



Great reasons to visit New England

New England offers an incredible array of things to do and places to visit...the hardest part is choosing your favourites! Whether your passion is skiing, boating, golf, music, art, history, festivals, family fun or romantic seaside weekends, you'll find it in New England. So read on, learn and start planning your next New England getaway.



1 A Pint of the Best...Breweries:

The biggest revolution in New England since 1776 has to be the rise and rise of the microbrewery. In the six states of New England, you are never far from a good brew. Try Big Claw Pilsner or Ginga' Ninja, Pumpkin Eater Ale and Wolf's Breath Winter Warmer, check out The Vermonster or the complex Three Peak Holiday Stout that is barrel-aged on French-roasted Kenyan coffee beans, no less! What makes New England beers so interesting for enthusiasts is the way that brewers respect tradition but admire innovation. Alongside the IPAs, stouts, brown ales and organic lagers, brewers are happy to experiment with natural New England ingredients, such as wild blueberries, cranberries, maple syrup and pumpkin. Small breweries are so popular that every state now has a beer or brewery trail of some kind. See the best of New England's beer festivals at the end of the article.

2 New England's Romantic Covered Bridges:

What could be more romantic than a covered bridge? New England (especially Vermont) has them by the score. Some are just for walking across a river; others are also for cycling. A surprising number are on roads, providing motorists with a brief "back in time" experience. As to why covered bridges were built, some reckon that the roofs protected the beams from rotting, or from freezing in bad weather. Others

New England festivals

Great New England Beer Festivals: The six states all host beer festivals and Oktoberfests, where you can taste the "Best of the best" under one roof. Here are some of the most popular where live music and food are all part of the fun.

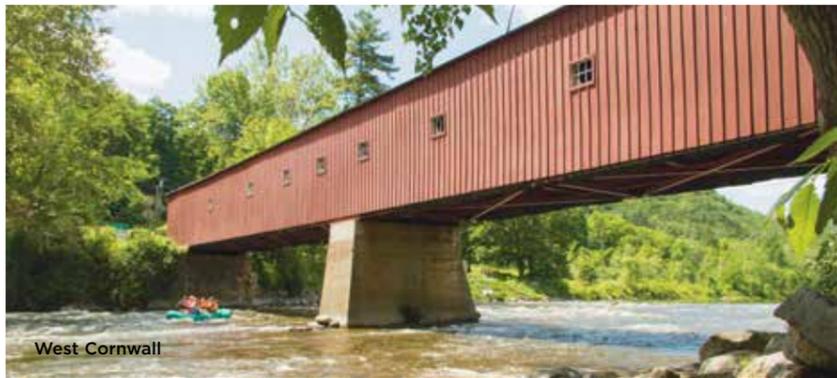
- 1 Great International Spring Beer Festival, Providence, Rhode Island (May 1, 2017) 250+ craft brews.
- 2 The Connecticut Craft Brewers' Beer Festival, Naugatuck, Connecticut. (May 2017) The state's longest running beer tasting event celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2014; 50 breweries and brew pubs, 200+ craft brews.
- 3 - New England Brewfest, Lincoln, New Hampshire (June 23-25, 2017) Includes 30+ of New England's top microbreweries.
- 4 15th Annual Schnitzel Fest, Hillsborough, New Hampshire, September 23rd 2017, a German food festival with local brew and wine bars, oom-pah music and classic fall foliage.
- 5 Martha's Vineyard Craft Beer Festival, Stone Bluff, Massachusetts (September 2017) This festival will feature 50 breweries and more than 150 craft brews to sample.
- 6 Acadia's Oktoberfest Food & Crafts Festival, Southwest Harbor, Maine (October 6, 2017) 88 brands of Maine's finest beer and wine, plus all-day music.
- 7 Newport's International Oktoberfest: Newport, Rhode Island (September 2017) A bona fide Bavarian weekend.
- 8 Stowe's Oktoberfest: Stowe, Vermont (October 2017). An annual celebration of the harvest and fall foliage.

www.discovernewengland.org





Castle Hill



West Cornwall

Great New England Bridges

Connecticut's famed photogenic bridges include Bull's Bridge, built in 1842. Find it just off Route 7, West Cornwall, to the north, off Route 7, and Comstock, on Route 16, not far from East Hampton.

