



*Adventure in All Directions.*  
**Mystic Coast & Country**



**GROTON**  
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION  
AN AFFILIATION OF THE GREATER MYSTIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## **WELCOME TO MYSTIC COUNTRY!**

Located halfway between Boston, Massachusetts and New York City, Southeastern Connecticut, commonly known as Mystic Country, is bounded on the south by Long Island Sound, west by the Connecticut River, east by Rhode Island, and north by Massachusetts. Numerous diverse attractions make Mystic Country New England's most unique and interesting area to visitors from around the world.

Mystic Country is home to Mystic Seaport, the premier maritime museum in the world as well as Mystic Aquarium, one of the nation's leading aquariums and sea-research institutions.

For art lovers the region is alive with galleries and museums, concerts and theater. The Connecticut Impressionist Art Trail's Florence Griswold and Lyman Allyn Art Museums are here. Live music can be enjoyed at Summer Music at Harkness State Park in Waterford, the Eastern Connecticut Symphony in New London, and the Garde Arts Center in New London, and numerous outdoor venues and festivals offer live music throughout the summer season.

American history abounds in the region: New London was the second largest whaling port in the United States and the restored waterfront park and historic sites in the city interpret the area's history and heritage. Sites that played important roles in the Revolutionary War abound throughout the region, including Fort Griswold in Groton and Fort Trumbull in New London. The maritime heritage of Connecticut lives on at the US Coast Guard Academy, home to the tall ship USCG Barque *Eagle*, at the USS *Nautilus* and Submarine Force Museum in Groton, and Connecticut's newest state park, the Thames River Heritage Park.

Mystic Country also offers visitors New England's only two casinos: Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods Resort Casino both of which provide the gaming excitement, fine dining, golf, fabulous accommodations and top name entertainment you are accustomed to finding only in Las Vegas!

The following section provides additional information on just a few of our many varied tourist destinations. They are divided into the sections Family Fun, Outdoors, Golf, Breweries & Vineyards and Arts & Museums, and easy links are provided to visit their websites. Additional general websites are also provided.

*Adventures abound in Mystic Country!*

## SO MUCH TO DO IN MYSTIC COUNTRY

*Mystic Country Offers You Adventures in Every Direction!*

### FAMILY FUN

#### Mystic Seaport



MYSTIC SEAPORT is the nation's leading maritime museum. Founded in 1929 to gather and preserve the rapidly disappearing artifacts of America's seafaring past, the Museum has grown to become a national center for research and education with the mission to "inspire an enduring connection to the American maritime experience."

The Museum's grounds cover 19 acres on the Mystic River in Mystic, CT and include a recreated 19th-century coastal village, a working shipyard, formal exhibit halls, and state-of-the-art artifact storage facilities. The Museum is home to more than 500 historic watercraft, including four National Historic Landmark vessels, most notably the 1841 whaleship *Charles W. Morgan*, America's oldest commercial ship and the last wooden whaleship still in existence. A stroll through the historic village transports visitors back to the mid-1800s where they can experience firsthand from staff historians, storytellers, musicians, and craftspeople just what life was like to earn one's living from the sea. In the Henry B. duPont Preservation Shipyard, they can watch shipwrights keeping the skills and techniques of traditional shipbuilding alive as they restore and maintain the Museum's watercraft collection. For more details, pricing and hours [click here](#).

## Historic Downtown Mystic



Nestled along both banks of the Mystic River, HISTORIC DOWNTOWN MYSTIC is one of New England's premier tourist destinations. Mystic was founded in 1654 and quickly rose to prominence as a shipbuilding center during the clipper ship era. Nowadays, Mystic has become known for its quintessential New England charm. Historic Downtown Mystic has a rich tradition as a waterside community that makes our locals happy to call it home, and our visitors feel like it's their second home. Come explore our welcoming downtown, where you can eat, stay, shop and play anytime of the year. Take in the art at our local galleries or the Mystic Arts Museum of Art. Hop on a bike and peddle through town or rent a kayak and enjoy the view from the water. If you want to see more from the river, be sure to book a sunset cruise on the [Schooner Argia](#). Scenic views abound. Stroll through our historic streets, walk along the riverfront, unwind at the park or enjoy our neighborhood playgrounds. For more details [click here](#).

