

# Fall escapes

Unspoiled pockets of nature offer breathtaking autumn beauty—and a break from the hustle and bustle.

BY DAVID LANDSEL

## THE BERKSHIRES, MASSACHUSETTS

In summer, city dwellers flock to this region for music festivals and small-town charm. Low-key vacationers prefer to come after Labor Day, when the crowds dwindle and treetops turn brilliant shades.

**See the leaves** Surround yourself with fall splendor at the top of Mount Greylock, the highest peak in Massachusetts at 3,488 feet. (You can drive up until snow shuts down the road, typically in early November.) Or stay closer to sea level in Lenox, where you can stroll the leafy estate once inhabited by author Edith Wharton.

**Don't miss** Feast your eyes on French Impressionist paintings at the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, then check out cutting-edge artwork at MASS MoCA in North Adams. At lunchtime, sink your teeth into a grass-fed beef burger at The Meat Market café in Great Barrington.

**Stay** Bascom Lodge ([bascomlodge.net](http://bascomlodge.net)), up on Mount Greylock, is a historic hideaway that serves three amazing meals a day and provides comfortable, no-frills accommodations. Book now—it closes for the season on October 21.

**More info** [berkshires.org](http://berkshires.org)

## THE CATSKILLS, NEW YORK

This rustic mountainous stretch begins just an hour northwest of New York City but encompasses four counties that stretch all the way up to the state capital at Albany.

**See the leaves** At the heart of the region is Catskill Park, a 700,000-acre sanctuary crisscrossed by miles of leafy trail. Driving is fun, too: State Route 28 bisects the park and delivers you back to civilization.

**Don't miss** Have breakfast with the locals at Sunfrost Farms, a year-round café and market in Woodstock. Then head out to Slide Mountain for a day hike. Reward yourself with kickin' barbecue at the Cha Cha Hut in Arkville before taking a short drive to Big Indian for a craft cocktail at the Peekamoose.

**Stay** Outrageously fun themed rooms and top-notch hospitality make The Roxbury ([theroxburymotel.com](http://theroxburymotel.com))—in the handsome town of the same name—the coolest hotel in the hills.

**More info** [visitthecatkills.com](http://visitthecatkills.com)

## LITCHFIELD HILLS, CONNECTICUT

Tucked into the state's northwest corner, this region has no shortage of quaint villages. But venture a bit beyond the towns, and you'll find yourself on limestone-flecked footpaths that lead past thick forest areas and sparkling mountain lakes.

**See the leaves** Head to Kent Falls State Park, where a gorgeous hiking trail parallels thundering waterfalls and cascades. Or hop in the car and spend a day tooling around the Housatonic State Forest.

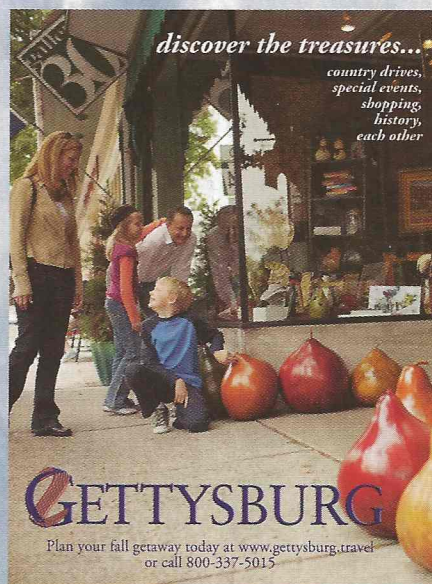
**Don't miss** Take in the historic architecture of Milton, where time seems to have stopped in the 1800s. Sample artisanal cheeses and irresistible ice cream at Arethusa Creamery in funky Bantam. Just down the road in Morris, Winvian luxury resort has a world-class spa and restaurant.

**Stay** In a town as charming as Kent, it's not easy for a bed-and-breakfast to stand out. The Inn at Kent Falls ([theinnatkentfalls.com](http://theinnatkentfalls.com)) distinguishes itself with Colonial elegance, meticulously appointed rooms, and sumptuous morning spreads.

**More info** [litchfieldhills.com](http://litchfieldhills.com) ■

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