Maine still has nine covered bridges. The most photographed is also the most painted: the 1872 Artist's Covered Bridge, near Newry, four miles northwest of North Bethel, off Route 26 this 87-foot (26m) bridge is no longer open to traffic, so it is a quiet spot to set up a tripod or an easel. By contrast, the shortest bridge in the state is Lovejoy, off Route 5. It's just 70-foot long (21m) and crosses the Ellis River at South Andover.

Massachusetts only has a handful of covered bridges that survive, but those that do still evoke the past. A short drive north from Greenfield, Pumping Station Bridge is a 95-foot (29m) span over the Green River. Among the many historic buildings at Old Sturbridge Village, you can see the covered bridge that once stood in Dummerston, Vermont before being dismantled, transported and re-erected here.

Of New Hampshire's 54 historic registered covered bridges, one has earned the nickname, "The Honeymoon Bridge." The 1876 Jackson Covered Bridge that spans the Ellis River takes honeymooners and lovers to the classic White Mountain village of Jackson. This is a setting that has held onto its charm since the days of steam trains and horse and buggies.

Rhode Island has only a few covered bridges, but the Swamp Meadow Covered Bridge was a real labour of love. A replica of an early 19th century structure, it was built by volunteers in 1994. The timber was logged from nearby forests and the 40-foot-long (12m) bridge straddles Hemlock Brook, north of the small town of Foster, just off Route 94. Even newer is the bridge in Lincoln Woods State Park, inaugurated in 2005. Drive through it as you enter the park, in the Blackstone Valley.

Vermont boasts a whopping 106 covered bridges. The Vermont Covered Bridge Museum is the world's first and only museum dedicated to this kind of structure. Find it at the Bennington Center for the Arts, near the town of Bennington. The museum features everything from bridge designers and build-your-own bridges to artwork and movies about covered bridges, and Bennington County itself has five bridges that are still in use. Open to vehicles and pedestrians after 130 years, the Warren Covered Bridge crosses the Mad River in Warren, in the heart of the Green Mountain state.

say that, since these bridges look like barns, animals would cross without fear. Whatever the reason, these distinctive crossings are a much-loved part of the New England landscape. See the best of New England's bridges at the end of the article.

3 New England's History and Heritage:

Nowhere else in the United States will you understand and appreciate just how America began. Walk the Freedom Trail, visit a recreated Pilgrim village, or walk on the first battlefield of the American Revolution. History is around every corner in New England and these places make learning about it truly enjoyable. When it comes to the story of America, New England is a history book brought to life. For people from other countries, a visit provides insights into the American character. From the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers to charming villages, whose British names and architecture recall Old England — yet they are considered "traditionally American". Stand where the Colonials did as they challenged British soldiers and started the American Revolution. See where America's Industrial Revolution (and the Literary Revolution) began. And for all travellers a history-themed vacation in this region is a whole lot of fun!



4 Living History Museums:

New England's living history museum experiences will take you back in time with "role players" portraying historical figures and everyday colonists, where museum staff are dressed in period costume and sometimes speak in the dialect of the time. Step into the tribal quarters of Native Americans, or walk the deck of the Mayflower II, a replica of the ship that brought the first Pilgrims to the shores

of New England. A must see sight is the Boston Tea Party Ships and Museum, where the 1773 anti-tax protest became one of the most famous events in American history. All is explained at the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, an exciting living history attraction, with replica 18th-century vessels and costumed interpreters. See the best of New England's Living History Museums at the end of the article. ■

Living History Museums

Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum: In the dark of night, Bostonians disguised as Native Americans creep onto three ships in Boston Harbor — and throw hundreds of cases of tea overboard.

