

AUTUMN IN NEW ENGLAND BERKSHIRES WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS OCTOBER 14-19, 2024

Autumn in New England is iconic and the Berkshire mountains are a beautiful area to explore with tons of hiking trails! Check out this link for all that this area has to offer: Visit The Berkshires | Official Guide to The Berkshires, MA. One day we'll visit Mount Greylock State Reservation, the highest point in Massachusetts, with awe-inspiring views and over 70 miles of trails. We can also hike on The Appalachian Trail which is only a few minutes from our hotel. There are some impressive waterfalls in the area and I will plan a hike to at least one of these. On this trip I'm scheduling easy, moderate and strenuous trails so there will be choices for everyone to enjoy.

On this trip we will be staying in the small charming town of Lenox, Massachusetts (population around 5,000) at the Hampton Inn Berkshires/Lenox. This property gets very good guest reviews and features an indoor pool and free hot breakfast. You can also sit outside behind the hotel and enjoy the view.

I have reserved twelve double queen rooms at \$149 plus 11% tax Monday through Friday; \$199 plus tax on Friday night only. On Friday and Saturday, the rates go up substantially during the fall peak season. There is a seven-day cancellation notice requirement. No deposit required. Call the Hampton at 413-499-1111 and state you want to book a room within the Akron Hiking Club block. Do not go to the reservations option – just stay on the line and speak with an onsite clerk at the hotel. Rooms in the block will be held until September 24. Check-in is Monday October 14, 2024 and checkout is Saturday October 19, 2024. Lenox is about an 8-hour drive from Akron. You may want to visit Boston and/or other parts of New England (nearby Vermont is great for leaf peeping!) after or before our hiking trip. There are also direct flights from Cleveland to Boston.

Besides the awesome scenery and hiking, other attractions in the area include: Mount Monument, Norman Rockwell Museum, the author Edith Wharton's former home The Mount, the Berkshires Museum, the Clark Art Institute and lots of unique shops and restaurants. The Pleasant Valley Sanctuary and Wildlife Area and Kennedy Park are two areas near Lenox we can hike at with some easier trails. Many trails here have some serious elevation climbs and are rated moderate to strenuous. The views on top are worth the climb!

The trip will be capped at 25 people. Please call me before you book and I will advise you if there is availability. You must hike a minimum of 6 hikes between the announcement of this trip and October 14 and be an active club member to be eligible to attend this trip. Thank you!