



**INSIDE**  
**FAMILY TRAVEL FIVE:** Ghostly goings-on **2K**  
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EUROPE



Carl Court/Agence France-Presse  
**A life-size wax model** of an archer is based on remains recovered from the wreck of the Mary Rose.

Maritime disasters afloat again

Trio of exhibits are time capsules of high-seas history

By **AMY LAUGHINGHOUSE**  
Special Contributor  
When we think of historic shipwrecks, the Titanic is typically the first that springs to mind. The Titanic Belfast experience, which opened in March 2012, lured 800,000 visitors its first year. But this Irish attraction is not the only exhibition devoted to drama on the high seas.  
The fates of two other ships, the Vasa in Stockholm and the Mary Rose off the coast of England, have been chronicled in excellent museums. Here's a look at those as well as Titanic Belfast.

*Amy Laughinghouse is a freelance writer based in London.*

PORTSMOUTH, ENGLAND

**The Mary Rose: Flagship of Henry VIII, 1545**  
On July 19, 1545, Henry VIII's naval flagship, the Mary Rose, sank off the southern coast of England while sailing out to confront a French fleet. About 35 men made it to shore; unknown hundreds went down with the ship.  
For more than 400 years, the Mary Rose lay below the surface of the Solent, the strait between England and the Isle of Wight. Now, 31 years after she was recovered, the Mary Rose has made her 21st-century debut at the Portsmouth Historic

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AUTUMN TRIPS



Stu Gallagher/Fingerlakeswinecountry.com  
**New York's Finger Lakes** region, home to Cornell University, offers wineries and wine trails, lake recreation and splendid fall color.

Sis-boom-bough: 3 cheers for fall foliage

College towns feed eyes and soul with color and culture

By **ROBIN SOSLOW**  
Special Contributor  
**D**o you ever fantasize about going back to college? I do.  
Not for the studying or the keggers, but for the variety of music, shows, galleries and hangouts. University towns also abound with sensational eateries that make it easy to gain the notorious Freshman 15.  
This time of year, many colleges offer yet another temptation: colossal displays of fall color.

You can even find lodging on campuses. We're not talking minimalist dorms, but vacation-worthy accommodations that offer comfy beds, service from cheerful student-employees eager to recommend hot spots and cool events, and amenities such as book-stocked nooks. Not that you'll have time to read, given all the arboreal, cultural and culinary distractions.  
After a friend convinced me that her alma mater, Indiana University in Bloomington, offered a perfect mix of culture and funky fun, we found accommoda-

tions right in IU's regal century-old student union. Its Biddle Hotel offers surprisingly elegant quarters within walking distance of dozens of wonderful ethnic restaurants. If not for nonstop museum hopping and leaf peeping, I might've put on the Freshman 15 in a weekend.  
Here are several university towns where you can pair that favorite autumnal rite with boundless tuition-free fun. (Plan your trip to avoid busy home football weekends.)

See **COLLEGE** Page 3K



Michael Marsland/Yale University  
**In New Haven, Conn.,** you'll find beautiful fall color in parks around town and on the Yale University campus.



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New York's  
Finger Lakes —  
Cornell University

Leaf peepers get double the color as crystalline lakes reflect the variegated reds, oranges and other hues. Pack a bottle of local wine or a thermos of cider, pick up apples and other fruit at roadside stands, and picnic on the shores of New York's aptly named Finger Lakes. Spectacular views flank lakeside wine trails. Tasting rooms beckon with vineyard views and award-winning wines.

From Cayuga Lake, head west, admire the leafy palette at Finger Lakes National Forest, then continue to Seneca Lake. On its south-east shore, indulge in local, robustly flavored fare at Red Newt Cellars Winery & Bistro and Stonecat Cafe, tucked amid vineyards in a former fruit market.

