



## New England's Top Attractions

### New England's Classics

#### CONNECTICUT

**Mystic Seaport:** Step back in time to the mid-1800s when the whaling industry was a vital part of the Mystic community. The 19-acre recreation of the village as it was in the 1850s tells the story of this important industry. [www.mysticseaport.org](http://www.mysticseaport.org)

**Mystic Aquarium:** The aquarium gives a glimpse of its residents' natural environment and takes great pride in their on-going research and rescue endeavors that are included in the aquarium experience. [www.mysticaquarium.org](http://www.mysticaquarium.org)

**Yale University:** Yale has produced several U.S. presidents including Bill Clinton and George Bush, and notable actors such as Meryl Streep, Lupita Nyong'o, James Franco and Paul Newman. Get a first-hand look at life as a Yalie during a student-guided tour. <http://visitorcenter.yale.edu>

**Mark Twain House & Museum:** Get a glimpse of the life of one of the most renowned American authors in the home where he wrote his most notable books, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, among other literary greats. [www.marktwainhouse.org](http://www.marktwainhouse.org)

**The Maritime Aquarium:** This aquarium is dedicated to the life found in the Long Island Sound, the body of water that forms the Connecticut coastline and connects the state to New York's Long Island. In addition to the IMAX theatre, the Maritime Aquarium offers an educational tour of the Long Island Sound aboard the Spirit of the Sound. [www.maritimeaquarium.org](http://www.maritimeaquarium.org)

#### MAINE

**Acadia National Park:** This national park is home to Cadillac Mountain, the highest mountain on the east coast north of Rio de Janeiro and where summit visitors are the first to watch the sun rise each day in the United States. Outdoor enthusiasts can try biking, hiking, rock climbing, kayaking and sailing. <https://visitmaine.com/quarterly/acadia>

**Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens:** 127 acres to explore with walking trails, a meditation garden, amazing children's garden, and art and sculpture installations throughout. [www.maine gardens.org](http://www.maine gardens.org)

**Freeport/L.L.Bean:** Freeport is a quaint New England village setting with more than 100 shops and stores. Open all day, every day, L.L.Bean's flagship store in Freeport is the place to buy quality outdoor apparel. Don't miss the indoor trout pond. [www.freeportusa.com](http://www.freeportusa.com)

**Maine Art Museum Trail:** The trail features eight museums with more than 73,000 works of art and provides a unique look at Maine artists over the centuries, and paintings and sculpture from numerous American artists, as well as Degas and Renoir. [www.maineartmuseums.org](http://www.maineartmuseums.org)

**Lighthouses:** More than 60 lighthouses dot the scenic coast of Maine. By taking a trip along Maine's coastal Route 1 and exploring the rocky shores and peninsulas along the way, visitors experience a true sense of Maine's maritime heritage. <https://visitmaine.com/things-to-do/lighthouses-and-sightseeing/lighthouses>

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[www.DiscoverNewEngland.org](http://www.DiscoverNewEngland.org)

## MASSACHUSETTS

**Massachusetts Whale Watching & Maritime History, Coastal Massachusetts:** Experience a whale watching adventure to Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary and see the extraordinary marine life that inhabits the area. From 7Seas Whale Watch in Gloucester to Dolphin Fleet Whale Watch in Provincetown, from Captain John Boats in Plymouth to Boston Harbor Cruises in Boston, as well as many more choices, visitors have a memorable experience. Learn more about Massachusetts' maritime history at the New Bedford Whaling Museum and the Nantucket Whaling Museum.

