Day Trips

Finding an entire weekend to take off for a trip to the Berkshires or northern New England might be tough, but if you need to get away without really getting away here are a few suggestions.

Beaches

Gulf Beach  Milford, CT In addition to sand and swimming, this beach offers a concession stand, a fishing wharf, and an observation deck looking out over nearby Gulf Pond for a $5 fee.

Hammonasset Beach State Park  This is the largest of Connecticut’s shoreline parks with a two-mile long beach area and facilities for camping, picnicking, fishing, and swimming. Parking from $9-$13 for in-state licenses, $15-22 for out-of-state cars, and rates drop after 4pm. You can expect this park to be crowded on weekends.

Lighthouse Point  2 Lighthouse Rd., New Haven This 82-acre park on Long Island Sound offers the closest beaches to campus. If you’re not a swimmer, try one of their nature trails or relax in the picnic area. The beach is crowded and not often clean, and the recently-imposed alcohol ban is a serious bummer. But the scenery is lovely. Parking is free with New Haven registered vehicles, 20 for non-resident vehicles and 30 for out-of-state vehicles.

Silver Sands State Park  Milford, CT The beach at Silver Sands is especially fun during low tide, when you can walk through tidal pools and sand bars all the way to Charles Island.

West Haven Town Beaches  West Haven, CT, (203) 937-3651 With four miles of continuous beach, West Haven is one of the most popular summer spots for New Haven residents. The $10 parking fee
drops to $5 after 4 pm.

**Misquamicut Beach**  *Rhode Island* Long Island Sound helps break Nor’easters headed for New Haven, but it limits the availability of good waves. Fortunately, the only place nearby to surf happens to be a high quality beach. With warm water, a sandy bottom, and no seaweed, Misquamicut has waves easily big enough for boogie boarding and often for surfing, yet not big enough to clobber you. One of our contributors – a native Californian – swears that for surfing Misquamicut is “way better than anything out West... I would spend all summer here if I could.” Rentals and lessons are available in Narragansett. See: [http://www.riparks.com/Locations/LocationMisquamicut.html](http://www.riparks.com/Locations/LocationMisquamicut.html)

**Parks**

**East Rock Park**  East Rock Park, entrance at the corner of Orange and Cold Spring Streets, is your neighborhood getaway spot. It offers over 10 miles of hiking trails, a picnic area, and a view from the summit that will knock your socks off.

**Edgerton Park**  75 Cliff Street, New Haven  A sprawling greenhouse filled with plants from around the world is the highlight of this 22-acre park.

**Sleeping Giant State Park**  200 Mt. Carmel Ave., New Haven  When you see it from a distance, you’ll understand why it’s called Sleeping Giant. The two miles of mountains look like a man lying on his back. A half-mile trail will take you to the stone observation center on the top of Mt. Carmel and a breathtaking view of New Haven and Long Island Sound.

**Mystic Seaport**  Eat Mystic Pizza, go to the aquarium, or enjoy the scrimshaw at Mystic Seaport. Mystic is an old tourist trap, but there’s stuff worth seeing and charming views. Going during a chowder or oyster festival is strongly encouraged.
Amusement Parks

Lake Compounce  822 Lake Avenue Bristol, CT, (860) 583-3300 http://www.lakecompounce.com An amusement park built right next to a beach, Lake Compounce offers roller coasters, water rides, picnic areas, restaurants, and live entertainment. Full day rate is $24.50 for adults. Parking is $6.

Quassy Amusement Park  2132 Middlebury Road, Middlebury, CT, (203) 758-2913 http://www.quassy.com Quassy offers bumper-cars, a whirligig, water slides and a variety of attractions for kids. They also get into the Halloween spirit throughout October. Their pricing and hours vary so check out their website for more details.


Other Outings

Thimble Islands  http://thimbleislands.com/ or http://thimbleislandcruise.com The Thimble Islands, located in the Long Island Sound, provide an excellent afternoon get-away during those hot New Haven summer days.

Bishop’s Orchards  1355 Boston Post Road Guilford, CT (203) 453-2338 http://www.bishopsorchards.com A fantastically fresh farmer’s market, the best part of Bishop’s Orchards is picking your own fruits and vegetables. Their 24-hour phone information line, 203 458-PICK, is updated daily during the season. In the fall, they have a corn maze, pumpkin carving, and fresh kettle corn. They can get very crowded at this time of year, however.

Lyman Orchards  32 Reeds Gap Rd, Middlefield, CT (860) 349-1793 http://www.lymanorchards.com Lyman Orchards offers pick-
your-own fruits in the summer and fall, locally sourced foods, a golf course, family fun, and a general store. Call (860) 349-6015 for a 24-hour pick-your-own hotline.

