

DEPARTURES

The Best New England Towns to See the Changing Autumn Leaves

By [Maya Kachroo-Levine](#) on September 10, 2020

Find your fall zen in these charming New England towns with the best views of changing autumn leaves.

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New England glows bright red, yellow, gold, and orange in the fall thanks to the changing autumn leaves. The rich foliage transforms the six New England states, brightening up the cities and allowing the charming little towns to really flourish.

The Northeast can be a somewhat harrowing place to visit in the winter if you're not an avid [skier](#). While the mountains are lovely, and cities like Burlington, Vermont or even downtown [Boston](#) sparkle in the snow, let's face it, it's freezing in the winter. But the crisp fall air in New England is revitalizing and smells vaguely of burning leaves and cinnamon—it wakes you up and propels you outdoors to see the autumn leaves and to grab a cup of steaming apple cider.

Armed with your [fall staples](#), from your pumpkin spice coffee to your [caramel-colored leather jacket](#), all you need is an autumnal backdrop. And these New England towns are calling, because they're the best places to see the changing autumn leaves. While you're there, don't miss the [New England food staples](#) (seafood, maple syrup, apples, and artisanal cheeses), and make sure to [book a room at a cozy lodge](#) so you can relax by the crackling fire after a day of hiking through forests of gorgeous autumn leaves.



Courtesy Woodstock Inn & Resort

Woodstock, Vermont

Woodstock is one of those darling New England towns you thought only existed in the Gilmore Girls universe. In the fall, drive by the iconic [Killington Ski Resort](#) to see clusters of foliage on the mountain, then pass by Quechee Gorge and walk along Ottauquechee River to revel in Vermont's natural beauty. Beyond their quintessential covered bridges, Woodstock is known for Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Park—to see the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller mansion trimmed in fall colors is a treat, and the national park has scenic grounds and an artist-in-residence program worth checking out. Stay at [The Woodstock Inn & Resort](#), a regal and charming house-turned-luxury inn flanked by the lush Green Mountains. Be sure to visit the spa for one of the best treatments in New England, and spend some time relaxing in the property's stunning and vibrant gardens.

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