

## *Vacation in New England!*

There is so much history and nature to see in and around Connecticut. Come to the convention early or stay afterwards to enjoy the sights.

### Connecticut

Spend an extra day or two in the Mystic area to see the excellent Aquarium ([www.mysticaquarium.org](http://www.mysticaquarium.org)) and downtown **Mystic** (neither are on the Mystic tour), and take an evening cruise on a schooner. Next to Mystic is Stonington borough, with its stone lighthouse ([www.stoningtonhistory.org/light.htm](http://www.stoningtonhistory.org/light.htm)) and quaint shops. You can climb up the stairs of the lighthouse for a nice view of the ocean. In its base is a museum.

Make a trip to Goodspeed Opera House ([www.goodspeed.org](http://www.goodspeed.org)) on the banks of the Connecticut River in **East Haddam, CT**. Once dedicated to operas, Goodspeed now has musical shows. At the time of the convention, “Mame” will be playing (April 20 to July 1). Then there will be a break until July 13, when “Carousel” opens. The Victorian-style building is a treasure, and a special place to see a show. Nearby is Gillette Castle State Park ([www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?A=2716&Q=325204](http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?A=2716&Q=325204)), the former estate of William Gillette – the American actor known for his portrayal of Sherlock Holmes – is patterned after the designs of medieval German castles.

In **Hartford**, besides the Mark Twain and Harriet Beecher Stowe houses, there is the Wadsworth Atheneum ([www.thewadsworth.org](http://www.thewadsworth.org)), a museum with nearly 50,000 works, plus Colonial furniture, costumes and textiles; the Old State House ([www.ctosh.org](http://www.ctosh.org)); and Elizabeth Park ([www.elizabethpark.org](http://www.elizabethpark.org)), whose outstanding rose gardens are worth a visit (although it can't compete with Portland, Oregon's!).

If you're not claustrophobic, tour the Nautilus submarine and museum in **Groton** ([www.usnautilus.org](http://www.usnautilus.org)), the submarine capital of the world.

Looking for some good **shopping**? Check out two nearby outlet centers: Clinton Crossing and Tanger Outlets. Milford has a big shopping mall: Connecticut Post Mall. And, if you want something different, the Olde Mistick Village, part of the Mystic Tour, offers a unique shopping experience and unusual gifts.

Here's a website with information about **New Haven**: [www.infonewhaven.com](http://www.infonewhaven.com)

### Neighboring States

**Newport, R.I.** is home to the famous “cottages” of the rich and famous ([www.newportmansions.org](http://www.newportmansions.org)). If you are there July 6-9, check out the Ocean State Tall Ships Festival 2012. And the famous Newport Music Festival runs July 13-29.

Walk the “Freedom Trail” in **Boston, MA** ([www.thefreedomtrail.org](http://www.thefreedomtrail.org)), shop next door to historic Faneuil Hall ([www.faneuilhallmarketplace.com](http://www.faneuilhallmarketplace.com)), tour the USS Constitution ([www.history.navy.mil/ussconstitution/](http://www.history.navy.mil/ussconstitution/)), and see a ballgame at famous Fenway Park (<http://redsox.mlb.com/bos/ballpark>).

Then, of course, there's exciting **New York City** – the city that never sleeps. The options are limitless in the largest city in the world, but here are some highlights: Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, Empire State Building, Rockefeller Center, Radio City Music Hall, Macy's, Lincoln Center, World Trade Center site, Metropolitan Museum of Art, American Museum of Natural History, The Intrepid Museum.

There is also **Springfield, MA**, home of the Basketball Hall of Fame; and **Hyde Park, NY**, home of Franklin D. Roosevelt.