frisbee fans will love the Quarries Disc Golf layout. If we jump onto Route 2, we can then head northeast to St. Johnsbury, and the LVRT trailhead. This 17-mile section features a steady but manageable climb to Danville, but the reward is a dip in the scenic Joe's Pond in West Danville. Mercifully, the ride back to the car is all downhill.

The Kingdom Trails that snake through Lyndonville and East Burke are constantly evolving, and expanding, for the better. Take out the guesswork of which trails or gravel roads to ride by checking out Kingdom Cycling & Experiences — part of the Wildflower Inn complex on Darling Hill Road — for a tour guide. It's money well spent. For enduro rippers, Burke Mountain has a nice flowy downhill system, while the outlying township of Victory is known for its secret singletrack stashes.

Crossing the Connecticut River and into New Hampshire, I always try to make time for breakfast at the Littleton Diner. The homemade corned-beef hash is to die for, providing the energy stores for a robust hike up the face of Cannon Mountain, though you can always take the tram (perfect if you have little ones). At the crossroads of I-93 and Route 3, I have another decision to make.

Occasionally, I'll head south through Franconia Notch, to Lincoln. At Loon

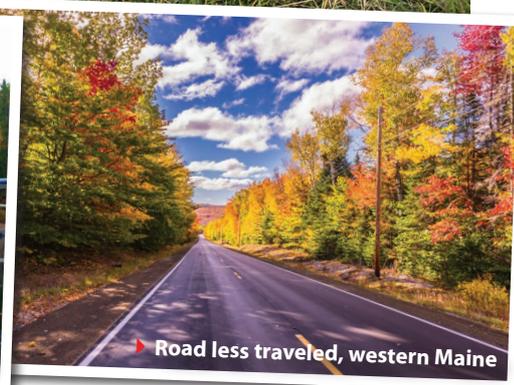
▶ Sugarloaf Disc Golf Course



▶ Smugglers' Notch covered bridge



▶ Wilderness planes in Maine



▶ Road less traveled, western Maine

Mountain, the number of activities is ridiculous, ranging from mountain biking (including a Franconia Notch tour), gondola rides, hiking, an Aerial Forest Adventure Park, ziplining, climbing walls, a Sunday summit worship and mountain-top yoga. Even the 34-mile Kancamagus Scenic Byway to Conway can be done by motor vehicle or bicycle (just make sure you're ready for the effort ... it's a brute of a climb in either direction).

However, most times I'll head north along Route 3 (with a stop at the rib-sticking Munroe's Family Restaurant in Twin Mountain. If you missed out on the glider rides in Warrant, consider a helicopter tour with Colleen Chen and Vertical Ventures in Whitefield. There's also some terrific road cycling in the area.

Motoring east on Route 302, the historic Mount Washington Hotel and Bretton Woods ski area share an Adventure Center that offers ATV tours, lift-service mountain biking, canopy tours with ziplining, archery, rock climbing, and even fly fishing. The hotel also offers guided horseback tours, golf and a spa to work out all the activity-induced knots in your muscles.

For something more rustic, keep going east, to Crawford Notch. There, check out the Appalachian Mountain Club's Highland Center, ground zero for White Mountain hikers. A generous buffet breakfast will help fuel hikes to the southern Presidential peaks, rock climbing at nearby Frankenstein Cliffs, or simply some down time playing with the family at Arethusa and Ripley falls. In Bartlett, Attitash/Bear Peak beckons mountain

bikers, and especially downhillers, with a root-and-rock trail network.

For those riders who don't mind earning their downhill thrills, North Conway is a mountain biking paradise, thanks to the efforts of the White Mountains chapter of the New England Mountain Biking Association. The Red Tail Trail up the backside of Mount Cranmore is an all-time favorite. Local knowledge is key, so plan to stop by the Red Jersey Cyclery for the full 411.

Just outside of Conway, in Fryeburg, Maine, is Saco River Canoe & Kayak, a super spot to launch an easygoing, Huckleberry Finn-style paddle. I'll usually opt to go north, through Pinkham Notch, with a quick stop at the Great Glen Trails Outdoor Center, which also offers kayaking as well as some sweet mountain bike terrain, and maybe even a quick drive up the Mount Washington Auto Road. In Gorham, I turn right, and point my Subaru toward Sunday River ski resort.

Like many four-season resorts, Sunday River has an embarrassment of autumnal riches, from zipline tours and scenic lift rides to disc golf and climbing walls. What sets it apart is the world-class mountain bike park, with more than 20 miles of white-knuckle descents. They even offer Specialized Levo e-mountain bike rentals at Sunday River Sports. (Unfortunately, the L.L. Bean Outdoor Discovery School programs are offered only through the end of August.) The 18 holes of the Sunday River Country Club, designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr., offer some of the most breathtaking golf in the Northeast.

Near Sugarloaf in Carrabassett Val-

ley, the Maine Huts and Trails, coupled with the resort's Outdoor Center trail system, offer enough selection to keep mountain bikers of every stripe happy, and exhausted. Combined with fall's spectacular foliage, the huts are fat-tire nirvana (and also as popular with hikers). The foliage also can make for a special whitewater-rafting experience with nearby Northern Outdoors on the Kennebec and Penobscot rivers.

Our trek ends at Vacationland's coastline, in the Rockland/Camden area, but our adventures continue on the land, sea and air. The Maine Windjammer Association has a variety of sailing packages that allow you to channel your inner Ernest Shackleton aboard any one of eight splendid sailing vessels. The mountain biking trails at the Camden Snow Bowl and Camden Hills State Park, maintained by the Midcoast Maine chapter of NEMBA, are rivaled only by the exceptional seaside cycling routes (however, the latter can get crowded on some weekends during peak foliage). The lighthouses that dot the coast are a special treat.

Finally, Lauri and I hop aboard a single-wing, single-engine Penobscot Island Air prop plane with owner and local historian Brud Folger at the controls. As the craft climbs into a cloudless sky, and Folger comments on local points of interest on Maine's craggy shoreline, I look to the west. On this crystal clear day, I can almost retrace our entire road trip. And I smile.

S

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Jamie Walter/Sugarloaf; Curran Photography/Smugglers' Notch Resort; Maine Office of Tourism; Cynthia Farr-Wenfield/Maine Office of Tourism



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If it's fall in New England, then one thing is inevitable — the northern half of the region is going to be on the receiving end of all the accolades for the eruption of color in the mountains that define the landscape.

Meanwhile, we who live in the lower trio of New England properties will be somewhat relegated to a leftover aspect of foliage season. "Yeah, there's some color left on the Rhode Island coast, but you really should have seen it a few weeks ago in the Presidential Range."

Granted, it's difficult to compete with the likes of the White and Green Mountains when it comes to the calendar's most breathtaking season, but Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island can still hold their own when it comes to creating autumnal attractions, areas still bursting with color while Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine already have started keeping an eye on the snow guns and when they might start blowing out the mice.

There's plenty left to taste, see and hear as the fall season winds down toward the turkey and candy cane seasons. So, clear your weekends, hop in the car and set the course for these annual favorites throughout southern New England.



If it's September, then that means one of the Bay State's most popular fairs is taking place in Springfield. The Big E returns for another season of concerts, car shows, midway rides and the ever-popular butter sculpture. Competitions include dairy judging, Christmas tree wreath-making and a horse show. Dozens upon dozens of food vendors from the area and beyond will be on hand for a seemingly endless list of fair-food options. The Big E is an event not to be missed. Sept. 14-30, Springfield, Mass. www.thebige.com

One of the tastiest ways to welcome the first official weekend of the fall is by heading to Somerville, Mass., for the popular "What the Fluff?" Festival, featuring music, contests, and, of course, Fluff-themed games, all in honor of the famous marshmallow creme, invented in Somerville's Union Square 101 years ago. Think you've got an original Fluff recipe? Enter the cooking contest, where celebrity judges will put your dish to the test. Sept. 22, Union Square, Somerville, www.flufffestival.com

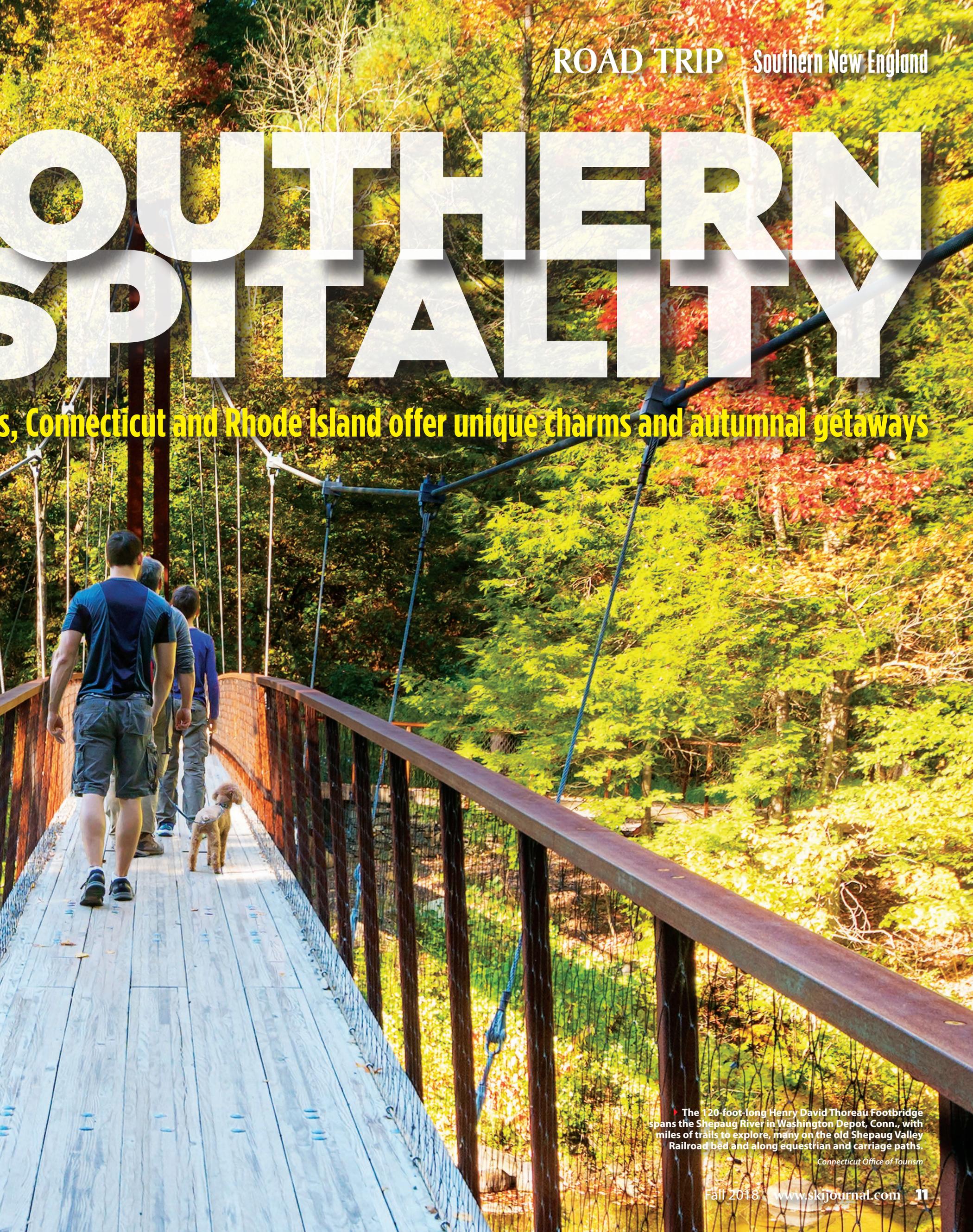
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HOS

Massachusetts

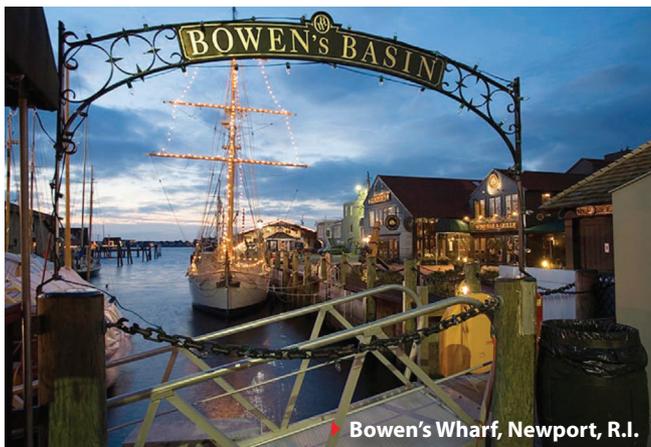
SOUTHERN SPITALITY

Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island offer unique charms and autumnal getaways



► The 120-foot-long Henry David Thoreau Footbridge spans the Shepaug River in Washington Depot, Conn., with miles of trails to explore, many on the old Shepaug Valley Railroad bed and along equestrian and carriage paths.

Connecticut Office of Tourism



▶ Bowen's Wharf, Newport, R.I.



▶ Lake Compounce Haunted Graveyard



▶ "Chowdafest" in Westport, Conn.



▶ Topsfield Fair

Continued from Page 10

Then again, if your palate demands more refined options other than jarred marshmallow, perhaps the Newport Mansions would be more your style. One of Rhode Island's most-renowned festivals arrives at The Elms, Rosecliff and Marble House from Sept. 20-23, featuring a host of events and attractions. There will be dinners, educational seminars, celebrity chef appearances and a two-day tasting including hundreds of wines. Event costs range in price. See www.newport-mansions.org/events/wine-and-food-festival for complete details.

The final weekend of September welcomes back a Massachusetts institution celebrating a landmark anniversary in 2018. A full 200 years since the Essex Agricultural Society decided to promote agricultural interest amongst the public, the Topsfield Fair returns this year with much more than just fruit and veggies on its plate. This year guests can expect swimming pigs, axe women loggers of Maine, a monster truck freestyle, human cannonball and even Chubby Checker. Approximately 300 vendors will be on hand offering their best in goods and services. And where else can you catch a glimpse of a one-ton pumpkin? Sept. 28-Oct. 8, Topsfield, Mass., www.topsfieldfair.com

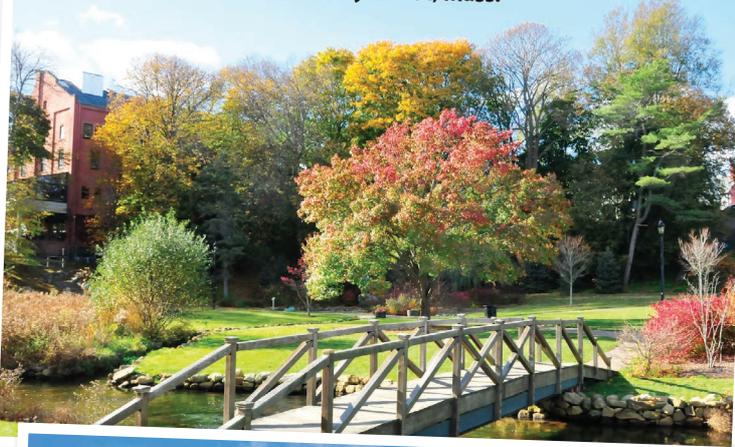
Meanwhile, over to the west a bit, Wachusett Mountain prepares for its upcoming ski season with the Great New England BBQ Fest, featuring some of the finest vendors in the area along with live music, farmers market and cooking demos. Adults, \$9 in advance, \$12 at the door, kids 6-12, \$4 and \$7. Packages including festival admission and a sky ride are \$17 and \$10 in advance, \$20 and \$12 at the door. Sept. 29-30, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Wachusett Mountain, Princeton, Mass., www.wachusett.com

Lay off every sample you can get your hands on though in order to save some room for a jaunt to Connecticut on the final day of September, when this year's "Chowdafest" takes place in Westport. This rain-or-shine event boasts unlimited sampling from 40 award-winning chefs from throughout New England, offering their best takes on the regional classic dish. You'll even receive a ballot and the chance to vote for your favorites. Adults can purchase tickets for \$20, children 6-12 only \$5. Parking at Sherwood Island State Park is free. Sept. 30, Westport, Conn., www.chowdafest.com

It might be a little early for a little Halloween tomfoolery, but since you're already in the Nutmeg State, maybe it makes sense to hoof over to Lake Compounce, where the amusement park's annual Haunted Graveyard begins on Sept. 28. Seventeen rides will be open on these special-admission evenings, when guests are welcome to wear costumes, learn about lighting and sound effects, and visit a claustrophobic cornfield. Tickets range from \$27.99 (rides only) to \$34.99 (rides and haunted graveyard), children age 11 and under, \$22.99-\$27.99, respectively. Lake Compounce, Bristol, Conn., www.lakecompounce.com/hauntedgraveyard

The first weekend in October welcomes one of Rhode Island's biggest events of the fall with the Roger Williams Park Zoo's phenomenal Jack O'Lantern Spectacular, featuring thousands of intricately carved pumpkins, lit up and creating a canvas of art along your walk through the spectacle. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for children on value nights, Monday-

▶ Brewster Gardens in historic Plymouth, Mass.



