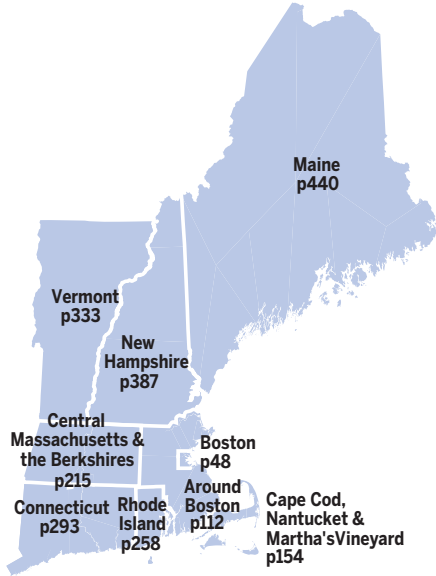


ON THE ROAD

YOUR COMPLETE DESTINATION GUIDE
In-depth reviews, detailed listings
and insider tips

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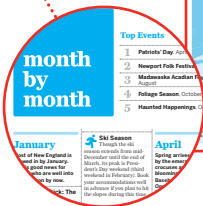
Mara Vorhees,
Glenda Bendure, Ned Friary, Emily Matchar,
Freda Moon, Caroline Sieg

PLAN YOUR TRIP

YOUR PLANNING TOOL KIT

Photos, itineraries, lists and suggestions to help you put together your perfect trip

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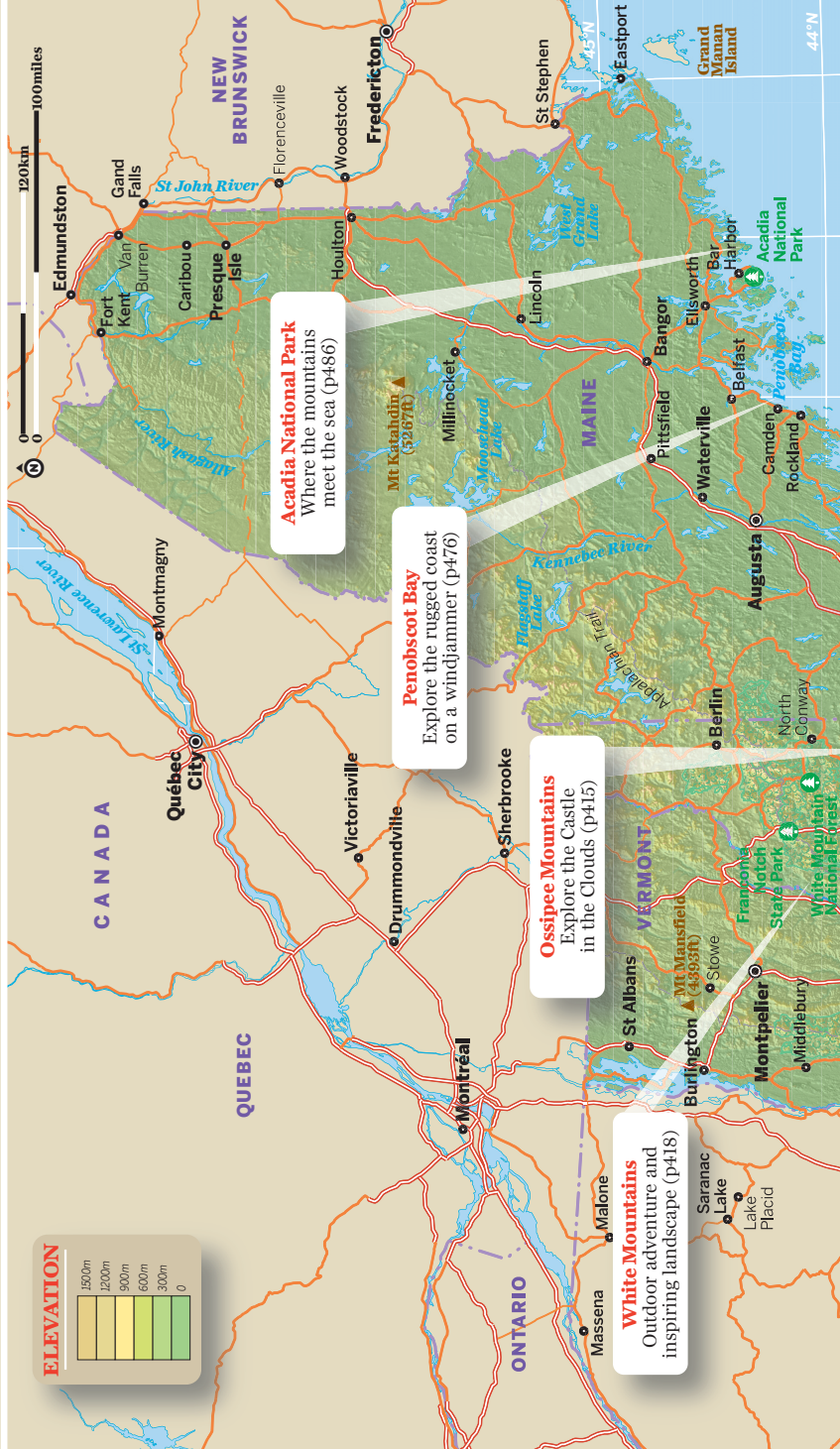
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GET MORE FROM YOUR TRIP

