

A GUIDE TO THE PIONEER VALLEY

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This list was created in 2012 so some of the links and content may not be current. We offer this list as a resource to help you discover and learn about the local community, and we apologize if there are any errors in the information.

OVERVIEW

page

- Blogs Listing Upcoming Events 1
- Hiking and Biking Trails 1-2
- Natural Attractions 2-3
- Historical Sites 3-4
- Museums 4-5
- Other Attractions 5-6
- “Can’t Miss” Restaurants 6
- Food-related Events 6-7
- Music and Entertainment Venues 7
- Music, Arts, and Cultural Festivals 7-8
- Summer Music – Weekly Performances 9

BLOGS LISTING UPCOMING EVENTS

<http://exploremass.blogspot.com/>

<http://hilltownfamilies.wordpress.com/category/suggested-events/>

<http://pioneervalleyevents.tumblr.com/> (not always updated)

HIKING AND BIKING TRAILS

Norwottuck Rail Trail

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/central/nwrt.htm>

An 11 mile path linking Northampton, Hadley, and Amherst along the former Boston & Main Railroad right-of-way. The path's level terrain provides safe passage for pedestrians, wheelchairs, joggers, skaters, bicyclists, and cross-country skiers of all ages and abilities.

M and M Trail

<http://amcberkshire.org/mm-trail>

Long-distance hiking footpath.

Massachusetts Audubon Society

http://www.massaudubon.org/Nature_Connection/sanctuaries.php

Various locations across the state

Whether you're looking to hike mountain trails, paddle a Massachusetts river, or see pond critters up close, Mass Audubon has something for everyone. Most request \$5 upon entrance. Free admission with a family membership (\$65 for families, \$48 for individuals).

Dana, abandoned Quabbin town

<http://explorewmass.blogspot.com/2007/04/quabbin-gate-40-dana-town-common.html>

<http://explorewmass.blogspot.com/2007/04/quabbin-gate-40-road-to-dana-common.html>

Petersham, MA on Route 32a, Quabbin Gate 40

A 2-mile walk or bike ride from parking, the remnants of town hall, a church, a hotel, the cemetery, and private residences are visible. Evacuated in 1939 in preparation for the nearby flooding to create the Quabbin Reservoir. Free.

NATURAL ATTRACTIONS**Wildlife Sanctuary**

<https://www.amherst.edu/museums/sanctuary>

Amherst College campus

Approximately 500 acres, it includes a diverse collection of open fields (both actively maintained and unmanaged), wetlands, flood plain woods, river, upland woods, plantation pines, and ponds.

Puffer's Pond

<http://www.amherstma.gov/index.aspx?NID=1316>

The largest body of open water in Amherst and a prominent recreation area for fishing, birding, nature walking, canoeing, picnicking, and swimming. Located approximately three miles north of Amherst town center.

Mount Holyoke Range State Park/"The Notch"

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/central/hksp.htm>

Mount Tom State Reservation

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/central/mtom.htm>

Holyoke

An unparalleled view of the Connecticut Valley north and south, the Berkshire mountains to the west and the Pelham hills to the east.

Skinner State Park

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/skinner/>

More than 400 acres of forest on Mount Holyoke, at the western end of the Holyoke Range. It offers breathtaking views of the Connecticut River Valley. The summit is accessible by hiking the road or hiking trails year-round.

Mount Sugarloaf

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/central/msug.htm>

Sunderland, MA

A commanding view of the Connecticut River, the Pioneer Valley, and the Pelham and Berkshire Hills. Offers picnicking, scenic viewing, and hiking. An auto road winds to the summit, accessible by private automobiles.

Mount Toby

http://www.trails.com/tcatalog_trail.aspx?trailid=HGN097-016

near Sunderland, MA

Mike's Corn Maze

<http://mikesmaze.com/>

September 1 – October 31

Sunderland, MA

Visitors will encounter countless activities, games, and amusements. Every year, there is a themed game within the maze that will entertain the entire family. \$10 for adults, \$8 for students, \$7 for kids.

Quabbin Reservoir

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/central/quabbin.htm>

Belchertown, MA

One of the largest man-made public water supplies in the US. The New Salem and Enfield lookouts offer magnificent views of the reservoir. In order to flood the vast area of the Swift River Valley in the 1930s, the entire population of four towns had to be relocated. Free.

Chrysanthemum Show

<http://www.smith.edu/garden/Conservatory/mum-show.html>

November

Smith College

Picturesque display of flowers in the greenhouse. \$2 donations.