7Seas Whale Watch — [www.7seaswhalewatch.com](http://www.7seaswhalewatch.com) Dolphin Fleet — <https://whalewatch.com>

Captain John Boats — [www.captjohn.com](http://www.captjohn.com)

Boston Harbor Cruises — [www.bostonharborcruises.com/whale-watch](http://www.bostonharborcruises.com/whale-watch)

New Bedford Whaling Museum — [www.whalingmuseum.org](http://www.whalingmuseum.org)

Nantucket Whaling Museum — <https://nha.org/visit/museums-and-tours/whaling-museum/>

**Freedom Trail, Boston:** Discover America's revolutionary history in Massachusetts as you walk the iconic Freedom Trail, a 2.5 mile, red-lined route in Boston with 16 historically significant sites, including museums, meetinghouses, churches, parks and burying grounds. <http://thefreedomtrail.org>

**Plimoth Plantation & Plymouth 400, Plymouth:** Travel back in time to the 17th century through this living history museum that explores the stories of the colonial English community and the Wampanoag tribe. In 2020, America celebrated the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower voyage and the founding of Plymouth Colony.

Plimoth Plantation — [www.plimoth.org](http://www.plimoth.org)

Plymouth 400 — [www.plymouth400inc.org](http://www.plymouth400inc.org)

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

**Isles of Shoals Steamship Adventures, Portsmouth:** Offering narrated river, harbor, and island tours. Ships depart directly from coastal downtown Portsmouth within walking distance to various hotels and attractions. <http://islesofshoals.com>

**Mount Washington Cog Railway, Bretton Woods:** The world's first mountain climbing train to the fascinating summit of Mount Washington. Guests can experience classic steam or innovative biodiesel engines all built completely on site (sold by New World Travel). <http://thecog.com>

**Mount Washington Auto Road, Pinkham Notch:** The United States' oldest manmade attraction where brave visitors can drive their own vehicles to the summit or safely ride in a highly entertaining, guided stage coach van to the summit of Mount Washington. <http://mtwashingtonautoroad.com>

**Portsmouth EATS, Portsmouth:** USA Today named Portsmouth one of the top 10 best small food towns in the United States. These custom tours allow visitors the most experiential way to discover the city's fascinating history and talents through food and the famous chefs who live here. <http://portsmouth-eats.com>

**Conway Scenic Railroad, North Conway:** Ride on vintage trains through the White Mountain National Forest; offering different dining cars as well. <http://conwayscenic.com>

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## RHODE ISLAND

**Newport Mansions:** America's Gilded Age is beautifully preserved and brought to life at the Newport Mansions. The architecture, design and history of each of these palatial homes is as fascinating as it is unique. The Breakers is the grandest of Newport's "summer cottages" and a stunning symbol of the Vanderbilt family's social and financial preeminence in turn-of-the-century America.

<https://www.visitrhodeisland.com/listing/the-breakers/8276/>

**Cliff Walk:** A world-famous public access walk that combines the natural beauty of the Newport shoreline with the architectural history of Newport's gilded age.

<https://www.visitrhodeisland.com/listing/cliff-walk/8307/>

**WaterFire Providence®:** The award-winning sculpture by Barnaby Evans was installed on the three rivers of downtown Providence. WaterFire features one hundred sparkling bonfires, the fragrant scent of aromatic wood smoke, the flickering firelight on the arched bridges, the silhouettes of the firetenders passing by the flames, the torch-lit vessels traveling down the river, and enchanting music from around the world. <https://www.visitrhodeisland.com/events/waterfire/>

**Federal Hill:** The neighborhood spirit is alive and welcoming on Federal Hill where Providence takes on an old-world flair. Savor the nuances of Italian culture and cuisine while visiting authentic bakeries, shops, groceries and restaurants. <https://www.visitrhodeisland.com/listing/federal-hill/8336/>

**Block Island:** Only a short ferry ride from the mainland, Block Island offers the quintessential island experience. Think food and drinks overlooking the ocean, boutique-lined streets, spectacular natural sights and some of the most unspoiled white sand beaches in the country. Hop on a bike or moped and get exploring charming streets, dramatic cliffs, quiet beaches and pristine nature trails.