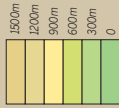
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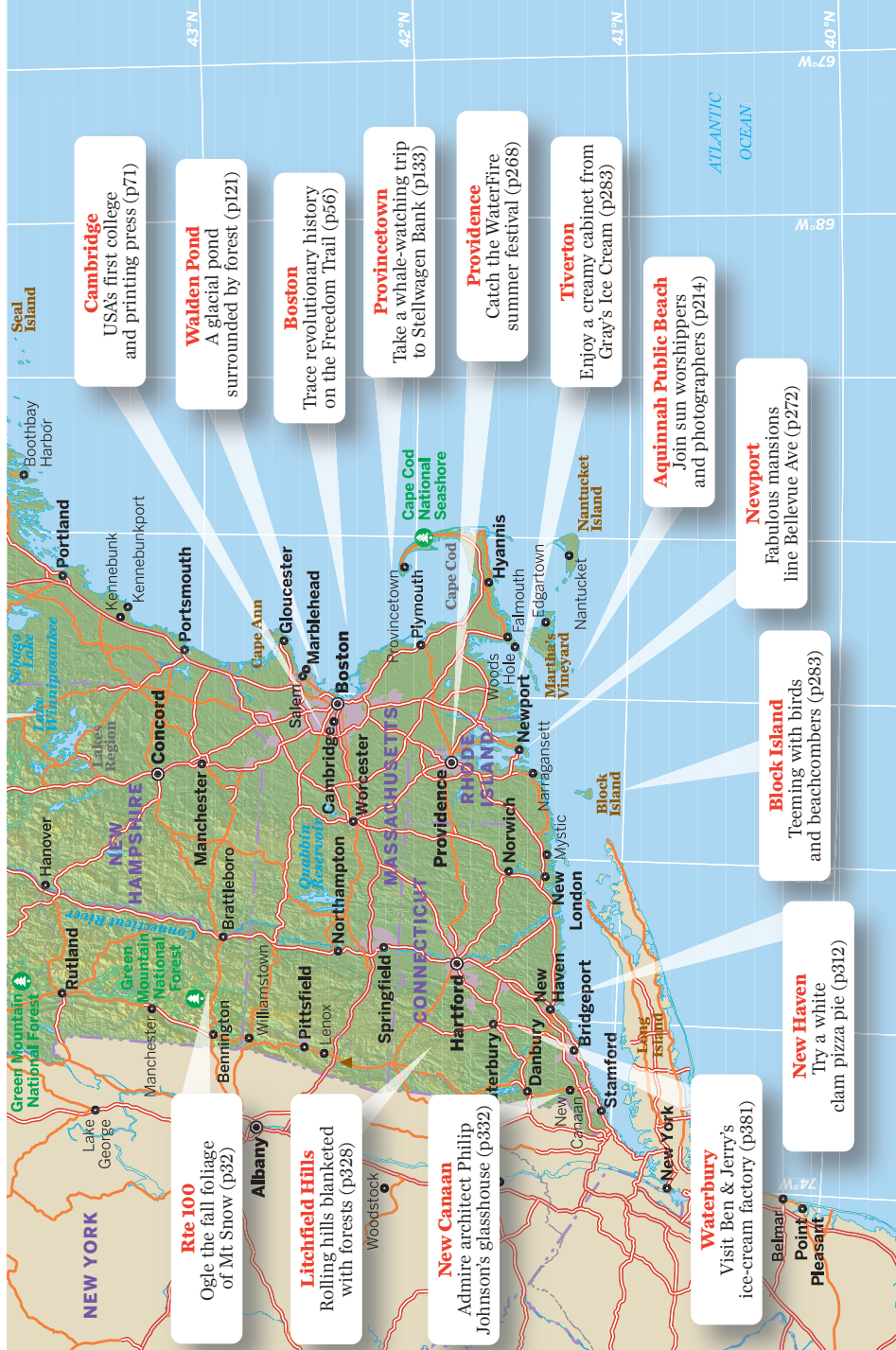


