

October

2026

Peak color, Oktoberfest's final Saturday, and Halloween on Main Street in Wilmington.

THINGS TO DO NEAR MT. SNOW, VT · DEERFIELD VALLEY INN

Peak Foliage & Columbus Day Weekend

OCT 10–12 · THE BUSIEST WEEKEND OF THE FALL

★ PEAK COLOR WEEKEND

Oktoberfest's final Saturday, a farm bonfire and the Newfane Heritage Festival

Peak color in the Deerfield Valley usually lands right around Columbus Day weekend, and the calendar fills to match. Mount Snow's Oktoberfest and Stratton's HarvestFest share the same Saturday, about 30 minutes apart, with a farm bonfire to close out the night.

[mountsnow.com](#) · Book dinner reservations early · Arrive before the midday rush

- SAT OCT 10**

Mount Snow Oktoberfest · Main Base Area · 11 AM–5 PM

The second and final Saturday of the 28th annual festival. Cuzzins, Station Tap Room and 1900' Burger become German bier halls, with traditional fare, a craft fair, live music, and keg-throwing and stein-holding contests. Free admission; beer tickets sold separately. Scenic chairlift rides run all day.
- SAT OCT 10**

Pig Roast & Bonfire · Adams Family Farm, Wilmington · 6–9:30 PM

A fall night at the farm with live music, a pig roast, giant bonfires and fun for the whole family. 15 Higley Hill Rd., Wilmington.
- OCT 10–11**

Newfane Heritage Festival · Newfane Common · 10 AM–4 PM

Now in its 54th year: a juried craft show on the village green with local specialty foods (the apple pie is famous), a raffle, kids' activities and live entertainment, all set against peak color.

Also in October

NEAR & DAY-TRIP

SAT OCT 10 · STRATTON

HarvestFest Brewfest & Chili Cook-Off

Vermont craft beer, ciders and sours with live music all afternoon, plus a chili cook-off where Stratton's own chefs compete and guests vote. Admission \$25 ages 11+, \$15 ages 4–10; chili sampling is a \$20 add-on. Tickets required.

Stratton Base Area · 11:30 AM–5:30 PM · [stratton.com](#)

MON OCT 12 · STRATTON

The North Face Race to the Summit

A 2.18-mile uphill run that gains roughly 2,000 vertical feet from base to summit, with peak foliage as the reward. Registration required; spectators welcome at the top.

Stratton Mountain · ~45 min · [stratton.com](#)

SAT OCT 24 · WARDSBORO

25th Gilfeather Turnip Festival

Wardsboro celebrates Vermont's official state vegetable, bred right in town: turnip soup by the bowl, a baking contest, craft and food vendors and music along Main Street. 10 AM–2 PM, rain, snow or shine.

Wardsboro Town Hall · ~25 min up Route 100 · Free

FINAL WEEKEND · OCT 10–12

Wilmington Antique & Flea Market

Southern Vermont's largest weekend market wraps up its regular season over Columbus Day weekend, open Saturday, Sunday and Monday across the 10-acre grounds.

Sat–Mon · 9 AM–4 PM · 236 VT-9, Wilmington · Free

OCT 16–18 · BRATTLEBORO

25th Brattleboro Literary Festival

One of the region's signature fall events: three days of readings, author talks and panels in venues across downtown Brattleboro, with award-winning writers on the lineup. A good pairing with the Molly Stark Trail drive.

Downtown Brattleboro · 35 min via Route 9 · [brattleboroliteraryfestival.org](#)

OCT 24 & 31 · WILMINGTON

Halloween in Wilmington

Trunk or Treat at the Flea Market and a community contra dance at Memorial Hall on Oct 24, then trick-or-treating downtown on Saturday, Oct 31, with Main Street shops and restaurants handing out candy.

Downtown Wilmington · Free · Confirm times at the front desk

Foliage & Scenic Drives

PEAK SEASON

FINAL WEEKEND · OCT 9–12

Bluebird Express Foliage Rides
Ride to 3,586 ft for long views over Somerset Reservoir and, on clear days, Mt. Monadnock and Mt. Washington. Last rides of the season run Friday through Columbus Day Monday.

Mt. Snow base · Ticketed · [mountsnow.com](#)

SCENIC BYWAY

Molly Stark Trail · Route 9
One of Vermont’s classic drives, running Wilmington to Brattleboro. Hogback Mountain’s famous 100-Mile View is at its best this month.

Route 9 East · Free

SCENIC BYWAY

Route 100 North
The quintessential Vermont road right outside our door, past Wardsboro toward Jamaica and Stratton — farm stands, pumpkin piles and village greens all the way up.

From the Inn · Free

Peak color in the Deerfield Valley usually arrives in the second week of October, right around Columbus Day weekend. Ridgetops turn first; valley floors and oaks hold color into the third week, and the roads quiet down considerably after the holiday.

Hiking & Outdoors

PEAK-COLOR TRAILS

Mt. Olga Fire Tower
360° views of VT, MA & NH from the tower — at peak color, the best payoff for the effort anywhere near the Inn.

0.6–1.8 mi
loop

200 ft
elev.

EASY

Valley Trail · Dover to Wilmington
Flat 5-mile path through the valley — leaf-covered and quiet once the holiday crowds head home.

5 mi
one way

Flat
terrain

EASY

Mt. Snow Summit Trail
Hike up and ride the Bluebird down — lift runs through Mon Oct 12. Summit color comes first, so go early in the month.

3.5 mi
round trip

1,700 ft
elev.

MODERATE

Hoot, Toot & Whistle Trail
Old rail bed along the Deerfield River to Harriman Reservoir — the turned maples reflect in the water at peak.

2 mi
one way

Flat
terrain

EASY

October brings crisp days and frosty mornings. Sunset comes before 6:30 PM for most of the month, so start summit hikes by early afternoon, and wear a bright layer — fall hunting seasons are underway.

Restaurants & Dining

WILMINGTON & WEST DOVER

Dot's Restaurant
CLASSIC DINER · \$
Open from 6 AM under the famous neon sign — the right start to a frosty-morning hike.

Try: **Berry-Berry Pancakes**

1846 Tavern & Restaurant
AMERICAN TAVERN · \$\$ · WEST DOVER
Historic stagecoach stop on Rte. 100. Hand-cut steaks, fresh seafood and Vermont craft beer by candlelight — ideal now that evenings turn cold.

Try: **Prime sirloin or salmon BLT**

Valley Craft Ales
BREWERY + PIZZA · \$\$
The Old Red Mill (1828) on the Deerfield River. The fire-warmed room takes over for the season.

Try: **Fall seasonal on tap**

19 South Main
BRICK OVEN · \$\$
Brick oven pizza, comfort mains and seasonal cocktails, with live music on weekend evenings.

Try: **Seasonal cocktails**

La Casita
MEXICAN · \$\$
Tucked behind The Anchor — flautas, burritos, homemade salsas and the margaritas locals swear by.

Try: **Flautas + margaritas**

Anchor Seafood Restaurant
SEAFOOD · \$\$
Fresh seafood beloved by locals — the chowder is the move on a cold October night.

Try: **Chowder or lobster roll**

Coming in November — Mount Snow is targeting opening day around Nov 21, weather and snowmaking permitting, with Stratton projecting Nov 25. Thanksgiving week is the valley’s first ski weekend. Ask the front desk for the November guide!