



This Weekend

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October 17-19, 2014

Pumpkin Pickin' Time

Pick up your spirits and celebrate Hartford's founder, Thomas Hooker, at the high-spirited, Mardi Gras bead throwing, costume and candy filled [Hooker Day Parade](#) in Hartford (Saturday). Showcase your love of fall at the [Great Pumpkin Festival](#) in Stratford. Activities include children's costume parade, games, crafts, refreshments and hayrides (Saturday). Come to the largest race event of the year, featuring the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour at the [Sunoco World Series of Speedway Racing](#), Thompson Speedway Motorsports (Friday-Sunday).

Book into Middletown's "Best Kept Secret," the [Inn at Middletown](#) is a spirited *fall* destination [Take a Hike package](#). Rest, relax and rejuvenate during your stay. Begin your stay with drinks in the Tavern. Enjoy a swim in the pool or relax in the hot tub. Start your morning with a healthy breakfast on us in the Tavern at the Armory. Then *take a hike* on blue-blazed trails less than 10 minutes away. Package includes: Deluxe overnight accommodations; two drink tickets to the Tavern at the Armory; 10% off food and beverage in the Tavern at the Armory at lunch or dinner; breakfast for two at the Tavern at the Armory; trail maps to Mt. Higby and Mt. Beseck Blue-Blazed Trails, Mattabesett Trails, Wadsworth Falls State Park, Chauncey Peak and Lamentation Trails; hiking snack to include trail mix and bottled water; and Valet Parking. Rates from: Weekends: \$259, weekdays: \$225.

More hand-picked activities:

[Spooky Nights](#) – Brooklyn Fairgrounds 06234

Ride a hay wagon on an adventure you won't soon forget. On the way, you will see ghosts, vampires and other spooky sights as you make your way by wagon through the fairgrounds. Other events include Jack-O-Lantern display, a Haunted House, a bonfire area with food vendors (Friday-Saturday).

[Pumpkin Patch](#) – Connecticut Trolley Museum, East Windsor 06088

Travel through the Connecticut countryside in the crisp fall air aboard one of our antique trolley cars. Every child admission includes a free pumpkin that they pick at the special "pumpkin patch." Return to the Visitors Center to decorate your pumpkin, get your face painted and maybe a temporary tattoo (Friday-Sunday).

[Pumpkintown USA](#) – East Hampton 06424

Take the kids for a Halloween treat. A non-scary adventure through a town with a saloon, jail, country store, post office and a fire department. There are different scenes throughout the "village" include the wedding scene. Take "The Ride," a hay ride through Pumpkintown forest and catch a glimpse of more than 30 pumpkin-headed characters and their dwellings (Friday-Sunday).

[Witches Across the Ages](#) – Fairfield Museum and History Center, Fairfield 06824

Discover black pointy hats. Green faces. Flying broomsticks. These are all things we associate with witches, but that image is a more recent phenomenon. Starting with Fairfield's very own witch trials in 1653, 1654, and 1692, this exhibit guides the visitor through the evolution of witches and their various images throughout history (Friday-Sunday).

[Train Rides to the Pumpkin Patch](#) – Railroad Museum of New England, Thomaston 06787

Enjoy the beautiful fall foliage and a stop at the Naugy's own pumpkin patch where each child gets to choose his own pumpkin! Re-board the train for the fun and scenic ride across Thomaston Dam for the gorgeous fall views and back to Thomaston Station. Take in the decorations and displays at the station and have some cider while you browse the gift shop (Saturday-Sunday).

[Fall Foliage Hike](#) – Sleeping Giant State Park, Hamden 06513

Hike along and enjoy the Giant decked out its full autumn splendor. Three to four hour hike, wear comfortable and supportive shoes, bring snacks and water (Sunday).

These highlights represent just a sampling of the many exciting events taking place across Connecticut this weekend. For more information about these and other entertaining activities, use the Events Quick Search on the right side of the page.