▶ An autumn landscape in Lanesboro, Mass.



▶ Head of the Charles



Thursday, \$18 and \$15 on prime nights, Friday-Sunday. Prime nights are sold online only. Getting tickets early is recommended based on the volume of visitors this event receives each year. Roger Williams Park, Providence, R.I., www.rwpzoo.org/jols. Meanwhile, Bethlehem, Conn., celebrates garlic during its annual Garlic and Harvest Festival, which is a heck of a way to learn about new and exciting ways to use garlic in a variety of dishes. Deep-fried garlic? Garlic pork sandwiches? Garlic ice cream? This is the spot to try them. Oct. 6-7, Bethlehem Fairgrounds, www.garlicfestct.com

What's fall without some cranberries? The 15th annual Cranberry Harvest Celebration takes place Oct. 6-7 in Wareham, Mass. It's a great way to learn about the harvest while sampling how the cranberry can be used in tasty dishes, even when not canned. Put on a pair of waders and stand in a bog, peruse the farmers market or take a wagon ride with your kids. Admission is \$10. See www.seeplymouth.com/events/15th-annual-cranberry-harvest-celebration for complete information.

Sadly, a local Cape Cod favorite, the Bourne Scallop Festival, celebrated its final edition in 2017, but seafood still gets its due on the Cape in October with the Wellfleet Oysterfest Oct. 13-14. Art, music, games,

Connecticut Office of Tourism; Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism (Topsfield Fair); Sylvester Ryan (Plymouth); Ogden Giggli/Berkshire Visitors Bureau (Lanesboro); Getty Images (Head of the Charles)



▶ A postcard Menemsha sunset on Martha's Vineyard



▶ Newport Mansions Wine & Food Festival

Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism: ©The Preservation Society of Newport County

and, of course, oysters, are on the menu at this event celebrating the dish that made Wellfleet a common name uttered in seafood restaurants throughout the Northeast. Tickets are \$10 per day. Fees may apply to cooking demonstrations. See wellfleetspat.org/wellfleet-oyster-fest-homepage for complete details. In Glastonbury Conn., apples get top billing at the 44th anniversary of the Apple Harvest Festival, which includes a 5K, vendors and food trucks, live music, and, we assume, apples. www.crvchamber.org/apple-harvest-festival

Head back to Newport Oct. 13-14 for the 28th annual seafood festival held at Bowen's Wharf. This rain-or-shine festival boasts free admission (purchase food and beverages at each booth), and fresh, local seafood wrapped up in fish tacos and lobster rolls, and served with signature cocktails. The Rhode Island Oyster Trail sponsors a fun scavenger hunt. 13 Bowen's Wharf, Newport, R.I., [www.bowenswharf.com/events-1/28th-annual-](http://www.bowenswharf.com/events-1/28th-annual-seafood-festival)

seafood-festival

As October gets chillier and the foliage around Boston reaches its peak, the Head of the Charles is traditionally one of the busiest weekends of the city's season. It's well worth grabbing a spot early and settling in for the day, if only to immerse yourself in the excitement and pride that arrives to cheer on the rowers in the regatta. Oct. 20-21, www.hocr.org

Finally, with snow on the way in the wake of what seems like an endless flurry of raking jobs on the lawn, head to Plymouth the week before Thanksgiving for the town's annual Hometown Thanksgiving Celebration. The occasion celebrates the history and heritage of the Thanksgiving holiday in the spot where the Pilgrims landed so many years ago. This year kicks off the 2020 Celebration Series, including special events leading up to Plymouth's historic anniversary. www.usathanksgiving.com.

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✉ feedback@skijournal.com

The spectacular Castle in the Clouds in Moultonborough, N.H., is one of the most unique attractions in New England. The property hosts the Fun Run/Walk on Monday, Sept. 3, open to all ages and abilities. Check out www.castleintheclouds.org.

CHOOSE YOUR COLOR

NO MATTER YOUR AGE, YOUR MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE OPTIONS ARE LIMITLESS

By Joan Wallen

When summer winds down, kids go back to school and the leaves begin to turn, activity in the mountains keeps right on going. After winter's white, spring's blooms and summer's lush green, autumn's blaze of reds and oranges gives a whole new perspective in the mountain environment. Whether it's ziplining, mountain biking, golfing or hiking, the fall season provides color and lighting like no other time of year. The often crisp air and the vibrant colors enhance the experience no matter what you are doing outdoors. Most northern New England resorts that offer summer activities continue their schedules right through mid-October, though hours may be scaled back.

In southern Vermont, Mount Snow's Bike Park is a great way to be out in the fall air, get some exercise and be assisted by gravity. Berms, jumps, ladders and more have been integrated into the area's trail system to provide a true mountain biking experience. From Trail 7, the longest introductory trail in the East, to the

more hard-core runs, there's plenty to challenge all abilities. Bike and gear rentals are available as well as mountain biking lessons. After Labor Day the park is open Friday through Sunday until Oct. 14.

If downhill biking is not your thing, the resort has a number of cross-country trails both on the mountain and in the surrounding countryside. You'll find everything from easier family friendly

terrain to tight singletrack for the more skilled or adventurous. The 18-hole championship golf course has won many accolades with its Geoffrey Cornish design and the spectacular backdrop of the Green Mountains, bursting with color in September and October.

A little farther north, Bromley continues operation of its three adventure parks from Labor Day to Columbus Day

on weekends and holidays. The Mountain Adventure Park includes an alpine slide, trampoline, mini-golf, climbing wall, a water slide, space bikes and more to keep kids and adults plenty busy. The littlest set can be entertained all on their own in the Kidzone fun park. At the Aerial Adventure Park, you will be challenged by ropes courses, ziplines and bridges as you climb, glide and maybe scramble under the resort's canopy and see the area from a whole new angle. If you feel the need for speed, hop on the Sun Mountain Flyer and drop 700 feet while ziplining down the half-mile course at 50 mph. Its four side-by-side tracks allow friends to zip together.

Looking for something a little different? Try Okemo's Segway Tour. Segways are gyroscopically balanced transporters, eco-friendly, quiet, easy to operate and most of all tons of fun. Two tours are offered. Both start with a hands-on demonstration and safety talk followed by an obstacle course to build skill and confidence. The introductory tour then lasts about an hour, traveling around the Jackson Gore base area. For the more adventurous, the Off-Road Tour moves from pavement to trail and is about an



Dick Synder/Castle in the Clouds; Story Land

hour and a half long. Both provide wonderful exposure to the natural world of Vermont. Challenge your grit, or perhaps scare yourself just a little, by ascending a stairwell to a platform 30 feet above the ground and leaping off into the Schweppes Air Bag. The 30-by-50 foot inflated air bag is ready to catch you safely. You can experience the same thing that freestyle jumpers and movie stunt men feel when they practice. For a less scary but still challenging and fun experience, try one of Okemo's two disc golf courses. The Saplings is a 9-hole beginner course in the open space of the Inn Bound Trail at Jackson Gore. The 18-hole Maples course winds through field and trees with tournament-style baskets and offers more of a challenge. Bring your own discs or rent them at Jackson Gore.

These activities as well as a mountain coaster, tennis, golf, mountain biking and more are offered at Okemo on fall weekends from Labor Day to Columbus Day.

On the eastern slope of New Hampshire's White Mountains, Cranmore has long been known as a family resort. In addition to ziplining, a mountain coaster, giant swing, summer tubing, climbing wall, bungee trampoline and more, there are a couple of unique experiences to be had.



New this year is Knockerball, fun to both play and watch. Each person has their own bubble, worn like a backpack while playing knocker soccer and other games.

The Summit Meister Hut provides a fun experience for all ages. Take a scenic chairlift ride to the summit where you will have a spectacular vista of the fall colors of the Moat and Presidential mountain ranges. Enjoy a delicious lunch or Sunday brunch at the Meister Hut. Everyone in your party will be happy with tasty treats at C-more's Ice Cream Bar. And the adults in the group can enjoy a pint or a flight of local beer from Tuckerman Brewing in the Tasting Room. Top off the excursion with an easy half-mile hike around the summit loop. Or for a little more exercise, try the 2-mile traverse on the Black Cap Trail to the summit of Black Cap, which offers a 360-degree view of the surrounding mountains. The Meister Hut is open weekends Labor Day through Columbus Day.

Franconia Notch State Park offers some spectacular scenery in the heart of the White Mountains. Visit the Flume, an incredible natural granite gorge extending 800 feet, with walls rising as high as 90 feet. The 2-mile loop features water-

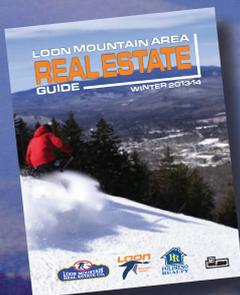
Continued on Page 16

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FAMILY FUN

Continued from Page 15

falls, glacial pools, covered bridges and more. The park, as well as the surrounding White Mountain National Forest, has many miles of great hiking trails. The Tram at Cannon Mountain offers one-way tickets, either up or down, for those who only want to hike in one direction. Fishing enthusiasts can enjoy fly-fishing only at Profile Lake, headwaters of the Pemigewasset River and stocked with trout. The somewhat larger 38-acre, spring-fed Echo Lake has a boat ramp and also is stocked with trout. The 8.8-mile Recreation Path is open to pedestrian and bicycle traffic only and winds and drops through the notch with hills and scenic vistas.

In the Lake Sunapee region of New Hampshire, Winslow and Rollins State Parks provide a jumping off spot to hike up Mount Kearsarge. The 2,937-foot peak can be reached via several trails of varying length. From Winslow State Park in Wilnot, the Winslow Trail climbs 1.1 miles, first through the forest and then over bare granite ledge to the summit. The Barlow Trail is somewhat longer at 1.7 miles but ascends more gradually and offers vistas along the way. Hiking the entire loop by ascending via Winslow and returning on Barlow is a family



► Zipline fun at Attitash

friendly outing but not without its challenges, as there are some steeper sections on the ascent.

For a shorter walk, start from Rollins State Park in Warner and continue for an easy half-mile following an old carriage road on the Rollins Trail. A fourth option is a 5-mile route from Kearsarge Valley Road, traversing Black Mountain to the Rollins picnic area then continuing another half-mile through a rough section before reaching the summit. Mount Kearsarge's summit of-

fers sweeping views of the Dartmouth Lake Sunapee area with closer up views of Mount Cardigan, Ragged Mountain, Pleasant Lake and the Andover area.

If you think kayaking and canoeing is just for summer, think again. Fall paddling offers some of the best viewing for the changing colors. In West Groton, Mass., the Nashoba Paddler offers tours on the Nashua River through October. An easy 5-mile downstream paddle tour through the Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge will take place on Sept. 9. You

can view native wildlife and their habitat and take a relaxing lunch break along the way. The Fall Foliage Paddle is offered at the height of the foliage season on Oct. 7 and 13. The 3-mile round-trip tour explores channels and inlets into lily ponds and woodlands and is rated easy and family friendly. Equipment rental including kayak/canoe, paddles and flotation devices are included in the price, or bring your own if you prefer.

Paddle Boston offers paddling, rentals, tours and more in five locations around the Greater Boston area. Experience the city, the Charles River and Boston Harbor from a completely different perspective. Among the many options are the Skyline & Sunset tours departing from Kendall Square and accessible via the T. These tours are available weekends until Columbus Day. View herons, otters and other wildlife settling down for the night on the Moonlight tour from the Waltham location. This easy 2- to 3-mile tour on the Charles is appropriate for all ability levels and includes a history of the area, good food and conversation and a relaxing way to end the day. Moonlight tours will be offered this fall on Sept. 21 and 22.

S

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FAMILY FUN

By Joan Wallen

Fall in New England brings a rainbow of colors to the area and the opportunity for some wonderful outdoor family activities. Whether it's apple picking, corn mazes, hayrides or pumpkin patches, the bright days and crisp air of the autumn season beckon families to be outdoors and take in the spectrum of color.

A wonderful way to spend the day is visiting an apple orchard and plucking your own apples right from the tree. Orchards throughout New England are open for picking right through the fall and often well into November. From the southern Maine seacoast all the way up to Augusta, you will find orchards offering pick-your-own apples, cider and other apple products. "People love the idea that they can drive out to a working farm, take a little walk, see the gardens, the barn and the apple trees. It's a great little outing," says Greg Sweetser, who is the fifth generation to work his family's



▶ Apple picking at Atkins Farm in Amherst, Mass.

unusual varieties and has a farm store and tasting room.

The Remick Country Doctor Museum & Farm in Tamworth, N.H., has a variety of fun events this fall, including the Harvest Festival (Sept. 22), Hearthside Dinners (Oct. 20 and Nov. 17) and Herbal Root Fest (Oct. 13).

Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island also have many farms and orchards perfect for a day's outing with the family.

Corn mazes are always fun for kids and adults in late summer and fall. In Danville, Vt., the Great Vermont Corn Maze is billed as the largest maze in New England. It consists of two options. The Big Maze is 3 miles of dirt trails on 24 acres surrounded by cornstalks 10 feet high. It takes approximately two hours to navigate the maze, which is located on a hill, so some up and down hiking is involved. It might take several hours to solve the maze, but staff is available to help out if not solved as it gets close to closing time. Children 15 and under must be supervised by an adult. For those not up

HARVEST FALL FUN

APPLE PICKING, CORN MAZES, STATE FAIRS SPRUCE UP THE CALENDAR

orchard farm stand in Cumberland, currently growing 50 different varieties of apples. "When they want to spend more time, they head to a pick-your-own orchard, perhaps packing a picnic lunch and enjoying a wagon ride or other activities. Families love it."

In addition to Sweetser's Apple Barrel and Orchards, where you can pick your own or buy them, along with other apple products at the farm market, Maine boasts many more orchards producing and selling apples, cider, donuts and all kinds of goodies particularly associated with autumn. Farther north, Cayford Orchards in Skowhegan is another multi-generation farm specializing in heirloom apples from 1,200 trees growing on 18 acres.

In New Hampshire, Gould Hill Farm in Contoocook is a must-visit for apple picking, not only for its huge variety of apples, but also for its spectacular view reaching up toward the White Mountains. Picking here begins on Labor Day and continues until mid- or late October. The farm also has live music, a pumpkin patch, a farm store and a nature museum. Poverty Lane Orchards in Lebanon actually operates two businesses. The orchards themselves grow antique and unusual varieties and are open for pick-your-own. And Poverty's Farnum Hill Ciders presses complex ciders from these



▶ Berkshire scenery



▶ Corn maze in the Bay State

to the challenge of the Big Maze, which can be frustrating, the Scenic Maze is a 40-minute walk through the Big Maze but with directions found along the way. An underground tunnel, dinosaurs, bridges with scenic views and a few surprises are found as you make your way through the maze. The Scenic Maze is great for families with young children.

After your maze adventure, or even if you don't opt for the maze, check out Pretendin. This kids' play village lets members of the younger set be a storekeeper, or the sheriff or more. There's also a mini-golf course, a 10-foot sling shot, a Wild East Rodeo, a barn with hay bales and a silo to climb. Dead North, a haunted nighttime adventure, is open Oct. 5, 6, 12 and 13. This mile-long walk through haunted buildings and a cornfield uses special effects to bring life to inanimate objects, guaranteed to make it a walk of terror. It might be too scary for very young kids, although some love it and some adults never want to go in again.

