

# AMERICA 250

CONNECTICUT

# PASSPORT



*Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary in Connecticut*

## Using the Passport

Travel around Connecticut and learn about its revolutionary heritage. Visit [250inCT.com](http://250inCT.com) for visitor information, ongoing events, and more. Tag us [@america250ct](https://twitter.com/america250ct) and let us know what you discover.

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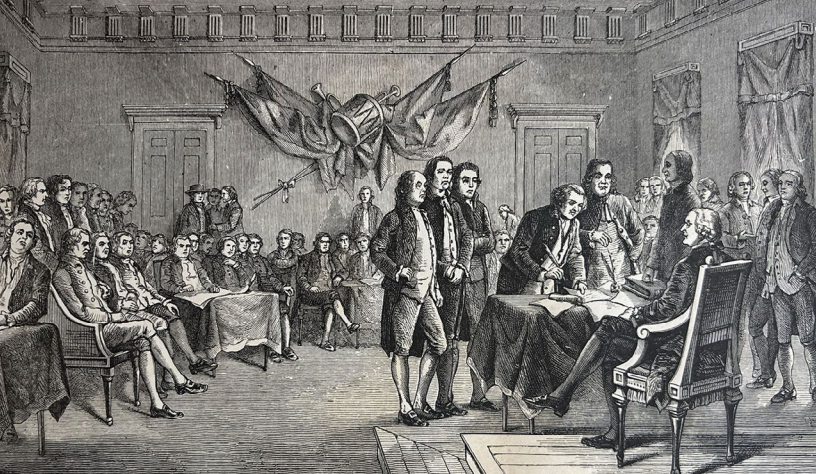
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## About America 250 | CT

July 4, 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of the United States of America.

We invite residents and visitors to experience this state's rich history and the people, places, and events that helped shape the nation.

The America 250 | CT Commission has established four themes that organizations are using to shape their commemorations.



## Tell Inclusive Stories

Find stories that were previously untold or under-told, so all of Connecticut's residents can see themselves reflected in the 250+ year history of our nation.



## Power of Place

Embrace the unique identities and contributions of communities throughout Connecticut, before, during, and after the Revolutionary period.



## Doing History

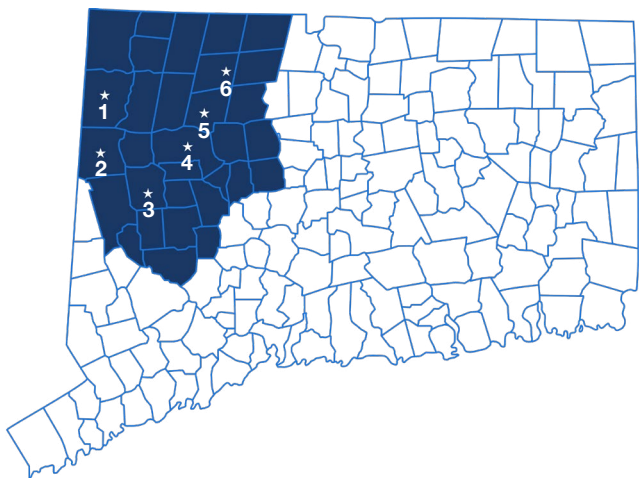
Explore the history of Connecticut's role in the development of the nation—its people, sites, and historic context.



## For the Common Good

Embrace civic engagement and continue the work of shaping our communities, state, and nation around the democratic ideals outlined in our founding documents.

*Local municipal committees and affiliate organizations around the state have been at the heart of our work. If you're curious, you can learn more about them at [CT250.org](https://www.ct250.org).*



## Litchfield Hills

Enjoy the scenic countryside, colonial villages, and rich heritage of the Litchfield Hills. Visit preserved homes, history museums, and covered bridges, and enjoy rolling farmland that reflects early American life and Revolutionary War history. Inns, antique shops, and drives make it ideal for cultural exploration and relaxation.

1 Sharon Historical Society ★ 2 Eric Sloane Museum and Kent Furnace  
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## Sharon Historical Society

The Sharon Historical Society & Museum preserves and shares the history, culture, and traditions of Sharon and the Northwest Corner region. Rotating exhibits, archival collections, and educational programs highlight the people, industries, and events that shaped the community from the colonial era to the present day. Through stories of rural life, innovation, and civic involvement, the museum encourages visitors to consider how local history continues to influence the character and identity of the region today.



