

# The Best Places to See Fall Foliage in the U.S.

September 30, 2016Garrett RentHoliday and Seasonal

Autumn leaf peeping is one of the easiest (and least expensive) ways to experience the U.S.'s awe-inspiring natural beauty. And you don't have to travel far. From New England to the Southwest, America's trees are putting on a dazzling display of color all across the country right now.

So, just hop in the car and take a drive to one of these fabulous destinations for fall foliage viewing at its finest! Make sure to shop for all of your autumn gear and traveling needs at Splender.com to access special offers and receive cash back on every purchase. From Enterprise Rent-A-Car and Priceline.com to Dick's Sporting Goods and hundreds more, Splender has you covered!

### The Berkshires, Mass.

The essential escape for urban city dwellers from New York City, Boston or Philadelphia, the Berkshires provides world-class foliage viewing alongside notable museums, galleries and antique shops. Here, the fall foliage season begins in late September and typically peaks in mid-October. There's still some color to take in by late October, but it's best not to wait until November.

Where to stay: If you're looking for a weekend getaway, plan a trip to one of the region's celebrated resorts where you can take in the sweeping autumn views. The Cranwell Resort & Spa in the Berkshires is a great place to go for fall foliage, as well as a game of golf or a trip to the spa. During your stay, you could also plan to visit some of the nearby orchards, wineries and specialty markets. Book your stay through Booking.com for 3% cash back.

### Ozarks, Ark.

Every autumn, the Ozark mountains and valleys are painted with gorgeous hues of gold, red and orange, making it one of the top fall foliage destinations in the U.S. The fall weather and explosion of color are ideal for enjoying the variety of activities the state has to offer, such as camping, hiking and mountain biking. Peak color in the Ozarks usually lasts through early to late October.

What to bring: Eastern Mountain Sports (5% cash back) has a wide selection of outdoor gear for activities from camping to fishing. While you're enjoying all that Mother Nature has to offer, you may want to get a better look at the local flora and fauna with these Celestron Outland Binoculars

## The Catskills, N.Y.

Just a few hours from New York City, a journey to the Catskills is a fantastic spot for a fall weekend getaway. The area is a year-round retreat, but the Catskills are at their most vibrant in the fall when reds, oranges and yellows fill the thickly wooded hillsides and mountain peaks. Visitors can revel in the region's many historic villages that host festivals and craft fairs, as well as the bountiful farmers' markets and orchards. Also, the outdoor sculpture park, Storm King Art Center, and Dia:Beacon museum are some of the area's most popular art institutions.

Where to Stay: Scribner's Lodge in Hunter, N.Y., is a boutique hotel offering scenic mountain views, humble rooms with fireplaces and an outdoor pool. The hotel is an easy walk to Hunter Mountain and a quick drive to Kaaterskill Falls. With hiking, horseback riding and various other fall activities, you're guaranteed to find something just right for you.

And for foodies, the Catskills is also home to a variety of great eats, particularly in the neighboring towns of Woodstock and Bloomville. Book your stay at the Scribner's Lodge through Hotels.com for 5% cash back.

### Sedona, Ariz.

Each fall, visitors flock to Oak Creek Canyon and the Sedona area for the splendid oak and maple trees contrasting against the famous Arizona Red Rocks. You can drive the length of the canyon or hike the three-mile trail beside Oak Creek—one of the most popular hikes in the state. October is the best time to catch the changing leaves, and through the entire month, the Verde Canyon Railroad offers its Sedona Fall Colors Tour. So, if you're in need of a change from hiking or driving, you may consider booking a tour to enjoy the stunning Verde Canyon scenery from a shaded open-air car.

What to bring: While you're hiking through Boynton Canyon or exploring the surrounding Vortexes, make sure you have the proper gear. Backcountry.com (8% cash back) has everything you need for your hiking and camping adventures. These Vasque Grand Traverse Hiking shoes for men and women are perfect for hiking in the dry, warm climate.

# Skyline Drive, Shenandoah National Park, Va.

Situated in the Blue Ridge Mountains, this park and National Scenic Byway is the quintessential fall foliage destination for Southeast travelers. The best time to cruise across the Blue Ridge Mountains is mid-to-late October. Starting in Virginia from Front Royal to the Charlottesville-Waynesboro area, leaf peepers can enjoy the bright red maples, yellow and orange hickories and vibrant purple dogwoods.

Where to stay: Situated in Luray, Va., the Mimslyn Inn is registered as a Historic Hotel of America. The site was once home to an army encampment and a previous building housed a Civil War hospital. The original Inn, however, has been welcoming guests since 1931. Today, it hosts a full-service spa, a fine-dining restaurant and an art-deco inspired cocktail bar. Suites feature whirlpool tubs, fireplaces, antique-style writing desks and gorgeous views. The Inn is just a three-minute walk to the Luray Caverns, gardens and museum and just a ten-minute drive to the Thorton Gap Entrance of Shenandoah National Park. Book your stay at the Mimslyn Inn from Expedia.com for 2% cash back.

Don't wait! You're sure to be dazzled by Mother Nature's fall foliage display this year no matter where you are in the U.S. So, take a drive to one of our top picks for the best destinations for autumn leaf viewing or get out there and discover your own!

Remember to shop through Splender to earn cash back on everything you need for your upcoming fall foliage trips. Sign up today!