

Here's where to get your hands on moon rocks and pirate treasure, take walking tours inspired by great horror writers, and otherwise ditch the "typical" vacation in favor of a journey into the quirky, bizarre, and utterly unique.

DAYS 1 & 2: MAINE

Learn more about visiting [Maine](#)

Lodging ideas: [Harraseeket Inn](#) (Freeport), [Jordan Hotel](#) (Newry), [The Tarratine](#) (Bangor)

A 10-foot Bigfoot statue guards the entrance to Portland's [International Cryptozoology Museum](#), a cornucopia of art and artifacts related to creatures like the Loch Ness Monster and Maine's own Casco Bay Sea Serpent, Cassie. Hit Route 1 to see the world's largest revolving globe, [Eartha](#), in Yarmouth before continuing to Freeport's [Desert of Maine](#), whose 20 acres of sand dunes are New England's very own Sahara Desert. A change in climes awaits at Bowdoin College's [Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum](#); in nearby Bath, step inside a full-scale replica of a lighthouse lantern room at the [Maine Maritime Museum](#).

On day two, drive north to Bangor to explore sites related to best-selling author Stephen King with [SK Tours](#), including the 31-foot-tall [Paul Bunyan statue](#) featured in the novel *It*. Or trek west to Bethel, where you can actually hold pieces of the moon and Mars in your hands at the [Maine Mineral & Gem Museum](#).

DAYS 3-5: NEW HAMPSHIRE

Learn more about visiting [New Hampshire](#)

Lodging ideas: [Aldworth Manor](#) (Harrisville), [Thayers Inn](#) (Littleton)

Hear tales of ghosts, pirates, and shipwrecks during a cruise with [Isles of Shoals Steamship Co.](#) from Portsmouth to a cluster of small rocky islands including Smuttynose, made infamous by an 1873 double murder. In Salem, check out the mysterious rock formations of [America's Stonehenge](#), then venture into the White Mountains to see the "[Betty and Barney Hill Incident](#)" site, marking their reported 1961 UFO abduction. Two more "out-of-this-world" attractions: the [Redstone Rocket](#), a Cold War-era missile in Warren, and the 112-foot-long [Chutters candy counter](#) in Littleton.

Head to southwest New Hampshire to visit the most authentic 19th-century mill town still in existence, [Harrisville](#). Grab lunch at its circa-1838 general store or in the college town of Keene, where you might spot the "[Parrish Shoes](#)" mural from the movie *Jumanji*. Nearby [Madame Sherri Forest](#), home to the eerie ruins of a grand summer estate, is a great place for a hike before continuing on to Vermont.

DAYS 6 & 7: VERMONT

Learn more about visiting [Vermont](#)

Lodging ideas: [Firehouse Inn](#) (Barre), [Highland Lodge](#) (Greensboro), [Sterling Ridge Resort](#) (Jeffersonville)

Enter Vermont via the [Cornish-Windsor Bridge](#), the nation's longest historic covered bridge, and stop into the tranquil [Path of Life Sculpture Garden](#) in Windsor. You can also cross the [Brookfield Floating Bridge](#), one of only two in the U.S., on your way to "the granite capital of the world," Barre. Tour the mammoth [Rock of Ages](#) quarry, visit the hand-carved masterpieces of [Hope Cemetery](#), and look for the [world's longest granite zipper](#), a 74-foot-long sculpture in downtown Barre. Then it's over to Waterbury for a stroll through the [Ben & Jerry's Flavor Graveyard](#) before pushing on to Burlington, home of [the tallest filing cabinet on earth](#) and a favorite place to look for "[Champ](#)," Lake Champlain's own Loch Ness Monster.

Fill up day two with any of the Northeast Kingdom's many hidden gems, such as [Bread & Puppet Theater](#) and the [Museum of Everyday Life](#) in Glover; the [St. Johnsbury Athenaeum](#) and [Dog Mountain](#) in St. Johnsbury; the [Old Stone House Museum](#) in Brownington; and [Haskell Library and Opera House](#), which sits on the U.S.-Canadian border and lets visitors enjoy its books and performances in two countries. Finally, nature lovers won't want to miss this region's signature glacial lakes, such as the fjord-like [Lake Willoughby](#) and the U.S.-Canadian [Lake Memphremagog](#) (which, like Champlain, is said to harbor a sea monster, Memphre).

