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Connecticut Caregiver Outing Guide

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10 practical community outings in Tolland 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

Tolland 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.

Tolland County

October mix: 8 options include indoor space; outdoor choices are best treated as weather-dependent. All 10 are physically located in Tolland County.

1. Arts Center East

Vernon | Indoor

Why October: Free changing exhibitions in a restored building make a quiet, affordable October art stop.

Access and walking: The center confirms ADA compliance, an elevator to both galleries and classrooms, and accessible parking from Center Road.

Cost: Free; \$5 donation suggested. Classes and performances may cost extra. **Sensory and quieter-time plan:** Thursday at 1 p.m. is a good gallery-only window; avoid receptions and performance times.

Address: 709 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, CT 06066 | **Phone:** 860-871-8222 | [Official or authoritative source](#)

Call ahead to confirm: Confirm an exhibition is installed and no event overlaps the visit.

2. New England Motorcycle Museum

Rockville | Indoor

Why October: A focused collection in a former mill is an engaging October option for transportation and local-industry interests. **Access and walking:** Accessibility details are not fully published; ask about the entrance, elevators, restroom, seating, and mill-floor surfaces.

Cost: Check current admission or suggested donation. **Sensory and quieter-time plan:** Engines are static, but the mill can echo; arrive at 10 a.m. Friday and avoid club events.

Address: 200 West Main Street, Rockville, CT 06066 | **Phone:** 860-454-7024 | [Official or authoritative source](#)

Call ahead to confirm: Confirm October weekend hours, admission, parking, and elevator access.

3. Bolton Heritage Farm lower grounds

Bolton | Outdoor

Why October: Open fields and wooded edges provide an easy foliage-viewing stop with a rural feel. **Access and walking:** Keep to the parking and lower developed area; ask the town about firm-surface routes, accessible tables, and restroom availability.

Cost: Free unless attending a ticketed event. **Sensory and quieter-time plan:** Choose a non-event weekday; wind and grounds maintenance are the main variable noises.

Address: 266 Bolton Center Road, Bolton, CT 06043 | **Phone:** 860-649-8066 | [Official or authoritative source](#)

Call ahead to confirm: Confirm gate hours, restroom status, and any October event setup.

4. Mansfield Hollow State Park dam and picnic area

Mansfield | Outdoor

Why October: Reservoir views and fall color can be enjoyed from developed areas without a long trail.

Access and walking: Accessible parking and picnic tables are standard at state recreation areas; verify the firmest route and restroom status.

Cost: Free for Connecticut-registered vehicles; verify nonresident parking rules. **Sensory and quieter-time plan:** Try a weekday late morning; wind and occasional watercraft or maintenance noise may carry.

Address: 151 Bassetts Bridge Road, Mansfield, CT 06250 | **Phone:** 860-295-9523 | [Official or authoritative source](#)

Call ahead to confirm: Confirm October gate, restroom, and picnic-area access.

5. Columbia Town Library

Columbia | Indoor

Why October: A free, warm reading-space visit can pair with an adult program on a wet October day.

Access and walking: Confirm the accessible entrance, restroom, seating, and closest parking.

Cost: Free; registration may be required for programs. **Sensory and quieter-time plan:** Choose a weekday morning without children's programming and use a quiet seating area.

Address: 325 Route 87, Columbia, CT 06237 | **Phone:** 860-228-0350 | [Official or authoritative source](#)

Call ahead to confirm: Confirm October public hours and a suitable low-key program.

6. Booth and Dimock Memorial Library

Coventry | Indoor

Why October: Local-history materials, reading areas, and community programs provide a free weather backup. **Access and walking:** Confirm step-free entry, elevator needs, restroom, and accessible parking.

Cost: Free; some programs require registration. **Sensory and quieter-time plan:** Go midmorning on a non-program weekday and avoid after-school hours.

Address: 1134 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238 | **Phone:** 860-742-7606 | [Official or authoritative source](#)

Call ahead to confirm: Confirm October hours, parking, and whether any adult program fits the visit.

7. William Benton Museum of Art

Storrs | Indoor

Why October: A free university art museum is a compact, thoughtful October indoor outing. **Access and walking:** Request the closest accessible parking, step-free entrance, elevator or single-floor route, and seating.

Cost: Free; donations welcome. **Sensory and quieter-time plan:** Weekday opening time is preferable; university class changes can make the campus busy.

Address: 245 Glenbrook Road, Storrs, CT 06269 | **Phone:** 860-486-4520 | [Official or authoritative source](#)

Call ahead to confirm: Confirm October exhibitions, campus parking, and class-visit schedule.

8. Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry

Storrs | Indoor

Why October: Changing puppetry exhibitions offer a distinctive, short cultural stop in downtown Storrs.

Access and walking: The modern storefront location is easier than many historic sites, but confirm accessible parking, restroom, and seating.

Cost: Pay what you wish; \$5 suggested. **Sensory and quieter-time plan:** Wednesday at 11 a.m. is a good target; avoid performance days if sound or crowding is a concern.

Address: 1 Royce Circle, Suite 101B, Storrs, CT 06268 | **Phone:** 860-486-8580 | [Official or authoritative source](#)

Call ahead to confirm: Confirm the gallery is between exhibitions and check nearby accessible parking.

9. Dodd Center for Human Rights exhibits

Storrs | Indoor

Why October: Public exhibits and archives-based displays support an adult-focused, no-cost October visit.

Access and walking: Confirm the public entrance, elevator, restroom, seating, and campus parking before arrival.

Cost: Free for public exhibitions; appointments may apply to research use. **Sensory and quieter-time plan:** Visit early in the day and avoid class-change times; some human-rights content may be emotionally difficult.

Address: 405 Babbidge Road, Storrs, CT 06269 | **Phone:** 860-486-5131 | [Official or authoritative source](#)

Call ahead to confirm: Confirm an exhibition is open, public hours, parking, and content focus.

10. Nathan Hale Homestead grounds and seasonal tour

Coventry | Indoor and outdoor

Why October: The farm landscape and Revolutionary history are especially atmospheric in October. **Access and walking:** Historic-house stairs and farm surfaces limit access; request a first-floor or grounds-centered plan and confirm restrooms.

Cost: Check Connecticut Landmarks admission and program pricing. **Sensory and quieter-time plan:** Choose the first standard tour and avoid large fall events or school programs.

Address: 2299 South Street, Coventry, CT 06238 | **Phone:** 860-742-6917 | [Official or authoritative source](#)

Call ahead to confirm: Confirm October tour days, first-floor access, parking, and restroom availability.