## Eric Sloane Museum and Kent Furnace

Eric Sloane Museum invites visitors to explore the art, tools, and industrial history of early New England through the work and collections of artist and author Eric Sloane. Located beside the historic Kent Iron Furnace, the museum highlights Connecticut's role in early iron production and manufacturing during the American Revolution and beyond. Visitors can view Sloane's paintings alongside collections of early American tools and artifacts that reflect the craftsmanship, innovation, and industry that shaped life in early America.



## Gunn Memorial Library and Historical Museum

Housed in a historic 1850 building, the Gunn Historical Museum shares the history and culture of Washington, Connecticut, through exhibits and programs focused on the community's people, industries, and traditions. Rotating exhibitions, archival collections, and educational initiatives connect local stories to broader themes in American history. Through stories of innovation, resilience, and civic engagement, the museum encourages reflection on the region's past and its continuing influence on the community today.



## Litchfield Historical Society

The Litchfield History Museum invites visitors to explore the stories and history of Litchfield, CT and its residents. Through rotating and long-term exhibits, guests will uncover Litchfield's history, from its early settlement to the present day. In the museum's galleries, visitors discover the story of a bustling commercial, political, and national center of education in the years after the American Revolution. They can also tour the historic Tapping Reeve House and Law School, reflecting Litchfield's important role in early American legal education and civic life.



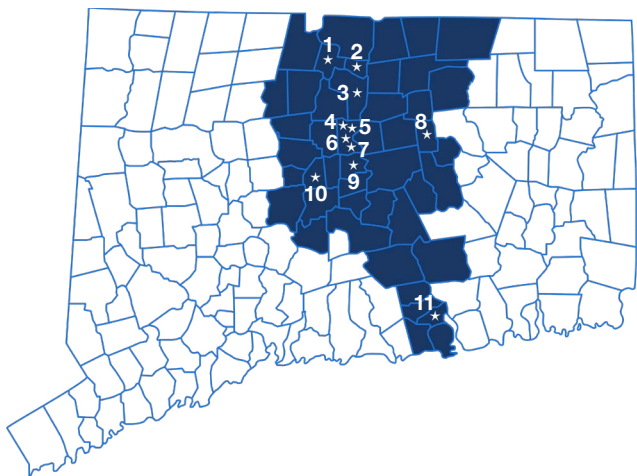
# Torrington Historical Society

Historic buildings, exhibits, and collections at the [Torrington History Museum](#) trace the people, industries, and events that shaped Torrington and the region. The museum highlights the city's industrial growth and community life from the 19th century to the present day. Visitors can learn about abolitionist John Brown and Torrington's connections to the fight against slavery. Through artifacts and local stories, the museum encourages reflection on resilience, civic engagement, and social change throughout the community's history.



# American Mural Project

Throughout 2026, the American Mural Project (AMP) in Winsted presents *Life, Liberty & the Pursuit of a Living*, a powerful series of films, live performances, exhibits, and talks exploring how work has shaped American life and Connecticut communities across generations. From the devastating Flood of 1955 to hidden labor history and stories of resilience after 9/11, these engaging programs bring history to life through personal stories and unforgettable experiences. Discover the people, struggles, and triumphs that continue to shape our shared American story.



## River Valley/Greater Hartford

Explore all that the Connecticut River Valley has to offer. Visit towns shaped by colonial history, Revolutionary War sites, and cultural landmarks along our state's namesake river. The region connects travelers to stories of innovation, civic life, industry, and the people who helped shape Connecticut and the nation.

- 1 New England Air Museum ★ 2 Old New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine
- 3 Windsor Historical Society ★ 4 Connecticut Museum of Culture & History
- 5 Connecticut's Old State House ★ 6 Amistad Center for Art & Culture
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## New England Air Museum

New England Air Museum (Windsor Locks) presents the history of flight and aerospace innovation through one of the largest aviation collections in the country. The museum features more than 100 aircraft, interactive exhibits, and hands-on experiences highlighting Connecticut's role in aviation history. Visitors can also explore the Tuskegee Airmen exhibit, which honors the pioneering Black military aviators of World War II. Through stories of innovation, service, and perseverance, the museum fosters curiosity and knowledge for all ages.