DAYS 8 & 9: CONNECTICUT

Learn more about visiting [Connecticut](#)

Lodging ideas: [The Kent Collection-The Train Car](#) (Kent), [Winvian Farm-The Helicopter Room](#) (Morris)

Immerse yourself in one man's artistic vision at Woodbury's [Hogpen Hill Farms](#), whose landscape is filled with 100-plus sculptures by owner Edward Tufte (look for the vintage Airstream trailer poised on a catapult). In Waterbury, a 56-foot cross points the way to [Holy Land](#), a former religious theme park that's open for public strolling in the daytime. Or make tracks to Rocky Hill's [Dinosaur State Park](#) to see more than 750 dinosaur footprints from the early Jurassic era.

On day two, delight your inner child at the [PEZ Visitor Center](#), home of the world’s largest collection of PEZ candy memorabilia. It’s just outside New Haven, where you can fuel up at [Louie’s Lunch](#), birthplace of the hamburger, before stopping into Yale’s [Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library](#): Its public exhibits include the Gutenberg Bible, one of only five copies in the U.S., and a Buddhist prayer scroll that’s over 1,200 years old. Lastly, take the historic [Chester-Lyme Ferry](#) to [Gillette Castle State Park](#) and marvel at its namesake fortress, a stone mansion built in 1914 and featuring such quirks as handcrafted locks (47 in all) and spy mirrors.

DAYS 10 & 11: RHODE ISLAND

Learn more about visiting [Rhode Island](#)

Lodging ideas: [Jailhouse Inn](#) (Newport), [Rose Island Lighthouse](#) (Newport)

Arriving in Providence, scan the skyline for the Art Deco–style Industrial Trust Tower, better known as the “[Superman Building](#)” for its resemblance to the fictional *Daily Planet*. Head to Brown University’s [John Hay Library](#) to see what’s on display in the public exhibit areas; its collection spans everything from Napoleon’s death mask to books bound in human skin and a trove of original writings by fantasy-horror legend H.P. Lovecraft. (For more on the famed Providence author, stop into the [Lovecraft Arts & Sciences](#) bookshop or take a self-guided spin on [Lovecraft’s College Hill Walking Tour](#).)

Wander among whimsical living sculptures at Portsmouth’s [Green Animals](#), the oldest topiary garden in the U.S., then let a lantern-toting guide lead you through Newport’s colonial-era neighborhoods on a [Ghosts of Newport](#) tour. Finally, on your way to Massachusetts, detour to Burrillville and the Old Arnold Estate, a.k.a. [The Conjuring House](#), whose history of paranormal activity inspired the hit horror movie of the same name.

DAYS 12-14: MASSACHUSETTS

Learn more about visiting [Massachusetts](#)

Lodging ideas: [Belfry Inn & Bistro](#) (Sandwich), [Lizzie Borden House](#) (Fall River)

Delve into a legendary crime by booking a tour or staying overnight at the [Lizzie Borden House](#), a museum/B&B in Fall River. Another one-of-a-kind B&B can be found on Cape Cod, where the [Belfry Inn & Bistro](#) lets you sleep amid the stained-glass windows of a 1901 church, or in a Victorian “Painted Lady” or a former church meetinghouse.

In Yarmouth Port, check out the [Edward Gorey House](#), a museum devoted to the quirky, macabre artist and author, then head toward the North Shore (but do stop in Boston to walk through the [Mapparium](#), a 30-foot-wide stained-glass globe, and see the astonishingly lifelike glass flowers at the [Harvard Museum of Natural History](#)). In Salem, get a fascinating peek into New England history at the [Salem Witch Museum](#), focused on the notorious 1692 witch trials, and [Real Pirates Salem](#), home to the world’s only authenticated pirate treasure.

Still have time to spare? Soak up medieval vibes at Gloucester’s [Hammond Castle Museum](#), or road-trip to Webster for an unusual bragging right: visiting the place with the longest name in the U.S., [Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg](#).

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