At Seneca Lake's south edge, meander the pier and main street of Watkins Glen. Down the street, Watkins Glen State Park (nysparks.com/parks/142) sweeps you centuries back in time. Trails wind through layers and levels of massive rock — along creeks and past incredible plunging waterfalls. Bursts of brilliant leaves contrast with the hauntingly dark stone walls.

**Leaf peeping:** The red and sugar maples shimmer with red, orange and yellow; ash displays a clear yellow. Other hallmark trees include poplars, serviceberry and pin cherry. Rich color typically lasts until Columbus Day.

**Foliage reports:** Fallgetaways.iloveny.com/LANDING\_FOLIAGE\_REPORT.html

**Lodging:** The Statler Hotel at Cornell University offers 153 luxury rooms from \$220 per night. Located in Ithaca at the southern tip of Cayuga Lake, it's staffed by School of Hotel Administration students. On campus, visit Cornell Plantations (cornellplantations.org) for a compact constellation of fall color. statlerhotel.cornell.edu.

**Visitor info:** fingerlakeswinecountry.com.

New Haven, Conn. —  
Yale University

In this walkable fount of world-class culture, there's live entertainment in every direction. You may spot famous actors in the audience at Long Wharf Theatre, a repurposed warehouse, and Yale Repertory Theatre, where Pulitzer, Obie and Tony award winners have debuted before moving to Broadway and off-Broadway.

At Yale, spend a wallet-free day touring the campus, the Yale Center for British Art, the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library (translucent veined-marble walls!), and the Collection of Musical Instruments (harpsichords to percussion oddities).

Behold panoramas of trees displaying a complete color wheel and breathtaking views of New Haven Green and Long Island Sound from atop the 350-foot basalt cliffs of East Rock Park. At night, slip into Cafe Nine's "musician's living room" and hear Scottish fiddle to Texas swing.

Leave time to sample New Haven's revered Neapolitan-style "apizza" at old-school Pepe's or Sally's. And don't miss the sustainable, crazy-delicious creations at Miya's Sushi.

For other types of fall color, City-Wide Open Studios weekends in October show off the work of 500 artists.

**Leaf peeping:** Sugar maple, elm, aspen, beech and birch offer dazzling reds and yellows. Peak foliage is expected the second week of October through mid-November.

**Foliage reports:** ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2697&q=322764&depNav\_GID=1631.

**Lodging:** The Study at Yale has 124 sleek, modern rooms from \$159 per night and the farm-to-table Heirloom Restaurant and Lounge. studyatyale.com.

**Visitor info:** visitnewhaven.com.



Explorebranson.com

**Spectacular fall color** awaits in the hills and lakes around Branson, Mo., home of College of the Ozarks.

Branson, Mo. — College of the Ozarks

Branson's flashy, family-friendly Highway 76 entertainment strip gets top billing, but the rough beauty of its Ozark hills and lakes draws increasing numbers of visitors.

Splendid foliage can be enjoyed by car as well by train, plane, helicopter, yacht and paddleboat. Lake Taneycomo is a top spot, especially as colors explode through October. You can also bike in the hills or hike through forests to gaze at inside-out color. Table Rock State Park is among the most popular spots, but hidden just a stone's throw from the Dixie Stampede on the Strip is Lakeside Forest Wilderness Area. There, a 315-step staircase of hand-laid stone leads downhill to a trail edging Lake Taneycomo. Keep watch for eagles and herons.

**Leaf peeping:** Color comes in waves: first sassafras and sumac, then oaks and hickories. The visual symphony also includes ash, birch, dogwood, cottonwood, sycamore and purple-blushing sweetgum. Color runs mid-September to mid-November, usually peaking in late October.

**Foliage reports:** explorebranson.com/fall.

**Lodging:** Mabee Lodge at the Keeter Center at College of the Ozarks has 15 beautifully furnished rooms and suites with fireplaces and serene views; from \$199 per night. Cushy lobby couches face a two-story stone fireplace. The lakeside campus sights include a fruitcake kitchen and gristmill. Students prepare and serve gourmet cuisine at Dobyns Dining Room, a magnet for local foodies. keetercenter.edu/content/lodging.aspx.