## Mystic Aquarium



Encounter ocean animals in an exciting new way. The MYSTIC AQUARIUM invites you to go beak to nose with a penguin, touch a shark and feed a ray. See the spectacular new sea lion show in the Marine Theater; it's a fun adventure with a real life conservation message. Visit a variety of animals from whales and Steller sea lions to African penguins, sharks and more. Tour the earth's most captivating habitats in the exhibit *Exploration Wild*. Vivid images, hands-on activities and fascinating animals lure you from adventure to adventure. See famed explorer Bob Ballard's Titanic exhibit, and witness first-hand the state of the art research submersibles permanently displayed at the museum. As New England's hands-on aquarium, there are many opportunities to go face to face with spectacular animals in an Encounter Program. Paint with a beluga whale, spend time with African Penguins, or even test your skills and become a marine animal trainer for the day.

The Mystic Aquarium received the National Medal for Museum and Library Service in 2014, making it the only aquarium or zoo chosen for the honor. For more details, pricing and hours [click here](#).

### [USS Nautilus and Submarine Museum](#)



The SUBMARINE FORCE MUSEUM, located on the Thames River in Groton, Connecticut, is the only submarine museum operated by the United States Navy and maintains the world's finest collection of submarine artifacts. The museum traces the development of the "Silent Service" from David Bushnell's Turtle, used in the Revolutionary War, to the Ohio and Virginia class submarines deployed today.

Unique to the museum is the prominent display of the world's first nuclear powered submarine, USS Nautilus. As you board the NAUTILUS, experience first-hand the thrill of being a submariner as you walk the decks that made Naval history: the world's first nuclear powered vessel, first ship to go to the North Pole, and first submarine to journey "20,000 Leagues under the Sea." Explore the spaces where the crew of this amazing ship worked, ate, slept. For more details and hours [click here](#).

## BF Clydes Cider Mill



A visit to CLYDE'S CIDER MILL is like stepping back in time. Come see the oldest, in fact the only, steam powered cider mill in the United States! The 6th generation of the Clyde family is making cider at this National Historic Landmark just like B.F. Clyde did in 1881. The season starts in September with hard ciders and apple wines, jams, jellies, local honey, maple syrup, fudge, and what many people call "The best sweet cider on Earth!" Also available in the Fall are apples, apple pies, pumpkin bread, gourds, Indian corn, pumpkins, candy apples, kettle corn and apple cider donuts. For more details, schedules and hours [click here](#).

## Thames River Heritage Park



*ONE RIVER. A THOUSAND STORIES* - Welcome to the THAMES RIVER HERITAGE PARK – a new kind of state park - one without boundaries. The Thames River Heritage Park is a collection of almost 20 national and historic sites along the shores of the Thames River – linked by a water taxi – that tell the stories that shaped our nation over the past 400 years. The park draws together historical and contemporary sites, communities and institutions on both sides of the river where visitors may experience the region's many heritage attractions. Four anchors—Fort Trumbull State Park, Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park, the Submarine Force

Museum, and soon the National Coast Guard Museum—provide visitor services. The anchors and many smaller park sites are tied together by a water taxi system that allows visitors to experience the Thames River itself as the heart of the region. Hop aboard the Thames River Heritage Park Water Taxi where you'll visit a collection of national and historic sites along the Groton and New London shores of the Thames River that tell the stories that shaped our nation.

To view or download the 2017 Map & Guide [click here](#). Visit all the sites or choose a few favorites. Start at any site and tour at your leisure. Stop for lunch, shopping, or visit art galleries. Download the app and enter "Thames River Heritage Park" to enjoy an audio tour of all the park sites. [Download.](#)

### [Thames River Water Taxi](#)



Take a ride on the THAMES RIVER WATER TAXI! Sites within the Thames River Heritage Park are linked by the Water Taxi Friday through Sunday throughout the summer and early fall. The Water Taxi operates Friday through Sunday from Memorial Weekend until September 18th, 2017. Open summer holidays, Memorial Day, July 3 and 4, and Labor Day. The Taxi operates from 10AM to 9PM Friday - Sunday. The Schedule runs on an hourly loop between the three stops. More frequent stops as well as an additional boat Taxi may run on busy event days or when demand requires. In addition to the regular schedule the water taxi also operates daytime and sunset tours, and offers charter and private tours for your group or event. For more details, schedules and pricing [click here](#)

## Project Oceanology



Through hands-on, inquiry-based sea, shore and laboratory programs, PROJECT OCEANOLOGY assists in teaching basic concepts, principles and theories of biology, chemistry, physics, and earth science, including ecology, and their interrelationships. Celebrating Over Four Decades of Excellence in Marine Science Education & Exploration!

