

Forbes

New England Road Trip Itinerary

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New England is made for road trips. Whether you're chasing foliage in Vermont, surf breaks in Maine or colonial charm in Rhode Island, there's a route for everyone in the historic heart of early America.

We asked travel experts and local New Englanders to share their favorite road trip destinations –here's what they said.

Iconic New England Road Trip Experiences

Clam chowder, cobblestone streets and coastal towns are just a few of the things that make New England a prime road trip destination. Other highlights include:

- **Leaf peeping:** Fall is prime time to road trip in New England to see trees on the East coast turn brilliant shades of yellow, orange and red.
- **Signature foods:** Local food and drinks abound in the region, and each state has its own signature. Maine lobster rolls and New England clam chowder are just the beginning.
- **Scenic drives:** You can find everything from short 10-mile drives to multi-day road trips. Drive around lakes, across mountains and up the coast with some of the most iconic scenic highways in the U.S.
- **History:** New England is full of colonial towns with museums, historical landmarks and monuments. If it's history you want, Boston is a great city to start in.

- **Hiking and outdoor activities:** Acadia National Park, Franconia State Park and the White Mountains are just a few natural spots to visit in New England. There are hiking trails, biking loops and more to explore.

Top New England Road Trip Routes Worth Driving

New England is full of scenic drives and amazing places to explore. Consider starting with one of these top routes:

- **Route 1 (Maine to Massachusetts):** This route hugs the Atlantic shoreline and passes by small towns, lobster shacks and lighthouses. Start in Boston and end in Acadia National Park, or just stop at small towns like Bar Harbor and Kennebunkport.
- **The Kancamagus Highway (New Hampshire):** The “Kanc,” a 34-mile stretch through the White Mountains, is full of beautiful scenery and some of the best leaf-peeping in the country if you go in the fall.
- **Mount Washington Auto Road (New Hampshire):** Not for the faint of heart, this drive climbs to the summit of the tallest mountain in the Northeast of over 4,000 feet in elevation, with amazing 360-degree views.
- **Vermont’s Route 100:** Known as “The Skier’s Highway,” this scenic road cuts through charming towns, rolling farmlands and mountain views that are particularly lovely in the fall.
- **Mohawk Trail (Massachusetts):** The first scenic road in New England, the Mohawk Trail winds through the northern Berkshires in Massachusetts.

5 Must-Visit Places on a New England Road Trip

4. Rhode Island

Rhode Island may be small, but it's jam-packed full of character, charming towns and coastal views. "One of my favorite road trips that I've done is starting at New Haven, CT, and ending in Newport, RI," says Steve Schwab, CEO of Casago, a property. Management company. "I drove that stretch in the fall, and it was absolutely beautiful. New England is unmatched when it comes to fall colors."

Schwab also points out one of the perks of driving here. "The area [of New England] is unique in how the states are so much smaller than in the middle and western parts of the country, so you can pass through multiple states in such a short amount of time." Once in Newport, you can continue along Ocean Drive for sweeping sea views and glimpses of huge mansions.

A few stops in Rhode Island worth visiting include:

- Blackstone Valley National Historic Park
- Providence
- Newport
- Block Island
- Chepachet Village