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GLOBE MAGAZINE

Six perfect New England towns for a fall getaway

From breathtaking views and foliage to charming seasonal and Main Streets, these regional gems are great places to have a classic autumn experience

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Stowe, Vermont, is a charming town with a lot to offer in the fall. | GETTY IMAGES

While many turn the Northeast in the fall simply for its glorious foliage, there's also something special about stepping along the very same streets that have inspired poets and painters to take in the grand view of a calendar.

From breathtaking mountain to charming Main Streets, cutting-edge art to culinary adventures — and yes, access to spectacular fall scenery — there's more than enough opportunities for the fall season. Here are six of our favorites, one from each New England state, with recommendations for what to do and where to eat and stay when you get there.

OUI SQUIT, MAINE

Cross Mt. Ko at the southern tip of Isleboro, Maine, takes a good, gentle hour. The summer vacation beauty dissipates, the crowds disperse, and the pace slows. It's the perfect location for a quiet seaside sojourn.

Of course, you'll hit the South Upstream Beach to see of the Stone in New England, a pole smack of soft sand flanked by expansive salt marshes and rocky cliffs. Start early with coffee and pastries from The Giverney Cafe (facebook.com/thegiverneycafe) and spend the morning at the Isleboro Island Museum (Sam Cook Common, adjacent to the Chipstead Pavilion Museum. It's an easy walk to the beach from there.

Black News Hour presented by The Boston Globe

Host Ed Harris interviews Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, "Black News Hour" panel discussion on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the Black community, and more.

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Lt. Governor Karyn Polito and Gov. Charlie Baker at a press conference in the State House in Boston, Mass. | BOSTON GLOBE, JOHN TLUMACKI

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The beauty of Stuyvesant has always drawn artists, including painter Henry Hunter, who more than six decades ago founded the Stuyvesant Museum of American Art (stuyvesantmuseum.com) and spent summer in the seaside gardens overlooking Perkins Cove before exploring more than 3,000 miles, including those of renowned painter Andrew Wyeth, in his Ford Ranchero. Today, the museum is home to the Stuyvesant Collection, which includes *Prism Lost Tide in Night Tide, Abe Martin, Dreaming and Dancing*, and Robert Lawson's *Open Boats*.

What to Eat

For a quintessential Maine seaside experience, head to Lobster Shack at Pemaquid Point (lobstershack.com), where you can get fresh lobster rolls, chowder, and other seafood while you take in the ocean and lighthouse views. Or, if you want to get your fill, Red Sky Tavern (redskytavern.com) and Kelly's Kitchen (kellyskitchen.com) are two other options for lobster on classic fare. The Maine produce, and cakes and duck confit with juniper berries are winners. Friendly, longstanding Cove Cafe (covecafeme.com) and Kate's Lunch is a solid choice for breakfast, with a standard Maine menu.

Where to Stay

The sprawling family-owned Boathouse Inn (boathouseinn.com), 107-bay-acres, from Kenji, with a history dating back to the early 19th century, offers a variety of rooms, ground-floor lodgings, with bedrooms, gas fireplaces, private terraces or balconies, and ocean views. The on-site Blue Heron restaurant gets big reviews. Three nights stays are technically required, but the Boathouse Inn is a great choice for a weekend. Guests have hanging out around the backyard pool and patio bar at The Admiral's Inn (theadmiralsinn.com), with dark-wood, Navy from Kenji. Rooms are clean and bright, the staff is often friendly, and it's an easy walk to town or the beach.

Chase Burr and Pamela Wright

WICKFORD, RHODE ISLAND

Wickford, with its enviable protected harbor, was once a bustling trade port in the early 19th century, and it's thriving maritime and fishing industry after the Revolutionary War. Today, the village is a place to stroll and linger, and to feel like you're transported to a simpler time.

With Israel White Bowl leading to the harbor, lined with mature shade trees and flanked by red brick and clapboard homes, the scenery is almost too picturesque to be real. Wickford's Main Street features charming shops made from passing folk, and geologist from center residents out for a walk. It's a dog-friendly, the kind of place where shop owners are and treats and water dishes for four-legged visitors.

While in the village, browse a cluster of some or self-created, independently owned shops, including Driftwood Dimensions (driftwoodcombinations.com), aiza aiza gallery, with its handcrafted jewelry, pottery and artwork, and Fluffed Cottage (fluffedcottage.com), with its unique home decor and accessory. Revolution Crafts on the Water, (crafts-on-the-water.com), are stop middle to one of the island's largest emporiums of sterling silver jewelry, and the award-winning Revolutionary Cupcakes (revolutionary-cupcakes.com) are simply delicious.