OCEANOGRAPHIC CRUISES - Immerse yourself in all of the elements of marine biology as you cruise our waters and conduct oceanographic studies. The Research Vessel Enviro-Lab will bring you out on Long Island Sound for a unique experience.

WINTER SEAL WATCH CRUISES - Shake off those winter blues with a trip to see the Harbor Seals in Fishers Island Sound. Come aboard the Enviro-Lab to visit these playful marine mammals in their natural winter habitat.

For more details, schedules and pricing [click here](#).

## The New England Air Museum



The NEW ENGLAND AIR MUSEUM, located in Windsor Locks, Connecticut, hosts the largest collection of aircraft in the region with six hangars on 56 acres adjacent to Bradley International Airport just north of Hartford, Connecticut. The Museum's extensive collection includes over 100 aircraft, 150 engines, and hundreds of artifacts. The Museum also maintains a world-class aircraft restoration and storage facility. Major aircraft in the museum's collection include: the Sikorsky VS-44, the last great transatlantic flying boat; P-47 Thunderbolt; Vought XF4U Corsair; A-26 Intruder; F-100 Super Sabre; B-29A Superfortress; DC-3; the Laird Solution, winner of the first Thompson trophy in 1930; Lockheed Electra; an F-104, as well as many other aircraft. The collection runs from early flying machines to the space age. It attracts a wide range of visitors from aviation enthusiasts to young families with children, and there is something for everyone. *Signature FBO at KBDL will provide free shuttles to and from the Museum for Fly-In visitors.* For more details, pricing and hours [click here](#).

## CASINOS & GAMING

### [Foxwoods Resort and Casino](#)



*25 Years Proud* - Since 1992, FOXWOODS RESORT CASINO has offered guests *The Wonder Of It All* as the premier resort destination in the Northeast. As the largest resort casino in North America, Foxwoods offers a vast array of gaming in seven casinos; AAA Four-Diamond hotels, restaurants from gourmet to quick service, world-renowned spas, award-winning golf, state-of-the-art theaters, and exclusive retailers. Foxwoods is owned and operated by the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation and was the first full-service casino built on tribal land, pioneering a nationwide movement that now includes more than 400 gaming properties owned and operated by over 200 tribes across the U.S. For more details, information on the property's 25<sup>th</sup>-anniversary celebrations and pricing [click here](#).

## Mohegan Sun



MOHEGAN SUN is one of the largest, most spectacular entertainment, gaming, dining and shopping destination in the United States. Situation on 185 acres along the Thames River in scenic southeastern Connecticut, Mohegan Sun is home to three unique casinos, 1,600 deluxe hotel rooms, two world- class spas, a golf course, over 90 shops, restaurants and bars as well as three award-winning entertainment venues including a 10,000 seat Arena. Mohegan Sun offers easy access to Boston, New York City, Hartford, Providence and surrounding areas, but feels a world away amidst the sweeping views and waterfront of Mystic Country. For more details, schedules and pricing [click here](#).

## OUTDOORS

### Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park



Add a touch of reality to your Revolutionary War history lesson with a visit to FORT GRISWOLD BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK , the best preserved earthworks fort in the US, and site of the 1781 massacre led by the traitorous Benedict Arnold. The 135 foot granite Groton Monument predates those in Washington, DC and Bunker Hill. Climb the stairway to the top for panoramic views of the Fort and over the Thames River. Visit the Monument House Museum with Revolutionary War exhibits. For more details and hours [click here](#).

### *Argia Mystic Cruises*



Discover breathtaking scenery as you relax aboard the sailing ship ARGIA. ARGIA has seating for all of her 49 passengers, as well as plenty of room to move around during a trip. She has a lovely little Main Salon, down below, so a handful of guests at a time can step out of the sun. There is also a modern flush head (or toilet). ARGIA's rig is that of a 19th Century East Coast trading, or packet, schooner and is most properly described as that of a Two-Masted Gaff Topsail Schooner.

