

Things to do around Lyme

Old Lyme. The historic district, from the Congregational Church to the Florence Griswold museum, via the old fashioned barber shop – like a step back in time.



Florence Griswold museum. <http://www.flogris.org/>

During the late 1800s and early 1900s Old Lyme became a **summer art colony**. Florence Griswold boarded artists who decorated many of the mansion's walls and doors with their work. Upstairs are **galleries** of this "Lyme School" of American Impressionism. Walking through the gardens back to the Lieutenant river is pleasant.



Also on Lyme Street, the Lyme School of Art, Lyme Art Association and numerous private **art galleries** carry on the tradition of Old Lyme as an artists' town.

While there, enjoy a sandwich or a cone at the **Ice Cream Shoppe**, 34 Lyme St. Good! Closer to the coast, along Shore Road, Hallmarks Ice Cream (and hamburgers) is simple summer memories.

A nice **driving tour** takes you from Lyme, north through Hamburg (rte156 to148), the ferry across the river, left on rte154 to the quaint town of **Essex**. Return via I 95 . (another possibility: [Essex steam train](#) and return on the river)

A little more active.

Paddle around the Great Island Estuary (nature conservancy - accessible only by boat), see the osprey nests and tidal marshes. Beautiful. Rent canoes at Black Hall Marina, Canoe and Kayak Rentals (on bridge rte 56 near boat landing) 860-434-9680 or put in at Great Island Boat Ramp (map: http://www.ctcoastalkayaking.com/images/Gt_Island_and_Rogers_L.jpg).



More adventurous, you can put canoes in in Hamburg cove, paddle down river (with the tide!) and take out at Great Island Boat Ramp. Coastal Kayaking can organize the trip for you, including kayak rentals and guide. <http://www.ctcoastalkayaking.com/tours2.html> (or we have a few canoes at the house)

Use the Old Lyme High School **tennis courts** (behind the fire station) if you brought rackets.

Swimming.

Beaches in Connecticut are private property. The exceptions are Rocky Neck State Park (Niantic) and Hammonasset State Park (Madison) which are beautiful off-season but probably overcrowded in August.

Try Julie and Adam's beach house or the **Niantic Bay Boardwalk**. Directions: Take I-95N to exit 72. Turn right on Rocky Neck Connector. Follow to Route 156/West Main St. intersection. Turn left here & follow to Baptist Lane. Turn right here & follow to beach at end.



Near Grassy Hill

You could have a dip in one of the numerous **lakes**. Closest to the house, we love Norwich pond in the Nehantic State Forest: (we run or bike there, swim, run back – 5 miles each way - Grassy Hill triathlon?). Driving is possible of course (north on Grassy Hill, left on Beaver Brook, right on Keeny road till you see the Norwich Pond picnic/swimming area sign) . Also Pattagansett Lake or Power's Lake have access, but no beaches.



Walking.

Walking along the tree lined roads is enjoyable almost anywhere. From the house, we often walk the 3 mi. triangle (north, right on Old Grassy Hill Road, left on Beaver Brook, left on Grassy Hill Road, up the hill and back to the house)

Our traditional woods walk from the house to Dodson's pond, otherwise known as 'Leech' lake (see cousin Jane for explanations). Behind the house, through the horse fields, a gate at the back takes you to the start of the path marked with paint spots. Come back via the dirt road on the far side of the pond which comes out at the neighbors'.

Listen to our neighbor, Tom Neff's, folk music radio station on the internet: [Grassy Hill Radio](#)

Biking. Niantic.

Rent bikes at Niantic Bay Bicycles, <http://www.nianticbaybicycles.com/> and ask for advice. 8 Methodist Street, Niantic, (860) 691-0757 Maybe the Pattagansett triangle (7 miles + distance from store, http://www.jognewlondon.com/route_lakepattagansett_7.php) or the Black Point Run below, or both?.

Jogging. (great areas - you could also just walk or bike)

2.2-mile Niantic Bay Boardwalk Run, http://www.jognewlondon.com/route_nianticboardwalk.php

3-mile Mile Creek Run, Old Lyme, http://www.jognewlondon.com/route_milecreek.php

6.4-mile Rogers Lake Run, Old Lyme, http://www.jognewlondon.com/route_rogerslake.php

6.6-mile Black Point Run, Niantic, http://www.jognewlondon.com/route_blackpoint.php

12.2-mile Beaver Brook Run, Lyme http://www.jognewlondon.com/route_beaaverbrook.php

Museums in the area.

Submarine Museum www.ussnautilus.org

In Groton, not far from the Hilton Hotel. See the Nautilus and a variety of submarines throughout history. Unusual and Free. New London has a big naval submarine base. Subs have been built in Groton at General Dynamics Electric Boat since 1899.



Mystic Seaport <http://www.mysticseaport.org/>

Visit this historical seafaring New England village of well restored buildings and ships. Old crafts are explained. The whaling ship is remarkable. Mystic was the home of Joshua Slocum.



Mashantucket Pequot Museum. <http://www.pequotmuseum.org/>

Exhibits showing native Indian lifestyle, culture, local plants and wildlife followed by a walk through neighboring Foxwoods casino, www.foxwoods.com, (biggest in the US - lost in the Connecticut woods - crazy), owned by today's Pequot Indians, provide a striking contrast.

Further afield

Newport, Rhode Island. America Cup Harbor and Gatsby mansions. <http://www.gonewport.com>
Use the Park and Ride option (\$2 to park car when you buy a \$5 all day pass on local trolley) We suggest you catch a trolley out to point and walk back via the cliff walk.

Block Island Ferry, from New London, rent bikes for the day on the island.

NY city for a day (commuter train from New Haven or Amtrack from Old Saybrook or New London) or the cheapest: take the casino bus from Foxwoods to Chinatown and back.

Shopping

A&P in Lyme. Best (and only) supermarket in town.

Clinton Crossing premium outlets. Banana Republic, Barneys New York Outlet, Brooks Brothers, Calvin Klein, Coach, Cole Haan, Dooney & Bourke, J. Crew, Kenneth Cole, Michael Kors, Nike, Polo Ralph Lauren, Saks Fifth Avenue Off 5th and more. Clinton Crossing Premium Outlets is located off I-95 at Exit 63.