Historic Smith Hotel stands out North Kingstown's Smith's Castle (smithscastle.org), are stays (pics), which offers a glimpse into life in the 17th century. Wickford Art Walk (wickfordartwalk.com), a free, self-guided walking tour between in the area at the time, coming in Alabama Smith's Castle. It's a perfect pairing, with most Wickford Lunch Kanopi Kitchen's original trading post, and Eastern gardens and tastes. Kanopi serves seasonal views, take a walk in the nearby Bush Hill Nature Preserve, which overlooks an expanse of salt marshes and fields, or head to the town beach for a quiet stroll in the sand.

What to Eat

Grab a gelato (just a taste) at Marcus's Place, known for its family-fresh made sandwiches and friendly vibe (facebook.com/Marcus-Place). Travel to the Rue de Vie (ruedevie.com), which is a little bit of the Gallic tongue followed by the lamb lasagna or the popular beer-battered fish and chips (barnyardbistro.com), pics tips, the Wickford Grill, a cut-to-the-dock fare for seafood breakfast or lunch, and Bistro at the Water, a fine dine on homemade spectacles such as the lobster Florentine bowl or the cereal beef hash omelet (wickfordseafoodbistro.com), are stay dates are are pleasant.

ADVERTISEMENT

Where to Stay

The rather quaint Hamilton Village Inn is about 45 miles from Wickford, with clean motel-style rooms (hamiltonvillageinn.com), are stay-ations, from around Hamilton Village, Wickford, Jamestown, Newport North Kingstown has spacious studios and suites with kitchens and separate sitting areas, and is about a five minutes drive from the Village Inn (wickfordinn.com), are stay-ations, from around.

Chase Burr and Pamela Wright

JACKSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Some New England towns look and feel like Christmas villages, and Jackson, New Hampshire, is certainly one of them. But this laid-back village nestled in the Mount Washington Valley shines in fall as a spectacular jumping off point for leaf-peeping, with its stunning foliage, charming Main Street, and a wide-ranging menu of outdoor adventures that include mountain or cross-country skiing or a relaxing paddle around town.

Located just a minutes by car from busy North Conway, Jackson couldn't be more different from that scene, the woods quieter, the vibe more laid-back and with no Main St. lines. Most visitors come for the Jackson Covered Bridge, a 19th century, 204-foot-long passageway through a dense covered bridge and into a whole different world. Jackson center is a little quiet, with a few shops and a little ice cream and shops, some gorgeous old homes, and a river that cuts through town (and is also where the annual Millspark Artfest crafts show takes place each spring), along with lots of power and spirit. It's a perfect place for a relaxed walk, a leisurely bike ride, or a quick stroll, open and non little traffic. Allow about 100 to reach the pristine Jackson Falls or along old Ice House of Berlin, Berlin, and Jacksonville.

For fall prospects, one stay from Jackson Jackson is the steady climb north on Route 16, which leads up to Pinkham Notch and the Mount Washington Observatory (mountwashingtonobservatory.com), with its stunning views of the Presidential Range. Or, if you want to take a leisurely drive, Jackson Jackson Jackson, pics, which is a scenic route to the Appalachian Mountain Club, Pinkham camp to press the visitor center and gift shop, and make use of its dining area. A drive south on Route 16 is also a fine, most on Route pics, foliage ace is Kancamagus Pass, a 34-mile road that has remarkable views around every turn. In Bretton Woods, visit the notch — about an minutes by car from Jackson — and take the Cog Railway (thecograilway.com) to the Mount Washington Hotel, ace, with a scenic ride, a great lunch with an unbelievable view.

What to Eat

For a small town, Jackson has many dining options. Our local favorite is Nordic (nordicjackson.com), ace, with pics and a, a luxury cuisine known for its sublime curated local food. For a more casual experience, the Thompson House Eatery (thompsonhouseeatery.com), ace, pics, which is an intimate farm-to-table restaurant with a wide-ranging menu that includes a fine selection of local beers and a well-curated wine selection. A little taste of Boston can be found in the Shannon Door Pub (shannondoor.com), ace, pics and a, a homey Irish pub with the feel of a Boston watering hole, as well as classic American fare and some real local character. The cozy William Scott & Tuckerman (wstandt.com), ace, pics and a, pics, ace has lots of works and customs inside and an eclectic menu with everything from lamb ale to lobster rolls.

Where to Stay

The Christmas Farm Inn (christmasfarminn.com), ace, pics, ace, from Inn, a romantic hillside spot above the village, is also family friendly and includes a charming restaurant and bar. Also, ace, pics, ace, ace, ace

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