

New England

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Best Places to Eat

- Giacomo's Ristorante (p182)
- Chatham Fish Pier Market (p192)
- Nudel (p203)
- Haven Brothers Diner (p206)
- Hen of the Wood (p223)

Best Places to Stay

- Harborside Inn (p180)
- Carpe Diem (p195)
- Hopkins Inn (p215)
- Sea Breeze Inn (p209)
- Inn at Shelburne Farms (p225)

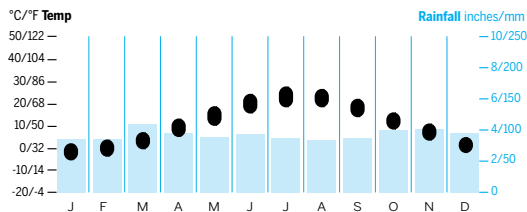
Why Go?

Sure, you could drive from one end of New England to the other in a day, but why would you want to? Let the region's many diversions slow you down. 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. Heading inland, the northern states are as rural and rugged as the mountains that run up their spines.

So take it easy. 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.

Sep-Oct 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 (☎ 800-872-7245; www.amtrak.com) has a Northeast Corridor service that 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, RI, and Manchester Airport (MHT) in New Hampshire – both about an hour's drive from Boston – are growing 'minihubs' with less congestion and cheaper fares.

NEW ENGLAND PARKS

Acadia National Park (p243), on the rugged, northeastern 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 (p229) is a vast 800,000-acre expanse of New Hampshire and Maine, offering a wonderland of scenic drives, hiking trails, campgrounds and ski slopes. Vermont's Green Mountain National Forest (p219) covers 400,000 acres of unspoiled forest. Both are crossed by the Appalachian Trail.

Another gem of federally protected land is the Cape Cod National Seashore (p193), 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 (p247) 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

Don't leave New England without cracking open a steamed lobster at a beachside seafood shack, such as the Lobster Dock (p241) in Boothbay Harbor.

Fast Facts

- ➔ **Hub cities** Boston (population 636,000), Providence (population 178,000)
- ➔ **Time zone** Eastern
- ➔ **Highest point** Mt Washington (6288ft)
- ➔ **Miles of coastline** 4965

Faux Pas

Don't mock, mimic or otherwise imitate a local's accent. New Englanders know they talk differently from other Americans, but they don't care.

Resources

- ➔ **Yankee Magazine** (www.yankeemagazine.com) Great destination profiles, recipes and events.
- ➔ **Mountain Summits** (www.mountainsummits.com) Everything you need to plan a hike in the New England hills.
- ➔ **Maine Lobster Council** (www.lobsterfrommaine.com) How to catch, order, buy, prepare and eat lobster.