

2016 OFFICIAL SPRING/SUMMER VISITORS GUIDE

Connecticut[®]

So many things to do, places to stay and foods to savor –
all so close to you, all summer long!

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to soak up the view

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spots to make a splash

Connecticut[®]
still revolutionary



Farmington River Tubing, New Hartford

Inside

FEATURES

27 Six Summer Escapes

Quick road trips lead to iconic eateries, charming bed & breakfasts, popular festivals and friendly gatherings at town greens. Reboot at these small towns full of big surprises.

33 I Scream, You Scream

Here's the scoop: when the weather heats up, head to the state's ice cream shops and decide if you want one scoop or two—trust us, it's not an easy choice. We haven't even gotten started on cone versus cup and sprinkles versus nuts.

36 Lobster 24/7

We asked one intrepid food writer to sample lobster dishes for breakfast, lunch, dinner and dessert. He did, and asked if he could do it again.

39 If Walls Could Talk

Connecticut's resorts and inns have colorful backstories. See who slept where, and what happened there, at hotels that are far from a thing of the past.

42 Liquid Gold

The craft brew scene is burgeoning throughout the state. Take a beer flight to see how hops are just a skip and a jump away in Connecticut.

46 Feeling Lucky?

Find much more than slots and tables at Connecticut's casinos. These getaway destinations include fine dining, world-class spas and hotels, and chart-topping entertainment.



ON THE COVER

Madison Beach Hotel, Madison
Clarke Outdoors rafting, West Cornwall
Photos by Kindra Clineff



COURTESY OF J HOUSE GREENWICH

The J House, Greenwich

2016 Connecticut Official Spring/Summer Visitors Guide

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Visitors should verify hours and admission policies with destinations. The current programs and policies can be subject to seasonal or permanent change. Wheelchair accessibility, while widely available in the state of Connecticut, should be confirmed in advance. Travelers in need of emergency assistance can dial 911 statewide to connect to an emergency operator.

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Lyman Orchards, Middlefield

51

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Levitt Pavilion, Westport

12

Inside

Departments

- 6 Welcome
- 8 Gallivant
- 12 Live from CT
- 14 Make a Splash
- 20 License to Thrill
- 23 CT Play List—Events
- 69 Hear Me Roar
- 70 Getting Here & Around
- 72 City Index

Inside Back Cover | State Map

Destinations

- 48 Fairfield County
- 51 Greater New Haven
- 55 Litchfield Hills
- 59 River Valley
- 66 Mystic Country



Essex Steam Train & Riverboat, Essex

CARIN B. DAVIS PHOTOGRAPHY

gallivant

BY TRACI L. SUPPA

STYLE + SUBSTANCE

When the shopping stakes are high, visit the new **Tanger Outlets** at Foxwoods Resort Casino in Mashantucket for the latest

name-brand fashions. With more than 80 premium and designer retailers, this is Tanger's first collection under one roof in the United States. Take your Texas Hold 'Em winnings to Tommy Hilfiger,



Tanger Outlets at Foxwoods Resort Casino, Mashantucket

COURTESY OF TANGER OUTLETS AT FOXWOODS RESORT CASINO

Ann Taylor, Calvin Klein, Coach, Michael Kors or Steve Madden to score stylish savings.

For a more thought-provoking afternoon, the *USS Nautilus* commands a substantive presence at the **Submarine Force Museum** in nearby Groton.

Climb aboard the world's first nuclear-powered vessel and experience how the crew worked, ate and slept underwater during its 26 years of service. It's just one of the museum's massive collection of more than 33,000 naval submarine artifacts.



USS Nautilus at the Submarine Force Museum in Groton

STAN TESS

HANG ON + LET GO

Don't delay the fun—belay your rope and climb the 40-foot rock wall at **Rock Climb Fairfield** located in Fairfield. Connecticut's largest indoor climbing gym welcomes all ages to try more than 100 top rope stations, ice climbing and thousands of square feet of bouldering. With multiple zip lines, obstacles and swings to navigate at **Go Ape Treetop Adventure** course in New Britain, visitors take the excitement outside for a monkey's-eye view of the amazing countryside.



Go Ape Treetop Adventure, New Britain

Several indoor trampoline parks throughout the state offer more unleashed adventures. Travel to Trumbull's **Rockin' Jump** to show off your somersaults in open jump arenas or sink into pools of soft foam cubes. At **Launch Trampoline Park** in Hartford, the trampoline dodgeball tournaments get extreme.

In New Britain, **Flight Trampoline Park** recently introduced slacklines for bettering your balance, as well as multilevel basketball hoops.



Rockin' Jump, Trumbull

COURTESY OF ROCKIN' JUMP

SAILS + TRAILS

The R/V *Spirit of the Sound*—a catamaran operated by the **Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk**—offers public cruises, including seal spotting, bird and lighthouse cruises. The 64-foot hybrid-electric vessel is unlike any other in North America. The popular biodiversity study trips bring visitors close to underwater life with a touch tank and video microscope.

Treasure hunters on the lookout for antiques prefer



Spirit of the Sound, Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk

COURTESY OF THE MARITIME AQUARIUM

to explore the **Connecticut Antiques Trail**, which winds through the state. Whether you're searching for an 18th-century silver tea set, a French armoire from the 19th century, or a cider press just like Grandma's, you'll find it in a charming shop, open-air market or high-energy auction.



United House Wrecking Co., Stamford

COURTESY OF UNITED HOUSE WRECKING

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Find more perfect pairs at **CTvisit.com** to add another dimension to your getaway.



