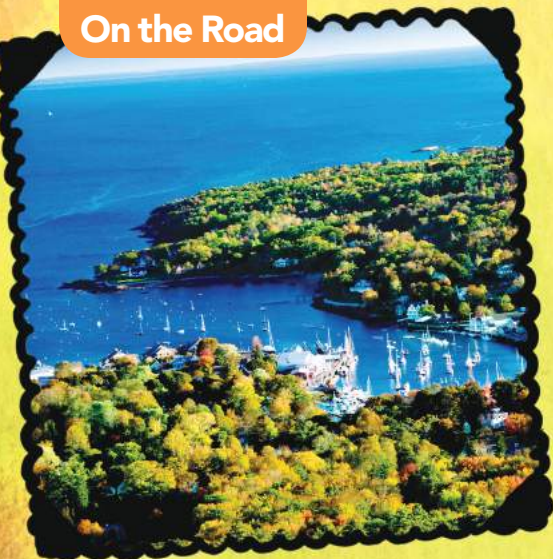


Local Color

There's no better place to see fall foliage than New England: Here are three perfect routes for leaf-peeping...and eating along the way.

HAND-LETTERING AND ILLUSTRATIONS BY
GINA TRIPLET



Maine Route 1

Maine has 3,478 miles of shoreline, and coastal Route 1 is one of the state's prettiest drives—especially in fall. Between Kittery and Camden, you'll find top-notch seafood in oceanside towns, plus plenty of trendy eateries in Portland.

DISTANCE: 135 miles **PEAK LEAF PERIOD:** mid to late October



THE HOLY DONUT

Owner Leigh Kellis folds mashed Maine potatoes into her doughnut batter (a local tradition). Try the ginger glazed, made with russets and sweet potatoes. *Two locations; theholydonut.com*

WHEN PIGS FLY

Road trips are made for carbo-loading, so start here with a pumpkin-apple-cranberry loaf topped with pumpkin butter. *460 US Rte. 1; sendbread.com*



Deering Oaks Park
Take a midday walk along the paths through red and white oaks. *deeringoaks.org*

Ferry Beach State Park
The trails at this park, in Saco, offer views of Maine's rare tupelo trees, which turn crimson in the fall. *maine.gov*

FLO'S HOT DOGS

This 57-year-old local fixture sells just one item, a hot dog, so the question at the counter isn't "What'll it be?"—it's "How many?" The famous steamed dogs come with mayo, celery salt and Flo's secret relish. *1359 US Rte. 1; floshotdogs.com*

Start Here



EVENTIDE OYSTER CO.

Oysters, not lobsters, are the seafood stars here. Try 10 local varieties and six offbeat toppings, including kimchee ice and red wine mignonette. *86 Middle St.; eventideoysterco.com*



RED'S EATS

Stop for a lobster roll before you hit the traffic on the bridge from Wiscasset to Edgecomb. Red's toasty buns are stuffed with an entire lobster's worth of meat—butter or mayo on the side. *41 Water St.; redseatsmaine.com*



MOODY'S DINER

This family-run diner has been attracting locals and road-trippers for 82 years. Order a fried seafood platter and a classic whoopie pie, or a float made with Moxie, Maine's official soft drink. *1885 Atlantic Hwy.; moodysdiner.com*



SLAB

Locals lost their minds when chef Stephen Lanzaletta stopped selling his supersize one-pound Sicilian pizza slices at a local market. A year later, he opened his own spot. *25 Preble St.; slabportland.com*

Portland Schooner Co.
Take a break from driving and board a 104-year-old windjammer for a two-hour cruise of Casco Bay—and amazing views of the trees. *Maine State Pier; portlandschooner.com*



UNCLE WILLY'S CANDY SHOPPE

This is the only all-candy shop in town, and the owner stocks it with every treat imaginable, including chocolate-covered potato chips, penny candy and a 12-foot wall of jelly beans. *57 Bay View St.; unclawillyscandyshoppe.com*



HOME KITCHEN CAFE

Rockland is one of the world's biggest lobster-shipping centers, and this place serves more than just rolls: Try lobster tacos or a lobster omelet with goat cheese and scallions. *650 Main St.; homekitchencafe.com*

Camden Hills State Park
The hike to the summit of Mount Battie, this park's most famous peak, takes two hours, but you can drive it, too. At the top, you'll find a sweeping vista of Penobscot Bay.

