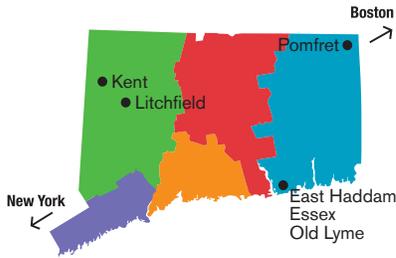


FALL FOLIAGE TOUR



Sharpe Hill Vineyard



Gillette Castle State Park



Kent Falls State Park

DAY 1:

Start your adventure along scenic Route 7 in **Kent CT**, which received top honors and first place in *Yankee Magazine's* list of 25 top towns in New England for fall foliage travel. kentct.com

STOP #1:

Visit **Kent Falls State Park** where you can wander across the covered bridge, hike the falls and feel the mist on your face as water cascades 250 feet down on its way to joining the Housatonic River. Or visit **Macedonia Brook State Park**, where you can hike the Blue Trail across Cobble Mountain and other peaks for outstanding views of the Catskill and Taconic mountains that offer impressive fall foliage viewing. ct.gov/deep.

LUNCH

STOP #2:

Enjoy the many shops and art galleries in Kent. kentct.com.

Or visit the **Sloane Stanley Museum** and the **CT Antique Machinery Museum**, located next door to each other in Kent. ericssloane.com, ctamachinery.com

STOP #3:

White Memorial Conservation Center, Litchfield
Explore the Environmental Education Center, Nature Museum and more than 35 miles of trails through varied terrains. There are also interpretive nature trails and a boardwalk trail for observing the extensive bird life found in this wetland environment. whitememorialcc.org

DINNER

CHECK IN TO A LITCHFIELD HILLS AREA HOTEL OR INN.

DAY 2:

STOP #1:

Gillette Castle State Park, East Haddam

Stroll through this fieldstone castle, which was home to legendary stage actor, William Gillette. The 184-acre park situated on a hill overlooking the Connecticut River includes hiking trails and picnic spots. ct.gov/deep

LUNCH

STOP #2:

Essex Steam Train & Riverboat, Essex

Step aboard the only steam train/riverboat combination in the country. The train from the 1892 Essex Station links up with the *Becky Thatcher* riverboat for a cruise along the Connecticut River. essexsteamtrain.com

STOP #3:

Explore the **Village of Essex**, dubbed "The Perfect Small American Town" in the *1,000 Places to See Before You Die* travel guide. While in Essex you may wish to visit the **Connecticut River Museum**, located on the waterfront. essexct.com, ctrivermuseum.org

CHECK IN TO AN ESSEX AREA HOTEL.

DINNER

The Griswold Inn, Essex

Enjoy your choice of historic fare or tap room dining in this historic inn. After dinner enjoy a glass of wine in the Wine Bar, which offers more than 50 different wines.

DAY 3:

STOP #1:

The Florence Griswold Museum, Old Lyme

Explore the home of American Impressionism, featuring the museum's extraordinary collection of painted panels and doors that are *in situ* in the Griswold boardinghouse for artists. flogris.org

Take a scenic drive from Route 395 to Route 169, a 32-mile stretch listed as a National Historic Byway. Route 169 winds its way through rolling hills, past farm stands and general stores and above quiet valleys. Prep schools, upscale homes, classy restaurants and inns add an air of elegance to the drive. Route 169 is surely an unknown treasure among the back roads of New England.

STOP #2:

Sharpe Hill Vineyard, Pomfret

Take a tour of the vineyard and taste the award-winning wines. Winemaker Howard Bursen has worked with Sharpe Hill to produce wines, which have received more than 350 awards for excellence in national and international competitions. sharpehill.com

LUNCH OPTION 1 – The Vanilla Bean Café, Pomfret. thevanillabeancafe.com

LUNCH OPTION 2 – Downtown Putnam

STOP #3:

Visit **Downtown Putnam** where you can enjoy shopping and dining. This area is a haven for antique shoppers with more than a dozen antique shops and a mall with 200 dealers. putnamct.us/visitors.htm

For more information on lodging and dining or help customizing your tour, contact the Connecticut Office of Tourism:

Anne Orsene, Domestic Sales

001.860.787.9640 ext. 100, anneo@centerofct.com

Debbie Giantonio, International Sales

001.860.787.9640 ext. 101, debbieg@centerofct.com

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