At Rhode Island's Clark Farms Matunuck, every weekend in autumn is a fall festival. The giant corn maze is a hit with family members of all ages. This year the maze has the theme "Secret Agents." Included in the maze is a children's scavenger hunt best suited to ages 3-15. For additional excitement, stay around for



Flashlight Nights, navigating the maze by flashlight only. Hayrides, leaving every hour, tour you through the wilds of the farm. And corn cannons, shooting real ears of corn across the farm, provide challenge and fun for adults as well as kids. Pedal-powered Go-Karts can be raced around a professionally designed track. And they are not just for youngsters. They have adult-sized ones, also, so everyone can get in on the fun. The younger set will love the mine at Maze Mountain. They can get a bag of mining rough and find out how old-time miners panned for treasures. Everyone will enjoy the 30-foot Mountain Slide running right through the mountain. What's a trip to a farm without having a chance to see and feed the goats, donkeys and the other animal residents? Grab a bag of food and greet them up close. On Saturday nights from Sept. 24 through Oct. 22, you can top off your day with a campfire, s'mores, hot chocolate and hot cider until 9 p.m.

This year the New Hampshire Pumpkin Festival in Laconia will be held Oct. 12-13. Bring your own carved pumpkin, with a four-hour candle, or carve one at the festival and add it to the 35-foot tower of jack-o-lanterns. There will be live music and entertainment, food and craft vendors, a 5K/10K run/walk, kiddie rides,

horse-drawn hay rides, climbing wall, a bungee jump, a duck derby and more.

State fairs have long been a staple in New England, starting in the summer and continuing through the fall. New Hampshire's four-day annual Deerfield Fair will be held this year from Sept. 27-30. Like many of the other state fairs, this one features demonstrations, contests, entertainment, judging, shows and all of the activities you would expect at an agricultural fair. From a horse show to ox pulling, a woodsmen's contest to a pumpkin/squash weigh-off, there is a myriad of activities highlighting all aspects of farm life.

There's also a chance for participation by fairgoers. The pig scramble, for several kids' age groups, plus one for adults, is always a hit. Women 18 years old and over can participate in the Fry Pan Toss. Kids can watch their contemporaries, members of 4-H, demonstrate



their skills in showing sheep, goats and cattle. There's a 4-H scavenger hunt open to the public and sheep herding and disc dog demonstrations.

In addition, there is a full schedule of entertainment — magic shows, circus high-wire acts, interactive puppet shows for children and music of all sorts from bluegrass to '50s rock to folk, country and soft rock. With five different stages active from morning to evening, there is something for kids and adults with every

type of taste in entertainment.

How about just enjoying the outdoors, with leaves crunching under your feet, colors blazing around you and refreshing mountain air to breathe in. In Vermont there are several gentle, two mile or less, backcountry hikes that are especially family friendly and offer breathtaking views as a reward at the end. In the southern area of the state Molly Stark State Park in Wilmington is the starting point to hike Mount Olga. This 1.7-mile, gently climbing roundtrip loop reaches a fire tower with a 360-degree view of northern Massachusetts and southern Vermont. Mount Philo, in Charlotte, is the centerpiece of Vermont's oldest state park. The mountain itself is tiny as mountains go, but its expansive views of the Champlain Valley, Lake Champlain and the Adirondacks beyond make it a favorite for families. The 2.4-mile roundtrip hike is easily doable for kids. Along the way you'll find House Rock, a huge boulder hollowed out underneath. Games of hide and seek can be played among the large trees along the trail. At the top is a grassy area overlooking the view with many spots to rest and enjoy a picnic. **S**

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TARGET

Map out these captivating golf destinations that serve up a spectrum

By Eric Wilbur

Cool breezes, a kaleidoscope of autumnal color and discounted green fees are three of the primary reasons that golf might be at its peak during the fall in New England. Like the season itself, there is a more prevalent calm that lingers on the greens during the fall, morphing a course that might have provided a sense of frustration during the spring and summer months into a serene escape.

Whether it's about getting your last licks in before first snow arrives, or if this is the season you have earmarked for the course, here are some of the best spots to hit the links in New England as the leaves fall and we prepare for the chill of winter.

Woodstock Country Club | Woodstock, Vt.

The 18 holes at Woodstock, designed by course architect Robert Trent Jones, Sr., are surrounded by panoramic views of the Kedron Valley, a sight that only gets more breathtaking during foliage season. Golf Magazine named

it one of the top 100 golf courses in the world, a status that speaks for its certain level of challenge, not to mention its varied terrain. Green fees range from \$55 (non-peak days, 3-5 p.m.) to \$135 (Friday-Sunday, 7-11 a.m., cart included). The inn also offers an unlimited golf package, providing guests with luxury accommodations paired with unlimited golf on the course. See website for details and pricing. woodstockinn.com

Granite Links Golf Club | Quincy, Mass.

Located only seven miles south of Boston, Granite Links has become one of Massachusetts' top destinations for city dwellers to get their swings in out on the golf course. Non-members are welcome to use the public driving range and may book tee times with some restrictions, which makes the offseason the perfect time to check out the course. Eighteen holes during the offseason runs \$90 every day. Nine holes runs \$50, but with some day and time restrictions. Green fees include the use of a cart. granitelinksgolfclub.com

Continued on Page 22

GOLF

of New England's scintillating autumn hues

► The Sunday River Country Club was designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr. and overlooks the Sunday River Valley and Mahoosuc Mountains.

Sunday River Resort

GOLF

Continued from Page 20

Sugarloaf Golf Club | Carrabassett Valley, Maine

Recognized as the top golf course in Maine by the likes of Golfweek and Golf Digest, Sugarloaf's 18-hole experience is situated directly in the midst of one of your favorite wintertime playgrounds, setting the scene for a colorful farewell to the northern Maine autumn, with an eye already focused on the slopes and what might come within the coming weeks. Significant savings for tee times begin in October, when early morning reservations (from 1 to 4 players) run around \$90 (\$123-\$131 during high season). Extend your stay with a reservation at the on-mountain lodging, starting as low as \$89 per night. sugarloaf.com

Omni Mount Washington Resort | Bretton Woods, N.H.

What better spot to tee off during the wonder of fall than in the shadow of the historic, regal Mount Washington Hotel? Golfers will find a pair of courses here with the dramatic fall hues of the majestic Presidential Range beckoning them. The 18-hole Mount Washington Course dates back to 1915, while the Mount Pleasant Course is a nine-hole affair that first opened in 1895 and offers a challenging rout past the scenic Ammonoosuc River. Fall rates begin Oct. 8 and run through Oct. 30. Rates run \$61-\$111 for public guests, \$53-\$103 for resort guests, based on time of day and day of the week. Fall golf and lunch specials are available Sunday through Friday after 1 p.m. for \$79 per person and include cart, green fee and select menu choices. brettonwoods.com



▶ Omni Mount Washington Resort boasts two options for golfing and one of the grandest settings in all of New England.

Wahconah Country Club | Dalton, Mass.

Nestled in the hills of the Berkshires, Wahconah Country Club is considered one of the best-laid courses in all of New England, enhanced by the certain serenity and introspectiveness that can come from a trip to the western half of Massachusetts. Ranked the fourth-best golf course in New England by GolfAdvisor, Wahconah's 18 holes feature tree-lined fairways and panoramic views of the surroundings. Green fees as of Oct. 1 run \$40-\$65 depending on weekday/weekend. Golf cart

rentals run \$20 and \$34 for nine and 18 holes, respectively. wahconahcc.com

Breakfast Hill Golf Club | Greenland, N.H.

Just north of the Mass.-N.H. border, only a stone's throw from entering Vacationland, Breakfast Hill provides golfers with a scrumptious way to start their morning, an 18-year-old course that is canopied by pine trees, mapped out with a layout that makes it one of the more challenging and scenic spots to play in all of

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► **Omni Mount Washington Resort**

New England. Recognized as a top public course by numerous publications, Breakfast Hill's 18 holes welcome guests with rates that vary depending upon time of day, but can range from \$42-\$78. breakfasthill.com

Pinehills Golf Club | Plymouth, Mass.

Combining the prestige of a members-only club with the convenience of a daily golf fee, Pinehills Golf Club has become one of the most popular golfing destinations in the commonwealth. Here you'll find two 18-hole courses designed by Rees Jones and Nicklaus Design, featuring rolling hills and a setting primed for the colors of the season. Rates beginning Oct. 9 run \$65-\$75 (weekends), and \$55 seven days a week for super twilight (after noon). All rates include cart and range balls. pinehillsgolf.com

Stowe Mountain Club | Stowe, Vt.

Both the Mountain Club, with the trails of Mount Mansfield hovering in the distance, and the nearby Country Club are courses based in beauty, high on challenges. The Mountain Course, though, is the more dramatic of the two. Named one of the top 10 new courses in the United States by Golf Magazine, the course, designed by Bob Cupp, is unique in its embracement of the mountain itself. Mount Mansfield and Spruce Peak not only provide the backdrop here, but part of the challenge in itself, melding the natural surroundings into

the play. All day unlimited golf and cart is \$270 per day, \$150 after 2 p.m. Guests who stay at Stowe Mountain Lodge can save up to 40 percent on rounds of golf. destinationhotels.com/stowe-mountain-lodge

Green Valley Country Club | Portsmouth, R.I.

Green Valley is considered one of the finest semi-private golf clubs within the vicinity of Newport, R.I., staking its reputation with a beautiful, yet challenging setting. Most unique at Green Valley is that the greens don't go to sleep when the sun does, which can be particularly helpful with nighttime coming earlier and earlier during the fall months. The club's night golf league enjoyed its first season in 2018, with select dates remaining through September and October. Tee times begin approximately 15 minutes after sunset and feature a glow-in-the-dark golf ball and glow stick. Rates start at \$35 for advance reservations, \$45 for walk-on participants. gvccri.com

North Conway Country Club | North Conway, N.H.

Nestled among all that beckons the thousands to visit this village no matter what season lands on the calendar, the North Conway Country Club is a course set in an idyllic setting of local businesses, comforting restaurants and the family-friendly reminder that Cranmore Mountain Resort will be there for you come ski season. With the mountain looming over the village and its golf

course, the country club provides views of Mount Washington that add a little extra benefit to a visit. So does the cost. Eighteen holes, including cart, on weekends and holidays is only \$75, \$60 Monday through Friday. Mondays through Thursdays, try the early bird special, only \$40 before 8 a.m. northconwaycountryclub.com

Sunday River | Newry, Maine

The rolling hills of Sunday River Resort provide the backdrop for this 18-hole course that delivers all the perks of what it means to be a guest of the Maine resort. The pristine playing conditions and fairways that seem designed right from the blueprint that delivered some of the wide intermediate trails on the mountain above, provide guests with a golfing experience that will have them etching another fall return on their calendars. Eighteen holes run \$90 during the week, \$110 Friday through Sunday. Stay and play packages are available with four different lodging partners that include Sunday River Resort, The Mountain House on Sunday River, The Glen House and The Riverview Resort. sundayrivergolfclub.com

Lake of Isles | Stonington, Conn.

Thirteen years after its opening, this Connecticut favorite, located adjacent to Foxwoods Resort Casino, gives locals and visitors a way to relax their senses after putting the cards down for the night. The 36-hole course winds its way through the woods of the Nutmeg State countryside and around a 90-acre lake. Packages with the neighboring resort start at only \$223 per person, including lodging at the Fox Tower Hotel, 18 holes of golf, and other amenities such as use of the driving range and a complimentary golf towel. Tee times available up to 30 days in advance. lakeofisles.com **S**

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► **Golf in the Berkshires is a treasure of a western Massachusetts autumn.**



► **Lake of Isles at Foxwoods Resort Casino**



► **Sugarloaf Golf Club**

Marti Mayne/Omni Mount Washington Resort; Connecticut Office of Tourism (Lake of Isles); Ogden Giffi (Berkshires); Jamie Walter/Sugarloaf

TRAILS OF

Five choice options for your two-wheel adventure, be it an afternoon,

By Ben Hall

Ah, fall. There's a slight chill in the air, you grab a flannel as you head out to enjoy one of the best seasons as the leaves change, the days grow shorter and the smell of hot apple cider reminds you that winter is just around the corner.

But before we get too eager about the pending first snowfall of the season, we get to experience what is arguably the best time for mountain biking. You've been working all spring and summer for this time. You've battled the heat, the bugs and the pain as you break your body into shape for long days in the saddle. Fall is the season that you've been waiting for, its glory moment.

It's time to sneak away from work for one more extended weekend of riding with your family or mountain bike buddies. Whatever your desired experience is — camping at the trailhead of some flowy singletrack; booking a hotel in town where you can enjoy both the riding and the downtown scene; or skipping from one location to the next over the course of a four-day weekend, there is an endless list of great places to go and trails to ride.

To help you plan your getaway, here are five top fall mountain bike destinations ripe with great riding and plenty of other activities to keep you and your adventure companions happy.

Waterbury, Vt.

Located in the heart of the Green Mountains, Waterbury is situated between some major mountain biking trail networks across amazing mountains. Starting with WATA's (Waterbury Area Trails Alliance) Perry Hill Trails, which start out right behind the ice rink in town, you'll find a perfect introduction to mountain biking in Vermont. The trail system features a long double track climb, which could be considered a grind by many, but the payoff is a network of trails rich with rock, flow and plenty of down to make the climb all worth it. WATA also oversees the Little River State Park, which hosts an amazing flow trail with berms, doubles, rollers and gaps. Bring your skills with you on this ride.

Continued on Page 26

► The trail network around Sugarloaf in Maine's Carrabassett Valley has something for everyone, including families and diehard endurance riders, from rocky technical riding to smooth open double track trails.

Jamie Walter/Sugarloaf

DREAMS

a weekend or a week



MOUNTAIN BIKING



► Whether on mountain bike singletrack or tackling pavement on a road bike, Gibbet Hill in Groton, Mass., is a top destination for two-wheel exploration in Massachusetts.

Continued from Page 24

While the riding within Waterbury proper is great and worth your time for a day of pedaling bliss, it's also within short driving distance to some notable trail systems that should not be missed during a Vermont fall vacation. In less than a 30-minute drive, you can be on several different trail systems, including the Cady Hill trails in Stowe, the Hinesburg Town Forest trails, Millstone Trails in Barre and the Camel's Hump State Forest trails.

There are plenty of lodging options in Waterbury catered to several different preferences — camping, inns and hotels. The campground at Little River State Park keeps you in the mix with the trail system there and boasts a reservoir for swimming, paddle boarding or kayaking once you're off the trail.

The food scene is on point as well. Check out Prohibition Pig, a gastro pub featuring a ton of locally crafted beers, great cocktails and Southern-style BBQ.

Of course, no trip to Waterbury is complete without a stop into the Ben & Jerry's factory. Do the tour ... free samples!

Carrabassett Valley, Maine

Home to the 'Loaf,' this one is a slightly longer trip than any other on this list. At almost four hours from Boston, a trip to Carrabassett Valley truly is an adventure as you head farther and farther from the populous areas of the Northeast and into the Bigelow Mountain Range of Maine. The trails here are the next big deal in Maine. The Carrabassett Region NEMBA chapter has been working since 2010 to build an extensive network of trails in partnership with Maine Huts and Trails. This work included a three-year plan to build new trails tailored for mountain biking. By 2014, they had established 77 miles of trail, including 22.3 miles of brand-new trails. These trails all are located in and around the base of Sugarloaf Mountain.

The trail network has something for everyone, including families and die-hard endurance riders, from rocky technical riding to smooth open double track trails. Plus, the NEMBA chapter there puts on plenty of festivals and rides to show off its handy work and promote this area of New England. One of the



► Sugarloaf

coolest parts of the whole network is that you can truly get away from it all. Due to the partnership with Maine Huts and Trails, riders can load up their mountain bikes with gear, and, utilizing the hut system, carve out an extended, multiday ride sleeping on the established tent platforms found right along the trail, or in one of the Maine huts. Make sure to visit www.mainehuts.org for details on the hut system.