Plimoth Plantation: When the Pilgrim Fathers settled in New England, their first community was in Plymouth, Massachusetts. That's why Plimoth Plantation takes you back to 1627. Not only are the buildings, the gardens and the food authentic, but the costumed Pilgrims never leave 1627, never step out of character. This really is a time machine experience.

Wampanoag Homesite: is by contrast, the Native Americans that you meet here really are members of the Wampanoag Nation. Talk about their heritage; go into a wetu (home) and smell the sobaheg (stew).

Mayflower II: The Voyage that Changed the World: in Plymouth, Massachusetts, the costumed passengers and sailors aboard the Mayflower II talk about 'Olde' England and their 66-day trans-atlantic voyage. Learn about the 1620 voyage and navigation in the 17th-century. Hear about life aboard the tiny vessel and how the 102 passengers fared. What you see is a detailed replica built of solid oak 50 years ago.

Old Sturbridge Village: Everyday Life in the 1830's in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, the largest outdoor history museum in the northeast bustles with energy: coopers make barrels, farmers tend heritage cattle, blacksmiths hammer out horseshoes. As well as visiting 59 historic buildings (including working water mills and covered bridges), you can take an active role: bake bread in a brick oven, roast meat in a tin reflector oven, mull spiced cider in the hearth.

Mystic Seaport Maritime Museum: Along the scenic Connecticut coast is the nation's leading maritime museum. Explore American seafaring history firsthand as you climb aboard four historic tall ships, stroll through a re-created 19th-century coastal village or watch a working preservation shipyard in action. Take a carriage ride through the gardens in summer, or come in December for a holiday lantern stroll. In the Preservation Shipyard, see antique vessels being restored using traditional methods and tools, or rent an historic rowboat to test the waters of the Mystic River yourself.

Minute Man National Historic Park: Once a year, in and around Concord and Lexington, Massachusetts, you can travel back to April 19th 1775 and the start of the American Revolution. On Patriot's Day weekend, British Redcoats and farmers march to the North Bridge in Concord. To see drill and musket firing demonstrations, cooking, life in the British Camp, 18th-century surgical demonstrations, and more, visit the 18th-Century Encampment of Militia and British Soldiers and colonial life at the Hartwell Tavern and Smith House.

Maine

The Pine Tree State

Top Five Things To Do



Acadia National Park

1 Visit Acadia National Park: Acadia National Park comprises an impressive 47,000 acres of land on Maine's Mount Desert Island, Isle au Haut and the Schoodic Peninsula. The park is most known for its undeniable beauty with a unique landscape that includes mountains, lakes and the rugged Downeast coastline. Home to a variety of wildlife and recreational activities from hiking to rock climbing, the park boasts some of the greatest views and activities in the state. Visitors can't miss Cadillac Mountain... the first place along the east coast you can witness the sun rise.

microbrews and spirits, making local breweries and distilleries with tasting rooms a popular destination. With wine bars, taverns and a lively nightlife to add to the list, Portland is a must-see (and taste) stop in Maine.



2 Sail on a Windjammer: Discover Maine's mid-coast and islands aboard an historic schooner. Take in the views of quaint harbours and the hustle and bustle of working waterfronts, lighthouses and the breathtaking views of the coast from the water. If you want, you can pitch in and help with hauling in sails and coiling ropes. The crews are entertaining and passionate about their lifestyle, and the food is prepared fresh and tasty. There is also plenty of time to relax and keep an eye out for porpoises and whales along the way, with nothing to intrude except the sound of the vessel's flapping sails.

