

Merritt Parkway

Set in natural surroundings, Merritt Parkway's significant design brilliantly integrates the craft of the engineer and the artist. The bridges along the route are excellent examples of Art Deco, or Art Moderne, styles of the 1920s and 1930s. Magnificent foliage abounds in both spring and fall.



Length: 37 miles / 59.2 km

Time to Allow: Allow one hour to drive the byway.

Local Information

CT Commission on Culture & Tourism

860-256-2800

888-CTVISIT

Visitor Services

Fees



There are no fees for traveling the byway.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities



Currently, there are no facilities for bike or pedestrian use on the Merritt Parkway. However, there may eventually be a bike path along the entire byway. In 1993, the Tri-state Regional Planning Association completed a study supporting the feasibility of a bicycle/pedestrian path along the byway. The trail would serve people commuting to work and school as well as those seeking recreation. Plans are to connect the path to several proposed trails, including the Housatonic River Greenway and a US 7 Linear Park. It would also provide the missing link in the East Coast Greenway, a planned bicycle/pedestrian path from Maine to Florida.

Food



There are places to buy food along this byway.

Gasoline



Gasoline is available.

Lodging



There is overnight lodging along this byway.

Retail



There are places to shop along this byway.

Special Considerations

The speed limit on the Merritt Parkway ranges between 45 and 55 mph. It is a popular commuter route, so avoid driving the byway during morning and evening rush hours.

Restrictions

There is an eight-foot vehicle height limit due to the many low overpasses on the byway. Visit the Connecticut DOT website for detailed information regarding vehicles allowed to drive the Merritt Parkway.

Seasons

Best Time to Drive

The best times to drive the byway are spring months to see flowering trees and shrubs, and fall months to see foliage.

High Season

This route is heavily used by commuters throughout the year.

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 Merritt Parkway consists of the portion of Route 15 from the New York State line northerly to the bridge crossing the Housatonic River (known as the Sikorsky Bridge) at the Stratford/Milford town line. (Route 15 continues northerly, but is named the Wilbur Cross Parkway from the bridge north.)

Getting to the Byway



Nearby cities

Hartford, CT (46 miles / 74.03 km, 50 minutes)

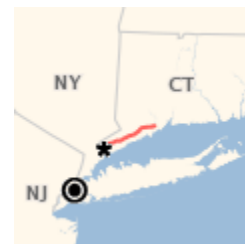
- Start:** I-91 southbound, Hartford, CT
N 41.766° W 72.669° [?]
- Take I-91 south toward New York City.
 - Merge onto CT-15 south.
- Directions:**
- Stay on CT-15 until you reach the Sikorsky Bridge.
 - The byway begins at the Sikorsky Bridge and follows CT-15.

Junction with byway: * CT-15 at the Sikorsky Bridge near Milford, CT
N 41.246° W 73.091° [?]



New York City, NY (35 miles / 56.33 km, 54 minutes)

- Start:** I-87 northbound, New York City, NY
N 40.701° W 74.012° [?]
- Get on Franklin D. Roosevelt Drive.
 - Cross Willis Ave. Bridge.
 - Turn left onto I-87 north.
- Directions:**



- Turn right onto Cross Country Parkway, which turns into Hutchinson River Parkway south.
- The byway begins at the New York/Connecticut State border, where the road becomes CT-15.

**Junction
with
byway:**

- * CT-15, New York/Connecticut stateline
N 41.036° W 73.675° [?]

Road Trip: Merritt Parkway Must See Tour

Departure: Stamford

Destination: Westport

Time to allow: 2 days

Merritt Parkway, a driver's highway, has no points of interest directly on it. However, numerous interesting sites can be found just off the Byway. Take two days and explore some of the region's most entertaining sites.

Day 1

- **Start: Stamford**

Stamford, the starting point on this itinerary, is a beautiful town in southwestern Connecticut.

- **Stop 1: Stamford Museum and Nature Center**



From previous stop: 10 minutes / 5.4 mi (8.6 km)

Directions: Starting on SR-137 (Washington Blvd), go north for 1.8 miles. Keep straight onto SR-137 (Cold Spring Rd), and bear left onto SR-137 (High Ridge Rd). Drive for 3.5 miles, then bear left onto a local road and keep straight onto Scofieldtown Road until you arrive at the museum.

Suggested time at this stop: 3 hours

Visitors can have a wide range of experiences at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center's farm, natural science center, exhibitions, and seasonal events.

- **Stop 2: Bartlett Arboretum**



From previous stop: 3 minutes / 1.3 mi (2.1 km)

Directions: Leaving the museum, go west on Scofieldtown Rd for 0.9 miles, then turn right onto Brookdale Rd and drive for 0.3 miles until you come to the arboretum.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours

The Bartlett Arboretum is a living museum of native Connecticut plants growing under a variety of conditions. It features over 90 acres of magnificent trees, charming gardens, wildflower meadows, red maple wetlands, and more.

- **End: Stamford**

From previous stop: same location

Overnight lodging is available in Stamford.

Totals for Day 1

Total Distance Traveled: 6.7 miles / 10.7 km

Total Travel Time: 13 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 5 hours

Day 2

- **Stop 1: Silvermine Guild of Artists**

From previous stop: 16 minutes / 11.4 mi (18.2 km)

Directions: Leaving the arboretum, go east on Brookdale Rd for 0.3 miles. Turn right onto SR-137 (High Ridge Rd) and drive for 1.6 miles, then take the ramp onto SR-15 (Merritt Parkway). Drive for 6.9 miles, then at exit 40A, turn right onto ramp (Main Ave South). Bear right onto Main Ave for 0.4 miles. Turn right onto Perry Ave and drive for 1.8 miles, then keep straight onto Silvermine Rd for 0.2 miles. Turn right onto Silvermine Rd until you come to the Silvermine Guild Museum.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours

Come explore the ever-changing, interesting and varied collection of artwork from local and international artists displayed here.

- **Stop 2: Earthplace: The Nature Center for Environmental Activities**



From previous stop: 15 minutes / 7.5 mi (12.0 km)

Directions: Leaving the Silvermine Guild, start going southeast on Silvermine Rd, and turn left onto Silvermine Ave. Keep straight onto Perry Ave, and drive for 1.8 miles. Turn left onto Main Ave and drive for 0.4 miles. Take ramp onto SR-15 (Merritt Parkway) and drive for 3.2 miles. At Exit 41, turn right onto ramp (CT-33/Westport/Weston). Turn left onto SR-33 (Wilton Rd) and drive for 0.3 miles. Bear right onto Partrick Rd and drive for 0.2 miles. Bear left onto Old Hill Rd and follow for 0.8 miles. Turn right onto Stonybrook Rd. Follow for 0.4 miles, then turn right onto Woodside Lane until you arrive at the Nature Center.

Suggested time at this stop: 3 hours

Earthplace: The Nature Center for Environmental Activities is dedicated to promoting environmental awareness.

- **End: Westport**

From previous stop: 5 minutes / 1.6 mi (2.6 km)

Directions: Leaving the Nature Center, go east on Woodside Lane for 0.1 miles. The road name changes to Woodside Ave, then follow for 0.6 miles. Turn right onto Kings Hwy N and drive for 0.2 miles. Turn left onto US-1 (Post Rd W) and follow for 0.8 miles until you arrive in Westport.

Westport is the ending place for this tour.

Totals for Day 2

Total Distance Traveled: 20.5 miles / 32.8 km

Total Travel Time: 36 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 5 hours