**This Weekend in Connecticut
October 17-19, 2014**

NORTH BRANFORD

October 17-19 - [Orchid Harvest 2014 Show and Sale](#) - Van Wilgen's Garden Center, 51 Valley Rd. (off Rte. 139), North Branford, 06741. Time: Fri. 2 p.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. This is an AOS Sanctioned Bench Show with awards given to the best orchids. Vendors with hundreds of orchids for sale, educational displays, purchase growing supplies and items to enhance your orchids, home and gardens. Raffles and food available. Free talks by orchid specialists on Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 2 p.m. Admission: Fri.: premium shopping day \$12. Sat. & Sun. \$7. (860) 633-2876

WETHERSFIELD

October 17-18 - [Lantern Light Tours](#) - Keeney Memorial Cultural Center, 200 Main St., Wethersfield, 06109. Time: Tours begin at 6:30 p.m. A spooky and historical account of Wethersfield's past. Join your guide as you travel through history on Main Street and in the Ancient Burying Ground. Refreshments to follow tour. Appropriate for ages 13 and up and each tour lasts approximately an hour. Highly recommended to purchase tickets in advance. Tickets will be sold at the door on a first-come-first-served basis. Admission: \$15. (860) 529-7656

BRISTOL

October 17-19 - [The Haunted Graveyard](#) - Lake Compounce Theme Park, 186 Enterprise Dr., Bristol, 06010. Time: Gates open at 5 p.m. A mammoth walk-through attraction featuring six haunted houses and a graveyard all linked by a labyrinth of terrifying trails. Admission: Combination (rides and graveyard): adults \$30.99, children (11 and under) \$23.99. Rides only: adults \$23.99, children (11 and under) \$16.99. Haunted Graveyard only: adults \$23.99, children (11 and under) \$16.99. Parking: \$8. (860) 583-3300

WALLINGFORD

October 17-19 - [Trail of Terror](#) - 60 North Plains Hwy., Wallingford 06492. Time: Fri. and Sat. 7 p.m.-11 p.m., Sun. 7 p.m.-10 p.m.. Hiding in the woods at the end of a lonesome road is a world of fright and fantasy that will test one's mettle, temper one's cavalier courage, torment one's sanity, and taint one's soul. The Trail resides on four appalling acres of forsaken forest. (Parental discretion is advised. Not recommended for children under the age of 10). Admission: \$20 speed pass. <http://www.trailofterror.com>

NEW PRESTON

October 18 - [Connecticut Cheese & Wine Festival 2014](#) - Hopkins Vineyard, 25 Hopkins Rd., New Preston, 06777. Time: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Try samples of the delicious foods and wines, along with award winning cheeses, specialty foods and crafts. Live music provided by Jerold Goldstein. Admission: \$20 (on-line until Oct. 17), \$23 at the gate. (203) 273-5821

NORFOLK

October 18 - [Fire & Ice Music Festival](#) - Infinity Hall Norfolk, 20 Greenwood Rd., Norfolk, 06058. Time: 8 p.m. From the country that brought you the creative genius and unique sounds of artists like Bjork and Sigur Rós, Iceland is a mecca of music that many in the United States have yet to tap into. The Fire and Ice Music Festival showcases the best artists coming out of Iceland today. Admission: \$35/\$50. (866) 666-6306

OLD LYME

October 18 - [Incredible India!](#) - Lyme Art Association, 90 Lyme St., Old Lyme, 06371. Time: Call for schedule. An expo and gala celebrating the culture of India. Cultural Expo and Marketplace in the afternoon, followed by a Gala in the evening. Discover and experience the culture and charm of India. Enjoy Indian food, musicians, dancers, crafts, prizes, and auction. The Presenting Sponsor for *Incredible India* is Air India in collaboration with the Government of India's Ministry of Tourism. Admission: \$100 per guest. (860) 434-7802.

WOODSTOCK

October 18-19 - [Fine Arts & Crafts Festival](#) - Roseland Cottage, 556 Route 169, Woodstock, 06281. Time: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. This festival is one of the leading juried fine arts and crafts shows in New England. The two-day event features 175 artisans and their wares - jewelry, woodworking, pottery, glass, toys, paintings, clothing, metalwork, and much more. Enjoy live music, a food court, and first floor tours of Roseland Cottage. Admission: \$5. (617) 994-5900

Don't Miss

- Connecticut Fall Foliage Driving Tours
- Dining with a View
- Play! in Connecticut Fall Theatre Festival
- The Great Stages of Connecticut
- Ghost Hunting
- Connecticut's Top 10 2014 Fan-Favorite Towns
- Tee Time: CT's Top 5 Golf Courses You Can Play
- Best Bike Rides: 7 Ways to Go

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