

# Connecticut State Route 169

Traverse one of the last unspoiled areas in the northeastern United States. This byway winds through history, passing colonial homesteads, churches, stone walls, meeting houses, and private schools as it connects classic New England towns. Views include maple and pine stands and glacially deposited rocks and boulders that lie strewn throughout fields.



Length: 32 miles / 51.2 km

Time     Take one hour to drive  
to         without stopping or one full  
Allow:    day to visit places along the  
            byway.

## Local Information

**Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc.**

860-963-7226

866-363-7226 (toll free)

Send E-mail

## Visitor Services

### Fees



The only fees are at select attractions.

### Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities



There are two bicycle routes that have starting points along Route 169. These routes, promoted by the Northeast Connecticut Visitor District as an excellent way to see the area, are (1) Prudence's Trail (starting from the Prudence Crandall Museum in Canterbury), and (2) the Roseland Trail (starting from the Roseland Cottage in Woodstock). Both of these properties are National Historic Landmarks and are open to the public.

### Food



There are places to buy food along this byway.

### Gasoline



Gasoline is available.

### Information



The Prudence Crandall Museum in Canterbury, located at the southern end of the byway, and the Roseland Cottage museum in Woodstock, found at the

northern end of the byway, have information areas with local brochures, maps, etc.

### **Lodging**



Bed & breakfasts along the byway are a perfect place to stay overnight while you are touring this scenic area.

### **Phone**



Public phones are available along this byway.

### **Restrooms**



There are toilet facilities along this byway.

### **Retail**



There are places to shop along this byway.

## **Special Considerations**

Watch for children while passing through the small towns located along the byway.

## **Seasons**

### Best Time to Drive

The changing colors of the fall make it the best season to drive the byway.

### Fall

SR-169 is a perfect day trip in the fall for New Englanders. Make sure you reserve a bed & breakfast early in the year!

### High Season

During the summer the byway is a busy place with lots of recreational activities and summer conventions. During late summer there are community fairs, and fall foliage begins to show.

### Off Season

The off-season occurs in the early spring when there is less foliage and less activity along the byway.

# Map and Directions



## Legend:

Point of Interest	Campground	Featured Byway	Water	State Border
Park	Picnic/Rest Area	America's Byways	Wildlife Refuge	Urban Area
Mountain	Interstate	Other Byway	Wilderness Area	Tribal Nation
City	U.S. Highway	Other Road	Other Federal Lands	Military Base
Capital	State Highway	Trail	Other State Lands	

## Driving Directions

The byway follows State Route 169.

From Norwich:

- Get onto Interstate 395 traveling north.
- Take exit 83A (to SR-169) and continue north to Lisbon.
- The byway begins in the community of Lisbon and continues on SR-169 past Canterbury, Brooklyn, Pomfret, and Woodstock to the the border of Massachusetts where the byway ends.

Traveling South:

- Traveling south on I-395, take Exit 2 in Massachusetts.
- Travel southwest on SR-197 until you reach the junction with SR-169. This is just past the beginning of the byway.
- Travel south on SR-169. The byway ends in Lisbon on SR-169.

### Getting to the Byway



#### Nearby airports

**General Edward Lawrence Logan International Airport (BOS), MA** (70 miles / 112.65 km, 1 hour 30 minutes)



- Start:** ✈ Exit airport terminal onto South I-90  
N 42.363° W 71.006° [?]
- Go south then west on Interstate 90 to Interstate 84.
  - Exit to Charlton City on Stafford Street.
  - Pass through Charlton on U.S. 20 to State Route 169.
- Directions:**
- Go south on State Route 169 through Southbridge to the Massachusetts/Connecticut state line.
  - The byway begins when you cross into Connecticut leaving Massachusetts.

**Junction with byway:** \* Massachusetts State Border RT-169  
N 42.027° W 72.010° [?]



### Nearby cities

**Hartford, CT** (43 miles / 69.20 km, 45 minutes)

**Start:**            \*   1 State St. Hartford, CT  
                          N 41.766° W 72.670° [?]

- Get on CT-2 east.
- Follow until the intersection with I-395.

**Directions:**            \*   • Stay on I-395 north until you get to CT-169, Exit 83a.  
                                  • Follow CT-169 north to the town of Lisbon where the byway begins.

**Junction with byway:**   \*   CT-169 as you pas under the Governor John Davis Lodge Turnpike  
                                  N 41.589° W 72.022° [?]