4 Pedal to Lighthouses: From the seat of a bike, take in panoramic coastal views, whilst pedalling your way to some of Maine's most iconic lighthouses on a Summer Feet 5 Lighthouse Bike Tour. Along the way, whilst overlooking Casco Bay, learn about Portland's history and satisfy your hunger with one of Maine's best lobster rolls. The well-mapped five-hour tour is rated as easy, and one of the best ways to take in several lighthouses in a short span of time. Not only are maritime icons picturesque, they each offer a unique history and story.



3 Experience Portland's Dining & Beer Scene: With more than 200 restaurants scattered along the cobblestone streets of Portland's oldest and walkable neighbourhood, The Old Port, it's easy to find award-winning restaurants, local hidden gems, pubs nestled in restored historic buildings, street food and, it wouldn't be Maine without lobster shacks! It's not only the food that's exceptional - it's the drinks too. Maine's pure water yields some of the most diverse and quality

5 Paddle in the 100-Mile Wilderness: For adventure lovers, travel in to the Maine woods to experience pristine wilderness - surrounded only by lakes, streams, trees and wildlife. The wildest section of the Appalachian Trail, stretching from Monson to Maine's highest peak, Katahdin, offers some of the greatest paddling opportunities and unspoiled scenery in the state. From a canoe or kayak, explorers can take in this area within Baxter State Park by day and camp alongside the rushing waters by night, providing an unplugged, "off the grid" retreat. ■ www.visitmaine.com

New Hampshire The Granite State

Top Five Things To Do



1 Find your adventure:

In New Hampshire, an adventure could be as tame as moose-spotting or as intense as extreme backcountry skiing. No matter what your preference, everyone is encouraged to get off the main road and go deep into nature. In the coast, you can go Atlantic deep-sea fishing. Hiking and surprising landscapes inland draws visitors from around the world. New Hampshire boasts records including having the country's oldest hiking trail, the world's largest indoor surfing tank, and the world's first mountain climbing train. There are few places on Earth where adventure crosses paths with local heritage like this.



2 Shop Tax- Free:

That's correct...there is NO Sales Tax in New Hampshire! The price you see is the price you pay and you will be pleasantly surprised. Finding sales of the most well-known brands at major outlet centres is a daily occurrence. Looking for something more local? New Hampshire's League of New Hampshire Craftsmen and New Hampshire Made are two organizations with retail stores throughout the state. New Hampshire is most famous for its historic and quaint downtowns that are filled with cafes, galleries, and artisan shops so you could easily stumble into a gorgeous surprise in the countryside.

3 New England Cuisine:

Right off the tree and right out of the Atlantic Ocean - doesn't get any fresher. Some of the state's 'faves' include anything maple, cider donuts, pumpkin, creamy seafood chowders and delicious lobsters. This state loves its farmers' markets, chocolates, meads and brews! Help to harvest your meal's ingredients at a working farm or have a 5-course meal

prepared for you aboard the Café Lafayette Dinner Train. What about an inn-to-inn cookie tour in the mountains or a meal on the verandah of a grand resort? Make food and drink an experiential part of your holiday.



4 Sightsee...off the highway:

You can sightsee from the car window by following routes such as the narrated 100-mile (160 km) White Mountain Loop or sightsee in unconventional ways. There are more snowmobile trails than roads in New Hampshire. Visitors also enjoy views only possible from one of New Hampshire's 5 different scenic trains or one of the 12 different small lake, river, and ocean cruises. You might be surprised to learn that every June, bikers converge to sightsee New Hampshire during the oldest bike week rally in the United States, the Laconia Motorcycle Week. Sightseeing is a great excuse to see the countryside.



5 Celebrate like a local:

The best way to learn about local culture is to celebrate with the locals. You will listen to musical performers, taste the fried dough and other pastries, be among festive dress and décor, be dazzled by the artists and artisans who try to lure you with their talents, and look up at the same sky filled with fireworks. New Hampshire is fortunate to have events in every season, which makes for a perfect focal point to your holiday. Use the Seafood Festival or Craftsmen's Fair as your excuse to explore everything in this beautiful state. ■

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