



discover
NewEngland **ROMANCE: 14-Day Itinerary**

From the rolling hills of western Connecticut to the rugged Maine coast, this trip is full of memorable experiences for couples to enjoy together: dining and nightlife, hiking and biking, and breathtaking views at every turn.

DAYS 1-3: CONNECTICUT

Learn more about visiting [Connecticut](#)

Lodging ideas: [Graduate New Haven](#) (New Haven), [Harbor View Landing–“The Patriot”](#) (Mystic), [Litchfield Inn](#) (Litchfield), [Madison Beach Hotel](#) (Madison), [Mayflower Inn & Spa](#) (Washington), [Winvian Farm](#) (Morris), Saybrook Point Inn–Lighthouse Suite (Old Saybrook)
<https://www.saybrook.com/stay/lighthouse-suite/>

The Litchfield Hills are filled with trails for casual and seasoned hikers alike. Grab coffee and a picnic lunch at [The Smithy Market](#) in Preston, then take a romantic walk at the [White Memorial Conservation Center](#) or head to [Kent Falls State Park](#) for a waterfall hike complete with a covered bridge.

Spend the afternoon on a tasting tour at the [Litchfield Distillery](#), which distills its spirits from locally grown grains and fruit. If you prefer wine, [Hopkins Vineyard](#) pours award-winning vintages in a 19th-century barn overlooking Lake Waramaug. Buy a bottle (or two) to accompany your five-course dinner at the French eatery [RSVP](#) in West Cornwall.

Next, head to the coast for some seaside romance. Milford’s [Silver Sands State Park](#) offers a picturesque boardwalk stroll through a salt marsh and along the shore; you can also explore the 14-acre bird sanctuary on Charles Island. That night, catch a show at New Haven’s [Shubert Theatre](#), which runs a popular Broadway Series. For dinner, [Union League Café](#) offers French-inspired ambience, or go casual with “New Haven–style” thin-crust pizza at [Frank Pepe’s](#) or [Sally’s Apizza](#), both local landmarks.

Drive up I-95 to the coastal town of Mystic for prime shopping and people-watching. This is also the home of the nation’s largest maritime museum, [Mystic Seaport Museum](#). A cozy dinner for two awaits at [The Shipwright’s Daughter](#), along with superb craft cocktails and succulent oysters.

DAYS 4 & 5: NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

Learn more about visiting [Rhode Island](#)

Lodging ideas: [The Chanter at Cliff Walk](#), [Gardiner House](#), [Hotel Viking](#)

Begin with breakfast at [Belle’s Café](#), a tucked-away local favorite, before heading to [Gooseberry Beach](#), usually less crowded than the popular First and Second beaches. Later, soar above Newport and its yacht-filled harbor with [Newport Helicopter Tours](#), which offers lighthouse, mansion, and other themed tours.

Newport’s dining scene is spectacular, with standouts including [Giusto](#) in town and [Castle Hill](#) along Ocean Drive. Take inspiration from top local chefs with a gourmet cooking class at [Newport Cooks](#). Before departing Newport, be sure to visit [Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge](#) or the [Norman Bird Sanctuary](#) in nearby Middletown for a peaceful interlude.

DAYS 6 & 7: MARTHA’S VINEYARD, MASSACHUSETTS

Learn more about visiting [Massachusetts](#)

Lodging ideas: [Nobnocket Boutique Inn](#), [Harbor View Hotel](#)

Even as this island eight miles off Cape Cod has become a favored celebrity haunt, its natural beauty endures. Experience it by kayak with [Island Spirit](#), which offers tours from its Oak Bluffs headquarters.

In Edgartown, [Morning Glory Farm](#) draws on its 70 acres of non-GMO fruits and veggies to make to-go soups and sandwiches. Pull together a picnic (complete with fresh flowers) and venture to [Aquinnah Headlands Preserve](#) for views of Gay Head Lighthouse, multicolored clay cliffs, and unforgettable sunsets.

