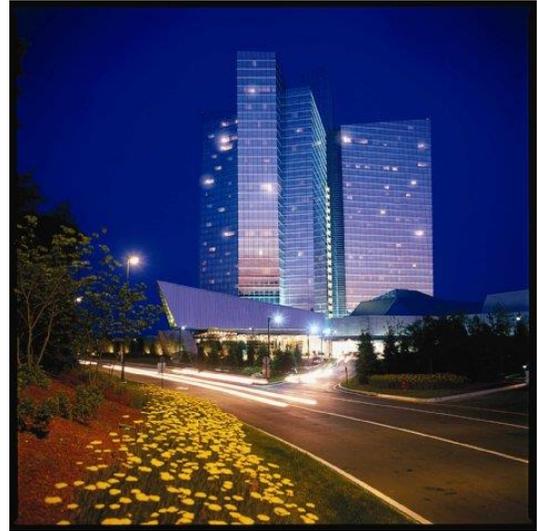


Connecticut's Top Attractions

The most southern of the New England states, Connecticut is easily accessible from both New York and Boston and offers a charming New England feel with a cosmopolitan style. From rafting down the Farmington River to kayaking through the Thimble Islands to following the Connecticut Wine Trail and enjoying coastal cuisine, Connecticut provides endless options for unforgettable holidays.

Celebrate your holiday by the Connecticut Shoreline

The shoreline has all your vacation necessities in one spot. Beautiful beaches, luxurious resorts, a variety of boutique shops, rentals and fantastic seafood make these quaint towns a must-see holiday destination, including places like Milford, Madison, Guilford, Old Saybrook, Mystic and more.



Discover, invent and learn at the Connecticut Science Center

Located in Hartford, this world-class destination provides educational and entertaining experiences for families from around the globe. Hands-on exhibits include *Forces in Motion* lets visitors design and test a heli-flyer, move objects using wind power, create a square-wheeled car and more.

Be endlessly entertained at Connecticut's Casinos

Whether its Mohegan Sun or Foxwoods Resort Casino, Connecticut's casinos represent two of the largest casino destinations in the world – from gaming and 24/7 top entertainers, boutique shopping, fine dining, signature spas and golf facilities. At Foxwoods Resort Casino offers Tanger Outlets located inside the casino with upscale branded and designer outlet retailers. Mohegan Sun's Earth Tower, a beautiful hotel featuring 400 luxurious rooms and an outdoor terrace.

Splish, splash and scream at Lake Compounce in Bristol

Lake Compounce is America's longest-running theme park. The park features more than 50 thrilling rides and attractions, including Crocodile Cove, Connecticut's largest water park and Boulder Dash, voted the #1 wooden coaster in the world. Lake Compounce also offers visitors Bear Creek Campground, an overnight destination where you can stay in a cabin, pitch your tent or hook up your RV – close enough to the park so you won't miss an hour of fun.

Sip, swirl and relax along the Connecticut Wine

The Connecticut Wine Trail is a group of more than 30 charming vineyards located throughout the state. Connecticut produced wines have won hundreds of awards and medals and include varieties such Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Noir, Merlot and Cabernet Franc.

For those of you who prefer drinks of the hoppier variety, check out Thomas Hooker Brewery in Bloomfield, where you can tour the factory and sample more than 10 unique beers. For more Connecticut breweries around the state, check out the Connecticut Beer

Trail, which spotlights the high quality and creative diversity of fresh, hand-crafted, locally-brewed beer, linking together some of the best breweries in the nation.

Immerse yourself in an artist's world at the Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme

Old Lyme was the home of American Impressionism at the turn of the 20th century, largely thanks to Florence Griswold, "keeper of the artist colony." Florence opened her home to a group of artists in the early 1900s and today the inspirational grounds and gardens are open to all.

Reflect at Philip Johnson's The Glass House

Connecticut, specifically the town of New Canaan, is one of the largest centers of Modern residential design in the United States and the famous Glass House, created by American architect Philip Johnson, is one of the most significant structures of the 20th century. An object of fascination for decades, the rectangular house was built in 1949 out of quarter-inch-thick glass and without interior walls. Absent of curtains or blinds, the property's 47 acres of trees and landscaping are the house's only source of privacy.

Go wild at Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo

The only zoo in the state, is situated on 52 lush acres in historic Beardsley Park in Bridgeport. The Zoo features 300 individual animals representing nearly 100 species native to primarily North and South America.

Marvel at the Mark Twain House & Museum in Hartford

The 1874 house in Hartford was the author's residence for 17 years and is where he penned some of his most famous works including *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. Twain's Gilded Age mansion is a must see for its exotic Louis Comfort Tiffany designed interiors. Next door, you will find Harriet Beecher Stowe's house, the author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which catapulted her to international celebrity and secured her place in history.

Have a whale of a time in Mystic

Mystic is filled with family attractions and lets kids of all ages have fun. Mystic Aquarium, is the place to explore the depths of our ocean planet like never before as you travel through Mystic Aquarium's indoor and outdoor exhibits. Visit with thousands of creatures from New England's only beluga whales to the endangered African penguin, rescued seals to colorful fish and more.