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Point Pleasant

ATLANTIC OCEAN

M-89

67°W
40°N

43°N

42°N

41°N

74°W

Seal Island

Boothbay Harbor

Portland

Kennebunk
Kennebunkport

Portsmouth

Cape Ann

Gloucester

Marblehead

Boston

Cambridge

Worcester

Provincetown

Plymouth

Cape Cod National Seashore

Hyannis

Falmouth

Woods Hole

Edgartown

Martha's Vineyard

Nantucket

Nantucket

Hanover

Rutland

Manchester

Brattleboro

Williamstown

Pittsfield

Lenox

Springfield

Hartford

Merbury

Danbury

New Canaan

Haven

Bridgeport

Stamford

New York

Belmar

Point Pleasant

Sage Lake
Hillman Reservoir

Lakes Region
Connecticut River

Green Mountain National Forest

Quabbin Reservoir

MASSACHUSETTS

CONNECTICUT

PROVIDENCE

RIHODE ISLAND

Block Island

Long Island

Atlantic Ocean



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Our author's recommendation



A green or sustainable option



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itineraries

Whether you've got six days or 60, these itineraries provide a starting point for the trip of a lifetime. Want more inspiration? Head online to lonelyplanet.com/thorntree to chat with other travelers.



Two Weeks

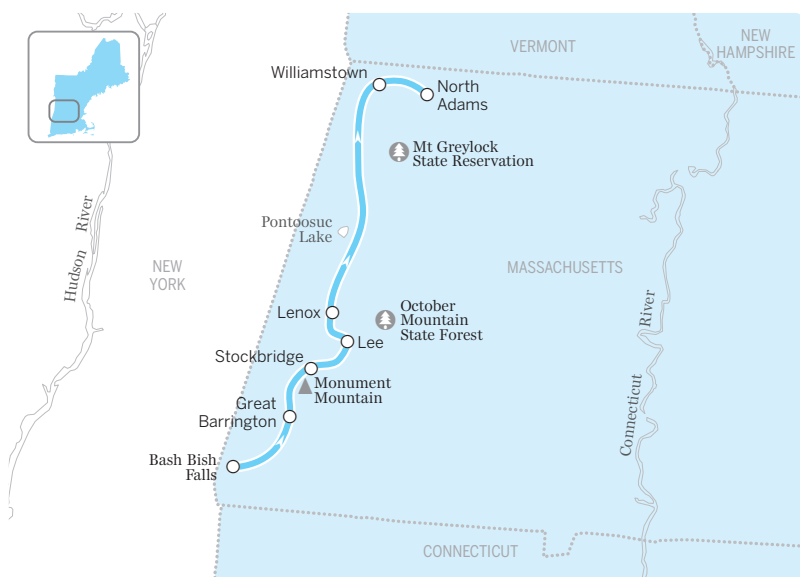
New England Loop

Spend a few days strolling the historic streets of **Boston**, then head up the coast, stopping for witch history and maritime lore in **Salem** or hitting the beaches on **Plum Island**. Your next destination is **Portland**, a hot spot for live music and live lobsters.

After a few days on the coast, head inland and drive west along the scenic Kancamagus Hwy, stopping for a hike in the **White Mountain National Forest**. You will eventually hit **Franconia Notch State Park**, packed with opportunities for hiking, skiing or ogling spectacular scenery.

