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A Mini-Mooners Guide to Spending 48 Hours in New England

Sometimes the best vacations don't require airfare and a passport.



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Photography by: Courtesy of The Red Lion Inn

While celebrating our wedding anniversary this fall, **my husband and I** chose to explore **the Berkshires**. The leaves were starting to turn, the air was just beginning to get crisp, and **the spirit of autumn** seemed to be everywhere. Our destination was Stockbridge, Massachusetts, and **the Red Lion Inn**, the famous subject of Norman Rockwell's Christmas painting, was our home for 48 uninterrupted hours. If you're planning your own **mini-moon** or **anniversary getaway**, consider this romantic spot in New England. To help you build your two-day itinerary, use this as your guide to staying, eating, and relaxing in one of the most scenic parts of **the Northeast**.

Book your stay.

We loved everything about [the Red Lion Inn](#), an 18th-century property bursting with charm and history. You're treat to a gorgeous breakfast spread daily in their grand dining room, but you can also "take out" to your room should you want to sleep in. Even better, the inn offers [pet-friendly rooms](#), so your well-trained dog or cat is welcome to join you for a mini getaway. The hospitality extends to four-legged friends: A red bandana and organic treats are offered to pups upon check in.

Get to know the area.

Stockbridge is the home of the [Norman Rockwell Museum](#), so "charming" is pretty much the only adjective you can use to describe this little town. Check out the world's largest collection of Rockwell's art in the world, then browse some of the museum's latest exhibitions. It's an afternoon you won't forget. But your getaway doesn't have to begin and end here. Use Stockbridge as your home base for exploring the Berkshires. A very short distance away are towns like Lee and Lenox, where plenty of shopping, dining, and entertainment await.

Eat and drink.

What vacation is complete without a few [great dining experiences](#)? Stockbridge's restaurant scene puts an emphasis on fresh and local. We were particularly wowed by the European-style fare at [Once Upon a Table](#) (order the gnocchi), the build-your-own sandwiches at [Elm Street Market Deli](#) (perfect for picnics), and the indoor-outdoor seating at nearby [Prime Italian](#). For an afternoon pick-me-up, grab a cup of locally roasted coffee from [Six Depot Café](#). Don't forget to grab a bag of beans to enjoy at home, too.

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A few sips into my glass of wine and I forgot about the eggnog, so deep into the spell of the Inn's nostalgia was I. The Inn, a landmark in the town of Stockbridge, Massachusetts, is at once a throwback to the days of the Berkshire hamlet's most famous resident, Norman Rockwell, and its glorification of small town America, complete with Main Street shops and delis so picture-perfect it's almost hard to believe. Yet it's also a throwback to a far-older America and all the needlepoint and fabric clashing that comes with it. And further still, it's an ode to something greater, something more lively and more diverse and more rooted in the spirit of the Berkshires today. The living room is one testament to this mix—where locals blend with hipsters who drove up from Boston and New York and kids run wild escaping from large family reunions, while buttoned up couples dine in the formal restaurant, while retirees read by the fire, and a couple of guys drink beers by a Christmas tree.