[www.visitrhodeisland.com/things-to-do/regions/block-island](http://www.visitrhodeisland.com/things-to-do/regions/block-island)

## VERMONT

**Shelburne Museum:** Over 100,000 works of American folk art are exhibited in a picturesque setting on Shelburne Museum's 45-acre (over 18 hectares) campus in 39 buildings, 25 of which are historic and were relocated to the museum. Dozens of beautiful gardens showcase lilacs and apple blossoms in the spring and peonies and daylilies in the summer. <https://shelburnemuseum.org/>

**Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Factory:** The 30-minute guided factory tour includes a company history movie, view of the production room, an explanation of the manufacturing process, and a sample of ice cream. Don't forget to visit the flavor graveyard, where discontinued flavors are memorialized! Factory tours resume in July 2022. <https://www.benjerry.com/about-us/factory-tours>

**Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home:** Guests can experience the 412-acre (over 166 hectares) summer home built by Robert and Mary Todd Lincoln in 1905 which include the estate's home and gardens, welcome center, museum store, goat dairy, and cheese-making facility. <https://hildene.org/>

**Church Street Marketplace:** Voted 2022's best public square in America by USA Today and the hub of activity in Burlington, VT with historical architecture, year-round festivals, street entertainers, music, and over 100 places to shop and dine. <https://churchstmarketplace.com/>

**Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park:** Visitors to Vermont's only national park can visit the historic home and carriage barn and hike the trails of the country's oldest sustainably managed forest. <https://www.nps.gov/mabi/index.htm>

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[www.DiscoverNewEngland.org](http://www.DiscoverNewEngland.org)

## Off the Beaten Path

### CONNECTICUT

**Thompson Speedway:** Offers NASCAR racing and the Exotic Car Experience that will put you on the racetrack behind the wheel of a Maserati, Lamborghini or Ferrari. [www.thompsons Speedway.com](http://www.thompsons Speedway.com)

**Glass House:** While studying in Germany, famous architect Philip Johnson came up with the concept of the glass structure that served as his home until his passing at 95. The 47-acre campus features the Glass House and 12 other structures designed by Johnson that incorporate the landscape as a part of the designer's vision. [www.theglasshouse.org](http://www.theglasshouse.org)

**Mashantucket Pequot Museum:** Multi-sensory dioramas and exhibits introduce visitors to the history of the Mashantucket Pequot tribe and the natural and cultural history of the eastern woodlands. Films and videos, interactive programs, archival materials, ethnographic and archaeological collections, and traditional crafts by Native artisans are featured in the exhibits. [www.pequotmuseum.org](http://www.pequotmuseum.org)

### MAINE

**Appalachian Trail/Mt. Katahdin:** Maine's 281 miles of the Appalachian Trail are generally considered the most challenging of all fourteen states. Lakes, streams, and bogs abound, and moose and loon sightings are common. Maine's crown jewel, Mt. Katahdin is the northern terminus of the AT.

<https://visitmaine.com/things-to-do/parks-and-natural-attractions/appalachian-trail>

**AMC Maine's Wilderness Lodges:** The Appalachian Mountain Club offers three Maine wilderness lodges on 75,000 acres of AMC conservation land where four-season outdoor adventure ranges from taking a cool dip in a crisp waterfall, reeling in a perfect trout, hiking up a spectacular mountain or skiing lodge-to-lodge through fresh snow. [www.outdoors.org/lodging-camping/maine-lodges](http://www.outdoors.org/lodging-camping/maine-lodges)

**Grafton Notch State Park:** The park lies amidst some of Maine's most spectacular mountains, the Mahoosuc Range. These lands offer rugged terrain for backcountry hikers and include 12 of the most challenging miles along the entire Appalachian Trail. Also available are short walks leading to impressive waterfalls and gorges. <https://visitmaine.com/things-to-do/parks-and-natural-attractions/grafton-notch-state-park>

### MASSACHUSETTS

**Illustrators Trail, Western Massachusetts:** Explore the worlds of iconic illustrators Dr. Seuss, Eric Carle, and Norman Rockwell with a visit to three unique museums in western Massachusetts within an hour's drive of each other. <http://illustratorstrail.org>