DAYS 8 & 9: PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Learn more about visiting [New Hampshire](#)

Lodging ideas: [Hilton Garden Inn Portsmouth](#), [Hotel Thaxter](#) (Portsmouth), [Wentworth by the Sea](#) (New Castle)

Cruise beside the Atlantic on [Route 1A](#), past the famous sands of Hampton Beach, on your way to the Seacoast’s northern tip. There you’ll find Portsmouth, a small city with outsize appeal, where you can browse destination shops like [Sault](#) and [Macro Polo](#) and visit one of New England’s best living history museums, [Strawbery Banke](#). Pick up a bottle of wine at [South Street & Vine](#) for an evening sail on the Piscataqua River with the [Gundalow Company](#); depending on the night, there may be musicians aboard or guest speakers discussing local history and ecology.

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Back downtown, wander the gardens at [Prescott Park](#), whose summer festival of performances, movies, and special events offers magical outdoor evenings (pay to reserve chairs or a blanket, or bring your own). For more nightlife, check out [The Music Hall](#), a historic gem that welcomes music and comedy headliners, and the always-lively [Jimmy's Jazz & Blues Club](#).

DAYS 10 & 11: BURLINGTON & STOWE, VERMONT

Learn more about visiting [Vermont](#)

Lodging ideas: [Blind Tiger](#) (Burlington), [Hotel Vermont](#) (Burlington), [Talta Lodge](#) (Stowe), [Topnotch Resort](#) (Stowe), [Sterling Ridge Resort](#) (Jeffersonville)

Get a feel for Burlington by renting bikes and exploring the waterfront via the [Island Line Trail](#); along the way, look for the brand-new [Moran FRAME](#), a power plant turned into a showstopping public park that's ideal for a picnic lunch. Sailing fans can book a private cruise for two with [Whistling Man Schooner Co.](#), while creative couples might opt for a glass-blowing class at [AO Glass](#). Just a half hour away are the idyllic [Champlain Islands](#); soak up their scenery by bike or car, and follow a mini wine trail to the [Ellison Estate](#), [Snow Farm](#), and [Isle La Motte](#) vineyards for tastings.

That evening, grab a table at a James Beard Award-nominated restaurant such as [Hen of the Wood](#) (farm-to-fork) or [Honey Road](#) (Turkish small plates) before a show at [Vermont Comedy Club](#) or [The Flynn](#).

On day two, discover cozy romance in the mountain town of Stowe. Ride a gondola to the top of [Mount Mansfield](#), then indulge in a couples massage at the AAA Four Diamond [Topnotch Resort](#). For more of the great outdoors, take a [4 Points Vermont](#) mountain biking lesson or simply stretch your legs on the 5.3-mile [Stowe Recreation Path](#)—which happens to run past [Stowe Cider](#), so stop in for a taste. End the day with an intimate, upscale dinner at [Michael's on the Hill](#) or [Edson Hill](#).

DAYS 12-14: MAINE COAST

Learn more about visiting [Maine](#)

Lodging ideas: [AC Hotel Portland](#) (Portland), [Bluebird Ocean Point Inn](#) (East Boothbay), [Boothbay Harbor Inn](#) (Boothbay Harbor), [The Inn at Ocean's Edge](#) (Lincolnville), [The Lincoln Hotel](#) (Biddeford), [White Barn Inn](#) (Kennebunkport)

Begin in Boothbay, home of the [Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens](#)—New England's largest—with over 300 acres of native plants. Feel the romance of the Age of Sail on a cruise with [Boothbay Harbor Schooners](#) before heading up the coast to Camden. There, you can hike or drive up [Mount Battie](#) for panoramic views of Penobscot Bay, then descend back to town for dinner at award-winning Asian eatery [Long Grain](#).

In the morning, embark on a can't-miss day trip to stunning [Acadia National Park](#). Its [Park Loop Road](#) is one of Maine's best scenic drives; stop along the way for a short, flat hike around [Jordan Pond](#) (refuel at nearby [Jordan Pond House](#), famous for its popovers).

End your trip with a food-centric visit to Maine's biggest city, Portland, where you can take a culinary walking tour of the historic Old Port with [Maine Day Ventures](#), visit [Allagash Brewery](#) for a guided tasting, and embark on a wine-and-cheese sunset sail with [Wine Wise](#). For dinner, nationally acclaimed restaurant [Twelve](#) specializes in hyperlocal prix fixe dinners and impeccable service.

Got time to spare? Head to Kennebunkport for a lunch of fried clams and ocean views at the [Tides Beach Club](#) or take a sunset walk at [Ferry Beach State Park](#) in nearby Saco.

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