



QUICK HIT

Make your own jack-o'-lantern and be the envy of every DIY-er on the block. Log onto pumpkinglow.com for a range of totally un-Halloween designs (like Mona Lisa's face or a koala bear). Choose your fave and download a free pdf of a stencil pattern.

Halloween Parades



THE BIGGEST

New York City

Started in 1972, New York City's Halloween parade through the West Village now draws 50,000 participants and 2 million spectators, who can be just as interesting to watch. One year, a group of more than 20 dressed as Imelda Marcos' shoes. (October 31, 7-10 p.m., halloween-nyc.com)



THE OLDEST

Anoka, Minnesota

The official Halloween Capital of the World (Congress bestowed the title in 1937) has three separate parades, including one that dates back to 1920. The celebrations attract 50,000 people to the town, which is 20 minutes from Minneapolis and whose population is less than 20,000. (October 31, 1 p.m., anokahalloween.com)



Elm City Restaurant & Brewery



FOR THE WHOLE FAM THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

Keene, New Hampshire

THE DEAL The Pumpkin Festival in Keene, New Hampshire (Main Street, 603-358-5344, pumpkinfestival.org; free), recognized by Guinness World Records as the largest gathering of carved pumpkins in the world, attracts 25,000 pumpkins and more than 50,000 spectators. Get there when it opens, at 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 17, to squeeze in as much gourd carving, pie eating and seed spitting as you can. Stay till 5 p.m. for the dramatic lighting of all those jack-o'-lanterns.

WHILE IN TOWN Twenty minutes outside of Keene is the **Chesterfield Inn** (20 Cross Road, West Chesterfield, 603-256-3211, chesterfieldinn.com; doubles from \$200), which has 15 beautifully decorated rooms and a full country breakfast. For lunch, order wings at **Elm City Restaurant & Brewery** (222 West St., Colony Mill Marketplace, 603-355-3335; entrées from \$18), which brews its own beer, including Pumpkin Fest Ale, made with local pumpkins and spices. At happy hour, pints are \$2 and wings are 35 cents each. End the night with a strike at **Yankee Lanes Keene** (477 Park Ave., yankeelaneskeene.com; \$23 per hour for a lane rental). Marvel at the light weight of your bowling ball compared to a pumpkin.



THE HAIRIEST

Long Beach, California

The Haute Dog Howl'oween Parade (their puns, not ours) is expected to host 700 costumed dogs and their very enthusiastic owners. The event doubles as an adoption fair, and proceeds benefit the nonprofit Community Action Team, which raises money for environmental, youth and animal welfare projects. (October 31, 2:30 p.m., howlween.info; \$10 in advance, \$20 at the door)