## Old New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine

Old New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine (East Granby) is recognized as America's first chartered copper mine, established in 1707, and later became the nation's first state prison (1773-1827). Explore the historic grounds, exhibits, and abandoned mine through self-guided experiences and public tours. The site also features the Old New-Gate Museum of Art, which includes rotating artwork from the Prison Arts Program and the Connecticut Hall of Change.



## Windsor Historical Society

Windsor Historical Society invites people to connect with Windsor's evolving history by preserving, interpreting, and sharing the community's artifacts and stories. The museum features a research library and manuscript collection, a museum shop, and two historic houses open to the public: the 1758 Strong-Howard House and the 1767 Dr. Hezekiah Chaffee House. Its current exhibition, *For the Common Good: 250 Years of Windsor Civic Life*, highlights the many ways Windsor residents have contributed to civic life.



# Connecticut Museum of Culture and History

Located in the historic West End of Hartford, the [Connecticut Museum of Culture and History](#) houses exhibitions, a library, a research center, and a vast collection. The museum brings the state's culture and history into focus, sparking curiosity, deepening understanding, and strengthening connections that bring communities together across generations. Through both its permanent and changing exhibitions, the museum tells the story of all of the people of Connecticut, from the 1500s through today.



## Connecticut's Old State House

Connecticut's Old State House invites visitors to explore our state's civic history. The restored site in the heart of Hartford bears witness to pivotal narratives of freedom, democracy and civic engagement. Visitors discover stories of social change and landmark events, including the first meeting of Generals Washington and Rochambeau in 1780, the 1818 state Constitutional Convention, the 1830s Amistad and Prudence Crandall trials, and the 1865 homecoming of the 29th Regiment. Year-round tours, exhibits, and programs reveal how Connecticutans continue to shape our nation's story.



## Amistad Center for Art & Culture

The Amistad Center for Art & Culture celebrates and preserves the rich heritage and cultural contributions of people of African descent through exhibitions, programs, and collections. Located within the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, the nation's oldest continuously operating public art museum, the center takes its name from the historic Amistad captives who famously revolted for their freedom. The Amistad Center encourages visitors to explore themes of freedom and self-determination and expands access to African American history of resilience, culture, and art in the Harford community.



# Museum of Connecticut History

The Museum of Connecticut History, located within the Connecticut State Library, chronicles the growth of the state and its role in shaping the nation from the Colonial era to the present. Its wide-ranging collection helps tell the stories of the people, places, and events that define Connecticut's past and present. For the nation's 250th anniversary, the Museum presents *Connecticut's Revolution*, an exhibit that explores Connecticut's role in the founding of the United States, which runs from July 4, 2026 through July 9, 2027.



## Bolton Heritage Farm

Bolton Heritage Farm preserves Connecticut's agricultural and Revolutionary War history. The site includes a portion of the historic Washington–Rochambeau Revolutionary Route, including the site of a Revolutionary War encampment for Rochambeau's forces on their march from Newport, RI to Yorktown, VA in 1781. Enjoy a 1.4-mile hike and look out for the stone walls across the site, many of which date back to the eighteenth century.



# Webb Deane Stevens Museum

In the heart of Connecticut's largest historic district, **Webb Deane Stevens Museum** (Wethersfield) features three beautifully preserved historic homes: the Joseph Webb House, where General George Washington established his headquarters in 1781, along with the Silas Deane House (1769) and Isaac Stevens House (1789). Visitors can also enjoy the Holcombe Education Center, historic outbuildings, the Webb Barn, and the Amy Cogswell Colonial Revival Garden while discovering stories from Connecticut's colonial and Revolutionary War history.