Carrabassett Valley also is home to some amazing hiking and swimming. Take your time while there to explore the mountain and catch views of the beautiful fall colors from the summit of Sugarloaf or enjoy one of the many activities at Sugarloaf Mountain. From golfing to the adventure center, there is plenty of off-trail fun to be had. Lodging options include the Sugarloaf Mountain Hotel, or one of the campgrounds off of Route 27 in Kingsfield.

Berkshire East, Charlemont, Mass.

Nestled into the Berkshire Mountains of western Massachusetts sits Berkshire East, which many of you probably know

► The King Pine CX event is slated for Sunday, Sept. 30 at King Pine Purity Spring Resort in Madison, N.H., featuring top-notch cyclocross racing, a fun kids race and open racing for all levels.



from skiing and riding. However, over the past few years, Berkshire East has developed into quite an offseason getaway location for New Englanders who don't want to travel all the way up into Vermont or New Hampshire. An easy drive from Interstate 91 makes this spot the go-to for folks in the Hartford area, but don't dismiss it if you live farther north. It's worth the trip not only for the great mountain biking but for everything else this place has to offer.

Let's discuss the riding first. East Berkshire is home to the Thunder Mountain Bike Park, a gravity-fed mountain biking playground. Working with premiere trail-building specialists Gravity Logic (the same folks who helped build up Killington's new bike park), the trails have been designed with flow, progression and fun from summit to base. If you've never tried downhill mountain biking, no worries — the operators take all their cues from the ski side of the business and offer plenty of beginner friendly lessons, rentals and packages to get you and the whole family started. Plus, with their 201 level classes, you can progress your skills and build confidence with expert riders teaching you along the

way. But it's not just about the beginner, as there are plenty of expert level trails to choose from, with big drops, jump lines and big berms to rip.

Save some time for whitewater rafting on the Deerfield River, the best way to freshen up after hitting the bike park. Plus, with the Mountain Coaster and Zip Line, there is plenty of other thrills available for you to get out and enjoy both

the beauty of the Berkshire Mountains and the fall foliage. Lodging is available right at the mountain, so it's a perfect one-stop getaway.

Concord, N.H.

Less than one hour from Boston is the capital of New Hampshire, which makes for an excellent base of operations for an extended weekend to a whole week's worth of fall activities. With a multitude of great mountain bike trails nearby, Concord provides a perfect place to set up operations for a fall mountain bike adventure and provides some nightlife activity, terrific eateries, a fun downtown experience and lodging for any budget.

As for the riding, there is single-track for every skill level within minutes of downtown. Starting right in town, the Hospital Trails are laced with ribbons of granite ledge and rock gardens galore. These trails provide a testing ground for seasoned riders and those looking to jump start their technical riding skills. Extend the ride by crossing over Little Pond Road into what locals refer to as the Quarry Trails, providing equal challenge with great views of the surrounding area.

Need something a bit easier? Head down the road to Hopkinton and ride the Elm Brook Trails. A newer network of NEMBA trails, this growing network has roughly 8 miles of beginner-friendly trails, with double track connecting most of it. If you want an epic day, head east to Bear

Brook State Park, where more than 60 miles of trail await, complete with tech, flow and miles of adventure. If you need to feed the speed meter, you can head north of Concord to Highland Mountain Bike Park, the only dedicated lift-access mountain bike park in the country. The trails there are what other mountain bike parks measure themselves off of.

Finish your trip to Concord with a trip to Vibes Gourmet Burgers right downtown. Try one of the amazing burgers and grab a plate of poutine to refuel for the next day's adventure. And if you like New England-style double IPAs, try Concord Craft's Safe Space, a hazy trip that will have you looking for a safe space if you imbibe too much.

East Burke, Vt.

Last, but certainly far from least, is the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont's East Burke, home to the famous Kingdom Trails. What can be said that hasn't already been said about this top-notch trail network? From the expertly built and maintained singletrack, to the dirt roads and double track surrounding town, there is a ton of riding to be had. And the riding is varied, from beginner-friendly flow trails, to technical bridge work and downhill trails.

The trail names themselves have become almost iconic, similar to our favorite ski trails. From the triple T's of Troll Stroll, Tap N' Die and Tody's Tour, to the famous Sidewinder, there are purposefully built downhill flow trails. Looking for the tech? Try Jaw, Burnham Down and Moose Alley. The fun factor comes in how many ways you can link various loops together to sample a variety of trails, all of which surely will put a big smile on your mug and confirm everything that your riding buddies back home have been telling you. This place is special.

But what helps separate Kingdom Trails from the rest of the pack? Why is it worth the drive, the hype, the constant attention from mountain bike media? In my opinion, it's the combination of good trails, good trail steward and a town that fully supports the community of riders who descend upon East Burke in flocks each and every weekend May through October.

It is a mountain biker's paradise. Everything in town and the surrounding areas is built intentionally to serve mountain bikers. From the lodging options that all have bike washes, onsite storage and tools, to the dining options in town that prefer you to be smelly and covered in dirt, everyone has embraced the riding culture. If you've never been, this fall is your time.

Put this magazine down, pack the car, tell your boss sorry. You're headed to New England's mountain bike mecca. Enjoy!

S

feedback@skijournal.com



► One of the top resort bike destinations in the Northeast, the Evolution Bike Park at Okemo Mountain Resort in Vermont is open Friday through Sundays in September and from Oct. 1-8.

Your primer to leaf peepin' ... and a whole lot more ... in Mother Nature

LET THE ST

By Eric Wilbur

Despite the fact that you've probably noticed pumpkin spice varieties of every food and drink imaginable invading your favorite grocery stop since mid-August, the fall season glosses over New England for only a limited time. In a seasonal calendar of special offers, autumn has a more defined expiration date than winter, summer or even spring, a colorful whirl

that enhances the landscapes from the mountains to the sea.

And just as soon as the wonder of foliage, jack-o-lanterns, apples and cider donuts descend upon us, a chill appears in the air, hinting that the winter months are not far behind.

Thus, enjoying the foliage season in New England requires shrewd timing and planning in order to maximize peak color in any specific location of the region. While some factors like heat and rainfall will certainly play a factor in the

year-to-year expectations of when to expect peak colors at your favorite locale, it's safe to bet reds, yellows and oranges will begin to replace the greens in the trees of northern Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine as early as the second week of September. These spots will be in peak form — the height of the foliage spectrum — by the end of September, a status bestowed upon Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island by early to mid-October.

Here are some of the best routes to

take this fall in each New England state as well as some options for overnight stays and dining experiences.

VERMONT

Route 100

The Green Mountain State's famed "Skier's Highway" previews its foray into winter with a winding trip through autumn, passing by a handful of Vermont ski areas that are preparing for skiing and riding season with harvest celebra-

's grandest hotspots of New England's spectacular fall

HOW TO BEGIN

tions and activities. Along the way — including more than 200 miles of pristine countryside and idyllic villages — motorists will find breathtaking scenery peppered with farms, rolling hills and unparalleled vistas. Begin the journey just south of Jay Peak Resort, and find your way through the likes of Morrisville, Ludlow and Killington, running from north to south.

One of the highlights of the drive is the 11 miles passing through the Green Mountain Byway, a stretch along the

northern Green Mountains that runs through Stowe and Waterbury, giving this section a wealth of eating, drinking and lodging options. Here, the stunning backdrop of Mount Mansfield provides the perfect incentive for your foliage adventure.

Points of Interest: Take a zip trip at Stowe Mountain Resort, where the Zip-Tour Adventure provides a majestic way to view the colors surrounding Vermont's highest peak (\$135, \$186 for a Treetop Adventure combo ticket, www.stowe.com/

[activities/summer/ziptour](#)). Tours run through Oct. 14. Not far from there, you'll find the Alchemist Brewery (100 Cottage Club Road, Stowe, alchemistbeer.com), home of the famed Heady Topper. Stop by for a taste of the double IPA, a beer many consider to be among the best on earth, or one of the other samples on tap at the brewery. Continue on down the road a little further for a little more Vermont cheer, this of the frozen variety, at the Ben and Jerry's ice cream factory in Waterbury (1281 Waterbury-Stowe

Road, tours \$4 adults, \$3 seniors, free ages 12 and under, www.benjerry.com/about-us/factory-tours). For a step back in time, visit the Vermont Country Store in Weston (657 Main St., www.vermont-countrystore.com) featuring Vermont cheese, penny candy and other items of local interest. At Okemo Mountain Resort, the Adventure Zone remains open until Oct. 8, giving guests a variety of activities to enjoy in the midst of the foli-

Continued on Page 30



▶ The three-hour Bretton Woods Canopy Tour takes nature lovers and thrill-seekers across a series of tree-top ziplines, sky bridges and a network of platforms high in the ancient hemlocks.

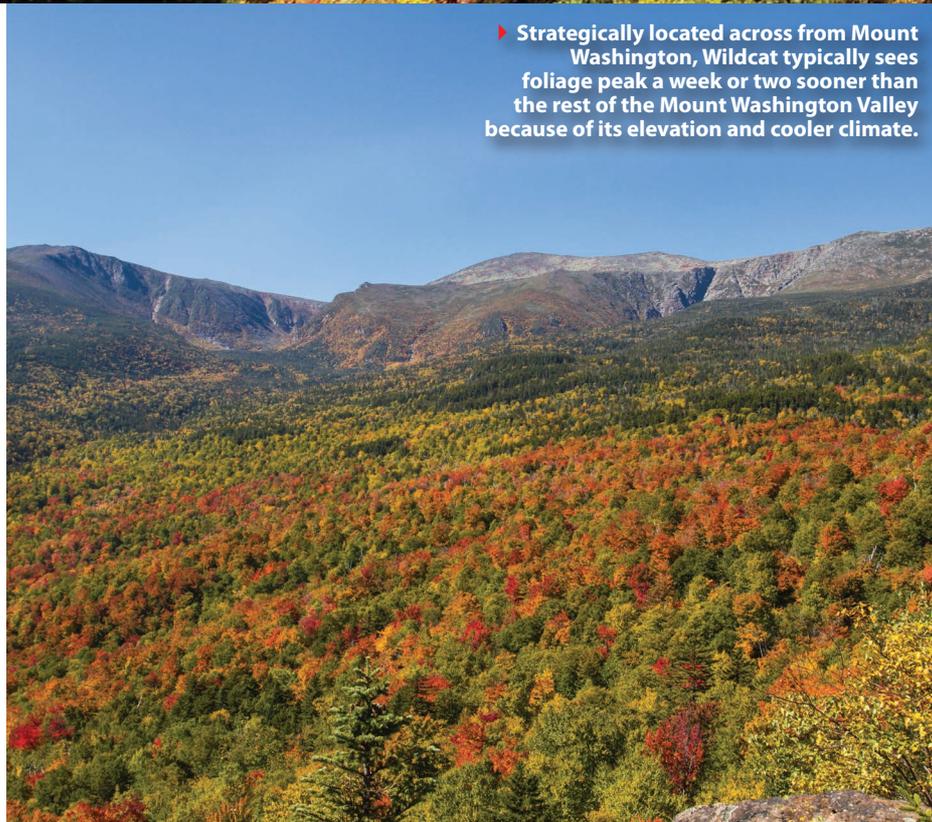
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age including a climbing wall, mountain coaster, trampoline and more (77 Okemo Ridge Road, Ludlow, see website for various pricing packages, www.okemo.com).

Stay: If you're looking to pair your foliage drive with a romantic stay in a classic Vermont bed and breakfast, then the Inn at Round Barn Farm couldn't be more ideal, featuring country settings in a quiet atmosphere that will take you further away than the distance you drove to get there (1661 East Warren Road, Waitsfield, \$179-\$359, www.theroundbarn.com).

Dine: Whoever decided that the best slice of pizza is from New York City hasn't been to American Flatbread, a Waitsfield institution that has been delivering customers pizza from its wood-fired ovens for nearly 30 years. The ingredients are as local as the vibe in the joint, which makes it a perfect Vermont dining spot (40 Laureau Road, www.americanflatbread.com). At the Prohibi-

▶ Strategically located across from Mount Washington, Wildcat typically sees foliage peak a week or two sooner than the rest of the Mount Washington Valley because of its elevation and cooler climate.



tion Pig, visitors will get a taste as to why Waterbury is considered one of the best beer towns in America, sampling from a popular menu of house drafts that pair nicely with the restaurant's burgers, brisket and other BBQ (23 South Main St., prohibitionpig.com).

NEW HAMPSHIRE

White Mountains Trail

The White Mountains Trail is a 100-mile loop that travels through some of New Hampshire's most commanding mountain scenery, whether it be approaching Mount Washington, discovering the ruggedness of Franconia Notch State Park or feeling almost as if you've been swallowed up by the surroundings at Crawford Notch.

Along the way, the Kancamagus Highway brings visitors to one of the Granite State's most popular itineraries for foliage, a 34½-mile stretch of roadway from Lincoln to Conway that beck-



▶ Located within the White Mountain National Forest, Wildcat delivers spectacular views of Mount Washington, Tuckerman Ravine and surrounding Presidential Range.

ons stops at a multitude of hiking trails, waterfalls and camping sites, all from which the color of the season can be enjoyed to its fullest.

Points of interest: Sabbaday Falls is considered one of the most popular waterfalls in the entire state, and that status is further confirmed in the fall months, when the easy hike along the “Kanc” leads to a natural wonder in an atmosphere that lasts but only a few weeks (www.kancamagushighway.com/waterfalls/sabbaday_falls.htm). The Conway Scenic Railroad will do the driving during foliage season, especially aboard its notch train, a five-hour trip from Conway to Crawford Notch that covers some 60 miles of breathtaking scenery, only enhanced by autumn (38 Norcross Circle, North Conway, \$59-\$85, www.conway-scenic.com). At Cannon Mountain, the 80-passenger cable car can whisk you to the top of the state, a 4,080-foot mountain summit that can provide spectacular views of the colors that surround in Franconia Notch (\$18 adults, \$16 ages 6-12, www.cannonmt.com).

Stay: There’s no place grander to stay during the Northeast’s grandest season than the opulent Omni Mount Washington Hotel (310 Mount Washington Hotel Road, Bretton Woods, stay packages vary in price, see site for details, www.omnihotels.com/destinations/brettonwoods), an elegant stay wrapped in its own brand of seasonal charm.

Dine: Get there early for breakfast at the Sunrise Shack in Glen (644 White Mountain Highway, www.facebook.com/TheSunriseShack), where there’s bound to be a line waiting out the door as hungry patrons try to decide between one of the restaurant’s famed omelettes or breakfast bowls. Family atmosphere and comfort food go hand-in-hand at Delaney’s Hole in the Wall, a North Conway institution that has been boasting some of the best Buffalo wings in the Northeast for almost 25 years (2966 White Mountain Highway, www.delaneys.com).

MAINE

Acadia National Park

Located on the coastline, the 47,000-acre Acadia National Park is prone to peak color a bit later than some of the other neighboring communities in northern Maine. Foliage generally peaks here during the middle of October and provides a unique way to experience the beauty of New England. The fall months explode here in a kaleidoscope of color that helps bring the exquisite coastline’s wonder to another level, from the sun-splashed, rocky shoreline to tree-lined mountain ranges.

One highlight along the way is the Acadia All-American Road, a 40-mile stretch that takes three hours to travel, featuring a variety of beaches, lighthouses and ocean views. Bikers can hop out of the car and enjoy a jaunt to Mount Desert Island, while those on foot can hike one of the 26 mountains in the area.

Points of interest: Bar Harbor and Acadia National Park feature a wealth of interesting sites to behold, whether it be on foot, bike or paddle. There are a number of outfits ready to suit your needs in the area with tailored activities and tours. Visit www.visitbarharbor.com/see-do for complete information.

Stay: Featuring panoramic views of Frenchman’s Bay, the Balance Rock Inn (21 Albert Meadow, Bar Harbor, see website for rates and packages, www.balance-rock-inn.com) is a country-inn experience that prides on its opulent past. Each room has individual and luxurious traits that make this one of Maine’s signature hotels.

Dine: Amazing views, lobster stew and Gulf of Maine salmon are on the menu at the Looking Glass Restaurant (50 Eden St., Bar Harbor, www.barharborrestaurant.com), situated atop a hill with unsurpassed sights of Bar Harbor below. For a truly Maine lobster experi-

Continued on Page 32



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► Cathedral Ledge with fog burning off Echo Lake



Continued from Page 31

ence, visit the Travelin' Lobster (1569 State Highway, Bar Harbor, thetravelinlobster.wixsite.com/seafood-restaurant), owned and operated by lobstermen and featuring a menu that has all the scrumptious simplicities of a lobster shack. Open through Oct. 20.