Mystic Seaport brings visitors back to the 19th century and home of the *Charles W. Morgan*, the last remaining wooden whaleship in the world. Explore American maritime history first-hand as you climb aboard tall ships, stroll through a 19th-century coastal village, discover exhibits, and watch a working preservation shipyard in action.

Enjoy active adventures at Brownstone Exploration & Discovery Park in Portland and Powder Ridge Mountain Park & Resort in Middlefield

Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park is one of Connecticut's first outdoor adventure park. Guests can experience activities from rock climbing, wakeboarding, cliff jumping and zip lining to scuba diving, snorkeling and more.

Powder Ridge Mountain Park and Resort in Middlefield offers activities for the extreme adventurer to the casual observer, including mountain biking, downhill skiing, snowboarding, snow tubing and snow biking.

Stroll through the Yale University in New Haven

Art lovers will be enthralled while touring Yale Art Gallery (including paintings by Manet, Picasso, Monet and van Gogh) and exploring the city of New Haven, known as one of the most groundbreaking cities for architecture and design in the United States. The gallery's recent expansion and renovation, 14 years in the making, unites the 1953 museum building by Louis Kahn, the 1928 Old Yale Art Gallery and the 1866 Street Hall into a single treasure chest. Also in New Haven is the Yale Center for British Art which holds the largest and most comprehensive collection of British art outside of the United Kingdom – and admission is always free.

Watch history come alive at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum located in Mashantucket

The largest Native American museum in the world, this state-of-the-art museum boasts life-size exhibits, dramatic films and touch-screen computer programs that put the excitement of the past right at your fingertips.

Touch a shark at The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk

Come nose-to-nose with sharks, seals, river otters, sea turtles, jellies and other amazing animals from Long Island Sound. Public cruises, changing exhibits, hands-on touch tanks, IMAX movies & more.

Take in a show at one of Connecticut's Award-winning Theaters

Enjoy a concert at Infinity Music Hall & Bistro in Norfolk, an intimate music, dining and entertainment destination. The newly renovated, historic building contains its original proscenium stage and wood, as well as many other notable details and features award-winning shows. The theatre is also has a second 600-seat concert venue in. Or, head to Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam from April through December to enjoy originally produced musicals (since 1877). In Hartford, Hartford Stage has earned many of the nation's most prestigious awards, including the 1988 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre. Other national honors include Outer Critics Circle, Drama Desk, OBIE, and New York Critics Circle awards.

Experience Connecticut's breathtaking fall foliage

Fall is arguably Connecticut's most beautiful season – with leaves in all corners of the state changing colors and providing one of nature's most precious beauties. The season doesn't last very long, so don't let it pass you by – take a few days and go leaf peeping! You can see beautiful views all across the state – from Litchfield Hills (most well-known for its fall foliage - the town of Kent has been ranked the number one Fall Foliage Town in New England by *Yankee Magazine*) to New Haven to Fairfield County – you simply can't go wrong. If you're looking to take in the leaves in the Farmington River Valley area, you must make a must stop to Talcott Mountain State Park where visitors can take in the spectacular vista in all directions from the 165-foot Heublein Tower, the former summer home of a prominent Hartford family. It's a scenic 1.25 mile hike to the tower and picnic area.

Take a walk through one of Connecticut's quaint towns

The charm of Connecticut can be found in its small towns and main streets. Explore unique shops and galleries, get immersed in the café culture and soak in the authentic life. Start

your country getaway in Greenwich, the state's coastal southwest corner. Greenwich Avenue, the "Rodeo Drive of the Northeast," is packed with boutiques, jewelry stores, design showrooms, chic cafés and art galleries. Another quintessential New England town nestled along the shoreline is Guilford, which branches off from the largest town green in the state. There you can find five museums set up shop inside historic homes—including the Henry Whitfield State Museum which is the oldest stone house in New England. Located on the Connecticut River, the scenic town of Essex was Dubbed "The Perfect Small American Town" in the *1,000 Places To See Before You Die* travel guide and among "The 100 Best Small Towns in America", the town offers an ideal blend of history, art, shops, restaurants, the Connecticut River Museum and much more to explore.

About The Connecticut Office of Tourism

Connecticut's Office of Tourism (COT), a division of the Department of Economic and Community Development, created the award-winning *still revolutionary* strategic marketing initiative to build pride among residents and bolster the state's reputation as a business and tourism destination. The brand, *still revolutionary*, communicates and proudly celebrates Connecticut's spirit of independence and innovation that motivates people to experience new things, defy convention and blaze their own trails. Located in New England, the Northeast part of the United States, and easily accessible from both New York and Boston, Connecticut is home to fine dining and entertainment, serene beaches and hiking trails, historic treasures and world class lodging and museums. To obtain more information about Connecticut tourism or plan your next getaway, visit www.CTvisit.com, call 1-888-CTvisit or 001 (860) 270-8080.

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