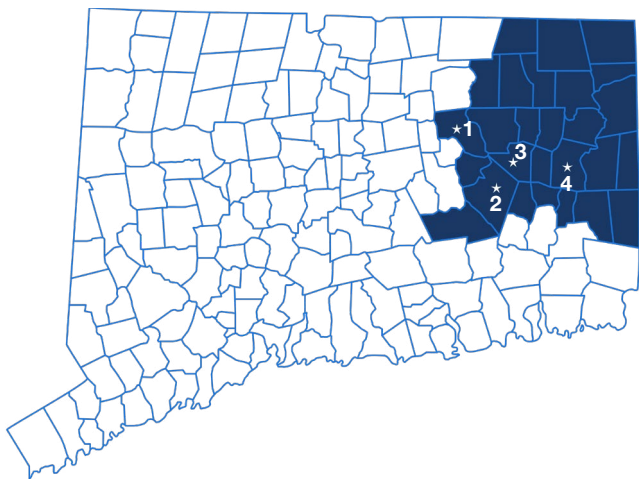
## New Britain Museum of American Art

New Britain Museum of American Art provides the opportunity to explore four centuries of American creativity through the nation's first museum dedicated solely to American art. The museum's collection includes nearly 9,000 paintings, sculptures, photographs, and works on paper representing major artists and artistic movements. Through exhibitions and educational programs, visitors can experience the evolving story of American life, culture, and identity while discovering the artists and ideas that continue to shape the nation today.



## Connecticut River Museum

The [Connecticut River Museum](#) explores the cultural and natural heritage of the Connecticut River and its valley through exhibitions, collections, and educational programs. Located on the historic Steamboat Dock in Essex, the museum highlights the river's importance to Connecticut's history and identity. Visitors can tour the historic buildings, including the Samuel Lay House, explore the river itself aboard the museum's two vessels, *Onrust* and *RiverQuest*, and enjoy scenic grounds overlooking the picturesque Essex Harbor while learning about the people, industries, and environments shaped by the Connecticut River.



## Scenic Northeast

The Scenic Northeast offers visitors a classic New England experience filled with picturesque countryside, historic villages, agricultural land, and outdoor recreation. Known as Connecticut's "Quiet Corner," the region features winding back roads, Revolutionary War sites, vineyards, and cultural attractions that celebrate the area's rural heritage and natural beauty.

**1** Nathan Hale Homestead ★ **2** Lebanon Historical Society Museum & Visitor Center ★ **3** The Mill Museum ★ **4** Prudence Crandall Museum



## Nathan Hale Homestead

The Nathan Hale Homestead (Coventry) preserves the birthplace and family home of Nathan Hale, Revolutionary War patriot and Connecticut's official state hero. Built in 1776, the historic homestead offers visitors the opportunity to explore period furnishings, a kitchen garden, and grounds that reflect daily life in eighteenth-century New England. The museum highlights Nathan Hale and his family's legacy of service and sacrifice while connecting visitors to Connecticut's role in the American Revolution and the nation's founding. Today, the Homestead is owned and operated by the nonprofit organization Connecticut Landmarks.



## Lebanon Historical Society Museum & Visitor Center

Discover why Lebanon became known as the “Heartbeat of the Revolution” at the [Lebanon Historical Society](#). Located near the historic Lebanon Green, the modern, fully accessible museum features engaging exhibits on Revolutionary War history, hands-on activities for children, and a genealogy and research library for those interested in exploring family and local history. Visitors can also enjoy the museum shop, scenic grounds, and nearby historic sites while experiencing one of Connecticut’s most important Revolutionary-era communities.



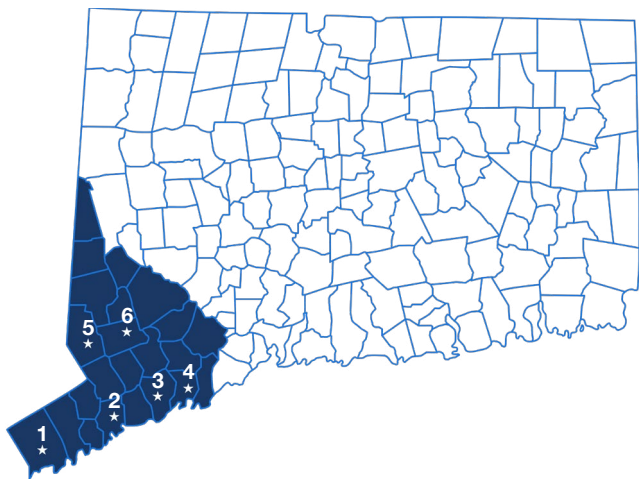
## The Mill Museum

The Mill Museum explores the industrial, cultural, and immigrant history of eastern Connecticut through the story of the textile mills that shaped the region. Located in a restored nineteenth-century mill building, the museum features exhibits, artifacts, and interactive displays highlighting factory life, labor, innovation, and community experiences. Through educational programs and local stories, visitors can discover how the growth of industry transformed Willimantic and contributed to Connecticut's economic and cultural development over time.



