

Itinerary – Central Massachusetts

Day 1: Central Massachusetts, located in the heart of New England, is a hidden gem of culture with more than 60 regions to visit and explore. Start your day in Worcester by delving into the city's world-renowned Worcester Art Museum, featuring art from five millennia of world cultures including paintings by Cassatt, Gauguin, Goya, Monet, Sargent and Whistler, floor mosaics from the ancient city of Antioch, cutting-edge contemporary art and much more.

After a quick bite at the Worcester Art Museum's café, swing by to view the city's greatest accomplishments at the Worcester Historical Museum located down the street. See the hundreds of objects invented and made in Worcester—the smiley face, barbed wire, the monkey wrench, and the space suit. Do not forget to stop by the Ecotarium, a unique indoor/outdoor science museum with the first digital planetarium in Massachusetts, featuring images from NASA and the Hubble Space Telescope to create a three-dimensional solar system projected onto a 40-foot dome.

Later, head to a different time in history, one filled with chivalry and honor. The Higgins Armory Museum holds the largest collection of medieval armor in the Western Hemisphere, along with weapons and other items that would have been used in medieval and Renaissance times. It is an experience you cannot get anywhere else. After your visit, swing by Central Rock Gym and experience Worcester's great rock-climbing facility.

End your travels with some of the city's finest dining. Visit our own Little Italy and enjoy Italian at Via Italian Table, steak at One Eleven Chophouse, seafood at the Sole Proprietor or Coral Seafood, or go for something relaxed and funky at The Flying Rhino, The Jewel Box or Bocado. Enjoy your choice of these wonderful atmospheres after your day of taking in the wonders of Worcester's history.

Relax for the night at one of Worcester's many downtown accommodations: the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Courtyard by Marriott Worcester, Hampton Inn Worcester, Hilton Garden Inn Hotel, Quality Inn and Suites- Worcester, or Residence Inn by Marriott-Worcester. These luxurious and comfortable accommodations will suit your every need and budget.

Day 2: As you wake up and get ready for your next adventure, stop by Tower Hill Botanic Garden, a beautiful living museum of plants with a 3,000 square-foot greenhouse. These distinctive gardens will amaze and delight you during your unforgettable visit. Then, head to Wachusett to see the breathtaking Wachusett Mountain, take a tour or spend the afternoon skiing and snowboarding. Enjoy lunch at their full-service restaurant, cozy up with toasty mug of hot cocoa or hot mulled cider, or relax with a delicious local brew.

Escape the cold, crisp outdoors and spend the early evening in CoCo Keys water resort in Fitchburg, where it is always a beautiful 84 degrees. This fantastic indoor water park is fun for all ages and one of the biggest attractions around. You can either stay at CoCo Keys overnight, or stay at the beautiful Wachusett Village Inn in Westminster and move onto the renowned Museum of Russian Icons in the morning.

Day 3: Take a step back in time and spend the final day in Old Sturbridge Village, where the 18th century comes to life in Sturbridge. Visit the historical homes, stop by the blacksmith and perhaps see a sheep shearing demonstration- see first hand how life was in the 1830s.

Relax and enjoy the beautiful countryside as you drive through Central Massachusetts to the Salem Cross Inn, a colonial restaurant located on 600 acres of meadows and woodlands in West Brookfield. In addition to daily dining, the Inn itself hosts a number of special events re-enacting colonial history and cooking. Enjoy a traditional, delicious New England lunch at the Inn.

Head back to Sturbridge to explore the many shops and antique stores along the main streets before finishing out your day with a rich meal eaten by the fireplace at the Publick House Historic Inn.

Once you are ready to turn in for the night, you have your choice of fantastic accommodations in Sturbridge. After a good night's sleep, enjoy a hearty breakfast and take a walk or drive to see all of the hidden treasures in Old Sturbridge Village before heading home.