Spring Bulb Show

<http://www.smith.edu/garden/Conservatory/bulbshow.html>

March

Smith College

Picturesque display of flowers in the greenhouse. \$2 donations.

HISTORICAL SITES**Emily Dickinson Homestead**

<http://www.emilydickinsonmuseum.org/>

closed in January and February

Amherst, within walking distance from campus

Learn about Emily Dickinson's life, family, creative work, times, and enduring relevance, and to preserving and interpreting the Homestead and The Evergreens as historical resources. Tour prices vary, but are free for Five College students.

Historic Deerfield

<http://www.historic-deerfield.org/>

mid-April to late December

Deerfield, MA

Museum of history, art, and architecture along a mile-long street laid out in 1671 and still lined with 18th- and 19th-century houses on their original sites. This quintessential New England village is surrounded by working farms and rolling cornfields along the Deerfield River. \$12 for adults, \$5 for kids.

MUSEUMS**Mead Art Museum**

<https://www.amherst.edu/museums/mead/>

Amherst College

Serves the public by bringing any curious visitor into contact with original works of art and with leading thinkers drawn from the Amherst campus and beyond, always free of charge and in a facility that is fully accessible.

Beneski Natural History Museum

<https://www.amherst.edu/museums/naturalhistory>

Amherst College

Home to the largest collection of fossilized dinosaur tracks in the world. Free.

Smith College Museum of Art

<http://www.smith.edu/artmuseum/>

Northampton

Includes 4 floors of exhibition galleries that house the permanent collection; the Cunningham Center for the Study of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs; and changing exhibitions that regularly include a family-friendly resource area. \$5.

Eric Carle Picture Book Museum

<http://www.carlemuseum.org/Home>

Hampshire College

The only full-scale museum of its kind in the United States, The Carle collects, preserves, presents, and celebrates picture books and picture book illustrations from around the world. Its mission is to inspire a love of art and reading in young children through picture books. \$9 for adults, \$6 for students and kids. Family discount available.

Mass MOCA (Museum of Contemporary Art)

<http://www.massmoca.org/>

North Adams, MA

Ranks among the most visited institutions in the United States dedicated to new art, focusing on large-scale and complex installations that are impossible to realize in conventional museums. \$15 for adults, \$10 for students, and \$5 for kids.

Clark Art Institute

<http://www.clarkart.edu/>

Williamstown, MA

A museum and a center for research and higher education, dedicated to advancing and extending the public understanding of art.

Williams College Museum of Art

<http://wcma.williams.edu/>

Williamstown, MA

A teaching museum that advances learning through lively and innovative approaches to art for the students of Williams College and communities beyond the campus.

Norman Rockwell Museum

<http://www.nrm.org/>

tours (included with admission ticket) offered at 11:00am, 12:30pm, and 2:00pm

Stockbridge, MA

The museum preserves, studies and communicates with a worldwide audience the life, art and spirit of Norman Rockwell in the field of illustration. \$16 for adults, \$10 for students, \$5 for children.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS**The Book Mill**

<http://www.montaguebookmill.com/>

Montague, MA

A used bookstore housed in an 1842 gristmill, set on the banks of the Sawmill River. Known for books you don't need in a place you can't find. Also home to The Lady Killigrew Café.

Bridge of Flowers

<http://www.bridgeofflowersmass.org/>

in bloom during summertime

Shelburne Falls, MA, on Route 2

A restored trolley bridge now open to pedestrians and covered in seasonal flowers. Free.

Basketball Hall of Fame

<http://www.hoophall.com/>

Springfield

Home to nearly three hundred inductees and more than 40,000 square feet of basketball history. \$19 for adults, \$12 for kids.

Yankee Candle Factory

<http://www.yankeecandle.com/about-yankee-candle/visit-our-flagship-stores/t>

most popular during the holiday season

South Deerfield, MA

From watching animated, singing characters to celebrating Christmas year round, an unusual place where your whole family can experience an enchanting mix of shopping and entertainment. Free admission.

A.J. Hastings

<http://www.ajhastings.com/contact.htm>

Amherst

The place to buy Amherst College (and UMass) clothing and memorabilia.

“CAN’T MISS” RESTAURANTS**Antonio’s Pizza**

<http://www.yelp.com/biz/antonios-amherst>

Amherst Town Center

Best known for its inventive topping combinations like chicken/bacon/ranch, and avocado quesadilla.

Bub’s Barbeque

<http://www.bubsbbq.com/ordereze/default.aspx>

Sunderland, MA

Flayvors Ice Cream

<http://www.cookfarm.com/Flayvors.htm>

Hadley

Made from the milk of the cows grazing right outside the dining area.