ARGIA sails out of Schooner Wharf in charming downtown Mystic CT from May 1st to mid-October. Choose your cruise aboard ARGIA. Sail away in smooth and protected waters aboard this US Coast Guard licensed vessel. For more details, schedules and pricing [click here](#).

## *Bluff Point Coastal Reserve*



The only sizable mostly undeveloped public piece of coastal land left in Connecticut, BLUFF POINT COASTAL RESERVE offers the visitor a delightful mixture of wooded hiking and biking trails coupled with spectacular wildlife viewing on Long Island Sound. The natural habitats found here include coastal woodlands, beach and dune grasslands, coastal plain ponds, coastal bluff, tidal wetlands, intertidal mud flats and offshore eelgrass beds. Because of this unique combination of habitats, a variety of plants and animals live in the area. Some of which are rare or endangered. There are lots of trails here for hikers, joggers, horseback riders and mountain bikers. For more details [click here](#).

## *Fields of Fire Adventure Park*



Set on 50 acres of beautiful Connecticut woodlands, FIELDS OF FIRE AERIAL ADVENTURE PARK is an outdoor adventurer's dream! An incredible obstacle course in the trees complete with 70 elevated obstacles and 11 zip lines, this Aerial Adventure Park offers a range fit for all ages and levels of experience. There are three trails with beginner level challenges, and two Yellow and Green courses offer the perfect challenge for kids and parents, not to mention a great warm up for athletes and experienced climbers. Feeling confident? Try the Blue course. Already an advanced climber and ready for a real test? The Black course is waiting for YOU!

Night climbing is available on Friday and Saturday nights and any night for groups of 10 or more. Nothing beats the ropes course under the lights! For more details, schedules, pricing and hours [click here](#).

### *Harkness Memorial State Park & Mansion*



Enjoy panoramic views of Long Island Sound from 'Eolia' at HARKNESS MEMORIAL STATE PARK. The elegant summer mansion of the Harkness family sits on 230 acres of sweeping lawns, with stately trees and spectacular gardens. The site was a working farm and the 1905 mansion served as the Harkness' summer home. The Roman Renaissance Classical Revival-style mansion has 42 rooms and includes a pergola tearoom and carriage house complex. Lush gardens flank the mansion on both the east and west lawns, and an alpine rock garden adds to the beauty and splendor of the seaside panorama.

Picnicking under the trees and shoreline fishing are available. Can you find the pet cemetery for the Harkness' beloved dogs? For more details [click here](#).

## GOLF

### *Historic Shennecossett Golf Course*



SHENNECOSSETT GOLF COURSE is a historic 18-hole public golf course that offers golfers of all playing abilities a scenic and challenging place to play. Located on beautiful Long Island Sound and the Thames River, enjoy fantastic views overlooking the water from the 16th and 17th holes. At any time, one might see ferries, a tall ship or even a nuclear submarine navigating the waterways!

Experience golf history - play Shennecossett.! Founded in 1898, the course was originally a four-hole layout. Over the next 18 years, the course was enlarged to a six, nine, eleven, and eventually eighteen-hole track. Then, in 1916, famed golf course architect Donald Ross redesigned the course layout, and in 1919, he rerouted three of the holes to complete his work. In 1997, a land swap with Pfizer, Inc. gave the course the property to build the final three holes overlooking the water. For more details, schedules, pricing and hours [click here](#).

## BREWERIES & VINEYARDS



### [Outer Light Brewing Co.](#)

THE OUTER LIGHT BREWING COMPANY understands the sacred oath between brewer and enthusiastic beer connoisseurs the world over. The OLBC beer selection is a mix of some of their favorite standards as well as an innovative rotation of exclusive brewery release flavors that you'll be able to connect with, from grain to glass. The child-friendly tap room at OLBC offers pints, tastings, and growler fills to go. They welcome (in fact they encourage!) you to bring or order in food from our local establishments and come relax with them. OLBC also hosts private events for up to 48 guests. For more details and hours [click here](#).

### [Cottrell Brewing Co.](#)

COTTREL BREWING CO. is a family owned brewery making flavorful, hand-crafted traditional beers with a New England twist and using only fresh, natural, quality ingredients and a lot of Yankee Pride. Whether you like an earthy IPA or a refreshing amber ale, they have an award-winning beer for you. In addition to year round, draft and bottle options, they also offer weekly small batch nano brews, and 22oz bottles of their Barrel Aged Series. Stop by the brewery for a complimentary tasting of Cottrell brews and guest beers. Fill up a growler or pick up some Cottrell goodies while you're there! For more details and hours [click here](#).

