

Best Small Towns in Massachusetts for an Easy Weekend Getaway

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Updated On 09/10/2019 at 05:00PM EST

Summer getaways are nice and all, but fall travel in New England is forever where it's at. And don't people even know it: Despite these slightly cooler months, traffic, crowds, and high hotel rates endure. Which is why we prefer to go small -- small-town, that is. Our state is teeming with teeny spots that manage to dodge (some of) the leaf-peeping masses yet still offer architectural charms, fine dining, water views, and, of course, plenty of that picturesque foliage. Plan your fall Massachusetts road trip right now.



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Best Artsy Getaway: North Adams

Why it's so great: First, a bit of trivia: North Adams is technically a city -- *but* it's the smallest city in Massachusetts. As to what makes it so great? [MASS MoCA](#), of course, is what started this city's renaissance, but its reputation has justifiably only grown as people have rediscovered North Adams' long-standing charms. Hikes include the Appalachian Trail and [Natural Bridge State Park](#); additional art awaits you in Williamstown at [The Clark](#); and a drive to the top of [Mount Greylock](#) (through October) earns you incredible foliage vistas. Plus, the city now has two divine boutique hotels to choose from: the cheeky retro [Porches](#), complete with a year-round outdoor heated swimming pool and hot tub, and the riverside [Tourists](#), which offers walking trails galore and incredible deck views.

Where to eat: [Bright Ideas Brewing](#) for local beers, barbecue, and art; [The Airport Rooms](#) for cocktails and sophisticated bar snacks; [Jack's Hot Dog Stand](#) for a grilled dog and a shot of history; [Gramercy](#) for the requisite farm-to-table fare (but they were doing it long before it was cool).

Distance from Boston: Three hours, 15 minutes