CAMDEN HARBOR: ALAN COPSON/AURORA PHOTOS; EVENTIDE: GABRIELA HERMAN; SLAB: PETER BISSELL; WHEN PIGS FLY: ANDREW SEGEL; THE HOLY DONUT: BENJAMIN MOORE.

Vermont Route 100

Vermont natives know Route 100 as Skiers' Highway, but before snow bunnies take over the twisty road, leaf-peepers do. Much of this drive follows the Green Mountain National Forest, known for its explosion of colorful leaves. The stops along the way highlight what Vermont does best: cheese and dairy, maple syrup and lots of small-town charm.

DISTANCE: 142 miles **PEAK LEAF PERIOD:** late September to mid-October

TRAPP FAMILY LODGE

The Trapp Family Lodge (owned by the von Trapp family of Sound of Music fame) is like a little slice of Austria in the hills of Vermont: Sheep and cattle roam around, and you'll find Wiener schnitzel and Sachertorte, plus lager from the on-site brewery. 700 Trapp Hill Rd.; trappfamily.com



Moss Glen Falls

You can see this fairy tale-like waterfall, in Granville, from the road, but you should pull in to the parking lot and admire it up close.

Start Here



Stowe

Umiak Outdoor Outfitters

Take a self-guided kayak tour around Waterbury Reservoir, which is surrounded by foliage. A shuttle from the company's outpost in Stowe will drop you at the water. 849 South Main St.; umiak.com

COLD HOLLOW CIDER MILL

A proper leaf-peeping tour calls for an apple cider doughnut or two. The best in Vermont are made from a secret recipe at this cider mill, which also churns out 5,000 gallons of cider every day. 3600 Waterbury-Stowe Rd.; coldhollow.com



Waterbury



BEN & JERRY'S FACTORY AND CABOT ANNEX STORE

Vermont is famous for its dairy, and Waterbury is home to two big names—Ben & Jerry's and Cabot. See flavors of years past in Ben & Jerry's Flavor Graveyard (1.281 Waterbury-Stowe Rd.; benjerry.com), and sample as many cheeses as you want at Cabot's store (2657 Waterbury-Stowe Rd.; cabotcheese.coop).



SANDY'S BOOKS & BAKERY

The stretch of road from Granville to Rochester hugs the Green Mountain National Forest, and there aren't too many places to stop for food. Take advantage of this luncheonette-bookstore, which has big cookbook and food-politics categories, plus hyper-local grub from the owner's garden. 30 North Main St.; sandysbooksandbakery.com



Rochester

BARN: BENJAMIN WILLIAMSON; DOT'S: STACY BIRCH; VERMONT COUNTRY STORE: GETTY IMAGES; PLYMOUTH ARTISAN CHEESE: HENRY HARGREAVES.

PLYMOUTH ARTISAN CHEESE

This cheese factory was built in 1890 by Calvin Coolidge's father, and the current owner still uses the same recipe and wax-dipping method for its cow's milk varieties. 106 Messer Hill Rd.; plymouthartisancheese.com



Plymouth

SQUEELS ON WHEELS

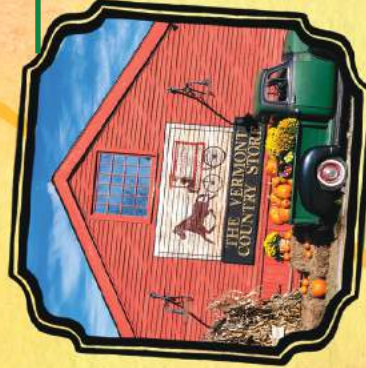
Barbecue lovers Angelo "Tump" Chiari and Cindy Dilworth enter plenty of cue competitions, but their spot in Ludlow is where you can usually find them. The menu includes pulled pork or beef brisket when you go. 471 Rte. 103; squeelsonwheels.com



