

10 Best Fall Vacations

11 PHOTOS

by CNT EDITORS
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We understand the impulse to hunker down in the fall—school's started up, sports seasons have consumed your weekends, and you're still trying to dig out your sweaters from storage. But it's also the perfect time to plan a long weekend in the U.S., or to a neighbor to the north or south. The weather's ideal from the Northeast to Texas; the changing of the leaves prompts even cynics among us to plan an ooh-and-ahh road trip; the seasonal farm-to-table meals are incredible; and the beaches on Mexico's mid-Pacific coast aren't crowded. (Hello, shoulder season!) Skip soccer for one Saturday and sneak away on one of these 10 fall vacations.



Newport, R.I.

Go because... you get to experience "locals' summer," minus the tourists.

Summer has a way of stealing the spotlight in seaside Newport, which just hosted sailing's round-the-world **Volvo Ocean Race** and has long seen its population swell June through August. But fall weather is what New Englanders brag about (ever visit in March?). Clink glasses of Bordeaux under lawn tents during the **Newport Mansions Food & Wine Festival** (September 20–23) or run waterfront streets during the **marathon and half-marathon** the city hosts October 7. Recover—from jogging or jugs of wine—at **Gurney's** on Goat Island: The hotel spa offers 15 different massages and dry eucalyptus saunas. Alternatively, be ambitious and drive to Point Judith for a ferry to Block Island. Twelve miles off the coast, where street numbers aren't a thing, you can sit in an Adirondack chair at **Spring House Hotel**, a sprawling inn high atop a hill, watching boats sail away from the harbor as the island starts to close up shop for the season. Don't worry: You don't have to leave until tomorrow. —*Cassie Shortsleeve*