



Trip Idea: New England City Breaks

Trip ideas and itineraries are meant as suggestions only. They are intended as ideas and to highlight all there is to see and do in New England.

With 4.8 million residents, [Greater Boston](#) is the oldest and largest city in New England. Your first stop to experience Boston's unique urban culture is at [Faneuil Hall Marketplace](#). Built in the 1700s, this location is where Faneuil Hall, Quincy Market, North Market and South Market are all located. With dozens of shops, restaurants and pubs, and pushcarts in Faneuil Hall Marketplace, it is a premier urban destination in the U.S.

Next, it's off to the [New England Aquarium](#), one of the best aquariums in the country. The [Boston Museum of Fine Arts](#) is home to an extensive collection of great works from ancient Egypt to contemporary masterpieces.

While Boston is New England's gateway city, each New England state offers its own unique city break. The New England cities profiled below are all ideal for a weekend getaway for fun, shopping, great food, and relaxation.

[New Haven, Connecticut](#)

Thanks to 300-year-old Yale University, New Haven is perfect for a New England getaway. On a student-led tour, hear about former students from actress Jodie Foster to U.S. presidents. Explore two world-class museums: Yale University Art Gallery and the Yale Center for British Art, the largest collection of British works outside Britain. Eat at excellent restaurants and relax in cheerful pubs. This New England city has a major claim to foodie fame: Louis Lunch was the birthplace of the hamburger sandwich in 1900; pizza has been served at Pepe's since 1925.

- Catch a play at the [Yale Repertory Theatre](#)
- See the [Beinecke Library's](#) rare 1455 Gutenberg Bible
- Photograph the [Amistad Memorial](#), a highlight of the Connecticut Freedom Trail
- Come in June for the two-week [International Festival of Arts & Ideas](#): a stimulating mix of music, dance, theater and more. Most events are free.

[Getting there from Boston](#): Catch Amtrak's Northeast train. For travel by bus, Megabus, Peter Pan and Greyhound go to New Haven. Both buses and trains end at Union Station. Weekdays there is a free shuttle bus (bright green) to the New Haven Green.

[Portland, Maine](#)

Looking over Casco Bay and its islands, Portland is one of New England's most popular city break destinations. Its waterfront hums with restaurants, art galleries, one-of-a-kind shops and bars with live music. Tour the [Wadsworth-Longfellow House](#), home of poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow; in the [Portland Museum of Art](#), find artists inspired by Maine, such as Winslow Homer and Andrew Wyeth. And, Portland is one of the top New England cities for its restaurant and [craft beer](#)

scene. Dine on contemporary dishes featuring fresh seafood. Tour one of the city's many microbreweries or take a brew tour on a [Maine Brews Cruise](#).

- Meet artists on the monthly [First Friday Art Walk](#); galleries and studios stay open late
- Learn as you stroll on a [Walking Tour](#) – from food to history – there is a tour for you
- Enjoy baseball at a [Portland Sea Dogs](#) game
- Go on a [lobster boat cruise](#)

Getting there from Boston: A two-hour drive north of Boston. By train: the [Amtrak Downeaster](#) train operates five daily round trips from North Station (2-1/2 hours). By bus: Concord Coach Lines serves points in New Hampshire and Maine to Boston South Station and Logan Airport. By air: the Portland International Jetport offers daily service through several major carriers.

[Portsmouth, New Hampshire](#)

Past and present merge in this seaport, fast becoming a favorite for a New England city break. Get the lowdown at the [Discover Portsmouth Center](#); visit the John Paul Jones House (1758) where the “Father of the American Navy” lived. Walk the Portsmouth Harbour Trail, taking in historic homes, Market Square and Prescott Park; enjoy a harbor cruise. The story of four centuries of everyday life in America’s third-oldest city is told at [Strawbery Banke Museum](#). Named after the first settlement, this site features historic houses furnished with antiques and everyday artifacts. Chat with costumed interpreters who cook, make barrels, garden and more.

- Cruise the nine mysterious Isles of Shoals on a boat tour
- Catch top-notch performances at the Music Hall and the Seacoast Repertory Theatre
- Tour [Portsmouth Brewery](#)
- Enjoy the [Prescott Park Arts Festival](#) — a summer-long jamboree of free music, art, theatre, and dance on the banks of the Piscataqua River

Getting there from Boston: A little over an hour’s drive north of Boston. By bus: [C & J Transportation](#) offers regularly scheduled motorcoach service from Boston’s Logan Airport and the South Station train stop in Boston to Portsmouth. Upon arrival at C & J’s Portsmouth station, COAST trolley service is available to take visitors to downtown stops, year-round at select times. Limousine and taxi services are also available for the five-minute ride to downtown.

[Providence, Rhode Island](#)

One of America’s leading travel destinations, the state capital offers all the ingredients for a city getaway: riverside walks and art galleries, plus [Providence Place Mall](#), a shopping and entertainment complex. Don’t miss [WaterFire](#): Providence’s signature event from May–October, with a series of 100 bonfires blazing on the city’s three rivers and music from around the world and the vibes are provided by students at Brown University and the [Rhode Island School of Design](#) (RISD). Take an audio tour as you stroll past 18th- and 19th-century homes on Benefit Street, nicknamed “[the Mile of History](#).” This New England city was consistently voted in the top five food cities in the USA by *Travel & Leisure* magazine: you’ll find many Italian restaurants on Federal Hill, and modern American downtown.

- See downtown on a romantic Venetian [gondola tour](#)

- Watch a play at the Tony Award-winning [Trinity Repertory Company](#)
- Bike the 14.5-mile East Bay Bike Path along Narragansett Bay to Bristol

Getting there from Boston: An hour's drive south of Boston. By train: [Amtrak](#) leaves from Boston's South Station with a 35 to 45-minute ride. The T.F. Green airport is ten minutes from the city.

[Burlington, Vermont](#)

Vermont's largest city, Burlington feels vibrant and compact, with many attractions within walking distance of the downtown center, like Church Street Marketplace, voted 2022's best public square in America by USA Today, ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, a family-friendly aquarium and science center, the historic Flynn Theatre, and a scenic waterfront bicycle and walking path. Food options abound in downtown Burlington, ranging from American gastropub fare to award-winning Mediterranean cuisine to authentic pan-Asian fare, and the city is widely regarded as a craft beer haven.

- Rent a bike and head to the Colchester Causeway to bike across Lake Champlain.
- Sail Lake Champlain with a guide, or head out in a canoe or kayak.
- Sample craft beers along the Burlington Beer Trail. During the summer, the Vermont Brewers Festival brings together brewers and craft beer enthusiasts on the waterfront.

Getting here: Coming summer 2022, a new Amtrak stop connects Burlington to NYC.