

SUMMER FUN & DAY TRIP IDEAS

SUMMER in New Haven is a great season with festivals, concerts, events on the Green, sports, outdoor activities and day trip opportunities in the area. Here are suggestions from the McDougal Grad Student Life Fellows & staff to explore on your own this summer. Also check the [McDougal Grad Student Life Web Calendar](#) for summer events.

EVENTS LISTINGS & TOURIST GUIDES

[INFONEWHAVEN](#) New Haven Downtown & Citywide events, maps and guides

[New Haven Advocate](#) –weekly arts & entertainment & alternative news

[Greater New Haven Tourism](#)- regional guide to nearby towns, beaches & attractions

[CT Tourism Guide](#) – statewide guide with festivals, day trip and “staycation” ideas

SUMMER FESTIVALS & ANNUAL EVENTS

[International Festival of Arts & Ideas](#) - New Haven’s own Festival for 2 weeks in June, with many free and ticketed events, family events; ask for student tix discounts.

[Intelligent Nightlife](#)- city book groups, classes & social activities for personal growth

[Music on the New Haven Green](#) bring a blanket & picnic for Free big name concerts on the Green. Performers TBA.

[Norfolk Summer Music Festival](#)- Yale’s summer classical concerts in the historic music shed in the northwest corner in Norfolk, CT; young adult tix discount.

[Pilot Pen Tennis](#) Men’s & women’s professional tournament in late August; at CT Tennis Center next to Yale Bowl.

REGIONAL ATTRACTIONS

[Beardsley Zoo](#) - CT’s only zoo, in a lovely park in Bridgeport, with a historic carousel; great place for kids’ parties.

[Bronx Zoo](#) - Large zoo in the Bronx, NY; accessible by NYC train/subway, or if you must, by car.

[Lake Compounce](#) - Historic lakeside theme park with rides for all ages, wooden roller coasters, picnic areas & water park in Bristol, CT

[Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk](#) – aquarium with exhibits, fish and marine mammals

[Mystic Aquarium](#) – large aquarium with fish, birds, and marine mammals, including beluga whales

[Mystic Seaport](#) -Living History museum of America & the Sea, with historic ships and 1800s era exhibits

[New Britain Rock Cats Baseball](#)- Minor league ball in a new stadium in New Britain Ct.

[Six Flags New England](#) - major theme park with thrill rides, characters, kids areas & water park in Springfield, MA, about 1 hour from New Haven. \$25 tix, good anytime, on sale at McDougal tix office, 124 HGS.

[Quassy Amusement Park](#)- historic amusement park with family rides & water park on Lake Quassapaug in Middlebury, CT. Use Discount code “mcdougal09” for discount.

[WNBA SUN](#) - CT Women’s Pro Basketball team plays summer homes games at Mohegan Sun Arena, next to the Casino; take the Casino bus if you like.

OUTDOORS

Beaches- see the NH & CT Parks websites & regional & state tour guides for public beaches

New Haven Parks - City Parks, beaches, pools & splash pads, boating, sports fields & teams, day trips, kids camps and outdoor adventure

CitySeed Farmers Markets in New Haven- year round in Wooster Square, Summer & Fall in other locations.

CT State Parks & Forests - CT's own parks with beaches, boating, hiking, picnic areas, and recreation year round

CT Agriculture - Pick-your-own fruit & vegetable Farms, wineries, markets, orchards, Fairs, and farms to visit

Block Island, RI - Take a ferry from New London or Pt. Judith, RI; bring your bike to ride around Island.

Bridgeport-Port Jefferson Ferry- Take a ferry day trip to the charming town of Port Jeff. Connects with MetroNorth Train from New Haven at Bridgeport station.

Schooner Quinnipiack - Sail from Long Wharf on the 91-ft sail schooner; public sails, classes & camps.

Thimble Island Cruise - Take a 3 hour tour to cruise the Thimble islands off Branford

Yale Golf Course - 18 hole course with lessons, driving range & clubhouse; listed in "US Top 100;" student green fees; in Westville section of New Haven

Yale Outdoor Education Center - Yale's own camp in the woods with cabins, cookout areas, a lake & activities in East Lyme, CT

Yale Sailing Center -sailboats & windsurfers, lessons & races on Short Beach in Branford, CT; summer student memberships