### [Grey Sail Brewing of Rhode Island](#)

Brewing great beer is their passion, and GREY SAIL BREWING owners Jen and Alan Brinton want to share it with you. Come visit, and enjoy a pint of your favorite Grey Sail beer, as well as guest craft brews from around New England and from around the world. Grey Sail's new Tap Room began when they purchased the historic house next door to the brewery. After extensive renovations, the Tap Room opened in 2016 with interior walls sporting hand painted murals and an outdoor bier garden complete with a fountain, bocce ball court, cornhole & more to enjoy in the summer months. For more details and hours [click here](#).



### [Saltwater Farm Vineyard](#)

Rooted in a strong knowledge of New England viticulture, French winemaking techniques and modern design, the experienced Vineyard Team has curated a portfolio of small production, estate-driven wines that are distinctly Saltwater Farm Vineyard. Located in an impeccably restored World War II-era airplane hangar, the Tasting Room overlooks fifteen acres of vineyard and a fully preserved

and maintained 1800ft grass landing strip dating back to the 1930s. Check out the Summer Sundays Music Series! For more details and hours [click here.](#)

### *Stonington Vineyards*

Stonington Vineyards, a founding member of the Connecticut Wine Trail, is best known for its barrel fermented Chardonnay and its proprietary blends Seaport White and Triad Rose. (They also produce Riesling and Cabernet Franc.) The tasting room is open daily in season and courteous staff offers tastes and descriptions of each wine from dry to sweet.

The vineyard also offers a complementary vineyard tour daily during peak season, and on winter weekends. The comprehensive conducted winery tour takes you through each step in the wine making process. Knowledgeable and friendly staff takes pride in offering a real hands-on experience of a working farm winery and makes a visit to Stonington Vineyards is one that you'll remember. A visit can be fun and educational for the whole family. Picnics in the vineyards are always welcome, you bring the food and they'll supply the chilled wine! For more details and hours [click here.](#)

### *Jonathan Edwards Winery*

Jonathan Edwards Winery was created from the simplest of concepts—make great wine and enjoy life more often. Located in the charming town of North Stonington, CT, Jonathan Edwards works in collaboration with some of the best vineyards in the US. In addition, their Estate vineyards here in Connecticut allow them to have ultimate control over their own locally produced wines.

The tasting room is open daily and during the summer an additional outdoor tasting bar is available on the stone patio. A complimentary guided 30-minute tour begins at noon each day and includes walks in the vineyard along with a visit to the tank and barrel rooms. The winery also hosts numerous special events during the season that are open to the public. For more details, schedules and hours [click here.](#)

### *Maugle Sierra Vineyards*

Established in 2002 on an 18th century, 97-acre farm, Maugle Sierra Vineyards is dedicated to producing premium Connecticut and New England Grown wines and hand crafts each to highlight Southern New England's unique micro climates. Simply put, savor a taste of New England with wines to warm the heart. The tasting room is open daily and live music is featured on Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons. Meet up with friends; enjoy fine wines and great music! For more details, schedules and hours [click here.](#)

## ARTS & MUSEUMS

### [Garde Arts Center](#)



THE GARDE ARTS CENTER presents the best in performing arts including national Broadway musical tours, international and regional opera, music, dance, film festivals, children's theater, and special events. It is also the home of the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra, Eastern Connecticut Ballet, The Connecticut Lyric Opera, the Miss Connecticut Scholarship Pageant, and other local arts organizations and performing arts schools.

The Garde Arts Center was created in 1985 as a non-profit performing arts organization in order to save and reuse the historic Garde Theatre, one of the few remaining historic movie palaces in Connecticut. Built in 1926 during the golden era of the motion pictures and vaudeville theatres, the restored Moroccan interior of the Garde Theatre, along with the new seats and state-of-the-art stage equipment, provide a very audience-friendly theatre venue in a warm and beautiful atmosphere. Today the Garde is becoming nationally recognized for its unique architecture and multi-faceted programming. For more details and schedules [click here](#).

