Hunterdon County, NJ, Owns Fall With Foliage, Farms, Octoberfest and Haunted Nights

Harvest festivals, breweries, a haunted 200-year-old mill and a miles of foliage-framed trails give travelers every reason to head west this autumn

FLEMINGTON, NJ, UNITED STATES, September 16, 2026 / EINPresswire.com/ -- Fall has officially started in Hunterdon County. This year, the County packs its calendar with festivals, harvest celebrations, Oktoberfest pours and spine-tingling haunts. From pumpkin-season stops along the 579 Trail and scenic outdoor adventures, to the Haunted Red Mill in Clinton, Hunterdon offers an easy autumn escape built for day trips and weekend getaways just an hour from New York City or Philadelphia.

Hunterdon's parks, reservoirs and river corridors offer some of the county's strongest fall views. Round Valley Recreation Area is especially striking as autumn color reflects across the reservoir, while trails throughout the county give hikers and cyclists a front-row view of the season. Along the Delaware River, visitors can combine outdoor time with stops in Lambertville, Stockton, Frenchtown and Milford.

Hunterdon's rolling farmland, wooded roads, reservoirs and Delaware River communities become a natural backdrop for fall foliage drives, hikes, bike rides and small-town wandering. Visitors can pair the outdoors with farm stands, markets, wineries, breweries, restaurants, galleries and independent shops, creating a fall itinerary that can be as active or as relaxed as they want.

"Fall is when Hunterdon really shows people how much they can experience in one place," said Marc Saluk, Director of Hunterdon County Economic Development & Tourism. "You can spend the morning on a trail or at a farm, walk a historic downtown in the afternoon, stop for local food or wine, and finish the night at an event like the Haunted Red Mill. It is the kind of season that makes a day trip turn into a weekend."

Haunted Mills, Hayrides and Acres of Screams

A Hunterdon Fall favorite returns this October 2-24 when the Haunted Red Mill takes over the Red Mill Museum Village at 56 Main Street in Clinton. The annual Halloween tradition will take place Friday and Saturday nights starting at 7:00 p.m. The historic museum grounds come alive with this year's "Lurking in the Shadows" experience, leading visitors through winding trails, eerie mazes, unexpected scares and a haunted hayride along the river. Families looking for a gentler Halloween experience can visit its Happy Haunts on Saturday mornings.

The Flemington area continues to celebrate the spooky season on October weekends at Schaefer Farms, where the Farm of Horrors transforms more than 200 acres into a full Halloween event. Visitors can climb aboard the Hayride of Horror, then continue through the Trail of Terror, MassAcre Maize and CarNevil of Chaos for an experience packed with scares.

Oktoberfest Comes Alive Along the Hunterdon Beer Trail
Oktoberfest season across the Hunterdon County Beer Trail is a must-attend, where participating breweries give visitors plenty of reasons to raise a glass. From traditional lagers and seasonal releases to live music, farm celebrations and other Oktoberfest festivities, breweries across the trail put their own spin on the season.

At Lone Eagle Brewing in Flemington on September 19, a full day of music and entertainment welcomes visitors. They can grab their crew, break out the lederhosen and dirndls, raise a glass and Prost the day away with seasonal beer, festive food and plenty of Oktoberfest spirit.

Readington Brewery & Hop Farm will celebrate its 5th Annual Oktoberfest, taking place October 2-4. The main event kicks off Saturday, October 3 at noon with live music, steinholding competitions, goat races and plenty of beer flowing on the farm, giving visitors another festive reason to raise a stein in Hunterdon County this fall.

Visitors can find more information on Octoberfest activities along the Hunterdon County Beer Trail at https://explorehunterdonnj.com/beer-trail-homepage.

Hunterdon's Pumpkin Train Rolls Through Peak Foliage Country
Few fall traditions capture Hunterdon County quite like the Pumpkin Train. Each autumn, the Black River & Western Railroad welcomes families aboard its historic coaches at Flemington Station on Stangl Road, where a vintage diesel-electric locomotive carries them through the countryside to Everitt Farms at Pumpkin Junction in Ringoes. Riders step off the train and into a six-acre pumpkin patch, then spend about an hour exploring a corn maze and a straw-bale maze, digging into the kids' corn box, meeting the residents of the petting zoo and bumping along on wagon rides while a live DJ keeps the music and games rolling. For tickets and further details visit https://www.blackriverrailroad.com/train-rides/pumpkin-train/.

For a classic farm-country day, The 579 Trail connects more than 40 farms, farmers markets, wineries and other agricultural stops across the county. Fall brings cider, pumpkins and seasonal farm finds, giving visitors an easy way to build their own route through the countryside. Travelers

can make a few quick stops or spend the day moving from farm stands to tastings and scenic back roads.

Plan a Fall Trip to Hunterdon County
Visitors can find trip ideas, outdoor adventures, farms and markets, wineries, breweries, dining, shopping and upcoming events at ExploreHunterdonNJ.com.

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