

Travel / #Wanderlust

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# 5 Popular Vacation Destinations You Should Look at Booking Right Now



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Fall vacations might be your favorite time to travel. With school back in session and cooler temperatures, it's time to relax at these five destinations. Whether you want to see the fall colors or simply want to escape from the world, there's surely a destination you will enjoy.

## Bretton Woods, NH



*If you want fall colors, it doesn't get much better than the Omni Mt. Washington*

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It's hard to beat the New England fall colors. One of the best lookouts is the [Omni Mt. Washington](#) in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire. Nestled in the White Mountains, this fall vacation destination has been delighting tourists since 1902. In addition to enjoying the fall foliage, you can also treat yourself at the on-site spa or enjoy a scenic tour of the area by riding the historic Mount Washington Cog Railway.

What's the best way to get to Bretton Woods?

The closest airport is Manchester-Boston Regional Airport (MHT) which is a 1-hour 47-minute drive. You can fly direct on Southwest Airlines from Baltimore, Orlando, and Chicago. You can also fly direct on Delta through New York City. Otherwise, it's a 2-hour drive from Portland, Maine (PWM) and 2.5 hours from Logan International Airport (BOS) in Boston.

## Montreal

You can visit Montreal anytime between mid-September and early November to see the fall foliage. Head to Mount Royal Park (Parc du Mont-Royal) that offers birds-eye views of Montreal without having to venture too far. Visit the Old Port and Old Montreal areas as well to see the fall colors while soaking in Montreal's rich history.

Getting to Montreal is easy as most major airlines will fly into Pierre Elliot Trudeau International Airport (YUL). Once you land, it's approximately a 40-minute ride into downtown Montreal.

## Aspen, Colorado



*Aspen can be a four seasons destination.*

When you hear Aspen, you might think ski slopes. There are plenty of those, but, Aspen really is an excellent fall vacation destination too. Some of the best places to visit to see the best scenery are Maroon Bells, Cathedral Lake, and the [Independence Pass](#) scenic road when you want to take a scenic drive. Take note that some of the scenic driving roads close in mid-November as the winter season begins at this time.

If you enjoy bicycling, you can ride Independence Pass and crest the U.S. continental divide with an elevation of 12,095 feet. The divide is approximately 20 miles from Aspen. There are plenty of rock climbing opportunities for thrill seekers as well.

There are several different ways to get to Aspen. It's a 3.5-hour car ride when you fly into Denver International Airport (DIA). Or, you can always fly directly into Aspen Airport (ASE), but, your flight options can be rather limited. United Airlines and American Airlines fly from Chicago-O'Hare (ORD) to Aspen daily, non-stop through early October. Otherwise, you will need to fly American Airlines from Los Angeles (LAX) if you want to visit in October or early November.

## San Antonio, TX



*A view of the Riverwalk in downtown San Antonio. Credit JohnnyJet*

For those that prefer somewhere a little warmer, San Antonio can be the sweet spot. When here, you will need to do the Riverwalk. This is the main draw of San Antonio so you should have no problem finding it. As the Texas afternoons can still get a little warm, you can also take a river cruise to cool off and relax at the same time.

There are many other fun activities to do in San Antonio. When it comes to festivals, [Oktoberfest San Antonio](#) is held for two weekends in October. You can also view the huge three-day Dia de Los Muertos Festival in late October and also tour the old Spanish missions too. Oh yeah, remember the Alamo!

If you make this a family trip, several of the local theme parks also offer special fall events that can add value to the price of admission. Six Flags Fiesta Texas offers Fright Fest and you can also visit the SeaWorld San Antonio Howl-O-Scream too when you visit in October.

San Antonio International Airport (SAT) is your hub and can be accessed by all major airlines including Southwest and AeroMexico.

## Sedona, Arizona

There's so much to do in northern Arizona including the Grand Canyon and Flagstaff, but you might enjoy [Sedona](#) most. It's one of the few places where you can enjoy desert beauty, fall colors, and avoid the hustle-and-bustle of the big city.

If you visit in September, you can attend the Red Rocks Music Festival or the Sedona Winefest. Waiting until October lets you attend the Sedona Arts Festival and the Sedona Plein Air Festival which is a weeklong festival showcasing the finest works from local artists. September and October are still popular months for Sedona tourism as daytime temperatures are still in the upper 70s and 80s. Waiting until November means you will skip the crowds and enjoy cheaper hotel rooms as well.

You will be able to fill your time with hiking up Doe Mountain or driving to see the various local natural landmarks like Cathedral Rock, Coconino National Forest, and Red Rock State Park. If you have been wanting to get a feel for the southwestern culture, you will be glad you visited.

Sedona is two hours from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX). If you live in southern California, it's a 7.5-hour drive. And for those that want to squeeze in a little fun at Vegas, you can hit the slot machines after driving 5 hours.

## Summary

The best fall vacation destinations are not exclusively in New England. Although this is the first place many of us think of as the idyllic fall vacation, there are many areas to visit across the U.S. if you only have time to make a road trip or want to travel to somewhere different.

*For the past 20 years, Johnny Jet averaged 150,000 miles and 20 countries a year. He has been featured in many major publications and have appeared on ABC, CBS, CNBC, CNN, FOX, MSNBC, NBC and PBS.*