

fall

A horse-drawn hayride. High school football. Bushels of apples. A cozy quilt on a crisp night. The perfect shade of crimson as expressed in a maple leaf. There are many reasons to love autumn in Connecticut. Here are some of them.

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classics



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Road race.....

Sure, you can hike or bike through autumn, you can drive or romp through the leaves, but why not rev up the pace a little and race through autumn full-tilt—at the first-ever **Mystic Places Marathon**. Although the actual marathon kicks off Oct. 28, festivities for the whole family take place at Rocky Neck State Park in East Lyme on both Oct. 27 and 28. Saturday's highlights include races for kids ages 3 through 17, face-painting, clowns and moonwalks, entertainment by John Cafferty and the Beaver Brown Band and fireworks at 7 p.m., courtesy of Mohegan Sun. At 9 a.m. on Sunday the marathon and five-person marathon relay begins; truth be told, whether you're a spectator or a runner, views along the 26.2-mile course through the Black Point section of Niantic are hard to beat. For more info, visit www.mysticplacesmarathon.com or call (203) 481-5933.

Bike ride.....

The sun on your face, the wind in your hair, and all around you a whirling kaleidoscope of color—does riding a bike get any better than this? **The Bicycle Tour Company** in Kent (860/927-1742) is a good place to start an autumn bike-riding excursion. Though it specializes in guided bicycle tours through Connecticut and beyond, BTC also rents bikes and provides self-guided routes from its headquarters that lead riders down winding country roads, through rustic covered bridges and along the meandering Housatonic. A popular three-day guided trip, on the other hand, takes in the sights of Litchfield, New Preston, Kent and West Cornwall, including antiques shops, gourmet restaurants and art galleries along the way.

The Bicycle Tour Company
bicycletours.com
1-888-711-KENT