CT Wine Trail http://www.ctwine.com Connecticut is home to not one but twenty-five bona fide wineries, all of which offer free tastings and tours.

CT Art Trail http://www.arttrail.org The Connecticut Impressionist Art Trail is a journey that will take you to nine different towns and cities throughout the state, where you’ll find museums and historic sites dealing with the work of leading American Impressionists.

Yale Outdoor Recreation Center 298 Upper Pattagansett Road, East Lyme, CT http://www.sportsandrecreation.yale.edu/facility/outdoor-education-center/outdoor-education-center This facility features a small lake and offers hiking, swimming, fishing, volleyball, cookouts, canoeing, campfires, basketball, and ping pong all for a daily fee of $6! Campsites and cabins are also available for a fee.
In addition to New York and Boston, New Haven is close to some great venues for skiing, camping, sightseeing, or just plain snuggling. For more information, visit http://www.visitnewengland.com.

**Berkshire Mountains** [http://www.berkshires.org](http://www.berkshires.org) Just over 1.5 hours away, the Berkshire Mountains are a great year-round getaway. You can find skiing in the winter and hiking and camping during the spring and summer.

**Newport, RI** Also about 1.5 hours away are the decadent historical mansions and beaches of Newport, Rhode Island. This website will get you started: [http://www.gonewport.com](http://www.gonewport.com).

**Providence, RI** About 100 miles up I-95N, the city of Providence, RI is easy to get to and very affordable. Five colleges and universities in one small city give it an eclectic mix of people and RISD contributes to its strong arts scene.

**Skiing and Snowboarding** The serious skier/snowboarder should check out the trails of Vermont and New Hampshire. It will take you anywhere from two to four hours to reach them by car, but the powder and the scenery are well worth it. Many resorts offer student and group discounts. If you’re new to skiing/snowboarding, try Powder Ridge in nearby Middlefield, CT (99 Powder Hill Rd). It’s only 15-20 minutes up I-91 (exit 18) and is great for learning.

**Mt. Washington, NH** This mountain is the highest point in the northeastern United States and held the record for the highest wind speed ever recorded on Earth at 231 mph or 372 kmh (though this is contested). Its scenery is fantastic and majestic. One can reach the summit by hiking, by car, or by cog railway. See [http://www.thecog.com](http://www.thecog.com) for more details.
Montreal, Canada  It’s about a seven hour drive and you’ll need a passport, but Montreal is one of the hottest cities in North America. French and English collide to present a wide array of shopping, dancing, live music, and fantastic food. In early June, Montreal hosts an amazing three-day music festival and the High Lights Festival in Winter.
Accommodations

If you have out of town guests visiting or simply want to check out amenities hotels have, New Haven has several venues you can choose from.

**Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale**  155 Temple St., (203) 772-6664, [http://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/new-haven-yale](http://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/new-haven-yale)  Located in the heart of downtown, the Omni Hotel is one of the more premiere hotels in New Haven with many amenities. Enjoy dinner and drinks on the 19th floor at John Davenport’s over breathtaking views of New Haven, then roam the streets with your guests. John Davenport’s is accessible to non-hotel guests and is a must.

**The Study at Yale**  1157 Chapel St., (203) 503-3900, [http://www.studyatyale.com](http://www.studyatyale.com)  The Study at Yale, in downtown New Haven, has great ambiance and a premiere price tag. The Heirloom restaurant is a favorite for many to grab drinks or dinner in a spiffy space.

**Courtyard New Haven at Yale**  30 Whalley Ave., (203) 777-6221, [http://www.courtyardmarriottyale.com/](http://www.courtyardmarriottyale.com/)  Situated farthest from downtown, the Courtyard New Haven at Yale is nice during the day to explore New Haven. However, when the sun goes down and the businesses near the hotel close for the night, one should exercise caution when walking around.

**New Haven Hotel**  229 George St., (203) 498-3100, [http://www.newhavenhotel.com/](http://www.newhavenhotel.com/)  Located downtown, the New Haven Hotel is great for those who are on a budget. The street the hotel is located on does get a little deserted at night so caution is recommended after exploring the city.
Plan your getaway to New Haven, and experience a fun-filled stay at the Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale. Whatever your reason to escape, you’ll enjoy luxurious accommodations, amazing amenities and fine dining, all within steps from your room. Let us elevate your next escape to extraordinary.

203-772-6664 • omnihotels.com/newhaven