



THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO *Autumn*

IN METROWEST + CENTRAL MA

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WELCOME

What fall *looks like* here

Every year when fall rolls around, I remember all over again why I love living in Massachusetts. The foliage, the orchards, the crisp mornings, the cider donuts... New England just does fall differently. 🍎🍂

So I pulled together some of my absolute favorite things to do this time of year—the places I bring friends from out of town, the traditions my family loves, and the things I look forward to every single fall. Steal all of it!

If we haven't met yet, I'm Jackie, and I've been showing people around Metrowest and Central Mass. my whole life.

FALL HERE MEANS

Cider donuts at every farm stand

Peak color around mid-October

Fire pits and flannel are back



Make the most of *the season*

Every year the season sneaks up the same way: one month you're still in summer mode, the next you're outside every weekend, and then suddenly it's the holidays.

September

HAPPENING:
Brimfield Flea Market
Sept 8–13 | Brimfield

WORTH EATING:
Publick House
Sturbridge

GET OUTSIDE:
Apple picking at
Tougas Family Farm

October

HAPPENING:
Wachusett AppleFest
Oct 17–18 | Princeton

WORTH EATING:
Lock 50
Worcester

GET OUTSIDE:
Leaf peeping on
Route 2 West

November

HAPPENING:
Night Lights
Late Nov | Boylston

WORTH EATING:
The Sole Proprietor
Worcester

GET OUTSIDE:
Purgatory Chasm
Sutton



Slow mornings

The best mornings here don't have a plan. Coffee first, then wherever the rest of the day goes.



COFFEE

Red Barn Coffee Roasters

Warm staff, great muffin tops

BREAKFAST

Boulevard Diner

A classic lunch car on Shrewsbury St.

BAKERY

Yummy Mummy Bakery

Westborough's go-to for brownies

QUIET SPOT

Garden in the Woods

Framingham's peaceful native garden

Outside

The whole point of this season is ending up outside for longer than you meant to.



TRAIL OR WALK

Assabet River Rail Trail

Flat, colorful miles through Hudson

LOOKOUT

Mount Pisgah, Northborough

Boston's skyline on a clear day

PARK

Callahan State Park

Open meadows and loops in Framingham

BEST PATIO

Start Line Brewing

Beer and BBQ near the Marathon start

With the kids

Weekends go easier when you already know where you're going. These are the reliable ones.



WEEKEND ACTIVITY

Davis Farmland & Mega Maze

Barnyard animals and a giant corn maze

PARK

Chestnut Hill Farm

Hayrides and goats in Southborough

TREAT STOP

Hebert Candy Mansion

A real candy castle in Shrewsbury

DOG FRIENDLY

Hopkinton State Park

Leashed pups welcome on wooded trails

After dark

Evenings get better this time of year. Here is where I'd spend one if I had it free.



DINNER

deadhorse hill

Seasonal New England plates on Main St.

DESSERT

Kimball Farm, Lancaster

One more giant cone before winter

DRINKS

Armsby Abbey

Craft beer and cheese boards downtown

LIVE MUSIC

TCAN, Natick

Intimate shows in an old firehouse

When people visit

When someone is in town for a weekend, this is the short list I actually hand them.



FIRST STOP

Downtown Boston

Freedom Trail, history, all the tourist stuff

THE VIEW

New England Botanic Garden

Orchard views over the reservoir

THE ONE MEAL

Longfellow's Wayside Inn

Dinner at a 1716 inn in Sudbury

ONLY HERE

Old Sturbridge Village

Step straight into 1830s New England

EVERY YEAR

Traditions

The things locals look forward to every season.

Apple picking

Carlson, Honey Pot Hill or Tougas

Phantoms by Firelight

Bonfire ghost stories at OSV, Oct 3–25

Salem in October

Haunted Happenings, all month long

Patriots Sundays

Chili on the stove, game on at 1

The Big E

Cream puffs and all six New England states

Head of the Charles

World-class rowing in Cambridge, Oct 16–18

The cider donut crawl

Every farm stand swears theirs is best

Thanksgiving Day football

Hometown rivalries, some 100+ years old



DON'T MISS THESE

The *Fall* bucket list

- ☐ Pick apples, stay for cider donuts
- ☐ Drive Route 2 at peak color
- ☐ A Sunday stroll around Grafton Common
- ☐ A Railers game at the DCU Center
- ☐ Mums and pumpkins from Russell's, Wayland
- ☐ Stand on the Marathon start in Hopkinton
- ☐ Watch the sunset from Wachusett
- ☐ Walk the Assabet River Rail Trail
- ☐ Get lost in a corn maze
- ☐ Eat outside with people you like
- ☐ Spend a night in the Canal District
- ☐ Buy something from a local maker
- ☐ A bonfire night at Old Sturbridge Village
- ☐ Climb through Purgatory Chasm
- ☐ Bring a neighbor a dozen cider donuts
- ☐ One night with the phone in another room
- ☐ A day trip north for the foliage



Ten Things, *One Weekend*

☐ Clear the gutters

☐ Flush the water heater

☐ Fresh smoke detector batteries

☐ Clean the dryer vent

☐ Reverse the ceiling fans

☐ Swap the HVAC filter

☐ Check the weather stripping

☐ Shut off the outdoor faucet

☐ Walk the roof line

☐ Test the garage door sensors

WHO I'D CALL

The four numbers I give out most. Save them before you need them.

PAINTER

Mark Ross

857-205-3463

LANDSCAPER

Twins

508-459-1534

HANDYMAN

John Agbey

508-320-0068

HVAC

Viking Mecanical

978-558-6526



Need a different vendor referral or recommendation?
I've spent years building relationships with local businesses I'd genuinely recommend to family. Send me a message and I'll connect you.

Weekend trips

North Conway, NH

DRIVE TIME

About 2.5–3 hours

KNOWN FOR

The Kancamagus Highway

WORTH THE STOP

Diana's Baths, an easy waterfall walk

Woodstock, VT

DRIVE TIME

About 2.5 hours

KNOWN FOR

Covered bridges and a postcard green

WORTH THE STOP

Billings Farm & Museum

Ogunquit, ME

DRIVE TIME

About 2 hours

KNOWN FOR

Rocky coastline, minus the crowds

WORTH THE STOP

The Marginal Way cliff walk





Hey there, I'm Jackie

METROWEST + CENTRAL MA AGENT

I love sharing about all the things that make Metrowest and Central Mass special. I hope you learned something new in this guide!

If you're looking for more local recs—check out my Instagram or send me a message, I'd love to hear from you!

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Let's talk

Thinking about a move before the year turns?
Start here.

[SCHEDULE A CALL](#)