**Whydah Pirate Museum, Cape Cod:** Learn about the adventurous world of pirates through the infamous Whydah, which sank in Cape Cod waters in 1717. View artifacts from the quintessential pirates' life, including stunning imagery and maps of the 18th-century world with a visit to the Whydah Pirate Museum in West Yarmouth. [www.discoverpirates.com](http://www.discoverpirates.com)

**Trustees of the Reservation:** Enjoy the scenic side of Massachusetts with a visit to any of the 100+ preserved parks, historic homes, and rural areas maintained by the Trustees of the Reservation. Visit the 251-acre coastscape of World's End in Hingham, stop at the National Historic Landmark of Old Manse in Concord, or experience the Gilded-Age country estate of Naumkeag in the Berkshires of western Massachusetts. [www.thetrustees.org/places-to-visit](http://www.thetrustees.org/places-to-visit)

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[www.DiscoverNewEngland.org](http://www.DiscoverNewEngland.org)

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

**Bear Rock Adventures Guided ATV Tours, Pittsburg:** In New Hampshire's northernmost town, enjoy custom ATV tours through the largest interconnected trail system in the East. Tours can be themed as culinary and include stops at maple sugar shacks or focus on adventure by journeying deep into preserved forests and secluded waterways. Stay at the Cabins at Lopstick to truly appreciate the area's natural beauty and enjoy snowmobile tours, ice fishing, hunting, and fly fishing. [www.bearrockadventures.com](http://www.bearrockadventures.com)

**ELC Outdoors, Errol:** In the northernmost region of New Hampshire, ELC offers whitewater rafting, calm wildlife tours by boat, aerial ropes courses, and fatbike rentals. Consider combining with Bear Rock ATV Adventures and the Cabins at Lopstick. <http://elcoutdoors.com>

**Appalachian Mountain Club, Crawford Notch and Pinkham Notch:** Arrange for a private hiking adventure guide through the oldest hiking trail system in the United States. Tours can vary in duration and can include the use of a 125-year-old secluded high hut network only accessible by foot. [www.outdoors.org](http://www.outdoors.org)

## RHODE ISLAND

**Fantastic Umbrella Factory:** A 19th century farmyard shopper's paradise and international bazaar. A Rhode Island landmark and National Treasure in Charlestown, Rhode Island since 1968. Open year round. <https://www.fantasticumbrellafactory.com/>

**Newport Car Museum:** This private collection of some 50 automobiles focuses on six decades of modern industrial automotive design and celebrates cars as works of art. From the 1950s to the present, separate exhibits of Ford Shelby Cars, Corvettes, World Cars, Fin Cars and Chrysler Mopar Cars have been carefully curated to appeal to car enthusiasts of all ages. [www.visitrhodeisland.com/listing/newport-car-museum/8931/](http://www.visitrhodeisland.com/listing/newport-car-museum/8931/)

**Rail Explorers:** Enjoy an unforgettable scenic ride along historic Aquidneck Island and spectacular Narragansett Bay on custom-built pedal-powered vehicles. This eco-friendly experience provides an amazing journey using existing railroad tracks. The pedal-powered explorers provide a smooth and comfortable adventure suitable for all. [www.visitrhodeisland.com/listing/rail-explorers/3134](http://www.visitrhodeisland.com/listing/rail-explorers/3134)

## VERMONT

**Electric bike and brewery tour:** This five-hour electric bike and brew tour on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail includes stops at three breweries and can be guided or done at your own pace. <https://www.lamoillevalleybiketours.com/vtebiketours>

**Lemon Fair Sculpture Park:** More than 50 outdoor sculptures welcome visitors in this magnificent rural setting right outside Middlebury, Vermont. <https://www.lemonfairsculpturepark.com/>

**Artisans Park:** Artisans Park is home to a brewery, distillery, the Path of Life Garden, and Great River Outfitters, which offers year-round outdoor adventure, including river floating in the summer and snowshoeing in the winter. <http://www.artisanspark.net/>

**Contact:** Michele Cota  
[mcota@discovernewengland.org](mailto:mcota@discovernewengland.org)