

10 Best Places to See Fall Foliage in New England

Here's where to savor the season.

As a kid, I measured my summers in corn. Each year, at the beginning of June, my friends and I would ride our bikes to the neighborhood farm in my small New England hometown and watch the tractor methodically place the seedlings into the ground. By July, those seedlings would be hip-high, and by late August, they'd tower over us. That's how we knew it was once again time for school. The thought of heading back to geometry class wasn't exactly exciting, but there was one natural phenomenon worth looking forward to: the leaves changing color.

By October, the trees in my backyard in Rhode Island were a picturesque mix of burnt orange, red, brown, magenta, and yellow. And while the years have gone by, those trees still turn the same hues each fall. I never knew how lucky I was to have this view until I realized millions of people flock to New England just to see the fall foliage every year. With a bit of planning and some good luck with the weather, you can experience it, too.

Here are the best New England fall foliage destinations to visit.

Newport, Rhode Island



PHOTO: KEITH J. SMITH/ALAMY

There's no wrong time to visit Newport, but perhaps the best time is when the leaves change. Come at the end of October to see the iconic [Newport Mansions](#) cloaked in color. Ride along Ocean Drive, a glorious coastal stretch that will leave you in awe. Sightseeing this time of year is best done at dawn or dusk to avoid large crowds of leaf peepers. Stay at the Chanler at Cliff Walk, a meticulously restored 19th-century mansion with commanding views of the Atlantic and a perfect location from which to explore.