## Prudence Crandall Museum

The Prudence Crandall Museum (Canterbury) shares the story of the Canterbury Female Boarding School (1831-1834), a school of higher education founded by principal Prudence Crandall. She worked with Sarah Harris, a Black student and abolitionist, to convert the school to one that educated Black and Brown young women. By promoting equal access to education for all, the students and teachers challenged citizens and the judicial system, leaving a legacy still relevant today. Prudence Crandall is Connecticut's Official State Heroine, and the site is designated a National Historic Landmark and International Site of Conscience.



## Fairfield County

Fairfield County pairs coastal charm with rich history for a unique experience within the state. From Revolutionary War landmarks to world class art and history museums, the region highlights centuries of history, creativity, and innovation.

1 Greenwich Historical Society ★ 2 Norwalk Historical Society  
3 Fairfield Museum & History Center ★ 4 Housatonic Museum of Art  
5 Keeler Tavern Museum & History Center ★ 6 Putnam Memorial State Park



## Greenwich Historical Society

Greenwich Historical Society preserves and celebrates Greenwich's rich history and fosters a sense of belonging. It is commemorating America's 250th with a new exhibition and a new interpretation of the Bush-Holley House, focusing on the experiences of David and Sarah Bush—a family living on the front line during the American Revolution. This year's exhibition, *Fashioning America: 250 Years of Greenwich Style*, chronicles the evolution of American fashion and how these styles reflect changes in American society and culture.



## Norwalk Historical Museum

The Norwalk Historical Society Museum shares the history of Norwalk through exhibits, programs, and lectures that explore the city's colonial roots, maritime heritage, and community development. Visitors can learn about significant events such as the burning of Norwalk during the Revolutionary War, as well as the people and industries that shaped the city over time. Special exhibitions encourage visitors to connect with Norwalk's past and celebrate its rich history.



## Fairfield Museum & History Center

The Fairfield Museum preserves and shares the history of Fairfield, surrounding communities, and Connecticut through collections of paintings, photographs, furniture, decorative arts, and archaeological objects. Located in the heart of Fairfield's historic district, the museum brings local history to life from Native settlement to today. The Fairfield Museum is a welcoming community gathering place where people come together to explore the past, connect through shared stories, and help build a more inclusive future.



## Housatonic Museum of Art

The Housatonic Museum of Art (HMA) holds one of the largest art collections of any community college in the United States with over 7,000 artworks. Located on the campus of CT State Housatonic in Bridgeport, the HMA offers students and the community alike the opportunity to view original artworks spanning from ancient to contemporary art throughout the 300,000 square foot campus. Visitors can also experience an exhibition highlighting Bridgeport's Little Liberia neighborhood and its important role in the city's Black history and community life. Through art and storytelling, the museum encourages reflection on creativity, culture, and social history.



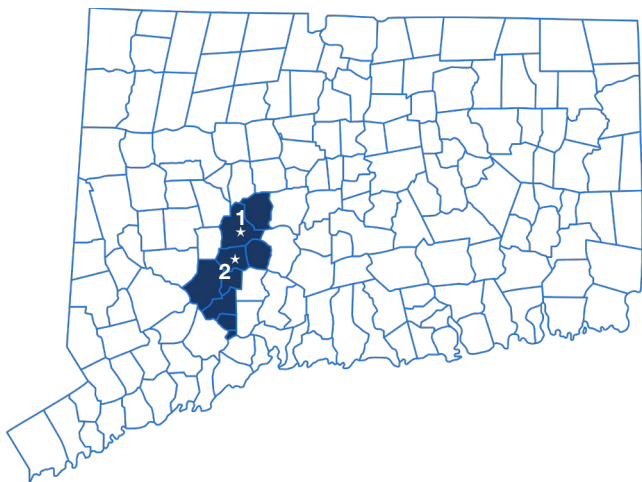
## Keeler Tavern Museum & History Center

Keeler Tavern Museum & History Center immerses visitors in Ridgefield's history through educational and cultural programs that connect past and present, with a focus on former residents' experiences in the colonial era through early 20th century. The historic tavern was a gathering place during the Revolutionary War, as well as a target, as evidenced by the British cannonball still lodged in its corner post – a remnant of the 1777 Battle of Ridgefield. Visitors can explore the museum's historic buildings, gardens, and exhibits.



