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Connecticut Caregiver Outing Guide

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10 practical community outings in Hartford County

A fun day out, made simple

Enjoy a welcoming outing with caregiver, friends, and up to 2 residents. Choose an adventure, share the experience, and let ElderCrew help you get started.

County quick index

Hartford County

Planning note

October in Connecticut can bring cool mornings, rain, wind, shorter days, and changing foliage. Dress in layers, check forecasts and venue hours, plan for leaf-season traffic, and pair every weather-sensitive outing with a nearby indoor backup. Quiet-time suggestions in this guide are caregiver planning strategies unless a venue-specific sensory resource is explicitly identified.

Hartford County

October mix: 9 options include indoor space; outdoor choices are best treated as weather-dependent. All 10 are physically located in Hartford County.

1. Connecticut Museum of Culture and History

Hartford | Indoor

Why October: Broad state-history galleries and seating make a reliable October rain-day choice. **Access and walking:** Official guidance lists accessible parking, a separate accessible entrance with callbox, lift access, and supports for hearing, vision, and neurodiverse visitors.

Cost: \$12 adult; \$10 senior; free first full weekend, SNAP admission, and free admission for an accompanying professional caregiver with ID. **Sensory and quieter-time plan:** Choose Tuesday or Wednesday at opening and request the museum's accessibility resources.

Address: 1 Elizabeth Street, Hartford, CT 06105 | **Phone:** 860-236-5621 | [Official or authoritative source](#)

Call ahead to confirm: Confirm free-weekend dates and the accessible-entry procedure.

2. New Britain Museum of American Art

New Britain | Indoor

Why October: A large American-art collection offers a comfortable, weatherproof visit that can be shortened to one floor. **Access and walking:** The museum confirms a ramp, elevators to all public levels, accessible parking, and wheelchairs or walkers on request.

Cost: Check current general and senior admission; library passes and discount programs may reduce cost.

Sensory and quieter-time plan: Tuesday morning is a good lower-crowd target; avoid openings and family programs if noise is a concern.

Address: 56 Lexington Street, New Britain, CT 06052 | **Phone:** 860-229-0257 | [Official or authoritative source](#)

Call ahead to confirm: Confirm October exhibitions, admission, and loaner-device availability.

3. Mark Twain House and Museum

Hartford | Indoor

Why October: The museum center and guided literary-history experience suit an October cultural day.

Access and walking: The museum center is fully accessible, but only the first floor of the historic house is wheelchair accessible; request an adapted visit.

Cost: Ticketed timed tour; check current senior rate and any Museums for All or reciprocal benefit. **Sensory and quieter-time plan:** Book the first standard tour and avoid evening or themed events if theatrical effects are unwelcome.

Address: 351 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105 | **Phone:** 860-247-0998 | [Official or authoritative source](#)

Call ahead to confirm: Confirm a first-floor accommodation, tour length, and Forest Street accessible parking.

4. New England Air Museum

Windsor Locks | Indoor

Why October: Three large hangars provide a weatherproof aviation outing with plenty of room to pause.

Access and walking: Most exhibits are on broad hangar floors; confirm wheelchair route, seating, and any aircraft-interior limitations.

Cost: \$23 adult; \$18 age 65+; \$12 veteran with ID, subject to change. **Sensory and quieter-time plan:** Aircraft halls can echo; arrive at 9 a.m., bring hearing protection if useful, and skip hands-on family events.

Address: 36 Perimeter Road, Windsor Locks, CT 06096 | **Phone:** 860-623-3305 | [Official or authoritative source](#)

Call ahead to confirm: Confirm October hours, accessible restrooms, and any high-attendance program.

5. Dinosaur State Park exhibit center

Rocky Hill | Indoor and outdoor

Why October: The footprint exhibit is an engaging indoor stop, while the arboretum adds fall color in good weather. **Access and walking:** The state lists accessible facilities and a free reservable all-terrain wheelchair program for designated routes.

Cost: Museum admission is charged; outdoor grounds are free. Confirm current resident, senior, and companion rules. **Sensory and quieter-time plan:** Weekday mornings outside school-group arrival windows are preferable; the exhibit hall can become lively.

Address: 400 West Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067 | **Phone:** 860-529-5816 | [Official or authoritative source](#)

Call ahead to confirm: Confirm October exhibit hours, group traffic, and all-terrain-chair reservation timing.

6. Hill Stead Museum

Farmington | Indoor and outdoor

Why October: A historic house, art collection, and fall garden views create a dignified, small-group outing.

Access and walking: Historic-house access is limited by stairs; request details about accessible entrances, first-floor content, restroom, and seating.

Cost: Ticketed guided or self-guided admission; verify current senior price and grounds-only policy. **Sensory and quieter-time plan:** Book an early weekday slot and avoid program days; the grounds can be a quiet fallback.

Address: 35 Mountain Road, Farmington, CT 06032 | **Phone:** 860-677-4787 | [Official or authoritative source](#)

Call ahead to confirm: Confirm October tour format and mobility accommodations.

7. Stanley Whitman House

Farmington | Indoor and outdoor

Why October: A compact 1720-period museum and heritage garden work well for a short October history visit. **Access and walking:** Because this is a historic structure, verify step-free entry, accessible restroom availability, and which rooms can be reached.

Cost: Check current admission; some programs are free while tours may be ticketed. **Sensory and quieter-time plan:** Request a small or private tour and choose a non-program morning.

Address: 37 High Street, Farmington, CT 06032 | **Phone:** 860-677-9222 | [Official or authoritative source](#)

Call ahead to confirm: Confirm October open hours, tour size, and wheelchair route.

8. Barnes Museum

Southington | Indoor

Why October: The furnished family home offers a focused local-history visit suited to cooler October days.

Access and walking: Tours take place in a historic house; ask whether a first-floor tour, seating, and accessible restroom can be provided.

Cost: Check current tour fee or suggested donation. **Sensory and quieter-time plan:** Arrange a weekday appointment for the calmest and most predictable experience.

Address: 85 North Main Street, Southington, CT 06489 | **Phone:** 860-628-5426 | [Official or authoritative source](#)

Call ahead to confirm: Reservation essential: confirm open dates, mobility access, and parking.

9. Elizabeth Park gardens and Pond House area

Hartford and West Hartford | Outdoor with indoor dining option

Why October: Mature trees, paved drives, and garden views make an easy fall-color outing without committing to a long walk. **Access and walking:** Use the Pond House or rose-garden parking and keep to paved routes; confirm restroom hours and curb-free access.

Cost: Free park admission; food or programs cost extra. **Sensory and quieter-time plan:** Choose a weekday morning, avoid weddings and weekend brunch, and use a drive-and-pause plan if stamina is limited.

Address: 1561 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117 | **Phone:** 860-231-9443 | [Official or authoritative source](#)

Call ahead to confirm: Confirm restroom availability and any October event affecting parking.

10. Phelps Hatheway House and Garden

Suffield | Indoor and outdoor

Why October: A small historic-house campus and garden provide a measured fall outing near the Massachusetts line. **Access and walking:** Historic interiors may have stairs and narrow passages; request a first-floor or grounds-centered visit and verify restrooms.

Cost: Check current admission and Connecticut Landmarks discounts. **Sensory and quieter-time plan:** Reserve the earliest tour and avoid public program dates for a quieter pace.

Address: 55 South Main Street, Suffield, CT 06078 | **Phone:** 860-668-0055 | [Official or authoritative source](#)

Call ahead to confirm: Confirm October operating days, tour length, and accessible areas.