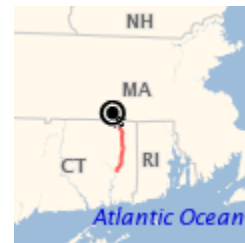
**Sturbridge, MA** (7 miles / 11.27 km, 15 minutes)

**Start:**            \*   RT-131 southbound, Sturbridge, MA  
                          N 42.096° W 72.072° [?]

- Take Route 131 (Main Street) east through the center of Southbridge to Route 169 south (North Woodstock Road).

**Directions:**            \*   • Byway begins at the Massachusetts/Connecticut State Line.

**Junction with byway:**   \*   RT-169, Massachusetts/Connecticut stateline.  
                                  N 42.027° W 72.010° [?]



## Road Trip: SR-169 Tour

**Departure:** Canterbury, Connecticut

**Destination:** Woodstock, Connecticut

**Time to allow:** 1 day

An amazing variety of locations, houses, and memorials reside along State Route 169. There are too many for one tour to cover. Instead, this driving tour outlines the stops to make to see places of historic importance to Connecticut, such as the first academy for young black women in New England, a stop on the Underground Railroad, and monuments to early settlers, war heroes, and famous legislators.

### Day 1

- **Start: Canterbury**

Canterbury, the beginning point on this tour, was settled in 1697 and features remnants of a New England agricultural past.

- **Stop 1: Prudence Crandall Museum**



**From previous stop:** same location

**Directions:** The museum is at the junction of SR-169 and SR-14 in Canterbury.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 2 hours

The museum was the first academy for young black women in New England. Crandall faced arrest, harassment, and mob violence for her endeavors and was designated Connecticut's State Female Hero in 1995. The museum features changing exhibits, a research library, and a gift shop.

- **Stop 2: Cleaveland Cemetery**

**From previous stop:** same location

**Directions:** The cemetery is just north of the Prudence Crandall Museum.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 1 hour

This cemetery was formerly the Old Church Burying Ground. Moses Cleaveland, the founder of Cleveland, is buried here.

- **Stop 3: Brooklyn Green**



**From previous stop:** 11 minutes / 6.8 mi (10.9 km)

**Directions:** Get back onto SR-169 and drive north for 6.5 miles. Keep right onto US-6 (Providence Rd) for 0.3 miles until you arrive in Brooklyn. Brooklyn Green is located within Brooklyn.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 2 hours

The Brooklyn Green is a National Register Historic District that includes 7 different historic features within about 1.75 acres. Park behind the church and explore the area on foot. Be sure to note the memorials to Israel Putnam. First, is the Israel Putnam Statue, dedicated to General Putnam who fought in the French and Indian Wars. He also fought in the Revolution and is best remembered for his leading role in the Battle of Bunker Hill. There is also a commemorative stone to Israel Putnam. A bronze plaque on a granite boulder marks the site of the General Wolfe Tavern, which Israel Putnam and his wife operated.

- **Stop 4: Friendship Valley B&B Inn**

**From previous stop:** same location

**Directions:** Just down the street from Brooklyn Green.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 2 hours

This house was a stop on the Underground Railroad and home to George Benson who sheltered Prudence Crandall during her trial.

- **Stop 5: Israel Putnam Farmstead**

**From previous stop:** same location

**Directions:** Get back on SR 169 and continue all the way past Pomfret. On the west side, just north of Spaulding Road, is the Israel Putnam Farmstead.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 3 hours

Come explore the 515-acre farmstead where Israel Putnam and his family resided.

- **Stop 6: Pulpit Rock Road Marker**

**From previous stop:** same location

**Directions:** After exploring the farmstead, continue on SR 169 past Woodstock to North Woodstock, where you'll find the Pulpit Rock Road Marker.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 1 hour

The last stop on this tour, the Pulpit Rock Road Marker is a memorial to the original settlers in this part -- the "Thirteen Goers." Read from the bronze plaque about the site where the "Thirteen Goers" held their religious services when they first arrived in 1686.

- **End: Woodstock**



**From previous stop:** same location

End your tour of SR -169 in Woodstock, CT. Visit The Inn at Woodstock Hill, or the he Palmer Memorial Hall and Palmer Arboretum.

### **Totals for Day 1**

**Total Distance Traveled:** 6.8 miles / 10.9 km

**Total Travel Time:** 11 minutes

**Total Stopping Time:** 11 hours