## Putnam Memorial State Park

Established in 1887, Putnam Memorial State Park is one of the oldest public parks in Connecticut. It commemorates the site of a Revolutionary War winter encampment, one of three quartered in Redding under Major General Israel Putnam from 1778-9. Remains of the encampment are still visible today, making the park a must-see destination for anyone interested in the Revolutionary War.



## Naugatuck Valley

Naugatuck Valley blends industrial heritage with small-town charm. Once a manufacturing hub, today it features historic mills and museums. Explore revitalized downtowns, scenic river views, and landmarks reflecting Connecticut's brass industry and working-class history.



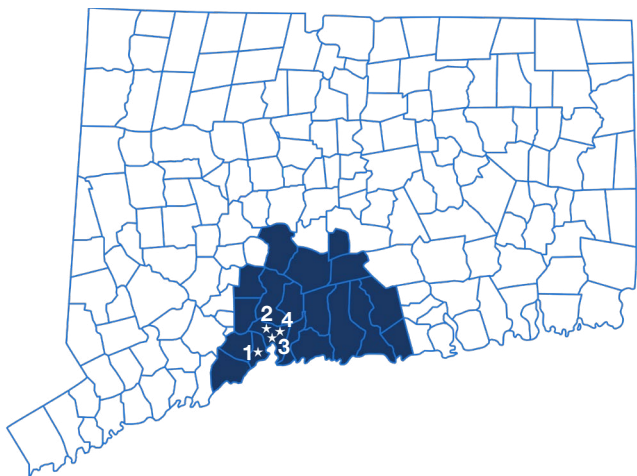
## Mattatuck Museum

The Mattatuck Museum (Waterbury) collects and exhibits American art and cultural history – with a strong core of Naugatuck Valley history and Connecticut artists. The museum uses its historical collections to tell the stories of the community and often partners with neighborhood associations, ethnic organizations, and manufacturing groups. It highlights the diversity of the community, addresses issues of contemporary society, presents the work of both emerging and internationally renowned artists, and emphasizes the strengths of their permanent collection.



## Naugatuck History Museum

The Naugatuck History Museum is presenting a multi-phase exhibition series that shares stories from the country's early founding through the twentieth century. Displays will consider how ideas formed during the Revolutionary period continue to influence civic life through the last 250 years. Together, these materials connect the founding era to the experiences of ordinary Americans across generations.



## Greater New Haven

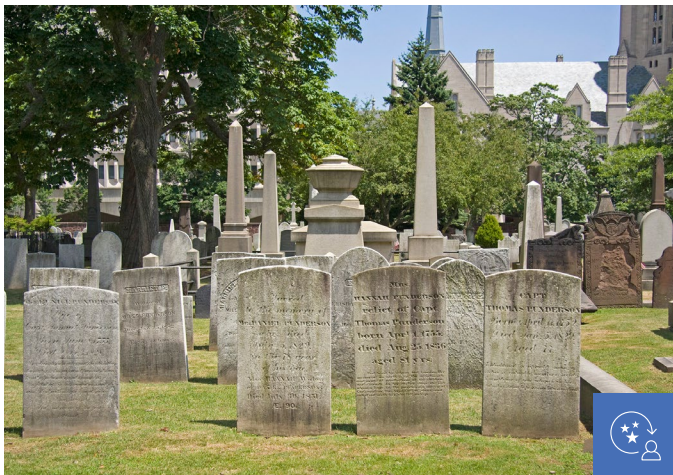
Experience the rich colonial history and entrepreneurial spirit of Greater New Haven, home to inventions such as the cotton gin, the hamburger, and the lollipop. Explore historic greens and sandy beaches and harbors, surrounded by a happening food scene and some of the best arts that Connecticut has to offer.

1 West Haven Veterans Museum and Learning Center ★ 2 Grove Street Cemetery  
3 Yale University Art Gallery ★ 4 New Haven Museum



## West Haven Veterans Museum and Learning Center

West Haven Veterans Museum & Learning Center honors the service and sacrifice of American veterans through exhibits, artifacts, and educational programs. The museum features displays representing conflicts from the Revolutionary War to the present day, highlighting the experiences of service members and their families. Through personal stories, historical collections, and community events, visitors can explore the lasting impact of military service and reflect on the role veterans have played in shaping local and national history.