MASSACHUSETTS

Mohawk Trail

Labeled the first scenic road in New England, the Mohawk Trail is a 63-mile route that takes visitors along some 50,000 acres of state parks and forests in the midst of the commonwealth. The Berkshire drive follows the path Native Americans would take between the Connecticut and Hudson valleys, and features such notable landmarks such as Hairpin Turn, Whitcomb Summit and Tannery Falls.

Points of interest: If the views outside aren't artsy enough for you, stop by the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art for some of the liveliest and innovative art in the area (1040 MASS MoCA Way, North Adams, www.massmoca.org). For those looking to add a little moisture to the foliage-viewing party, Crab Apple Whitewater (2056 Mohawk



► Wildcat with Route 16 in the valley

Trail, Charlemont, www.crabapplewhitewater.com) offers a variety of whitewater rafting trips on the trail's Deerfield River and beyond.

Stay: The Porches Inn, located at MASSMoca, provides an intimate stay at a 47-room boutique property that can claim its artsy decor as inspiration from the museum next door (231 River St., North Adams, www.porches.com).

Dine: The Gypsy Apple Bistro (66 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls, www.gypsyapplebistro.com) is one of the area's top

dining spots, with a rotating menu that features fine cuisine in an intimate atmosphere. For a decidedly more relaxed atmosphere, the Cold River Cafe, Market and Package is a local favorite for pizza, burgers and seafood specials (31 Main St. Charlemont, coldriverpackage.com).

RHODE ISLAND

Ocean Drive

Feel free to ditch the car and rent a bike to explore this 14-mile, winding

drive that delivers fantastic views of the Atlantic Ocean and Fort Adams State Park. The glamor of the Newport mansions beckon nearby, but their splendor is nothing compared to the color and certain level of quiet that descends upon the Newport area during the fall.

Points of interest: Fort Adams State Park (1 Lincoln Drive, Newport, www.fortadams.org) provides great views of Narragansett Bay, not to mention a busy calendar of events all year long. Newport's Cliff Walk (www.cliffwalk.com) might be a little chillier this time of year, but the ocean breezes will pair well with the stunning architecture of the mansions and college properties, plus spectacular views of the bay and Jamestown Island. Swing by downtown and Bannister's Wharf (www.bannistersnewport.com), which might not be as jovial or busy as it might have been during the summer months but is still the place to visit in order to experience the heart of Newport.

Stay: Located on Goat Island, only a stone's throw from the docks, Gurney's offers seclusion while in the heart of downtown Newport. The grounds offer 360-degree water views, and what is generally regarded as one of the best spas

Continued on Page 34



Waterville Valley, NH

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► Birch Pond in Saugus, Mass., is a fall foliage gem located close to the city of Boston.

Continued from Page 32

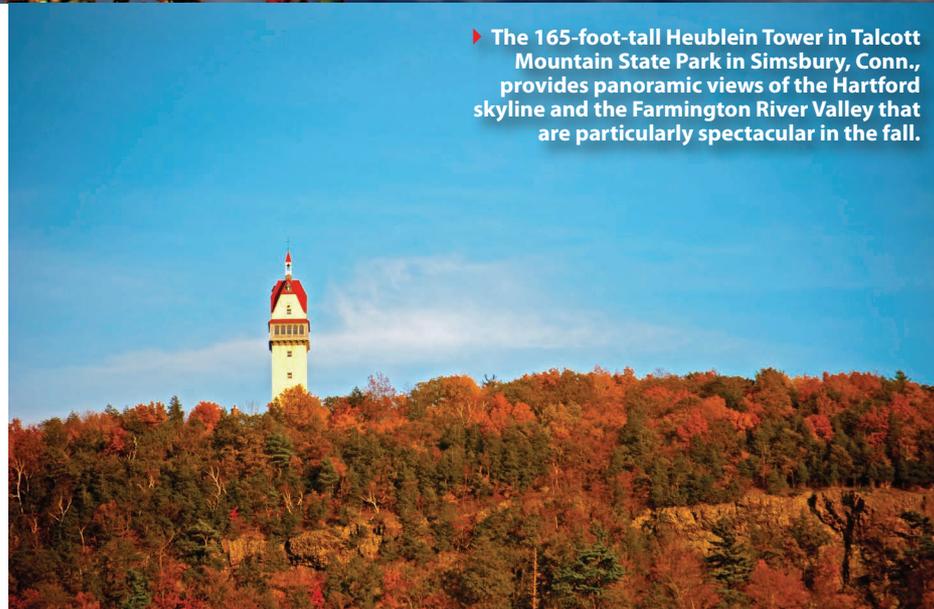
in the Ocean State (1 Goat Island, www.gurneysresorts.com/newport).

Dine: In the midst of a bevy of seafood restaurants offering the day's catch, The Mooring (1 Sayer's Wharf, Newport, www.mooringrestaurant.com) always gets top reviews for its offerings and service in Newport. For what might perhaps be a more authentic Rhode Island seafood experience, head to Flo's Clam Shack (4 Wave Ave., Middletown, flosclamshacks.com) for some of the best clam cakes and stuffed quahogs in the entire region.

CONNECTICUT

Mystic County and the coast

It's one of the southernmost routes in all of New England, which gives it the added calling card of being there for those foliage fanatics who might be late to the party. Peak viewing along the coast of Connecticut is estimated to last all the way into early November, which means you can still go leaf-peeping even as the snow guns are beginning to work their magic at ski areas to the north.



► The 165-foot-tall Heublein Tower in Talcott Mountain State Park in Simsbury, Conn., provides panoramic views of the Hartford skyline and the Farmington River Valley that are particularly spectacular in the fall.

From New London to Old Mystic, this Nutmeg State trail gives those insisting to hang on to fall a great way to spend their time with gorgeous views of the Connecticut coastline and plenty to do along the way.

Points of interest: The 10th annual Harvest Festival takes place Oct. 27 in New London, offering tours of the Old Town Mill (8 Mill St.) features interactive children's activities and holiday

shopping with craft vendors on site. History is abound everywhere in New London, including at the Nathan Hale Schoolhouse (19 Atlantic St.), where visitors can tour the one-room school where Nathan Hale taught before the American Revolution. A visit to quaint Mystic isn't complete without either a stroll through the Olde Mistick Village or a visit to the Mystic Aquarium (55 Coogan Blvd., www.mysticaquarium.org), argu-

ably the best tribute to marine life in all of New England.

Stay: An 11-room luxury inn, the Steamboat Inn (73 Steamboat Wharf, \$205-\$310, two-night minimum most weekends, steamboatinnmystic.com) also serves as the only waterfront lodging option in Mystic. Both Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun casinos are a short drive away, but you might not want to budge from the romantic setting along the Mystic River, steps away from downtown shopping and dining.

Dine: Seafood is, unsurprisingly, the focus at Latitude 41 (105 Greenmanville Ave., Mystic, www.coastalgourmetct.com/latitude41) with a menu that boasts pan-seared scallops, local oysters and lobster pot pie. Then again, what's a visit to Mystic without a visit to the restaurant that made it to the big screen? Mystic Pizza (56 West Main St., www.mytogo.co/Mystic_Pizza_Main) remains a local favorite, whether or not you've seen the movie, with simple favorites that pair perfectly with a quick visit through town, all along a journey of color and acceptance of the change in seasons. **S**

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BEVY OF BYWAYS

FROM THE KANC TO ACADIA, CHECK OUT SOME OF FINEST AUTO TOURS IN THE NEW ENGLAND HIGH COUNTRY

By Matt Boxler

We've all seen that bumper sticker. Minivans, pickup trucks, compact cars. It doesn't matter. Pretty much any vehicle that passes a state inspection is capable of earning the popular "This Car Climbed Mt. Washington" sticker.

It's the driver who deserves the real credit, having to successfully navigate a narrow, steep, twisting road and then pretty much ride the brake pedal all the way back down again. Every time I see the sticker, I think there should be another one right next to it that reads: "Don't worry, this car's brakes were serviced by a professional mechanic after it climbed Mt. Washington."

Judging by the number of bumper stickers out there, the Mount Washington Auto Road is clearly one of New England's most popular car excursions in mountain country. And why wouldn't it be? The auto road gives drivers access to the Northeast's highest peak. But don't fall into the trap of thinking it is the only car excursion worth taking. Far from it.

Scenic drives, during the fall particularly, are among the most popular outdoor activities in New England and are critical in helping account for millions of tourist visits and billions spent each fall foliage season. A seemingly endless network of country roads beckon families as they wind past classic farm stands, orchards, festivals, agricultural fairs, shopping and much more. Whether visiting friends, traveling with them or simply escaping for peaceful time away with a loved one, New England offers some of the best scenic fall auto tours in the country. Sometimes it's about the destination but it's always about the journey.

So hop in your car and go. Here are some suggestions for great fall road trips in mountain country.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

"From the Granite State's unrivaled beauty to our treasured history and tax-free shopping, New Hampshire has limitless ways to enjoy the fall foliage," says Gov. Chris Sununu. "The Granite State is proud to welcome visitors from around the globe, and we work hard to ensure that every visit is better than the last."

More than 1,000 miles in New Hampshire are designated as scenic and cultural byways covering the state from top to bottom, including and Great North Woods, White Mountains, Lakes Region, Dartmouth/Sunapee, Merrimack Valley, Seacoast and Monadnock.

These routes offer ocean views, cut through the White Mountains, twist alongside many of New England's most picturesque rivers, ramble through timeless villages and meander past an unlimited variety of roadside attractions. Administered through the state's Department of Transportation, these designated regions include existing roadways that highlight the beauty, culture and history that makes New Hampshire unique.

Here is a glimpse at a few of the Granite State's most popular driving tours:

Lakes Region: This loop, approximately 134 miles, circles Lake Winnepesaukee and is the perfect introduction to this impassioned vacationland experience. From the town docks in Meredith, drive east on Route 25 to the harbor towns of Center Harbor and Moultonborough. Did you know Center Harbor is the site of the first intercollegiate sporting

event in the U.S.? Harvard beat Yale by two lengths in the first Harvard-Yale Regatta on the lake in 1852. Turn south from here on Route 109 to Wolfeboro, the oldest summer resort in America. Continuing east, you'll pass Wentworth State Park to Sanbornville and then you're on to Union and Farmington. Completing the full loop via Routes 152, 156 and 107 will guide you through the classic towns of Nottingham, Raymond, Deerfield, Epsom, Pittsfield, Barnstead, Gilmanton and Laconia. Turn onto Route 3 to return back to Meredith.

Seacoast: This 40-mile shoreline drive on the coast will direct you through the region's colonial history and its scenic beauty. Start in the historic seaport town of Portsmouth, which thrived as one of the nation's busiest ports and shipbuilding cities in the 18th and 19th centuries and still has a working waterfront along with a vibrant and historic downtown.

Take Route 1B from the historic district over the causeway to New Castle. This narrow route winds around the island, past the grand Wentworth-by-the-Sea and two early military fortifications, Fort Stark and Fort Constitution. Along the way to Hampton and Hampton Beach, jump onto Route 84 and know that you're on one of the region's earliest roads as you wind through Kensington and Exeter, one of the four original towns in colonial New Hampshire and the state capitol during the Revolutionary War.

The Kancamagus: There are several driving tours through the White Mountains that cannot be beat, and the Kancamagus

Highway, a national scenic byway, is the most celebrated of them all. This 142-mile loop offers several variations. From Conway, turn west on Route 112 (the Kanc) and before you will be 34 miles of stunning mountain scenery through the White Mountain National Forest. Once in Lincoln, you can either turn north onto I-93 through Franconia Notch State Park, and then onto Route 3 to Twin Mountain ... or you can continue west on Route 112 through Kinsman Notch to Route 302, which heads to Bath, Lisbon, Littleton, Bethlehem, Twin Mountain and Bretton Woods, home of the Omni Mount Washington Hotel.

Dartmouth/Lake Sunapee: You can start or end this 140-mile loop in Greenfield, where a jaunt north on Route 31 through the towns of Antrim and Hillsborough will take you past the Franklin Pierce Homestead (former home of the 14th U.S. president). Windsor and Washington await (Washington known for having one of the most beautiful village greens in all of New England) and then past Pillsbury State Park. Just south of Goshen, take Route 10 to Newport and Grantham, then get on Route 114 to Springfield. Along the way you'll go by the picturesque towns of New London, home of Colby-Sawyer College, and Henniker, home of New England College.

VERMONT

Exploring Vermont's abundant scenic treasures — from its mountains and valleys, to its forests and farmland, to its historic villages and year-round recreational sites — is as easy as starting up your car. The state's 10

designated byways, which range in length from 14 miles to more than 400 miles, give tourists access to it all. Here's a quick glimpse of each:

Connecticut River: Also designated a National Byway, travel along this 400-plus-mile river that carves between Vermont's Green Mountains and New Hampshire's White Mountains, includes museums, historic sites and architecture.

Crossroad of Vermont: This 50-mile route cuts from east to west across the middle of Vermont. Historic stops include Billings Farm and Museum (an 1890s dairy farm), the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park, and the Vermont Marble Museum.

Green Mountain: Vermont Route 100 runs through the towns of Waterbury and Stowe, between the spine of the northern Green Mountains to the west and the peaks of the Worcester Range to the east.

Lake Champlain: This byway comprises 81 miles of roads in northwest Vermont along Lake Champlain, including Route 2 through Grand Isle County, Route 7 in Chittenden County and the communities of Middlebury and Vergennes, not to mention Vermont's largest city, Burlington.

Mad River: It's only 36 miles in length, but driving along Routes 100 and 100B through the Mad River Valley is among the most scenic stretches in the entire state. You'll see mountain ridgelines, a winding river, hillside farms and steeped villages in

Middlesex, Moretown, Waitsfield, Warren, Granville Gulf, Fayston and Buels Gore.

Molly Stark: Named after the wife of General John Stark, who led the Colonial militia to a victory at the Battle of Bennington on August 16, 1777, the Molly Stark Byway links historic Bennington in the west, to arts-oriented Brattleboro in the east.

Northeast Kingdom: This 51-mile corridor includes the communities of Saint Johnsbury, Lyndon, East and West Burke, Westmore, Charleston, Derby and Newport. The region is known for its all-season recreational opportunities, great dining and lodging, classic architecture and picturesque farmland.

Scenic Route 100: The state's longest highway, Route 100, also known as "The Skier's Highway," runs along the eastern edge of the Green Mountains, traversing the entire length of Vermont. The road is the main thoroughfare for well-known resort towns, including Wilmington, Ludlow, Killington, Warren and Stowe.

The Shires of Vermont: Named for the scenic region it passes through in southwestern Vermont, this byway is anchored by Bennington (the South Shire) and Manchester (the North Shire). The region is nestled between the Taconic and Green Mountains.

Stone Valley: Named for the state's marble and stone quarries and mills, this byway is located in west-central Vermont along Route 30 from Manchester and Poultney.

MAINE

Maine has four National Scenic Byways that traverse the state's diverse landscape from its Western Mountains to the Downeast coastline. These designated regions highlight the year-round recreation, arts and culture, wildlife and extraordinary vistas that define the state.

Acadia All-American Road: This 40-mile stretch is so special that it's been designated an All-American Road. It begins on Route 3 on the mainland before moving onto Mount Desert Island and through the town of Bar Harbor. From there, it rolls into the primary section of Acadia National Park.

Old Canada Road: This National Scenic Byway travels 78 miles along Route 201 through Maine forests from Solon to the Canadian border. Towns such as Bingham and Jackman offer relaxing places to stop. Spectacular foliage, abundant moose and other wildlife make for enjoyable touring.

Rangeley Lakes: This National Scenic Byway offers many locations for

outdoor fun including golfing, boating, fishing, hiking, wildlife watching, skiing and snowmobiling. The 35-mile route winds past clear lakes and tree-covered mountains. The Height of Land on Route 17 is one of Maine's most picturesque overlooks.

