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The Design Lover's Guide to the Loveliest Northeast Road Trips

From the North Fork of Long Island to the Berkshires of Western Massachusetts, AD brings you the best – and most beautiful – of the region right now

By Kate Donnelly

It's autumn in the Northeast, which means electric-hued foliage and crisp, invigorating air. From Long Island's seaside charm to the mountainous corridors of Massachusetts, over to the pastoral Connecticut countryside and beyond, weekenders are in for a treat. Now's an ideal time to explore the region's rural integrity, with a flurry of outdoor endeavors and seasonal (socially distanced) eating and drinking—and escape the uncertainty of these times.

<https://www.architecturaldigest.com/story/northeast-us-road-trip-guide>

BERKSHIRES, MASSACHUSETTS



A misty autumn morning in the Berkshire Hills. Photo: Denis Tangney Jr. / Via Getty Images

Dazzling blue skies against scenic byways, lush valleys, open pastures and mountains—it's no secret this New England region helped write the guidebook on fall.

What to Do

For a morning spread of croissants, doughnuts, egg sandwiches, and coffee, check out the local's favorite Southfield Store. Nearby, the old-school Prairie Whale smacks of Brooklyn-cool lunch classics: grass-fed cheeseburgers and fried chicken. Across town, the barn-style dwelling Cantina 229 serves wood-fired curried scallops while an outdoor lawn doubles as a place for games and bonfires. Minutes away, taste Hudson Valley foie gras and pan-roasted squab at the warm, candlelit Old Inn at the Green.

In Great Barrington, create your own picnic with wine, cured meats, and high-end cheeses from Rubiners. A few doors down, peruse the latest fiction titles from Book Loft, then pick up hand-poured candles from Hammertown. These days, you'll also find blissfully legal cannabis provisions at Theory Wellness. For chic jumpsuits and Malin & Goetz products, check out Griffin, and later, roam the home goods selection at both Germain and Painted Porch. In Lenox, Sienna Patti Contemporary houses a smart collection of jewelry while the nearby Design Menagerie hawks Bensimon sneakers and rubber boots.

Surrounded by elegant gardens and stables, wander the quiet grounds of novelist Edith Wharton's former estate, the Mount. Alternatively, stretch your legs along the Pleasant Valley trails or make the three-mile loop at Monument Mountain offering views of Squaw Peak. You can also saddle up for horseback riding at Sunny Rose Farm. There's no shortage of art—the industrial sprawl of Mass MoCA hosts James Turrell and Sol DeWitt, and in Williamstown, the Tadao Ando-designed Clark Art Institute remains a bastion for 19th-century French paintings, including 32 works by Renoir.

Where to Stay



In August, Hyatt's venerable wellness brand Miraval opened its third location in Lenox, Massachusetts. Situated on 380 acres, the restful cottage-style rooms are dressed in warm cranberry, navy, and amber. Relax inside the expansive spa, whose wellness menu includes a 90-minute reiki session, a 60-minute organic Tulsi rose facial, and an indoor pool. You can also enlist in the resort's famed equine program or try your hand at beekeeping.