## Grove Street Cemetery

The [Grove Street Cemetery](#), established in 1797, was the first cemetery in the country designed with family plots. It is the final resting place of most early residents of New Haven, including Eli Whitney, Noah Webster, and Roger Sherman. (Fun fact: Sherman was the only founding father to sign all four documents creating the United States, including the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.) In addition to a collection of specimen trees, the cemetery also has an architecturally prominent Egyptian Revival gateway entrance facing High Street.



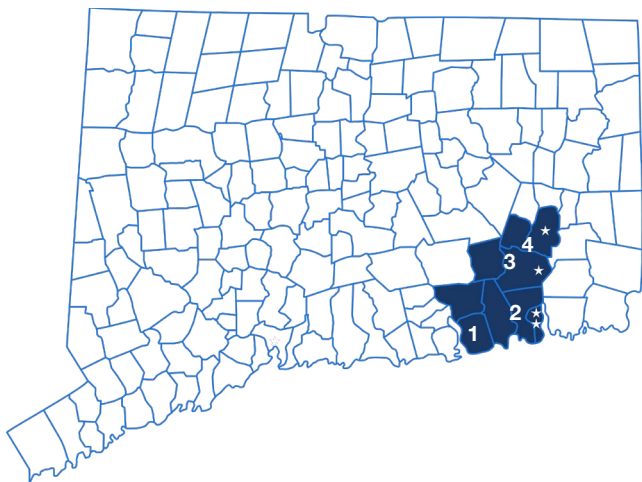
## Yale University Art Gallery

Founded in 1832, the [Yale University Art Gallery](#) is the oldest university art museum in America. It features paintings—including John Trumbull's *The Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776*—sculptures, decorative arts, photographs, and objects representing cultures and artistic traditions from around the world. Located in the heart of New Haven, the museum is open to all, free of charge, and is committed to engaging audiences through thoughtful, creative, and relevant exhibitions, programs, and publications.



## New Haven Museum

The New Haven Museum explores more than 375 years of New Haven history through exhibitions, education and public programs, the resources of the Whitney Library, and the historic Pardee-Morris House. Visitors can discover New Haven's colorful past through exhibits such as *From Clocks to Lollipops: Made in New Haven* and *Amistad: Retold*.



## Greater New London/Norwich

Explore Connecticut's maritime history and learn about why this region is at the heart of our defense industry. Cultural attractions and many smaller park sites are tied together by a water taxi system that allows visitors to experience the Thames River itself as the heart of the region.

1 Fort Trumbull State Park and Museum ★ 2 Lyman Allyn Art Museum  
3 Tantaquidgeon Museum ★ 4 Slater Memorial Museum



## Fort Trumbull State Park and Museum

Fort Trumbull (New London) played a pivotal role in the country's coastal defense system, from the American Revolution to World War II to the Cold War, and is the original site of the U.S. Coast Guard. Explore the massive granite fort and its ramparts for a view of the Thames River and Harbor, walk along the riverfront boardwalk, or fish the waters of Long Island Sound from the pier. Pro tip: In the warmer months, take a ride on the Thames River Heritage Park water taxi!



## Lyman Allyn Art Museum

Located just off I-95 at Exit 83, the Lyman Allyn Art Museum has welcomed visitors for nearly a century with a vibrant mix of changing exhibitions and distinguished permanent collections. Explore *American Perspectives* to discover American art from the colonial era through the 20th century, and learn about Louis Comfort Tiffany's unique connection to the New London region. Don't miss the portrait of Abigail Dolbeare Hinman, depicting her reaction to Benedict Arnold's attack on the City of New London. Through engaging exhibitions and enriching educational programs, the museum inspires curiosity, creativity, and a lasting appreciation for the visual arts.



