



ATTRACTIONS IN POMFRET, CT

AIR LINE STATE PARK TRAIL

Pomfret Proprietors

Close to home...far from ordinary. Quiet country roads lead you to pastoral byways, historic landmarks, unique shops, and exceptional restaurants.

1. Connecticut Audubon Center at Pomfret

218 Day Road
CTAudubon.org/pomfret-home
The 700-acres of Bafflin Sanctuary is open year round and actively managed for grassland, shrubland, and woodland birds. It is a nationally recognized Important Bird Area with over 200 species of birds observed.

3. Rucki's Abington General Store

489 Hampton Road, Abington
beerbiblesbulletinsbooks.com/our-story
A Pomfret mainstay for 65 years.



5. Sharpe Hill Winery

108 Wade Road
SharpeHill.com
Sharpe Hill Vineyard has received over 450 medals in International tastings and is located in the town of Pomfret - just minutes from scenic Route 169. Fine dining by reservation.

RECREATION AND TRAILS

Miles of beautiful multi-use trails, acres of awesome open space, and the Quinebaug River Water Trail make Pomfret an excellent stop for year-round outdoor recreation. Between Mashamoquet Brook State Park, Connecticut Audubon, Wyndham Land Trust, and Town owned lands and recreation fields, there is an abundance of options to get outside and commune with Mother Nature. Do you prefer hiking, cycling, mountain biking, or paddling? Is bird watching, plein air painting, or forest bathing your thing? Imagine an afternoon indulgence at a winery, distillery, local eatery, orchard, or ice cream stop. There's golf and disc golf, corn hole and tennis courts, and much more. Take some time to disconnect from technology and connect with nature. You'll be glad you did!

- 1. Pomfret Recreation Park** (Tennis, basketball, disc golf, corn hole courts)
PomfretCT.gov/recreation
576 Hampton Rd. (Route 97)
- 2. Mashamoquet Brook State Park** (Wolf's Den, camping, hiking, Brayton Grist Mill & Marcy Blacksmith Museum)
- 3. Natchaug State Forest** (Multi-use trails, fishing, picnics)
- 4. Wyndham Land Trust**
WyndhamLandTrust.org
- 5. Chase Kimball Memorial Forest**
- 6. Vineyard Valley Golf**
34 Brayman Hollow Road
VineyardValleyGolfClub.com
- 7. Pomfret Forest**
145 acres of multi-use trails.

2. Lapsley Orchard

43 Orchard Hill Road
LapsleyOrchard.com
Lapsley Orchard remains a pioneer of production and marketing. It is a grand example of a New England farm stand at its best.



4. Watercure Farm Distillery

426 Mashamoquet Road
WatercureFarm.com
Connecticut's first Farm Distillery, located at the former entrance to the historic Gwyn Careg Estate. We feature many spirits crafted from Pomfret farms.



WHERE TO EAT

1. Baker's Dozen

24 Mashamoquet Road (Rt. 101)
BakersDozenCT.com
Locally owned Baker's Dozen has been serving delicious coffee and baked goods to the Quiet Corner since 1980. The Cardinal family is dedicated to providing their customers with the best service, fresh coffee and homemade goodies. 860-928-6469

2. Pizza 101

16 Mashamoquet Road (Rt. 101)
Pizza101Pomfret.com
Classic New England Style Pizzeria located in Pomfret Center. Local and family owned and operated for over twenty-five years. Dine-in or take out. Beer and Wine available. 860-928-5566

3. Vanilla Bean Café

450 Deerfield Road
TheVanillaBeanCafe.com
Located in a restored, early 19th century barn. House-made soups, sandwiches, and light dinners comprise the basic menu with daily specials. Baked goods are available every morning. Wine and beer available as well. Seats 90 inside and 40 outside. Great live music on weekends. 860-928-1562

4. Grill 37

37 Putnam Road • Grill37.com
Quaint place for a seasonal menu of American cuisine, including steaks & seafood, plus a bar & deck. Family friendly with a menu that will make everyone happy. 860-315-5540

5. We-Li-Kit Ice Cream

728 Hampton Road (Rt. 97)
WeLiKit.com
Sixth generation diverse family farm. Homemade ice cream with all ingredients mixed in by hand. Seasonal flavors and sundaes and fresh waffle cones. Chowder and clam cakes in the spring and fall. April - October. 860-974-1095

6. AirLine Grill

405 Mashamoquet Road (Rt. 101)
AirLineGrill.com
Local family owned and dedicated to providing delicious food to everyone. We offer hand formed burgers, freshly made chili, freshly made chowder, hand cut and hand dredged onion petals, freshly baked rolls, and locally sourced ciabatta rolls. 860-315-1095

AIR LINE TRAIL PARKING

- Pomfret Community Center
207 Mashamoquet Road
(Route 44)
- Pomfret Town Hall
(EV Charging Station)
5 Haven Road
- Pomfret Station Trail Head
Railroad Street

For additional copies of this map, please email Sandy.Arcayan@pomfretct.gov

AIR LINE STATE PARK TRAIL POMFRET

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Pomfret HAS IT ALL!