Schoodic: Another National Scenic Byway, this trek explores the quieter, less-developed side of Acadia National Park and its neighboring communities. Visitors drive the 29-mile route through small fishing towns, sheltered harbors and dramatic coastline.

In addition to these federal routes, there are many picturesque Maine state byways. These include Blackwoods (Route 182), Fish River (Route 11), Grafton Notch, Katahdin Woods & Waters, Million Dollar View (Route 1), Moosehead Lake, Pequawket Trail (Route 113), Saint John Valley, State Route 27 and The Bold Coast. **S**

► The Height of Land on Route 17 is one of Maine's most picturesque overlooks.

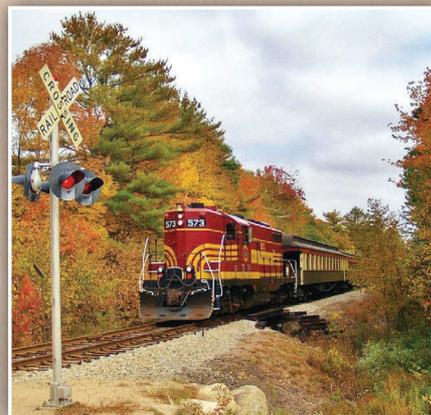


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CONWAY SCENIC RAILWAY AND MOUNT WASHINGTON COG RAILWAY KICK INTO HIGH GEAR WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF FALL OFFERINGS

RAILWAYS

BECKON WITH UNIQUE VANTAGE POINTS

By Matt Boxler

As New Englanders, we've become accustomed to experiencing the mountains in all seasons and in the many different ways we can travel through them — from the vast networks of hiking trails to classic scenic roadways to nordic and alpine skiing trails, and on and on.

One of the oldest technologies constructed to welcome tourists into the heart of the mountains remains one of the most popular today, especially in the fall. Historic railway systems in New Hampshire in particular offer adventurers distinct experiences aboard both the Conway Scenic Railroad and the Mount Washington Cog Railway.

CONWAY SCENIC RAILROAD

The iconic hub of downtown North Conway, the main train station complex, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and welcomes visitors to embark on distinct and scenic railway adventures. Visitors can climb aboard the Valley Train, which runs south to Conway (55-minute round trip) or west

to Bartlett (1¼-hour round trip), or the Notch Train, which cuts through Crawford Notch (a five-hour round trip). In the fall foliage season, the Notch Train is extended to 5½ hours, traveling to Fabyan Station, located near Bretton Woods in the town of Carroll.

The Notch

The Notch Train dates back to the 1870s when it served as the Maine Central Railroad's Mountain Division line. Today, visitors from around the world climb aboard for an inspiring ride through rugged Crawford Notch and its sheer bluffs, steep ravines, cascading brooks and streams, and panoramic mountain vistas.

Excursions include a layover at Crawford Station, across from Saco Lake and adjacent to the AMC's Highland Center. Passengers are encouraged to get off the train, stretch their legs and explore their beautiful surroundings.

In the fall (from Sept. 15-Oct. 13), riders can travel all the way to Fabyan Station, a 60-mile round trip journey. All rides feature live commentary onboard, offering an informed glimpse into the history and folklore of the railroad and all its points of interest.

The Valley

Winding through the Mount Washington Valley to Bartlett or to Conway without venturing into any serious mountain climbing, the valley line welcomes riders aboard vintage passenger cars dating to the 1920s.

The Bartlett excursion is a relaxing journey through valley fields and woodlands, crossing the East Branch, Saco and Ellis rivers along the way. The Conway excursion is a shorter ride, ideal for families with young children, that travels south past the Moat Mountain Range and parallels Route 16 before passing through farmlands and crossing Moat Brook, the Saco and Swift rivers, on the way to Conway.

New offerings

The Conway Scenic Railway is offering several new fall adventures in 2018:

Attitash Express: The Attitash Mountain Express leaves from North Conway station at 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. and arrives in just over an hour at the Whistle Stop platform at Attitash Mountain Village. Tickets and Attitash vouchers can be redeemed at the mountain for admission to a variety of activi-

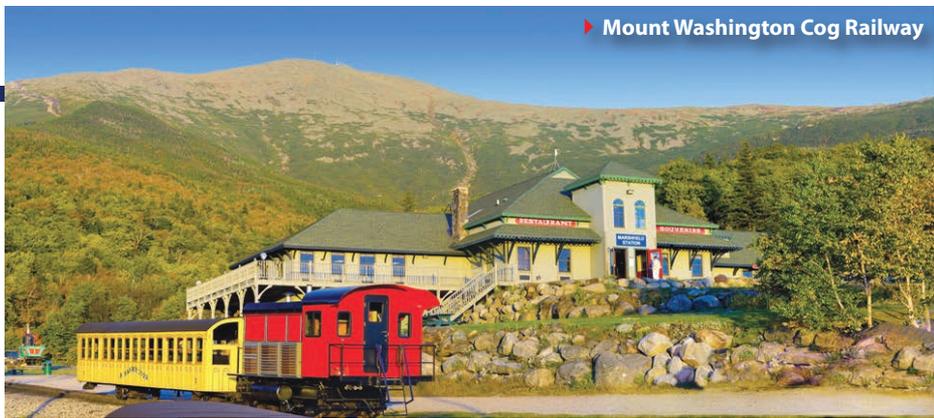
ties. Trains return to North Conway from the Whistle Stop platform at 3:35 and 7:05 p.m.

Children's benefit: Mark Oct. 14 on your calendar, as this special railway excursion through Crawford Notch serves as a fundraiser to benefit local families and children's charities supported by the Kiwanis Club of Mount Washington Valley and by the Mount Washington Valley Habitat for Humanity clubs.

The train will depart from North Conway station at 11 a.m. and return at 4 p.m. Included in the excursion is an hour layover at Crawford Station, located across from Saco Lake and adjacent to the AMC's Highland Center.

Murder Mystery: The Conway Scenic Railway kicks up its train adventure a few notches this fall by hosting "A Talent for Murder" dinner train excursions on Oct. 19-20 and 26-27. This first-class, adult-only, formal murder mystery dinner train welcomes passengers to participate as much or as little as they like in the tongue-in-cheek humor and antics that will keep everyone on their toes as they work the clues to determine the killer on board.

The scenario is the finals of New England's prestigious "America's Got The



▶ Mount Washington Cog Railway

Goods” show, where competitors may stop at nothing, including murder, for the chance to win the \$1 cash prize and their own headline show in Las Vegas.

The train departs promptly at 6 p.m. Cocktails will be served and all meals prepared to order by the partnering culinary team at Attitash Resort.

Pumpkin Patch Express: This event offered on Oct. 19-21 and Oct. 26-28 travels to the “Pumpkin Express” in Conway, where passengers are invited to get off the train and participate in activities. Children can pick out their own pumpkin and participate in games like “Corn Cob Toss” and barrel car rides. There will be two departures daily, at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., as well as a 3 p.m. train on both Saturdays.

MOUNT WASHINGTON COG RAILWAY

Anniversaries are the perfect time for reflection, especially when celebrating 150 years. To endure the test of time since 1868 is an impressive accomplishment.

Consider the following for a little perspective on it. In 1868, Charles Darwin published his book “The Variation of Animals and Plants under Domestication.” The chemical element helium was discovered and named. Thomas Edison applied for his very first patent — an electronic voting machine.

And in New Hampshire, the Mount Washington Cog Railway opened.

Fondly known as “the Cog,” the world’s first rack-and-pinion mountain-climbing train has been chug chugging its way up and down the Northeast’s highest peak ever since. It remains one of New England’s most beloved mountain adventures, steeped both in nostal-

gia and in elevation — its average grade above 25 percent makes it the second steepest rack railway in the world today.

“The Cog Railroad was not built for logging ... it was built for tourism,” declared Peter Crane, curator for the Mount Washington Observatory. Perhaps that explains how the railway has not only survived all these years, but also thrived. New technologies have a way of replacing the old in the interest of expanding production and commerce. With its focus on the tourist and adventurer experience, this unique cog system in this unique place may never lose its appeal or its place in time.

There are two methods, in fact, in which visitors can ascend Mount Washington using the Cog system. They are vastly different when it comes to rider experience, however. The first would be by bicycle via the Auto Road, a 7.6-mile climb that is open to cyclists only a few times a year. The Mount Washington Auto Road Hillclimb, now in its 46th year, is one of those occasions and has attracted cyclists from around the world for a race to the summit. While the fastest get there in under an hour, many others simply hope to get there at all.

The train offers a far more user-friendly Cog experience by switching up bicycle mechanics. Visualize a much heavier-duty bicycle chain being stretched along the track from the Marshfield Base Station all the way to the summit. Now visualize one of your bicycle cogs being mounted to the train. It is this turning cog that does all the work. The train’s wheels are simply along for the ride as the engine pushes the passenger car up the climb, then, in reverse, holds it back from careening out of control down the descent.

Scenic train rides take about an hour to the summit and an hour back to the base station with an hour in between for guests to explore the views from the top, including the Sherman Adams Visitor Center. Guests will be rewarded with 360-degree views into five states, Canada and the Atlantic Ocean — depending on weather and visibility, of course. Trips depart daily from April through November.

Visitors should also be sure to check out the free Cog Railway Museum that features historic displays and interactive exhibits. Also here, the Emmy Award-winning documentary “Climbing to the Clouds” is shown. **S**

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▶ Mount Washington Cog Railway

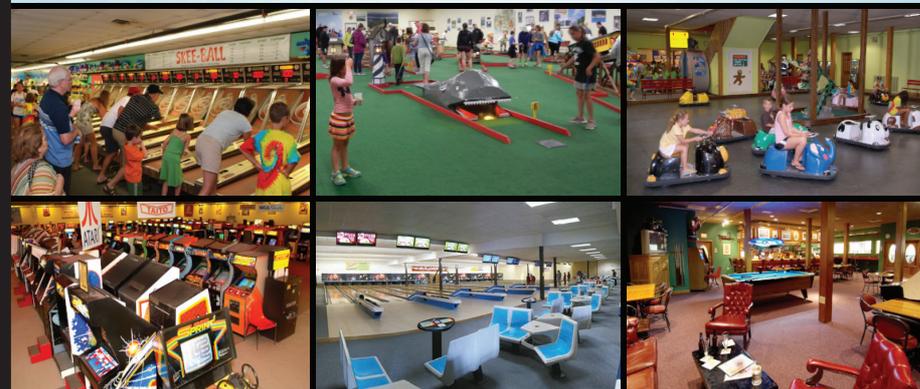


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HIKING



ASCEND YOUR DRE

With fewer crowds and friendlier temps, autumn is the ideal season to ch

By Matt Boxler

Summer might be the most popular season for hiking in the mountains and woods of the Northeast, but fall is hands down the best season to do it. It's not just because of the brilliant foliage that lights up the woods and the landscapes in classic rich colors that makes the autumn months so appealing.

Because most families plan their vacations during the summer months when the kids are out of school, the trails are often crowded, the huts are long since reserved and the traffic to the mountains and home can try the most patient among us. In the fall, you'll have much more room to roam with far fewer people competing for the same favorite places.

And what about the heat? Temperatures soar fast and early in July and August,

bringing extreme heat and humidity that often causes us to sweat through our shirts before we're barely out of the trailhead. Hydration is a very serious challenge as the summer months pose threats of heat exhaustion, heat stroke, asthma and other respiratory issues. Fall brings welcome relief but also beckons in extreme temperature changes so smart layering will optimize comfort and performance.

Perhaps best of all, gone will be those black flies, mosquitoes, no-see-ums, deer flies and horse flies that can drive you insane on those hot summer days.

Hiking in the fall is not without its challenges, however. With less daylight to work with, hikers need to be mindful about how long a loop will take. You should always carry a flashlight or headlamp. Also, trails can become blanketed with leaves, making navigation more challenging. Wet leaves on a steep trail can be very slippery.

Here are some popular hikes that are especially rewarding in the fall. So go ahead and get out there. 'Tis the season.



► Hiking in the White Mountains

Pawtuckaway State Park

■ Nottingham, N.H.

This 5,500-acre park and its crown jewel — the 800-acre Lake Pawtuckaway — is an extremely popular summer destination, but fall might be the best time to explore the park's many miles of hiking trails. Hikes lead to many special points of interest, including the South Mountain Peak fire tower; an extensive marsh for wildlife viewing of beavers and great blue herons; and a geologically unique field where large boulders called glacial erratics were deposited when glacial ice melted near the end of the Ice Age.

Sterling Pond

■ Smugglers' Notch, Vt.

You'll see outdoor enthusiasts with hiking poles and fishing poles on this short (1.1 miles) yet steep (1,000 feet of

elevation gained) hike from the trailhead to Sterling Pond. The parking area is located on Route 108, three miles south of Smugglers' Notch Resort. The challenging hike on a well-worn trail is characterized by large boulders and tree roots. Anglers with permits are welcome to cast lines into Vermont's highest elevation trout pond at 3,000 feet. Once there, the hike can be extended around the pond's 1.4-mile perimeter trail.

Mount Wachusett

■ Princeton, Mass.

With 3,000 acres that encompass 17 miles of trails, Mount Wachusett offers hikers plenty of options for getting to the summit with a range of length and steepness to choose from. Popular routes to the summit include Mountain House, Pine Hill and Old Indian Trails. Summit trails gain 500 feet of elevation

AM SUMMIT

challenge yourself. The reward is spectacular.

to Wachusett's peak at 2,006 feet. When conditions are clear, hikers at the top will enjoy views of New Hampshire's Mount Monadnock, the Berkshires and the Boston skyline. Keep in mind that the mountain's property connects with a larger greenway, so hikers can link up to trails that venture into the Leominster State Forest, Minns Wildlife Sanctuary and Audubon's Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary.

Fox State Forest

■ Hillsboro, N.H.

This 1,445-acre tract has served as New Hampshire's forest research station since 1933. The forest includes 22 miles of hiking trails, which can be broken down in shorter loops. Highlights in the forest include Black Gum Swamp with its centuries old tupelo trees, a boardwalk traverse over Mud Pond Bog and Monroe Hill Tower, which provides views of Mount Monadnock.

Mount Garfield

■ Franconia, N.H.

This long and gradual hike to 4,500-foot Mount Garfield is a quintessentially perfect fall outing as the climb yields sweeping views of the emblazoned White Mountains foliage. Garfield connects the mountains of the Franconia Ridge to the Twin Mountain range with open views over the Pemigewasset River, Owl's Head and Franconia Ridge. The

10-mile round trip hike follows the Garfield and Garfield Ridge trails.

Mount Hunger

■ Waterbury, Vt.

It's not Mount Mansfield, but Hunger's 3,539 feet is hard to beat for scenery as its open rock summit opens up remarkable 360-degree views of Mansfield, Camel's Hump, Waterbury Reservoir and New Hampshire's Presidential range. This short but challenging 3.5-mile trail, which also features a waterfall, is a moderately difficult task, climbing 2,300 feet in elevation from the Sweet Farm Road trailhead.



► Moxie Falls tributary, Maine

Mount Battie

■ Camden, Maine

The Mount Battie trail is one of several in the Southern Trail Network within Camden Hills State Park. It is a short (a half-mile each way) but rewarding hike up Battie's south side. You'll ascend 600 feet to the top for views over Camden and the islands that dot Penobscot Bay. Ascending the stone tower on the summit further enhances the 360-degree panorama. The trail is a well-known destination during the fall season, where colors from the maple, birch, aspen, oak and ash trees light up the trail.

Eliot Mountain

■ Mount Desert Island, Maine

For a spectacular view that looks out over Northeast Harbor in the 1,000-acre Land & Garden Preserve outside of Acadia National Park, the summit of Eliot Mountain (450 feet) is the place to be. The 1.9-mile loop trail to the top is said to date back to the 1800s. On the western slope of Eliot, you'll find Thuya Lodge and Thuya Garden, a private 140-acre preserve featuring flower gardens and native Maine woodlands.

Owl's Head Mountain

■ Groton, Vt.