Ludlow

THE VERMONT COUNTRY STORE

This woody warehouse of made-in-Vermont goods is actually four separate buildings devoted to items that "must be useful, work and make sense." There's also a huge supply of penny candy and state-made cookies. 657 Main St.; vermontcountrystore.com



Weston

Weston Town Green

The common of this 556-person town is as quaint as you'd imagine for a hilly New England hamlet, with a gazebo, scattered benches and yellow and orange leaves everywhere.



CREEMEE STAND

Maple creemees (vanilla soft-serve mixed with maple syrup) are a Vermont tradition, but once the leaves are off the trees, they're hard to find. Get one while you still can at this popular stand. 716 Rte. 100; creemeestand.com

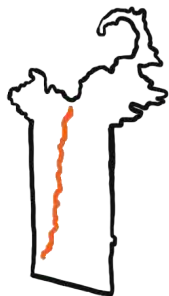
Wilmington



DOT'S RESTAURANT

When Hurricane Irene destroyed Dot's in 2011, residents rallied to rebuild their favorite diner: Warm up with a mug of spicy Jailhouse Chili. (Yes, there are beans underneath the mountain of cheddar.) 3 West Main St.; dotsofvermont.com

Massachusetts Route 2



Route 2 runs almost all the way across Massachusetts, so it's a great way to experience the state for the first time. Begin in Concord (where the American Revolution started!), then wind your way through the foliage on the Mohawk Trail, a curvy, hilly 63-mile stretch of the route in the northwest corner of the state. As you drive through the hills of the Berkshires, you'll see New England's legendary fall colors in every direction.

DISTANCE: 131 miles **PEAK LEAF PERIOD:** October



Zoar Outdoor

On this 1.1-zipline course, in Charlemont, you don't just get to see the changing leaves—you get to fly past them from 50 feet up. 7 Main St.; zoaroutdoor.com

North Adams



PUBLIC EAT + DRINK

Come dinnertime, this farm-to-table eatery is packed, but you can sneak in without a long wait in the afternoon. Ask for a table near the open kitchen, where you can watch the chefs at work. 34 Holden St.; publiceatanddrink.com

The Bridge of Flowers

Shelburne Falls locals turned this former trolley bridge into a pedestrian walkway; it's lined with clematis and dahlias in the fall.



THE WAGON WHEEL RESTAURANT

This place is like a '50s roadside drive-in—you can order from the walk-up window—but you'll also find modern conveniences, like WiFi, and table service inside. 39 French King Hwy.; wagonwheelgill.com

Gill

Shelburne Falls



HAGER'S FARM MARKET

Load up on healthy snacks at this fifth-generation farm stand. The shelves are stocked with apples from the 58-acre property, plus maple goodies made with syrup from their taps. 1.232 Mohawk Trail; hagersfarmmarket.net

Westminster

THE 1761 OLD MILL

Stretch your legs on this picturesque property before eating: There's a duck pond, a waterfall and a covered-bridge walkway. Inside the sawmill turned restaurant, you can try favorites like the pecan rolls and corn fritters, or fill up on one of the famous haddock lunch dishes. 69 State Rd. East; 1761oldmill.com



HAUTE COFFEE

You can get a taste of eastern Massachusetts in one stop, with breakfast sandwiches on brioche from Iggy's Bread in Cambridge, milk from Shaw Farm in Dracut and chocolate goodies from EHCocholattier in Somerville. 12 Walden St.; myhautecoffee.com



Start Here

Concord

Walden Pond

Henry David Thoreau lived for two years in a little cabin on this lake and wrote *Walden*, celebrating the beauty of nature. As you kick through the leaves along the shores, you'll understand why he was so inspired. mass.gov