Pomfret offers beautiful vistas, winding country roads, stone walls, and an eclectic collection of shops and restaurants. Town government has been sensitive to maintaining the rural environment and historic charm that makes Pomfret the quintessential New England Community.

We are a community of approximately 4,200 located in Windham County, 60 miles from Hartford, 70 miles from Boston, 30 miles from Worcester, MA, and 40 miles from Providence, RI, with easy access to I-395 and Route

101. We are nearby to many attractions such as the casinos, theater, UCONN, Mystic Seaport & Aquarium, just to name a few.

Scenic Route 169 is particularly picturesque as it winds its way through town from Brooklyn to Woodstock. We have many lovely homes that date back to the 17th and 18th centuries.

Pomfret is an ideal place for outdoor recreation with several State Parks, including Mashamoquet, Wolf Den and the Air Line Trail with extensive walking, hiking, mountain bike and horse trails. The Connecticut Audubon Center at Pomfret offers spectacular birding and is known for its extensive grassland habitats.



AIR LINE STATE PARK TRAIL HISTORY

In the 1960s, over fifty miles of the rail bed from East Hampton to the Massachusetts border were acquired by the Connecticut State Park System to construct a recreational linear park.

This trail has a colorful past. The "Air Line" was envisioned as a direct line between New York City and Boston. It opened in 1873 and 25 miles shorter, it offered fierce competition to the shoreline rail service from New York to Boston. The mesmerizing, white-painted express train, known as the Ghost Train, made the run between Boston and New York in six hours, a record time for 1884.

The construction of the new rail line contained ambitious feats of engineering, blasting through granite hills, navigating deep valleys and rivers along the route. The Air Line Railroad's "Ghost Train" began in 1891 and was designed to attract wealthy travelers. Luxurious Pullman cars were painted white with gold trim, and the staff of the train wore formal white uniforms.



The catastrophic Great East Thompson Train Wreck on December 4, 1891 clouded the introduction of this fast new rail service. It was one of the greatest train wrecks in American history, and the only train accident to involve four trains. Still, over the next four years, successful businessmen and prominent citizens, including President Benjamin Harrison, rode the increasingly well-known Ghost Train. As it sped across eastern Connecticut, its luminescent cars were easily recognized, especially at twilight.

In the new 20th century, technology increased, railroad engines became faster, rail cars became longer, everything became heavier and after World War II, access to automobiles and interstate highways reduce the profitability of rail travel. The quaintness of the Air Line's winding grades as well as the weight restrictions of the spindly trestle bridges began to show its limitations. During its construction, the Air Line Railroad was expensive and controversial, but its operational costs would lead to its ultimate demise and abandonment. Passenger service on the Air Line ceased by 1937, and the track was completely abandoned by 1965.

Today, visitors enjoy scenic panoramas, village life, wildlife, hiking trails, and the tranquility of the rural landscape. The United States Department of the Interior recognized the southern section of the Air Line State Park Trail as a national recreation trail in 2002.

For more maps in this series, email outreach@ctrcd.org or visit ctrcd.org.



Connecticut
CTvisit.com/MysticCountry



PARKING

Many parking areas serve the Air Line State Park Trail. Some primary locations are:

THOMPSON

- Large parking lot at 121 Riverside Dr, (Rt 12, Mechanicsville)
- Pull off for a few cars at Air Line trail crossing, 388 Sand Dam Rd
- 5 car parking lot, located at 662 East Thompson Rd, near the junction of New Rd

PUTNAM

- 18 Kennedy Dr, across from Canal
- 80 Kennedy Dr, directly across from the South entrance of Simonzi Park
- 98 Kennedy Dr
- 165 Kennedy Dr (DMV lot)

POMFRET

- 18 car paved parking lot at Pomfret Station, 13 Railroad Ave (off of Rt 169)
- Parking adjacent to trail, in Town owned paved parking lot, west side of Pomfret Town Hall
- Parking available in rear of Town owned paved parking lot at Pomfret Community Center, 207 Mashamoquet Rd (Rt. 44)

HAMPTON

- Potter Rd 0.6 mile north of its intersection with Rt 6 in Goodwin State Forest

WINDHAM

- Intersection of Beaver Hill Rd and Windham Rd (Rt 203) in North Windham, at the CT Eastern Railroad Museum and in downtown Willimantic.

COLUMBIA

- Rt 87, Cook Hill Rd and Village Hill Rd

EAST HAMPTON

- Depot Hill, Cobalt; Aldens Crossing (at Rt 16); Forest St (Between Hayes Rd and Childs Rd); Town Hall Rd (Off Main St.); Main Street; Watrous Street; Smith Street (at Cranberry Bog)

PORTLAND

- Parking at 82 Middle Haddam Rd