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Five Easy Places

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It's not too hot, it's not too cold...even those persnickety three bears would agree that the weather in October is "just right" for a local getaway. Whether you have a single night or a week; whether you're willing to drive six hours or want to be there in 45 minutes, our drive-to destinations will inspire you to get on the road for some much needed R & R.



1 The Quickie

RED BANK, NEW JERSEY

Drive Time: One hour south of Morristown

Think you don't have enough time to get away? Think again. In a scant hour, you can get to funky Red Bank, ditch your car at the hotel and walk to the town center, the harbor, shopping, dining, movies and the theater without worrying about parking.

Build your getaway around a performance at the Count Basie Theater – in late October you can catch Jackie Mason, Brian Wilson and Julio Iglesias. Creative types can explore glass fusing, pottery painting and mosaics at A Time to Kiln (732.450.9525) or just enjoy watching the boats on the Navesink River. Additional entertainment options include Monmouth Park racetrack and PNC Art Center, which are both a short ride away.

DON'T MISS:

Somehow Red Bank has escaped the homogenization of America and has truly unique retailers instead of Starbucks, the Gap and the Olive Garden. Some of our favorites:

Carter and Cavero

An olive oil and vinegar specialty shop where you can try before you buy. We sampled two and bought both – a white truffle oil and balsamic fig vinegar. carterandcavero.com

CoCo Pari

A fashionista's dream destination, even Carrie Bradshaw would be impressed with the huge selection of designer clothes and shoes. cocopari.com

Selve Shoes

Custom-made European shoes; have your foot scanned, then customize by color, material, style and heel height. selve.us

EAT:

[The Bistro at Red Bank](#)

Wood-fired brick oven pizzas served alongside surprisingly excellent sushi. Try the lobster pancakes with red coconut curry sauce, the Peking duck salad and crazy tuna roll. thebistroatredbank.com

[The Dublin House](#)

A converted Victorian mansion with front courtyard seating and Irish fare. www.thedublinhouse.net

STAY:

Sleek and sophisticated or colonial warm-and-cozy? For the former, choose the [Oyster Point Hotel](#) and the latter, the [Molly Pitcher Inn](#). These sister hotels flank the Navesink River and both offer splendid views, comfort (nine pillows on the beds!) and are within strolling distance from town. mollypitcher-oysterpoint.com