



“Every leaf speaks bliss to me
Fluttering from the autumn tree.”
—Emily Brontë from “Fall, Leaves, Fall”

A Fall Foliage Getaway

BY KAT REDNISS

Getting out and about when we can is an important part of living our best lives with hearing loss. *Hearing Life* reached out to the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts in Burlington, Vermont—an early adopter of hearing loops—for some ideas on fall foliage fun in the Green Mountain State. Here’s what they had to say.

A Vermont autumn is truly something to behold. The state has some of the lushest, greenest landscapes in the country. And when the leaves begin to turn, the colors are a fiery electric sight.

Burlington, situated on Lake Champlain, is gorgeously saturated with visual and performing arts showcasing the indie and avant-garde—as well as some of the most well-known artists from around the world.

An essential element of a Burlington fall getaway should be taking in the spectacular foliage. Leaf-peeping trips from there are easy. Head out toward Jeffersonville, which is about 40 minutes away. To get there, drive through Essex, Jericho, Underhill and Cambridge.

Stop at Chapin Orchard in Essex Junction to pick your own apples. While in Cambridge, visit Boyden Valley Winery for more than a dozen award-winning wines, ciders and spirits. When in Jeffersonville, enjoy Brewster River Gorge, which offers a gentle hike immersed in the oranges, reds and yellows of autumn.

“For people with hearing loss, going to the movies or a live show is often a frustrating experience because we miss much of the dialogue, and the music lacks depth and nuance. Hearing loops, like those at the Flynn, make all the difference.”

—John Quinney, HLAA Vermont Chapter

Cross the covered bridge and wander through peaceful woods toward a beautiful waterfall—an awesome way to take in the season.

While in Burlington, head down to the exquisite waterfront. Walking and biking paths guide you along Lake Champlain with stunning views of the Adirondack Mountains. There’s a wide variety of restaurants and breweries such as The Skinny Pancake for crepes and treats, and Foam Brewers, which offers new selections seasonally.

If you’re looking to learn more about the Burlington waterfront, make sure to visit ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain. ECHO offers more than 100 interactive exhibits and 70 species of fish, reptiles and amphibians. It’s a powerful testament to environmental stewardship and responsibility, while making learning about science fun, playful and informative. For better hearing in its movie theater, ECHO offers an assistive listening system. For people with hearing aids or cochlear implants with telecoils, neckloops are available. Headphones are available for others. ECHO also will provide American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation for visitors upon request and offers helpful hints such as calmer times to visit to reduce noise levels and sensory overload.

The Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, an artistic epicenter of Burlington’s downtown, is known for both its world-class performing arts presentations as well as for its fierce commitment to accessibility and breaking

Visit the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts in Burlington, Vermont, during a fall foliage getaway to enjoy the talents of exceptional artists:

- Rhiannon Giddens (September 29)
- Arlo Guthrie (October 4)
- Paula Poundstone (October 12)
- Circa: Humans (October 19)
- "The Magic Flute" by South Africa's Isango Ensemble (October 25)

For more information, go to flynncenter.org.

down barriers for audience members and artists. The Flynn identifies shows throughout the year that are ASL interpreted and will set up interpreters for any other shows by request. The Flynn also was an early adopter of a hearing loop system, which broadcasts clear, customizable sound directly into hearing aids or cochlear implants that are fitted with a telecoil. Beyond the loop, the Flynn has FM receivers with headsets available for all performances.

Burlington also has a dynamic visual arts scene, with small galleries downtown and new innovative art spaces in the city's South End. The University of Vermont's Fleming Museum of Art offers permanent collections spanning the globe. Throughout the Fleming, each piece of art is labeled

with written information. Visitors also can contact the museum to schedule a group tour with an ASL interpreter to provide added context about the works.

Lastly, it wouldn't be Vermont without some Ben & Jerry's. The factory in Waterbury offers tours daily that include tastings, along with its full-service scoop shop—once you've decided on your favorite flavor. The 30-minute guided tour offers a glimpse into the history of the company and how its products are manufactured. The facility is equipped with an assistive listening system. Visitors simply need to ask for a receiver. Ben & Jerry's also will provide a copy of the script upon request for reading along with the tour. So whether you're a fan of Cherry Garcia, Half Baked or the beloved Phish Food, Ben & Jerry's Factory is a favorite spot to visit any time of year.

Burlington and the surrounding area do make a magnificent getaway. You'll be surrounded by unparalleled landscapes, art, kind people and experiences that enrich and bring joy. Autumn in Vermont is not to be missed. Come visit. You'll be so glad you did! **HL**



Kat Redniss is the student matinee manager and accessibility coordinator for the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, where she dedicates her days to breaking down barriers to access for performances and programs, focusing primarily on access for individuals on the autism spectrum.



GET IN THE
HEARING
LOOP

It's Time to
Get in the
Hearing Loop

Many people aren't yet aware of hearing loops or other technologies that can improve communication access and public engagement, or how they can enrich the lives of people with hearing loss, their families, friends, colleagues and even communities. The Get in the Hearing Loop Program is changing that—one loop, one advocate, one ADA request at a time.

Get in the Hearing Loop, a communication access program of HLAA, is dedicated to providing and promoting community education, advocacy on behalf of people with hearing loss, and consultation services to help venues of all kinds successfully implement hearing loop technology.

We dream of a world where people with hearing loss can thrive each day with communication access, full inclusion and equal participation in all aspects of life, everywhere they go.

For more information about hearing loops and the Get in the Hearing Loop Program, visit hearingloss.org/GITHL or email GITHLinfo@hearingloss.org.