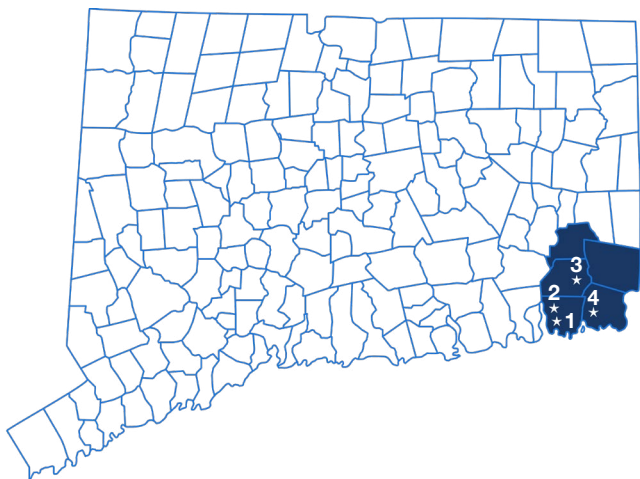
## Tantaquidgeon Museum

The Tantaquidgeon Museum is the oldest Native American-owned and -operated museum in the United States. Its mission is to share the Mohegan culture with the community and visitors who wish to experience and learn about the history of the Mohegan people from the Mohegan perspective. For generations, visitors have learned about the Mohegans and other New England Tribes through visual displays of native-made goods, a traditional village, and stories told by Mohegan Tribal members about their history.



## Slater Memorial Museum

Slater Memorial Museum invites visitors to explore art, history, and world cultures through collections spanning ancient to contemporary works. Located on the campus of Norwich Free Academy (NFA), the museum features paintings, decorative arts, and objects from around the world, including notable plaster casts of classical sculpture. It also features art works from prominent Norwich artists and NFA students, models of the USS Confederacy, and industries of Norwich past and present.



## Mystic Country

Enjoy world-class restaurants and top-tier maritime museums in Mystic Country. From historic seaports and seaside villages to museums, wineries, casinos, and scenic waterfronts, the region highlights Connecticut's nautical heritage while providing opportunities to explore local cuisine and cultural attractions.

**1** Submarine Force Library & Museum ★ **2** Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park  
**3** Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center ★ **4** Mystic Seaport Museum



## Submarine Force Library & Museum

The Submarine Force Museum, located in Groton on the Thames River, maintains the world's finest collection of submarine artifacts. It is the only submarine museum operated by the United States Navy and is the primary repository for artifacts, documents, and photographs relating to U.S. Submarine Force history. The museum traces the development of the "Silent Service" (submarine warfare) from David Bushnell's Turtle, used in the Revolutionary War, to modern Ohio and Virginia class submarines.



## Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park

Overlooking the Thames River, [Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park](#) preserves the remains of Fort Griswold and features the towering Groton Monument, the oldest obelisk monument in the United States. The park is the site of the 1781 Battle of Groton Heights where British troops, under the command of Benedict Arnold, attacked the fort resulting in a massacre of American soldiers. Visitors can also tour the Monument House Museum to view Revolutionary War artifacts and learn about the soldiers who defended the fort during the Revolution.



# Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center

Through interactive exhibits, multi-sensory dioramas, and films, the [Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center](#) brings the story of the eastern woodlands to life. Visitors can learn about the history, culture, and traditions of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation and Native peoples of the Northeast. They can also explore changing exhibitions, ethnographic and archaeological collections, commissioned art, and traditional crafts by Native artisans in a beautiful building that is designed to interact with its surrounding environment.



## Mystic Seaport Museum

[Mystic Seaport Museum](#) is the nation's leading maritime museum. Located along the Mystic River in Mystic, the museum features a recreated 19th-century seaport village, a working preservation shipyard, exhibit galleries, and extensive collections facilities, and is home to more than 650 historic vessels, including the *Charles W. Morgan*, the last surviving wooden whaleship in the world. Explore maritime trades, storytelling, and daily life in the historic village while watching traditional shipbuilding techniques and restoration in action at the Henry B. du Pont Preservation Shipyard.

# Other Ways to Explore Connecticut in 2026



## Revolutionary War Trail

Created by CTVets250, the Connecticut Revolutionary War Trail connects 15 historic sites across the state. Visit a site, check in, and unlock the story of what happened there 250 years ago.



## Sky's the Limit Challenge

This hiking and walking challenge invites you to explore some of Connecticut's State Parks and Forests, each with a story to tell. This year's theme, "America's 250th", celebrates Connecticut's role in shaping our nation.



## Connecticut Art Trail

The Connecticut Art Trail is a collection of 30 world-class art museums, cultural centers, and historic sites. Your passport grants you admission to each museum to experience their 250th exhibitions in 2026.

*This passport belongs to:*

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