Barberry Hill Farm, Madison

MICHELLE PARR PAULSON

REFRESH + REFUEL

Lenny & Joe's Fish Tale in Madison serves up a side order of fun to the local community. Hop on a handmade Dentzel Carousel animal—the menagerie includes a hippo, frog, giraffe, lion and a double lobster chariot—and your \$1.50 ride goes to charity. It's raised nearly \$850,000 since its first go-round 15 years ago.

Each summer, a benefit series of ten **Dinners at the Farm** are served under tents at Barberry Hill Farm in Madison and White Gate Farm in East Lyme. Beginning with a farm tour, these six-course,



Lenny & Joe's Fish Tale, Madison

ROADSIDEARCHITECTURE.COM

candlelit dinners showcase ingredients sourced and purchased daily from local farmers, ranchers and fishermen. Over the past eight seasons, more than 100 dinners have raised \$120,000 for nonprofit organizations such as local food pantries and school kitchens. 



On a recent day trip, travel writer and blogger Traci L. Suppa discovered duckpin bowling in Danbury.



COURTESY OF FOXWOODS RESORT CASINO

Foxwoods Resort Casino, Mashantucket



COURTESY OF FOXWOODS RESORT CASINO

Lake of Isles at Foxwoods Resort Casino, Mashantucket



Foxwoods Resort Casino, Mashantucket

FEELING LUCKY?

CONNECTICUT CASINOS COME UP TRIPLE SEVENS

They say Lady Luck is a fickle creature, but at Foxwoods Resort Casino and Mohegan Sun, she may just sidle up to you in the midst of a game. And if she remains elusive on the gambling floor? You'll

find fortune in a fine dining experience, an extravagant spa treatment, a scenic round of golf, a headliner's music concert and a luxurious hotel room.

By Traci L. Suppa

FIND IT ALL AT FOXWOODS RESORT CASINO

As the largest resort casino in North America, Foxwoods Resort Casino offers an all-in-one getaway. Your first step: select a hotel. Do you want Four-Diamond luxury? Try the Grand Pequot Tower, the Fox Tower or The Villas at Foxwoods with 24-hour butler service. The Great Cedar Hotel offers spacious comfort with an unbeatable location, while the Two Trees Inn provides a quieter country inn escape.

Are you placing bets on baccarat, bingo, or blackjack? With six casinos, 5,800 slot machines and 350 table games, newcomers can start slow at the Money Wheel. For an adrenaline boost, buy in to a Sit & Go tournament in the east coast's largest poker room.

You can also have the time of your life without wagering. Outside, play 18 rounds on the Lake of Isles championship golf course designed by Rees Jones. Take a history break at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum, which



Mohegan Sun Arena, Uncasville

COURTESY OF MOHEGAN SUN

click

WE NEVER CLOSE

Check CTvisit.com for more details on these magnificent entertainment destinations.



Mohegan Sun, Uncasville

GARY BURKE



Mohegan Sun, Uncasville

preserves the culture of the area's first inhabitants. Shop at Tanger Outlets—80 premium retailers all under one roof. Relax with a caviar facial at the Norwich Spa, or a Native American-inspired maize and mountain laurel scrub at the G-Spa.

Repeat visitors know to pace themselves for the nightlife. It begins with dinner, from the classic and casual Hard Rock Café to the Four-Diamond Paragon. Next up: bowling at the retro-chic High Rollers alley, a comedy show at Comix or dancing at Shrine Nightclub. Check the show calendars for the Fox and Grand Theaters so you can catch a concert or sporting event.

MOHEGAN SUN MAKES A MEMORABLE GETAWAY

Also located within southeastern Connecticut, Mohegan Sun offers up the elements of nature in a dynamic, 24/7 sensory display. Your attention is first drawn to Wombi Rock, a glowing crystal mountain made of imported stone. Once you approach the 55-foot Taughannick Falls thundering down a massive boulder, you'll marvel that these sites are both indoors.

In fact, everything your escape needs is under one roof: a 34-story, 1,200-room luxury hotel; the world-class Elemis Spa; 40 restaurants, bars and lounges; three entertainment venues and 130,000 square feet of upscale shopping. A second hotel, the Earth Hotel, opens this fall and adds even more amenities to the list. You can hit the links at Mohegan Sun Golf Club, an 18-hole championship course, in nearby Baltic.

"State-of-the-art" is the common denominator among the three gaming venues: the casinos of the Sky, Earth and Wind. More than 5,000 slot

machines and 300 table games, including 42 poker tables, are spread out among them. New games, such as video reel slots and Race Book, are mixed in with tried-and-true favorites, like baccarat, craps, pai gow and roulette, or simpler fun like sic bo and Wheel of Fortune.

Entertainment is serious business at the 10,000-seat Mohegan Sun Arena, ranked consistently among the world's top venues. More than 100 headlining concerts and sporting events are presented annually, with acts from Billy Joel, Taylor Swift and Bon Jovi to championship boxing, comedy, WWE, NCAA and professional basketball.

Two more intimate venues, the Cabaret Theatre and the Wolf Den, bring in both emerging and established performers.

After the show, your night is far from over. Grab a nightcap or go dancing in one of Mo-

hegan Sun's clubs, bars and lounges, such as Vista, Mist, Avalon Nightclub, Lansdowne Irish Pub or Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville. [ct](#)

Relax with a caviar facial or a mountain laurel scrub.



Former Stamford resident Traci L. Suppa recently escaped to Mohegan Sun for a kids-free girlfriends' getaway.