FOOD-RELATED EVENTS**Amherst Farmers Market**

<http://www.amherstfarmersmarket.com/>

Saturday mornings from late April to mid-November

Amherst Town Common

Kendrick Park Farmers Market

<http://kendrickparkmarket.com/>

Wednesday afternoons from mid-May to early October

Amherst, near Bertucci’s

Restaurant Week

No reliable web site

early June

Northampton

Twenty restaurants offering 3-course meals for \$21.

Taste of Amherst

No reliable web site

mid-June

Amherst Town Commons

Local food vendors and entertainment. Free entrance.

Greenfield Free Harvest Supper

<http://www.freeharvestsupper.org/>

mid-to-late August

Greenfield Town Common

Meal of completely local food from area farmers. Raffles and donations support Farmers Market Coupon Project. Bring your own plate and utensils! Free.

Garlic and Arts Festival

<http://garlicandarts.org/>

late September/early October

Orange, MA

“The festival that stinks.” Local artists, farmers, and entertainment. Very Pioneer Valley. \$5 per person.

MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT VENUES**Iron Horse**

<http://www.ihcg.com/index.asp>

Northampton

Calvin Theater

http://www.ihcg.com/calvin_theater_main.asp

Northampton

Musicians, comedians. Tickets generally start around \$20.

Fine Arts Center

<https://fac.umass.edu/Online/>

University of Massachusetts - Amherst

The Arts Block

<http://theartsblock.com/>

Greenfield, MA

MUSIC, ARTS, AND CULTURAL FESTIVALS**Paradise City Arts Festival**

<http://www.paradisecityarts.com/>

late May (Memorial Day weekend)

Northampton, 3 County Fairgrounds

Award-winning shows of contemporary crafts and fine art showcasing the works of some of America's most prominent craftsmen and artists. \$12 entrance fee per person.

Jacob's Pillow

<http://www.jacobspillow.org/>

June 16 – August 16

Becket, MA

Renowned dance festival in the Berkshire Mountains. Free “Inside/Out” performances on a scenic outdoor stage every Wednesday – Saturday during the Festival at 6:15pm. Ticketed performances, as well (prices vary widely). Free access to beautiful grounds. Food is available for purchase, but many people bring picnics.

Tanglewood

<http://www.bso.org/brands/tanglewood/>

June – August

Lenox, MA

Summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and host to many other performers, in the Berkshire Mountains. Lawn tickets start at \$10. Many people bring chairs and/or blankets and picnics. Prices vary widely for tickets inside the amphitheater. James Taylor’s July 4th performance is a perennial highlight.

Great New England Air Show

<http://www.greatnewenglandairshow.com/>

early August

Chicopee, Westover Air Force Base

Free.

Garlic and Arts Festival

<http://garlicandarts.org/>

late September/early October

Orange, MA

“The festival that stinks.” Local artists, farmers, and entertainment. Very Pioneer Valley. \$5 per person.

Paradise City Arts Festival

<http://www.paradisecityarts.com/>

early October (Columbus Day weekend)

Northampton, 3 County Fairgrounds

Award-winning shows of contemporary craft and fine art showcasing the works of some of America's most prominent craftsmen and artists. \$12 entrance fee per person.

Pumpkin Fest

<http://www.pumpkinfestival.org/>

late October

Keene, New Hampshire

Home to the largest amount of lit jack-o-lanterns in one place. Also food, music, fireworks, and quintessential New England feel. Free (just food costs).

SUMMER MUSIC – WEEKLY PERFORMANCES

Folk Traditions at the Porter-Phelps-Huntington House

<http://www.pphmuseum.org/wft.html>

Wednesdays at 6:30pm in June and July

Hadley, MA

Beautiful venue in a “sunken garden.” Many people bring picnics. \$10 per person.

South Hadley Summer Concert Series

No reliable web site

Thursdays at 6:30pm in June (?) – August

South Hadley Town Commons, Gazebo

A variety of musical styles and artists. Free.

Angel Park Summer Music Series

No reliable web site

Thursdays at 7:00pm in July and August

Williamsburg, MA

Variety. Bring lawn chairs and picnic blankets. Free.

Northampton Jazz Workshop

<https://www.facebook.com/NorthamptonJazzWorkshop>

Tuesdays at 7:30pm

The Loft, Clarion Hotel

The Green Street Trio performs, followed by an open jam session. Guests are welcome to bring an instrument to play along.

Page’s Loft at the Clarion Hotel

<http://loftattheclarion.com/aboutus.html>

Wednesdays

Northampton