

✧ CONNECTICUT ✧

A Road Trip Down Memory Lane

As we move through life at the speed of light, the darkness of winter reminds us to slow down, unplug, and take time out to play. A good way to reconnect is by taking a nostalgic road trip down memory lane. These Connecticut venues, reminiscent of simpler days, are sure to reignite the child in us all. —Caryn B. Davis

Pez Visitors Center



Is it a toy or candy? At the Pez Visitors Center, you can decide for yourself. Displays include more than 5,000 dispensers and related memorabilia including a 14-foot Pez boy. A large window peering into the production area shows this sweet treat being made, and an interactive timeline depicts the brand's evolution from breath mint to the popular toy/candy it is today. Pez products and dispensers are also available for purchase, along with the candy to fill them. \$5. 35 Prindle Hill Road, Orange. (203) 298-0201; us.pez.com.

The Barker Character, Comic, and Cartoon Museum and Barker Animation Art Gallery



The Barker Museum has a dazzling collection of 80,000 artifacts and antique toys that date to 1873 and includes favorites from *Howdy Doody* and *The Simpsons*. The museum also features a gallery dedicated to animation and pop art, life-size character cutouts suitable for selfies, and a cartoon mural with a trivia quiz certain to challenge even the most adept cartoon connoisseur. \$5. 1188 Highland Avenue, Cheshire. (203) 272-2357; barkermuseum.com.

New England Carousel Museum



Merry-go-rounds were a common form of leisure activity until the advent of thrill rides. While most of these cultural icons no longer exist, some live on at the New England Carousel Museum. Fantastic displays of over 150 colorful horses span 100 years, with pieces representing the preeminent manufacturers and carvers of the day. There are tours for adults and children, hands-on activities, and a Venetian children's carousel for riding. \$8. 95 Riverside Avenue, Bristol. (860) 585-5411; thecarouselmuseum.org.

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