It certainly isn't the most rigorous hike, but the view from the top of Owl's Head is extraordinary, especially given the 3-mile round-trip hike climbs a mere

200 feet from the trailhead. With an elevation of 1,958 feet, the rock face near the peak offers spectacular views of Lake Groton, Kettle Pond, Peacham Bog and an unbroken expanse of forest that is awe-inspiring, especially in vibrant fall. The trailhead begins in New Discovery Park in the Groton State Forest off state Route 232. While the 1.5-mile hike is rated easy, it's also possible to drive to a parking area near the top for a short walk, making Owl's Head a perfect fall option for peepers of all ages.

Rattlesnake Mountain

■ Raymond, Maine

This ridge north of Sebago Lake is a terrific fall day hike for families that's within an hour's drive of Portland. Parking for the 2.5-mile Bri-Mar trailhead (the most popular approach to the 1,035-foot summit) can be found off Webbs Mills Road (Route 85). From the parking area, the best views looking over Panther Lake await just a half-mile away. The general ease of the terrain, just 623 feet of elevation gained, and its rewarding views make Rattlesnake a great family choice, though some steep sections will be challenging for kids under age 6 or so. Also note that while dogs are not permitted on the Bri-Mar trail, there are other approaches to the summit, most notably from Route 121 (Meadow Road). **S**

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LODGING

▶ Mountain Lake Cottages serves up idyllic lakefront cottages located directly on the shores of majestic Lake Willoughby, in Vermont's scenic Northeast Kingdom.



STAYING POWER

INNS, B&Bs, RESORTS ARE YOUR FALL FUN HEADQUARTERS

By Brion O'Connor

The “work hard, play harder, then rest easy” mantra is a favorite in my house, especially after Labor Day. My wife and I, and our two daughters, all love to get outside and explore, especially once the temperatures start to cool off and the hardwoods begin their annual fireworks display.

Finding a “hidden gem” these days is getting more and more difficult, which isn't necessarily a bad thing. A robust tourism industry throughout New England is good for the entire region. But we still have a few special spots, once the leaves start producing their annual magic.

VERMONT

Wildflower Inn ■ Lyndonville | windflowerinn.com

Few inns have evolved to keep pace with an ever-changing recreational landscape quite like the Wildflower Inn on Darling Hill Road. Mary and Jim O'Reilly converted the old farm into an inn in 1985, when East Burke was a dedicated ski town. But with the introduction of the Kingdom Trails 24 years ago, things began to transform, and the O'Reillys found their inn located smack in the middle of the network. Today, that network has expanded to more than 100 miles of trail. The O'Reillys adapted, adding the Village Sports Shop Trailside (offering repairs, sales and rentals) in 2014, and then The Hub pub at the back of the shop and Kingdom Cycling & Experiences (offering guided tours) in 2016. The inn also hosts the annual bike-apalooza known as NEMBA Fest every June. These are some of the most particular riders you'll find anywhere, and they flock to the Wildflower. Start the day with a hearty breakfast, and end it with a beverage at the inn's SpokeEasy pub or The Hub.

HONORABLE MENTIONS: **Inn at Mountain View Farm** — at the head of Kingdom Trails in East Burke (innmtnview.com), the **Village Inn of East Burke** (villageinnofeastburke.com), and the **Burke Bike Barn** (burkebikebarn.com).



▶ Ameer Farm Lodge



▶ 16 Bay View Hotel



▶ The Wauwinet



▶ Sun & Ski Inn and Suites

The Inn at the Round Barn Farm

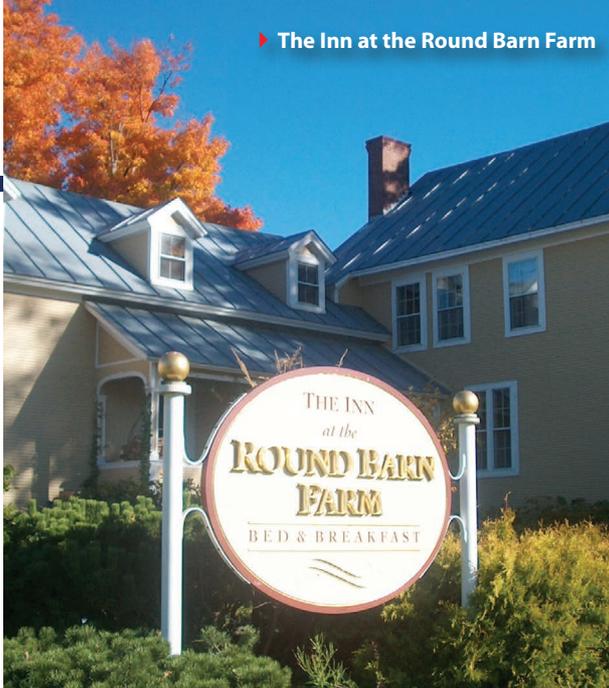
■ Waitsfield | theroundbarn.com

Looking for a midweek escape? I highly recommend the Inn at the Round Barn Farm in Vermont's Mad River Valley. The place is typically booked solid on the weekends, hosting more than 40 weddings each year. Monday through Thursday, however, the Round Barn goes quiet, and the inn with its beautifully appointed rooms takes center stage. There are myriad activities, ranging from gravel and mountain biking, hiking, golfing, glider rides, shopping and sampling a host of splendid restaurants (including American Flatbread). Don't miss the inn's sumptuous, farm-fresh breakfasts.

HONORABLE MENTIONS: **The Pitcher Inn**, Warren (pitcherinn.com), **Weathertop Mountain Inn** (weathertopmountaininn.com) and **Waitsfield Inn**, Waitsfield (waitsfieldinn.com).

Sun & Ski Inn and Suites ■ Stowe | sunandskiinn.com

Between the town and the ski resort, Stowe has plenty of options for active travelers during the fall months. The resort has rock-climbing, ziplining, hiking and the Gondola Skyride. You also can take the Auto Toll Road to the top of Mount Mansfield, the state's highest peak. And the town itself is full of terrific little shops, galleries and restaurants, plus a nicely paved bike path. But what makes this spot on Mountain Road really stand out, and a particular favorite for families with young



children, are two longtime favorites — miniature golf and bowling. Add a heated pool and parents have all the elements to make sure their kids are preoccupied, and happy. The rooms are neat and clean, though not luxurious. But after a day running around town, you won't have any trouble getting to sleep.

HONORABLE MENTIONS: **Stoweflake Resort and Spa** (stoweflake.com), and the **Trapp Family Lodge** (trappfamily.com).

Amee Farm Lodge ■ Pittsfield | ameefarm.com

Vermont is considered by some to be New England's ski capital, but its majestic hills and wooded areas also make it a premier fall getaway. No one knows that better than Spartan Race impresario Joe DeSena, who has been converting this sleeping little town into an adventure mecca since he bought up a number of properties and launched the Death Race more than a decade ago. About an hour south of Vermont's capital city of Montpelier, Amee Farm is a traditional B&B situated on 40 acres right on Route 100, wedged between the serrated hillsides. In addition to hiking and horseback-riding trails, check out the 25 miles of switchback fun at Green Mountain Trails (gmtrails.org). A post-adventure beverage on the inn's wrap-around porch, with sublime mountain views, is one of life's great pleasures.

HONORABLE MENTIONS: **The Swiss Farm Inn** (swissfarminn.com), and the **Trailside Inn** (trailsideinnvt.com).

Mountain Lake Cottages

■ Westmore | vermontmountainlakecottages.com

These idyllic lakefront cottages are located directly on the shores of majestic Lake Willoughby, in Vermont's scenic Northeast Kingdom. The property sits on 4.3 acres with 330 feet of lakefront and offers kayaking/canoeing, hiking, mountain biking and magnificent sunset viewing. The two-bedroom cottages sleep five and are equipped with heat, a full kitchen, range with oven, bathroom with shower and a stone fireplace.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Wentworth ■ Jackson | thewentworth.com

For years, every fall, my mountain bike buddies and I would run off to North Conway for "Boyz Weekends." The area had everything we needed, from thigh-busting riding to delightful watering holes and top-notch restaurants. All we needed was an old ski house. These days, my wife and I still love the area, but we prefer lodging that's a bit more upscale. The Wentworth Inn in the village of Jackson delivers every time. We can opt for a room or a condo, depending on the size of our group. And the village has a number of excellent dining options (the Wildcat Tavern and the Shannon Door being two choice spots). First-class golfing, cycling (including downhill at Attitash/Bear Peak resort), hiking and even shopping are all within minutes.

HONORABLE MENTIONS: **The Inn at Thorn Hill** (innatthornhill.com), and the **Darby Field Inn**, Conway (darbyfield.com).

Colonel Spencer Inn ■ Campton | colonelspencerbb.com

Whether you plan to play at Loon Mountain in Lincoln or Waterville Valley Resort, the Colonel Spencer Inn in Campton is a great launching pad. In almost any direction, you can find hiking, cycling, golfing, fishing and boating. Two local highlights for me are the Six Burner Bistro, located in an 1850s farmhouse on South Main Street in the college town of Plymouth, and the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center in Holderness. Plymouth also is home to The Flying Monkey Movie

House & Performance Center, which is developing quite a reputation for bringing in top-notch musical talent to New Hampshire's north country.

HONORABLE MENTIONS: **The Woodstock Inn Station and Brewery** (woodstockinnh.com) and the **RiverWalk Resort at Loon Mountain** (riverwalkresortatloon.com).

Colby Hill Inn ■ Henniker | colbyhillinn.com

South-central New Hampshire, just west of Concord, is an underappreciated (read: less crowded) area for outdoor enthusiasts. Of course, most people know about Pats Peak Ski Area, but the mountain biking, road cycling, hiking (check out Miller State Park) and fly-fishing in the area is just outstanding. The Colby Hill Inn, located on the scenic Currier and Ives Byway, is a perfect hub for these outings, with relaxing rooms and an award-winning restaurant, The Grazing Room, run by chef/proprietor Bruce Barnes. Fat-tire and road cycling fans can learn more about the local routes at Cyclesmith on Main Street.

HONORABLE MENTIONS: **The Henniker House Bed & Breakfast** (hennikerhouse.com) and **The Maples at Warner** (hemaplesatwarner.com)

MAINE

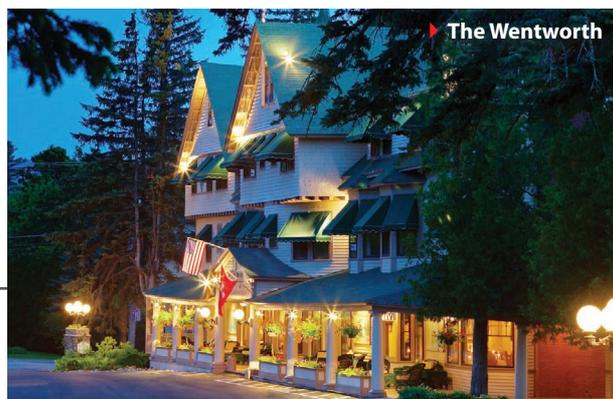
Maine Huts & Trails ■ Carrabassett Valley | mainehuts.org

If you want to immerse yourself in the Maine woods, there's no place better to do it than the high-end lodges of the Maine Huts & Trails near Sugarloaf ski resort. The serpentine trail system near Stratton Brook and Poplar huts (the two closest to Sugarloaf) is simply exceptional, ideal for both mountain biking and hiking (though hikers will want to keep an ear out for descending cyclists, and vice versa). The "huts" are really high-end lodges, with one caveat. The main buildings are spectacular, with hand-made wood and leather furnishings, hot showers, cold beverages and warm breakfasts and dinners (plus a bag lunch) all included in an overnight stay. However, the sleeping quarters are bare bones, and guests need to bring their own sleeping bags (gear shuttles are available).

HONORABLE MENTIONS: **The Bethel Inn Resort**, Bethel (bethelinn.com) and **The Inn on Winter's Hill**, Kingfield (wintershill.com).

16 Bay View Hotel ■ Camden | 16bayview.com

Don't judge this hotel by its blue-collar, red-brick exterior abutting Camden Harbor. This luxury boutique hotel is home to one of the nicest waterside, rooftop



bars in the Northeast. That alone makes 16 Bay View a gem. Now add all the fabulous attractions surrounding the inn and the town, and you've got a winning combination. The gallery and restaurant scene is vibrant (including the lively Rhumb Line at Lyman-Morse boat builders), as is the outdoor activities. No matter what kind of bike you own — mountain, road, gravel or hybrid — you'll have plenty of routes to choose from. But you'll definitely want to spend some time on the ocean too.

HONORABLE MENTIONS: **50 Main**, Rockland (250mainhotel.com), **Samoset Resort**, Rockport (samosetresort.com), and **Timbercliffe Cottage**, Camden (timbercliffecottage.com).

The Lodge at Moosehead Lake

■ Greenville | lodgeatmooseheadlake.com

This is where my daughter, when she was all of 6, came face-to-face with a young moose. Really, that's all you need to know about how close this place puts you to nature. Activities range from seaplane and ATV rides to fishing and kayak/canoe outings to nearby Kineo Island (with a short, fun fire-tower hike to follow). The moose safari and wildlife tours are a must, as is the midnight canoe trip with a registered Maine guide. The locally sourced dinners are a bonus.

HONORABLE MENTIONS: **North Country Inn**, Rangeley (northcountrybb.com) and **Moose Mountain Inn**, Greenville (moosemountaininn.com).

MASSACHUSETTS

The Wauwinet ■ Nantucket | wauwinet.com

True confession: Even though we call Boston's North Shore home, my family and I always steer clear of Cape Cod during the summer. I'm not anti-social, really. I just can't stand the bumper-to-bumper traffic. Conversely, autumn on Cape Cod and the islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket is a special treat. Nantucket, 100 miles and a ferry ride away from Boston, is a former whaling community that bleeds history, with cobblestone streets, attentive lighthouses and bustling harbors and beaches. On the island's secluded northern tip, The Wauwinet is a neighborhood inn that allows us to step back in time. This 32-room property offers a classic New England experience, with cozy guestrooms or private cottages, daily port wine and cheese hours, seasonal drinks and nature trails surrounding the lawns.

HONORABLE MENTIONS: **1720 House**, Martha's Vineyard (1720house.com), **1750 Inn at Sandwich Center** (innatsandwich.com) and **The Inn at Yarmouthport**, Yarmouth (theinnatarmouthport.com).

CONNECTICUT

Winvian Farm ■ Litchfield Hills | Winvian.com

Western Connecticut is a hidden gem for cyclists and leaf peepers, with endless ribbons of gravel roads and trails. Just outside of Morris, in the untroubled countryside, Winvian Farm is a stately property with 18 cottages. The space is perfect for experiencing the outdoors, with recreational activities including badminton, croquet, mountain biking, gravel riding and 113 acres for hiking. There's also kayaking, canoeing and fly-fishing (make sure you have a license for the latter). For an added dose of Mother Nature's finest, the on-site farm-to-table restaurant offers excellent seasonal dining straight from the property's garden, with a wonderfully diverse wine cellar to match.

HONORABLE MENTIONS: **Interlaken Inn**, Lakeville (interlakeninn.com) and **The Litchfield Inn** (litchfieldinnct.com).

feedback@skijournal.com

Good times a brewin'

REGIONAL BEER FESTIVALS ABOUND IN THE NEW ENGLAND HIGH COUNTRY AND BEYOND



King Pine Purity Spring Resort hosts the King Pine Brew Ha Ha on Oct. 6.

By Brion O'Connor

Some things were just meant to go together — spaghetti and meatballs, Lennon and McCartney, Key and Peale, Tom Brady and Super Bowls. I'd add craft beers and autumn to that list.

Sure, some people will argue (and with merit), that a good craft beer really has no seasonal allegiance. Fair point. But the cool, crisp days of autumn, for my money, provide the absolute best times to enjoy a well-crafted brew. Why? Probably because the more hospitable weather encourages me to be more active, whether I'm pedaling, paddling or hiking. And that extra effort, I've always believed, deserves some reward.

New Englanders, and visitors to the area, are blessed with a ridiculous number of

micro-breweries, and almost as many brewfests over the fall calendar. To select the "best" of these craft beers is a tricky proposition, given the fact that everyone has different tastes. So while some folks swear by The Alchemist's Heddy Topper, a wonderful Imperial India Pale Ale, other folks might prefer a rich Hill Farmstead's Everett Porter, Tree House Brewing's Hold on to Sunshine sweet stout, or a seasonal spiced beverage like Woodstock Station's Autumn Brew Ale, with hints of apple and cinnamon.

