



New England

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Best Places to Eat

- » Simon Pearce (p209)
- » Mezze Bistro + Bar (p193)
- » Frank Pepe's (p200)
- » Costantino's Venda Ravioli (p194)
- » Black Trumpet Bistro (p215)

Best Places to Stay

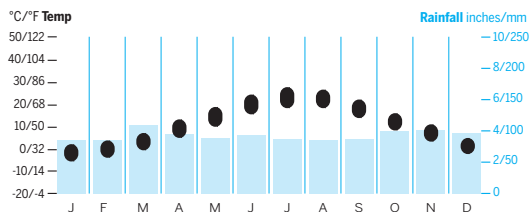
- » Omni Parker House (p167)
- » Carpe Diem (p184)
- » Willard Street Inn (p213)
- » Ale House Inn (p215)
- » Providence Biltmore (p194)

Why Go?

New England may look small on a map, but don't let that fool you. Yes, you could drive from one end to the other in a day but really, why would you want to? There are simply too many enticements along the way. The cities offer a vibrant mix of historical sites, chef-driven restaurants and Ivy League campuses. On the coast you'll find age-old fishing villages and sandy beaches begging a dip. Or head inland, where the northern states are as rural and rugged as the mountains that run up their spines. So take it slow. Crack open a lobster and let the sweet juices run down your fingers. Hike quiet trails. Or just get lost on a scenic back road and count the covered bridges. And if you're lucky enough to be here in autumn, you'll be rewarded with the most brilliant fall foliage you'll ever see.

When to Go

Boston



May–Jun Uncrowded sights and lightly trodden trails. Whale-watching begins.

Jul–Aug Top tourist season with summer festivals, warm ocean water and beach parties.

Fall New England's blazing foliage peaks from mid-September to mid-October.

Getting There & Around

Getting to New England is easy, but once you arrive you'll need a car if you want to explore the region thoroughly. The coastal I-95 and the inland I-91, the main north-south highways, transverse New England from Connecticut to Canada. Public transportation is fine between major cities but scarce in the countryside. **Greyhound** (www.greyhound.com) operates the most extensive bus service.

Amtrak's (www.amtrak.com) Northeast Corridor service connects Boston, Providence, Hartford and New Haven with New York City; smaller regional services operate elsewhere in New England.

Boston's **Logan International Airport** (BOS) is New England's main hub. **TF Green Airport** (PVD) in Providence, Rhode Island, and **Manchester Airport** (MHT) in New Hampshire – both about an hour's drive from Boston – are growing 'minihubs' boasting less congestion and cheaper fares.

NEW ENGLAND PARKS

Acadia National Park (p231), on the rugged, north-eastern coast of Maine, is the region's only national park but numerous other large tracts of New England's forest, mountains and shoreline are set aside for preservation and recreation.

The **White Mountain National Forest** (p218), a vast 800,000-acre expanse of New Hampshire and Maine, offers a wonderland of scenic drives, hiking trails, campgrounds and ski slopes. Vermont's **Green Mountain National Forest** (p208) covers 400,000 acres of unspoiled forest that's crossed by the Appalachian Trail. Another gem of nationally preserved lands is the **Cape Cod National Seashore** (p182), a 44,600-acre stretch of rolling dunes and stunning beaches that's perfect for swimming, cycling and seaside hikes.

State parks are plentiful throughout New England, ranging from green niches in urban locations to the remote, untamed wilderness of **Baxter State Park** (p235) in northern Maine.

Seafood Specialties

- » **Clam chowder** Or, as Bostonians say, *chow-dah*, combines chopped clams, potatoes and clam juice in a milk base
- » **Oysters** Served raw on the half-shell or, for the less intrepid, broiled; sweetest are Wellfleet oysters from Cape Cod
- » **Steamers** Soft-shelled clams steamed and served in a bucket of briny broth
- » **Clambake** A meal of steamed lobster, clams and corn on the cob

DON'T MISS

You can't leave New England without cracking open a steamed lobster at a beachside seafood shack, such as the Lobster Dock in Boothbay Harbor.

Fast Facts

- » Hub cities: Boston (population 617,600), Providence (population 178,000)
- » Boston to Acadia National Park: 310 miles
- » Time zone: Eastern
- » States covered in this chapter: Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine

Did You Know?

Four of the six US states that have legalized gay marriage are in New England.

Resources

- » Discover New England (www.discovernewengland.org) links to destinations throughout New England.
- » Yankee Magazine's fall foliage guide (www.yankee-foliage.com) gives foliage forecasts and scenic drives.