



THE AMERICAN

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'TO SAVE THEIR LIVES'

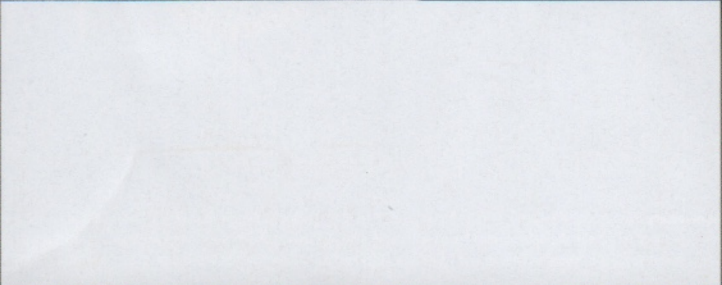
A VIETNAM WAR
NURSE'S STORY,
PART 1

Angels of Bataan

THE TROUBLE
WITH TAIWAN

RIVER THERAPY

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY SINCE 1919



American Palette

Try these scenic drives for some of the country's best autumn views.

Lower Falls at Graveyard Fields is visible from Milepost 419 on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

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BY LYN METTLER

Soon there will be a hint of crispness in the air. Sweatshirts and sweaters will call from their drawers, and billions of leaves will slowly transform from summer green to a bright palette of yellows, oranges and reds.

With so many places in America to watch this autumn affair, we've picked the best drives to include if you're planning a fall getaway.

BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY A classic route for epic fall foliage is the Blue Ridge Parkway, which runs nearly 500 miles through Virginia and North Carolina, from Great Smoky Mountains National Park to Shenandoah National Park. While valleys and peaks make for jaw-dropping views of the changing leaves from mid- to late October, there's plenty more to do and see along the way.

Visit the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Va., which lost more soldiers per capita in the

invasion than any other place in the country. In Jackson County, N.C., stop at the highest point on the parkway at mile 431, where you can walk a 1½-mile loop to the summit. From mid-October to mid-November, from 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Rhodes Big View Overlook off Highway 64, visitors can see Jackson County's "Shadow of the Bear," where the sun setting behind Whiteside Mountain casts the mystical image of a black bear.

North of the Blue Ridge Parkway is Skyline Drive in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, where the fall show continues. Less congested routes with similar views include U.S. Route 11 and U.S. Route 42. At Ruckersville, stop by the Vietnam War Foundation and Museum, which has a large collection of U.S. and Vietnamese war artifacts. At Massanutten Resort, which offers a 10 percent discount to active and retired military, you can take a chairlift ride to the peak or soar over the treetops on a zip line.



Photo courtesy Motel 6

For **affordable stays** in your leaf-peeping drives, Motel 6 has properties in the Berkshires, the Catskills and the Great Smoky Mountains, and offers 10 percent off for military and veterans.

TripAdvisor has released the **Top 10 Most Booked in the U.S.** based on its data. Taking top honors is the Chicago Architecture River Cruise, followed by the Grand Canyon West Rim and Hoover Dam Day Tour and the Grand Canyon All American Helicopter Tour. Other tours cracking the Top 10 are the Napa and Sonoma Wine Country Tour, the Big Bus New York Hop-on Hop-off Tour and the Big Apple Helicopter Tour of New York.

COLORADO Estes Park is right outside Rocky Mountain National Park, and the town's Trail Ridge Road offers stunning views of the changing leaves. You can also drive into the area via the Peak to Peak National Scenic Byway, one of only 10 such byways in the country. Another way to enjoy the fall foliage is to take the Cog Railway up to Pikes Peak, which inspired the song "America the Beautiful." Finally, the small town of Telluride sits in a box canyon and is entirely surrounded by the San Juan Mountains. Drive the Million Dollar Highway from Silverton to Ouray (nicknamed "the Switzerland of America") by way of Telluride for wonderful aspen views.

NEW YORK The Finger Lakes region has a 135-mile corridor from east to west, which you can travel via Route 5 and Route 20 for some of the country's best leaf-peeping scenery.

The National Warplane Museum in Geneseo offers flight rides on restored historic World War II aircraft, including a Whiskey-7 transport used in the 1944 Normandy invasion, though pricing is steep at \$3,500 per hour. Other local activities include biking, riding the ski lift at Bristol Mountain and a hot-air balloon ride for 360-degree foliage views. The Adirondack Mountains are another great spot for enjoying the fall colors, driving the Veterans Memorial Highway to the top of Whiteface Mountain. The High Peaks Resort in Lake Placid is a convenient home base and provides 15 percent discounts to military and veterans.

PENNSYLVANIA River Road in Bucks County runs alongside the Delaware River and is famous for its autumn display. Make time to visit Washington Crossing Historic Park, the location of George Washington's encampment before crossing the icy river.

Route 6 runs through northern Pennsylvania and was named one of "America's Most Scenic Drives" by *National Geographic*. A great pit stop is the Eldred World War II Museum, which has weaponry, uniforms, field gear and a large research library.

A drive through the Appalachians on Route 322 starts at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg and continues to Boalsburg, home of the Pennsylvania Military Museum. The trip wraps at Penn State, with its own picturesque fall landscapes.

Visit the Revolutionary War's Brandywine Battlefield – which marks its 240th anniversary on Sept. 16 and 17 with a special celebration – while traveling along the Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway that runs from Pennsylvania to Delaware.

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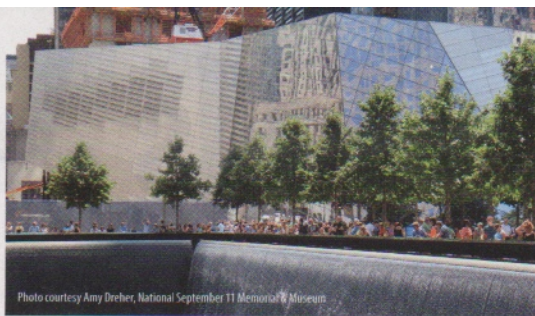


Photo courtesy Amy Dreher, National September 11 Memorial & Museum

9/11 memorial commemorates victims, heroes

This month, our nation marks the 16th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. For those interested in learning more about the events of that day, as well as the victims and the rescue and recovery workers, the National September 11 Memorial & Museum in New York City is a stirring tribute.

Set in the footprints of the Twin Towers and free to visitors, the memorial has two reflecting pools that are the largest manmade waterfalls in North America. Surrounding them are bronze panels inscribed with the names of the nearly 3,000 people killed at the World Trade Center site, near Shanksville, Pa., and at the Pentagon, as well as the six people killed in the World Trade Center bombing in February 1993.

Inside, the museum offers a minute-by-minute overview of the 9/11 attacks, as well as several displays: steel beams from the buildings that form a cross, a Bible found at Ground Zero, a destroyed FDNY Ladder 3 truck, a granite staircase from the World Trade Center that survivors descended, recordings of the attackers and more. Plans call for a permanent tribute at the site for those involved in rescue and recovery at Ground Zero.

Entrance to the museum is \$24 per adult, \$18 for senior citizens 65 and older and \$15 for youth 7 to 17. Admission is free for U.S. military personnel and veterans with valid ID.

For New England trips to see autumn splendor, Boston makes a great beginning or end point. Loews Boston Hotel, a historic former police headquarters near Copley Square, offers discounts to military and veterans starting at 10 percent.



Planning a trip to Europe? According to **CheapAir.com**, you should book airfare about 99 days prior to departure for the cheapest fares. When headed to the Caribbean, plan to purchase airfare about 76 days in advance.