## *Mystic Museum of Art*



THE MYSTIC MUSEUM OF ART, a part of the Connecticut art scene for 100 years, is a place where culture, tradition, and the charm of small town New England converge. Founded in 1913, MMoA today serves as an arts and culture center for southeastern Connecticut. The Museum maintains a historically significant gallery built in 1931 on Water Street, one block from downtown Mystic. Located on the west bank of the scenic Mystic River, the museum houses four art galleries, state of the art studio space, classrooms, and an art reference library. The property includes access to the waterfront and the gallery, education center, parking lot, and terraces are fully accessible for disabled patrons.

MMoA conducts a regularly scheduled series of juried, open, and invitational exhibitions throughout the year, present a variety of programs in the performing arts including literary events and musical performances, offer fine art for sale, and maintain a museum quality archive department and permanent collection. For more details, exhibition schedule, and hours [click here](#).

## *Lyman Allyn Art Museum*



The LYMAN ALLYN ART MUSEUM, established by a gift from Harriet Allyn in memory of her seafaring father, opened the doors of its beautiful neo-classical building in 1932. Today it houses a fascinating collection of over 17,000 objects from ancient times to the present; artworks from Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Europe, with particularly strong collections of American paintings, decorative arts, and Victorian toys and doll houses. Complementing the eye-opening “American Stories” galleries, which display works drawn from the permanent collection, the Lyman Allyn presents a number of changing exhibitions each year. These special shows highlight creativity in its fullest definition – encouraging visitors to experience the pleasures of art through many lenses of discovery, history, social, and cultural phenomenon with focus on the character and strengths of Southeastern Connecticut.

There is a year-round outdoor sculpture trail the museum offers special programming including exhibition openings, lectures, educational opportunities, and musical events for families and the general public throughout the year. For more details, exhibition schedule, and hours [click here](#).

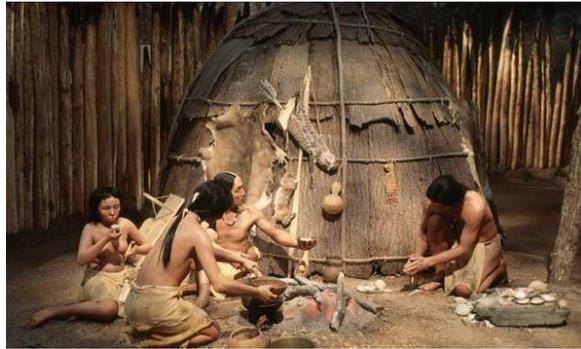
## *Florence Griswold Museum*



THE FLORENCE GRISWOLD MUSEUM is truly a Home of American Impressionism. During the early years of the 20th century, the Lyme Art Colony, centered in Miss Florence Griswold’s boardinghouse, became America’s most famous summer art colony. Today this museum of art and history tells the story of how Connecticut played a pivotal role in fostering an authentic American art.

Just as Miss Florence’s home captured the imagination of artists over one hundred years ago, the Museum is attracting the attention of another generation of artists and art lovers. Since opening the Kriebler Gallery in July 2002, attendance has more than doubled. The host to a range of exhibitions, lectures, music and other special events, the Museum is a resource for local residents as well as a destination for visitors from around the world. For more details, exhibition schedule, and hours [click here](#).

## Mashantucket Pequot Museum



Would you like to descend into a glacial crevasse, view a pre-historic caribou hunt, and stroll through a 16th-century Indian village, all before lunch? At the MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT MUSEUM, life-size exhibits, dramatic films, and touch-screen computer programs put the excitement of the past as close as your fingertips. It is an experience the entire family will never forget. This state-of-the-art, tribal-owned museum brings to life the Native American and natural history of New England, from the Ice Age to the present. Visitors experience how the first people of the Americas used the resources of the land and waters to survive for centuries.

Marvel at the full-size, multi-sensory exhibits: the diorama of a caribou hunt from 11,000 years ago; the half-acre, life-size Pequot village; a dozen engaging films and six interactive computer programs. Just touch the computer screen to learn about Native languages, exciting archaeological discoveries, plants and animals, and how Native people relied on them for survival. Watch films of Native artisans making tools, bowls, and other useful objects from natural materials, just as they have for hundreds of years. For more details, pricing and hours [click here](#).

**VISIT THESE HELPFUL WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION  
ABOUT MYSTIC COUNTRY!**

[Connecticut Tourism - CTVisit](#)  
[Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce](#)  
[Discover Groton](#)