**Visitor info:** explorebranson.com.

Blue Ridge Mountains — Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va.

Golden-yellow highlights herald autumn in the Roanoke Valley of the Blue Ridge Mountains. In southwest Virginia's chunk of the Appalachian Mountains, layers of subtle and vivid color drape steep ridges slanting across the valley.

An hour's hike beneath colorful canopies along the creekside Cascades National Recreation Trail includes rewards such as a 66-foot waterfall. For views from the top, ascend challenging trails to McAfee Knob or Dragon's Tooth, an outcrop of quartzite spires. In October, color changes gradually, beginning in the high mountains and concluding on the lower slopes and valleys.

Drivers wind through delightful color along the Blue Ridge Parkway. Experience authentic Appalachian mountain music on the Crooked Road (thecrookedroad.org), a heritage music trail. Stop at the Floyd Country Store (floydcountrystore.com) for its legendary Friday Night Jamboree, a \$5 alcohol-free barn-burner of gospel, old-time and bluegrass bands and flatfoot and clogging dancers.

**Leaf peeping:** Peak color middle to late October, depending on elevations and weather. Color changes first at the higher elevations. Optimal rainfall keeps leaves on trees longer and enhances color. Trees include yellow poplar, northern red oak and black oak.

**Foliage reports:** virtualblueridge.com/color-reports.

**Fall color hotline:** 828-298-0398.

**Lodging:** The Inn at Virginia Tech, green-certified lodging built in 2005 on campus, offers 147 modern rooms from \$109. The inn's Preston's Restaurant sources from local producers and earned the *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence for 2013. It's about 30 minutes from the Blue Ridge Parkway and Appalachian Trail trailheads. innatvirginiatech.com.

**Visitor info:** visitroanokeva.com.



Roanoke Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau

**Drives along the Blue Ridge Parkway** near Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va., offer stunning views of the Roanoke Valley.

Bloomington, Ind. —  
Indiana University

Bloomington's an over-achiever, having earned berths on top college town and fall color lists, as well as Tree City USA honors from the Arbor Day Foundation. Leaf peepers find nirvana in the rolling hills and expansive forests around IU, and on campus.

IU is home to free galleries of world-class art, high fashion, sex-themed artifacts (collected — really — for research purposes) and anthropological finds. Another gallery presents an amazing collection of mechanical puzzles. Outside, stroll woodland paths straight out of Victorian picture books.

Outside IU's Sample Gates — towers of Indiana limestone — you'll find a colorful buffet of ethnic and farm-to-table restaurants, brewpubs, shops and music spots along Kirkwood Avenue and throughout BEAD, Bloomington Entertainment and Arts District.

Color blazes year-round nearby at the Tibetan Mongolian Buddhist Cultural Center (tmbcc.org). Founded by Thubten Norbu, IU professor and brother of the Dalai Lama, this 108-acre wonderland beckons with a monastery and two temples of enlightenment



Robin Soslow/Special Contributor  
**Indiana University** offers woodland trails and hand-some limestone buildings.

called stupas. After visiting, return downtown to taste the culture at Anyetsang's Little Tibet.

**Leaf peeping:** Colors change late September to early November, usually peaking the second and third week of October. A favorite locals' peeping spot is the Fire Tower at the Charles C. Deam Wilderness Area in Hoosier National Forest.

**Foliage reports:** visitindiana.com/leafcam.

**Lodging:** The Biddle Hotel's elegance includes antiques in 189 guest rooms tucked into Indiana Memorial Union on campus. Rooms are from \$99 per night. Don't miss the gift recently installed in the union: a magnificent three-manual, 45-stop, 2,838-pipe organ, named Opus 91, built by C.B. Fisk. imu.indiana.edu/hotel.

**Visitor info:** visitbloomington.com.



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