So, rather than taking our word for what beer is best, get out there and try these brews for yourself. You'll find the settings vary almost as much as the beer offerings, from urban to rolling country, seaside to hillside. The following is a sampling of regional festivals scheduled after Labor Day. All offer dozens of beers to quaff (in moderation, of course), while many also benefit worthwhile causes. What could be better?

New England Homebrewers Jamboree, Tamworth, N.H.

Friday and Saturday, Sept. 7-8; The 20th annual New England Homebrewers Jamboree is one of the Northeast's largest gatherings of homebrewers. Event activities include a Friday night Brewers Dinner (featuring German Oktoberfest fare), homebrew competition, homebrew tastings, brewing demonstrations, music, kids games, food and more. All proceeds benefit the New Hampshire Chapter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Harvard Volksfest, Harvard, Mass.

Saturday, Sept. 8; Held in the heart of Massachusetts apple country, the festival takes place in front of

the Harvard library. The Harvard Volksfest is a Bavarian-style funfest for the whole family, including bed races, live music with the Rafters, the Contra Banditos and the Bare Hill Band, activities for youngsters, a stuffed-animal parade, an arts and crafts tent, and yard games, including "Human Foosball."

Brass City Brew & 'Que, Waterbury, Conn.

Saturday, Sept. 8; The Brass City Brew & 'Que evolved from the 12-year-old Brass City Brew Fest, with the same great assortment of brews but with the added attraction of mouthwatering barbecue. Only 2,100 tickets will be sold. Admission provides entry and sampling in all tents.

Claremont Brewfest, Claremont, N.H.

Saturday, Sept. 15; The Claremont Brewfest draws a large crowd with beer-lovers traveling from near and far to sample some of the most delicious brews in the nation. More than 30 brewers, an eclectic collection of food vendors, and good music makes this beer fest one of the most popular in the area.

Steeple Market Brewfest, Fairfax, Vt.

Saturday, Sept. 15 The third annual Steeple Market Brewfest will be held at J&L Field, offering music, craft beer and great food to support a hometown charity. There will be two tasting sessions, in addition to other activities like the "Incredibly Serious Cornhole

Tournament" and live music with the Thunder Kittens. Proceeds support the Fairfax Fire Department.

Two Roads Ok2berfest, Stratford, Conn.

Saturday, Sept. 15; Sprechen sie Deutsch? The fourth annual Two Roads Ok2berfest at Two Roads Brewing Company pays homage to the world's largest Volkfest (beer festival) with authentic German music, German-style beers, food, live music on two stages, games and more. No Limit Hefewiezen, Ol' Factory Pilsner, Ok2berfest Marzen and Two Roads' Festbier will be pouring all weekend long. Two Roads will be pouring an Altbier on Saturday and a Schwarzbier on Sunday.

Vegan & Vegetarian Food Truck & Craft Beer Festival, Watertown, Mass.

Sunday, Sept. 16; More than 20 of the best local food trucks in New England offer special veggie-inspired menus for the Vegetarian/Vegan Food Truck & Craft Beer Festival at the Arsenal Project in Watertown. In addition to more than 50 craft beers, there will be music and other entertainment. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs for a daylong picnic. A variety of pricing options allows participants to pick and choose what delicacies they want to sample.

Oktoberfest Vermont, Burlington, Vt.

Friday and Saturday, Sept. 21-22;

Oktoberfest Vermont, a Bavarian-themed festival for the harvest, will be held at Waterfront Park on the shores of Lake Champlain. This weekend-long festival is a gala of local food, authentic German music, games and contests, locally made rustic decor, and of course, beer. More than 40 brewers will attend, including a mix of famous local breweries, regional breweries and many traditional German Oktoberfest breweries.

Brewfest at the Beach, New London, Conn.

Friday, Sept. 21; TGIF! Brewfest at the Beach happens from 6-9 p.m., with more than 150 brews representing virtually every style of beer made throughout the world, brew-

friendly food, pizza, chili, live music by the Rhythm Method band, the ambiance of Ocean Beach Park and wine tasting. All proceeds benefit Camp Rotary, a summer camp for New London junior high students and other local charitable causes.

Martha's Vineyard Craft Beer Festival, Oak Bluffs, Mass.

Saturday, Sept. 22; The third annual Martha's Vineyard Craft Beer Festival in Oak Bluffs advertises the following tagline "50-plus Breweries, 150 Beers, 1 Island." Really, what else do you need to know? The festival features a variety of breweries ranging from island-produced to the West Coast and abroad. Brewery representatives will be on hand to talk about new products. In addition to the amazing beer selection, the event will feature live entertainment, fresh food and local art.

SIPtemberfest, Mad River Glen, Vt.

Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 22-23 SIPtemberfest has two-dozen brewers and only about 800 tickets. That combination makes it the "Best Little Beer Fest in Vermont," offering people an unparalleled craft beer experience. Mad River Glen is a unique setting that keeps the vibe comfortable. With limited ticket sales, lines are never too long, allowing participants to chat with the brewers. The beers are amazing, people are cool and top-notch food and the music are local.

Harpoon Oktoberfest, Boston

Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 28-29 This celebration of German food, music and beer will take place at Harpoon's waterfront brewery in Boston. Three stages will host New England's best German Oompah bands and Harpoon's line of beers, including Harpoon's own Oktoberfest beer, will be flowing. Admission includes a souvenir pint glass and a drink ticket. If you can't make the Boston fest, don't fret — Harpoon will host another Oktoberfest at its Windsor, Vt., brewery on Oct. 6-7.

Maine Lakes Brew Fest, Casco, Maine

Saturday, Sept. 29; If the words beer and "sampling" are music to your ears, you'll love the 14th annual Maine Lakes Brew Fest at Point Sebago. The event features live music, including local favorite Chad Porter, plus more than 35 brewers (offering almost 100 varieties of beer and wine) and 15 food vendors offering hot dogs, burgers,



Attitash Mountain Resort hosts its 21st annual Oktoberfest at the Bear Peak base area on Oct. 6.

hot wings, chili, wood-fired pizza, sausage and pulled pork sandwiches, oysters and Maine lobster rolls. Originally held in Casco Village with several local brewers and 300 participants, it's grown to be the area's premier beer festival, with attendance topping 3,100. The entire event is held under tents on the beach at Sebago Lake.

Pints on the Pier, Bath, Maine

Saturday, Sept. 29; Taste some of the state's best brews — including Boothbay Craft Brewery, Flight Deck Brewing, Funky Bow Beer Company, and more — while enjoying live music from the Squid Jiggers. Sunset over the Kennebec River sets the scene for a one-of-a-kind party on the pier. Food trucks will be on-site offering a variety of eats and treats.

Derry Village Rotary Oktoberfest, Derry, N.H.

Saturday, Sept. 29; This inaugural Oktoberfest, hosted by the Derry Village Rotary Club, will be held from noon to 6 p.m. at the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Derry. This is a fun event the entire family can enjoy (though tasters must be 21 or older). All proceeds benefit local charities in the Derry area.

Powder Keg Beer & Chili Festival, Exeter, N.H.

Saturday, Oct. 6 The seventh annual Exeter Powder Keg Beer & Chili Festival at Swasey Parkway includes beer from breweries across the region, as well as live music all day. Vote for your favorite chili as local restaurants enter their house recipes in hopes of becoming the festival fan favorite.

Acadia's Oktoberfest, Southwest Harbor, Maine

Saturday, Oct. 6; Maine is home to a vibrant craft beer industry with more than 90 breweries, large and small. Acadia's Oktoberfest, held annually on Columbus Day Weekend at Smugglers' Den Campground surrounded by beautiful Acadia National Park, features many of them. Acadia's 23rd Oktoberfest will kick off a week of tours, concerts, tastings, talks and demonstrations, featuring

the history of Acadia's Quieside, ending on Sunday, Oct. 14, at the finish of the 17th running of the MDI Marathon.

Okemo's Fall into Winter Celebration, Ludlow, Vt.

Saturday, Oct. 6; Bid farewell to foliage and willkommen to winter, and celebrate the transition of the seasons with live German music, German food, German beer tasting, craft vendors, hayrides, games and pumpkin painting. Authentic German attire is encouraged. Plus, Okemo's Adventure Zone will be open with activities for the family. The party starts at 11 a.m., rain or shine, at Okemo's Jackson Gore Inn courtyard.

Attitash Mountain Resort Oktoberfest, Bartlett, N.H.

Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 6-7 Attitash Mountain Resort hosts its 21st annual Oktoberfest at the Bear Peak base area with traditional Bavarian music from King Ludwig's Band, authentic German fare and a Biergarten with 19 different local and regional breweries serving a host of seasonal beers and ciders. Children have the Kinderplatz tent complete with arts and crafts, face painting and other mini-games organized by the Mount Washington Valley Children's Museum. For the adults, the Samuel Adams Stein Hoist Competition tests strength and concentration.

International Oktoberfest, East Providence, R.I.

Saturday, Oct. 6; The 26th annual International Oktoberfest is brewing at a new location, Bold Point Park on the East Providence waterfront. This original Rhode Island Oktoberfest has Biergartens featuring dozens of seasonal, craft, imported and local brews, autumnal libations, food trucks offering traditional German favorites and festival fare, and a lively backdrop of spirited Bavarian/American entertainment.

King Pine Brew Ha Ha, Madison, N.H.

Saturday, Oct. 6; King Pine Ski Area celebrates regional craft beer, live

music, food, games and fun for the whole family during this free-admission event. A limited number of commemorative mugs will be available for purchase as well as drink tokens good for 6-ounce beer samples from a wide variety of brewers from throughout New Hampshire and New England.

Beervana Fest, Cranston, R.I.

Friday, Oct. 12; Another Friday night special, the 10th annual Beervana Fest is Rhode Island's ultimate craft beer fest, held at the historic Rhodes on the Pawtuxet. Enjoy two floors of first-class craft beer, 60 beer tables and more than 250 beers. Beervana Fest fee includes a tasting glass, 2-ounce pours of some of the finest beers in the world and educational seminars.

Aroostook County Brew & Wine Festival, Presque Isle, Maine

Saturday, Oct. 13; Presque Isle is a long, long drive for most New England residents. The Aroostook County Brew & Wine Festival makes the time behind the wheel well worthwhile. This fun, unique event is designed for the craft beer and wine lover alike, with educational sessions about the locally grown products used in the beer-making process.

New Hampshire Brew Fest, Portsmouth, N.H.

Saturday, Oct. 13; Held on the grounds of Redhook Ale Brewery, the New Hampshire Brew Fest is a special fundraiser for the Prescott Park Arts Festival in partnership with Master Brewers Association of America and WHEB's The Morning Buzz. Admission for the Brew Fest includes entry to the event, 5-ounce souvenir sampler cup, beer samples and live music and entertainment.

Cape Cod Brew Fest

Saturday, Oct. 13; The sixth annual

Cape Cod Brew Fest, held at the Cape Cod Fairgrounds, is a celebration of American craft brewers, boasting more than 60 breweries and more than 200 styles of beer. The festival also features live music, and food trucks and vendors will be on-site. Every attendee will receive a custom glass, and a portion of every ticket sold will benefit the Barnstable County Agricultural Society.

Elm City Brew Festival, New Haven, Conn.

Saturday, Nov. 17; The College Street Music Hall presents the Elm City Brew Festival, bringing together nearly 60 of these talented brewing artisans to showcase their talents. Craft beer aficionados will be able to sample the many brews on tap while discussing beer with the brewers, representatives and other beer fans. Casual food offerings also will be available. For a more complete listing of brewfests, including those that may be close to you, visit BeerFests.com. **S**

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TONY CHAMBERLAIN'S LAST RUN

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SUMMER 2018 IS NOW IN OUR MEMORY BANKS. BUT AUTUMN'S ADVENTURES AWAIT.



Sailing in Edgartown Harbor

By Tony Chamberlain

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.
— Albert Camus

I'VE ALWAYS KIND OF ADMIRER CAMUS' thought about how dying summer breathes life into the new season. Such a startling reversal to conventional thinking.

But this morning, I am literally to my waist in wet sail bags, as we haul one by one out of the locker, spread the Dacron to hose off the salt, then hoist in the breeze to dry.

Just one of those not unpleasant aftermath drills that keeps you in touch with fresh memories of the summer's "big cruise," as the kids called it — big cruise meaning they were not going to see their friends for an excruciating amount of time.

Piece of cake in the age of cell phone communication where the neighborhood and schoolyard comes along for the ride. Which is some sort of psychic invasion of sorts, though well beyond mentioning, though rules for cell phones on boat trips should be a consideration at some level.

I remember first sailing in Buzzards Bay over 40 years ago. Onboard was a young boy who had a young girl on his mind. They had had a (semi-tragic) parting, so I imagined, and we were off for the teen eternity of several days without contact with the distant world most of us aboard were happy to escape.

Our trip that year was conventional as we learned the ways of life on a cruising sailboat as it can only be learned — first hand. We sailed across Cape Cod Bay to Provincetown, which I then and always have proclaimed Massachusetts' most fun and wacky town, back across the bay to the Cape Cod Canal, then into

Buzzards Bay and the spectacular chain of Elizabeth Islands running for 25 miles or so to the southwest, with passages in between beckoning sailors to the other side of the islands to Vineyard Sound and the fabled island of Martha's Vineyard itself.

At the end of the chain is the chunky island of Cuttyhunk. Without radar in those days, we dead-reckoned through ground fog, and with great luck (and an unnecessary five-mile hitch) we were able to drop anchor just outside the pond. Only with clearing the next morning did we see atop the bluff over the village what looked to be an ancient windmill suitable for the set of "Monty Python's Flying Circus."

There were two hotels on the island then — the Allen and the Bosworth House — and they had offered the two most coveted treats for anyone confined to a boat for several days — hot showers and hot meals, not to mention clothes washers and dryers. But our teenage Romeo found something even rarer and sweeter up in that rarified air over Cuttyhunk Pond — a phone booth.

Yup, I know you haven't seen one in years now, but they were boxes made of blue glass and aluminum, just large enough for a human being to send — via wired instrument — whatever love plaint, or just complaint, about a life of confinement to which he had been subjected.

All these years later, I remember only the huge stack of quarters he amassed and the growing line of people waiting outside for their turn to use that one public phone on the island.

The next day we rowed (yes, rowed in our wooden dinghy) to the beach and hiked the island. The northerly grassy bluff slowly lowers, and about four miles to the south you are back on the beach, where an ancient tower proclaims this to be the landing spot of Bartholemew Gosnold, the English explorer who named the Elizabeth Islands for his daughter. The views from the

southwest-facing bluff must have struck the explorer as among the most beautiful he had ever come across in the world, and happily they are unspoiled to this day.

We probably got to Newport and Block Island on that first cruise. And I do recall clearly the wondrous sensation of a full Buzzards Bay sleigh ride sailing home to Marion, with a 20-knot southwest at our quarter.

Wind-driven Buzzards Bay waves are square on the front side when the wind kicks them up, but long and rolling down the backside, which is like injecting your lead-hauling hulk of a hull an injection of superspeed. The sloop rises to the crest, hesitates a moment before plunging down the wave, pinning speeds never seen merely under sail. The boat literally surfs beneath you, finishing each plunge in sizzling foam.

Ah, but as we ride our course north with all the happy anticipation of getting home, and all that that means, we are also closing out a portal behind us, the portal called summer, and all that that means.

So, more than 40 years have passed since that early cruise that focuses still in my mind on those desperate whisperings in an old phone booth beneath a surreal windmill (now long removed) on the bluff of Cuttyhunk Island. Once again, I face those familiar chores of cleaning, hosing and scrubbing, the aftermath of the "big cruise" of the year.

The boy on that cruise is now father of his own family, who love boats and sailing. The object of his affection has her own brood, and the two have remained friends all those years. And once again, the world has entered its turning to a new season, which, as we have to remind ourselves with a little assist from Camus, contains its own beauty. Though as a sailor drydocked, I just have to look a little harder for it.

feedback@skijournal.com



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September 29th: Chili Challenge & Brews

October 6th: Fall Foliage Celebration

October 26th: Valley Halloween Celebration