

New England offers a wealth of free activities for visitors across its six states. From scenic coastal walks to historic landmarks and cultural hotspots, here's a guide to exploring the region without breaking the bank.

RHODE ISLAND

- [Cliff Walk \(Newport, RI\)](#) – A scenic 3.5-mile walkway along Newport’s shoreline, offering stunning ocean views and historic mansions.
- [RISD Museum \(Providence, RI\)](#) – Free admission on Sundays and Thursdays 5-8pm, showcasing world-class art collections.
- [WaterFire Providence](#) –nearly 100 bonfires above the surface of three rivers running through this beautiful city filled with performers and music. Scheduled dates between May and November.
- [Beavertail Lighthouse and Park \(Jamestown, RI\)](#) – Visit the nation’s third-oldest lighthouse while enjoying dramatic coastal views.
- **Cultural Main Streets:** Providence, Federal Hill, Benefit Street and Providence Place – North Kingston, Wickford Village – Newport, Bowen’s Wharf, Thames Street

CONNECTICUT

- [Olde Mistick Village \(Mystic, CT\)](#) – A charming, historic shopping and cultural center with unique shops and seasonal events.
- [Yale Museums \(New Haven, CT\)](#) – Yale University offers free admission to its art galleries and museums.
- [USS Nautilus & Submarine Force Museum \(Groton, CT\)](#) – Learn about submarine history and tour the first nuclear-powered sub.
- [Bushnell Park \(Hartford, CT\)](#) – The oldest publicly funded park in the U.S., with walking trails, a carousel, and seasonal events.
- **Cultural Main Streets:** Mystic–Greenwich – New Haven – West Hartford Center/Blue Back Square – Ridgefield – Westport - Litchfield

MASSACHUSETTS

- [Essex Coastal Scenic Byway \(North Shore, MA\)](#) – A 90-mile drive along the historic North Shore, featuring scenic views, period architecture and historic sites.
- [Drive to the Summit of Mount Greylock \(Lanesborough, MA\)](#) – from the visitors center from May to the end of October, visitors can drive to beautiful summit within the Taconic Mountain range. Free to drive and small fee to park.
- [Natural Bridge State Park \(North Adams, MA\)](#) – Explore the only natural white marble arch in North America.
- **Spark of the American Revolution (Concord, MA) - [Minuteman National Historical Park/Lexington Town Green](#)** - The Battles of Lexington and Concord in 1775 marked the first conflict between the British and Americans, sparking the Revolutionary War.
- **Cultural Main Streets:** Salem – Provincetown – Northampton – Concord

Boston

- [Boston Common & Public Garden \(Boston, MA\)](#) – America’s oldest public park with iconic Swan Boats.
- [USS Constitution & Museum \(Charlestown, MA\)](#) – Visit “Old Ironsides” and its historic museum in Charlestown.
- [Freedom Trail \(Boston, MA\)](#) – A 2.5-mile red brick path connecting 16 historic sites.
- [Black Heritage Trail \(Boston, MA\)](#) – A guided or self-guided tour of African American historic sites.
- [Faneuil Hall Marketplace \(Boston, MA\)](#) – A vibrant historic market with street performers and cultural

VERMONT

- [Church Street Marketplace \(Burlington, VT\)](#) – A lively pedestrian street in Burlington with music, art, and shops.
- [Quechee Gorge \(Quechee, VT\)](#) – The “Grand Canyon of the East,” with breathtaking views and hiking trails.
- [Dog Mountain \(St. Johnsbury, VT\)](#) – A dog-friendly art sanctuary with scenic trails and a dog chapel.
- [Cold Hollow Sculpture Park \(Enosburg Falls, VT\)](#) - Immersive art experience in northern Vermont. 70 sculptures by artist David Stromeyer.
- **Cultural Main Streets:** Woodstock – Stowe – Montpelier – Middlebury – Manchester

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- [Kancamagus Highway \(White Mountains, NH\)](#) – A scenic drive through the White Mountains, famous for its foliage views.
- [New Hampshire State House Tour \(Concord, NH\)](#) – A free guided tour of the oldest state capitol in continuous legislative use.
- [Prescott Park Summer Performances \(Portsmouth, NH\)](#) – Free outdoor concerts and theater in Portsmouth.
- [Dartmouth College Hood Museum of Art/Jose Clemente Orozco Mural \(Hanover, NH\)](#) – A diverse global art collection and Mexican muralist José Clemente Orozco’s *The Epic of American Civilization*.
- **Cultural Main Streets:** Concord – Portsmouth – Littleton – Meredith – Wolfeboro - Hanover

MAINE

- [Marginal Way \(Ogunquit, ME\)](#) – A picturesque seaside walking path in Ogunquit.
- [Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village, \(New Gloucester\)](#) - Home to the last active community of Shakers with a Shaker Museum and the Shaker Store and Shaker Herb House Cultural Center. Open year round.
- [Eastern & Western Promenades \(Portland, ME\)](#) – Stunning waterfront parks with scenic trails and picnic areas in Portland.
- [L.L. Bean Summer in the Park \(Freeport, ME\)](#) – Free outdoor concerts and events in Freeport.
- **Cultural Main Streets:** Kennebunkport – Ogunquit – Freeport – Portland, Old Port - Camden – Bar Harbor - Rockland

This list provides just a glimpse of the many cost-free experiences available across New England. Whether you're interested in history, nature, or vibrant cultural spots, there's something for every traveler to enjoy!

###

MORE NEW ENGLAND NEWS

www.discovernewengland.org/new-england-news

OTHER RESOURCES



MEDIA HUB



THEMATIC TRAILS OF THE REGION