

# Five fall getaways

Find the perfect lodging package to make the most of your stay

The Pennsylvania countryside is ablaze with vibrant hues. Fall color reaches its peak from mid-to-late October, but beautiful weather is a given all autumn. It's a great time to rev up your engine and enjoy these experiences in the Cumberland Valley area of the Keystone State. The region is less than 120 miles from Washington, DC, and is centrally located in the Hershey-Gettysburg-Lancaster vacation region at the confluence of I-81, I-76, I-83 and US 11/15.

## Fall foliage spotting

One of the local favorites is Wertzville Road, which meanders past farms, meadows, and small villages. Overlook a bucolic valley at the Audubon Hawk Watch at Waggoner's Gap, and try to spot golden eagles and hawks. In addition to those sites, nature lovers and nature photographers flock to Colonel Denning State Park for spectacular vistas. Driving tours and a foliage map can be accessed online at [visitcumberlandvalley.com](http://visitcumberlandvalley.com). Hampton Inn Harrisburg East has a package that includes a \$25 gas gift card.

## Outdoor adventures

Choose from three state parks, two state forests and 189 miles of trails where you can hike, bike, bird watch, jog, boat, fly-fish at two limestone streams, and even horseback ride. Visit the Appalachian Trail Museum near the trail's midpoint to understand more about the famous footpath before you tackle it. If you're

traveling with kids, spend time at the Children's Lake in Boiling Springs. Bring a picnic basket, and include bird food for them to feed the ducks and swans that swim there.

Extreme sports enthusiasts can participate in robust activities, like rock climbing (outdoors at Whiskey Springs or inside at the Climbnasium), zip-lining, ATV-ing, canoeing or kayaking on the Conodoguinet Creek Water Trail, and skydiving around Chambersburg. Homewood Suites Harrisburg West will set up exciting sporting opportunities for you with a Warm Weather package.

## Girlfriends' weekend

Women and their BFFs will find things that turn them on in Carlisle. They'll get a chance to max out their credit cards in glam boutiques and artisan shops, and load up on vintage tchotchkes found in out-of-the-way antique stores. The girls are sure to refresh body and soul in a therapeutic session at one of the area's deluxe day spas. And what lady wouldn't want to learn proper tea etiquette during an afternoon break at Over the Teacup tearoom? The area's top chefs will be whipping up meals that will satisfy their inner foodie. Check out the Girlfriends Getaway packages at Carlisle House B&B and Homewood Suites.

## Civil War happenings

Follow the Civil War Trail through towns that played a big role in the Gettysburg Campaign. Plan to spend lots of time in Carlisle, site of the July

1, 1863, Battle of Carlisle. It makes a good hub for day trips to Mechanicsburg and Shippensburg, also important Civil War sites. While in Carlisle, visit the US Army Heritage and Education Center, the Cumberland County Historical Society (which also was a stop on the Underground Railroad), the Carlisle Springs Monument, the Veterans' Square Civil War Monument, and the Old Public Graveyard. Follow the self-guided walking tour of Carlisle's Wayside Markers.

There are several Civil War-related hostels in which to stay, such as Days Inn Carlisle, where the Happy Anniversary Civil War package includes a Civil War book and a bottle of wine.

## Culinary tour

Tie on a bib and wear your big boy (or girl) pants, because the culinary offerings in the Cumberland Valley are non-stop. If you're a "Do-It-Yourselfer," choose from among the 200 demonstration cooking classes at The Kitchen Shoppe. Enjoy

a glass or two or three at Market Cross Pub and Brewery, an authentic English pub where you can tour their brewery and enjoy a pint over an English or American meal. But if you prefer a Guinness, head over to the Oxford Hall Celtic Shop. Stop for afternoon tea, served with a yummy selection of tea cakes and other goodies, at one of the top tearooms in Pennsylvania, Camellia's Sin Tea Parlor. When snack time rolls around, grab a handful of nuts at The Virginia Nut Shop, or snag a bag of gourmet chocolates and other candies at Brittle Bark. If fresh is your thing, taste your way around the West Shore Farmers Market. Bottom line: You won't go hungry.

If your passion centers mainly on brewskis, the Carlisle B&B offers a Beer Lovers Tours and Tasting Weekend Package that includes visits to several area breweries and restaurants.

## For more information

Cumberland Valley Tourism:  
[visitcumberlandvalley.com](http://visitcumberlandvalley.com)



Colorful foliage is an autumn draw at Kings Gap Nature Education Center.

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