Take Rte 25 northwest to the quaint capital of **Montpelier**. Continue northwest on I-89 to **Burlington**, with stunning views of Lake Champlain and the Adirondacks. Head south, stopping in **Middlebury**, a precious college town with buildings bathed in marble.

Crossing into Western Massachusetts, stop in **Williamstown** and neighboring **North Adams** to admire the contemporary art at MASS MoCA; and in **Lenox** to hear some tunes at Tanglewood. Hop on the turnpike and you're back in Boston quicker than you can say, 'That was wicked awesome.'



One Week

Back to the Berkshires

Few places in America combine high culture with rural countryside as well as the Berkshires. On summer weekends, when the sidewalks are scorching, city dwellers jump in their cars and head for the cool Berkshire breezes to hike, bike, canoe, swim and scavenge for antiques.

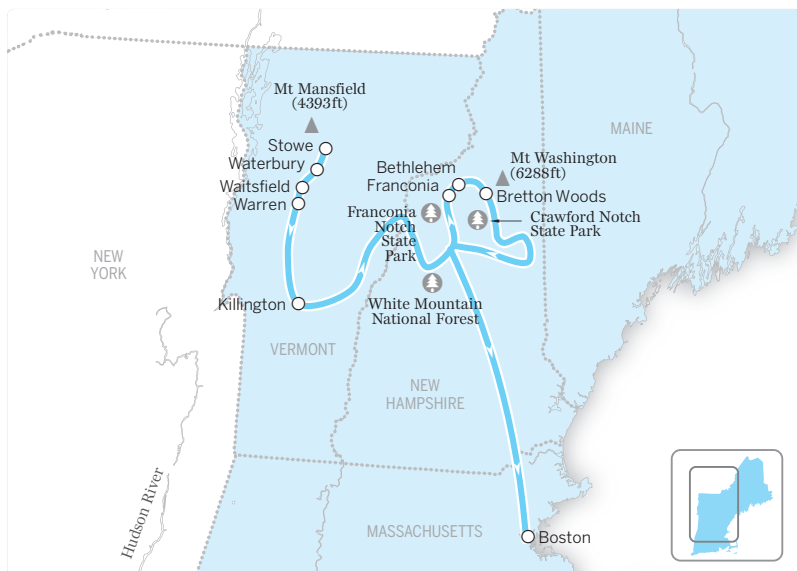
Hop off the turnpike and take US 20 west into **Lee** for a study in the 'old' Berkshires – where Norman Rockwell was inspired by a real-life scene at a local diner to paint his famous picture *The Runaway*. Your first outing is the 16,500-acre **October Mountain State Forest**, the largest tract of green space in the state. For more Rockwellian New England, visit the artist's museum in **Stockbridge**.

Heading south on US 7, vistas start opening up and the lazy Housatonic River begins ambling across the road. Consider taking one of two summit trails up **Monument Mountain**, following in the footsteps of Nathaniel Hawthorne and Herman Melville. Stop for lunch and a spot of shopping in trendy **Great Barrington**. If your feet are not too tired, you can take a detour to Mt Washington State Forest to hike to **Bash Bish Falls**, a scenic waterfall that plunges down a 1000ft gorge.

Backtracking north, your next stop is **Lenox**, where you can spend the evening sitting on the lawn and listening to a concert at Tanglewood. Recover from yesterday's strenuous hikes with some yoga and meditation at Kripalu.

Between stops for farm-stand produce on US 7, you might linger at **Pontoosuc Lake**, with the Taconic Mountains serving as a dramatic backdrop. Five miles south of **Williamstown** you'll start swooning over the magnificent views: fields crisscrossed by rock walls and dotted by farmhouses, with a church spire here, plenty of grazing cows there. Dominated by prestigious Williams College, this academic enclave has an outstanding art museum, a renowned summer-stock theater and quiet country roads that are excellent for cycling.

No Berkshires road trip would be complete without exploring **Mt Greylock State Reservation**, with 45 miles of hiking trails (including a few to the state's highest summit). Without a doubt, continue east along MA 2 to **North Adams** to explore MASS MoCA, the largest gallery in the US.



One Week

Mountain Meander

Drive up I-93 from **Boston** to **Franconia Notch State Park**, where you can hike down the Flume, ride a tramway up Cannon Mountain and see what little remains of the Old Man of the Mountain. Spend the night at one of many welcoming inns in **Franconia** or **Bethlehem**, and don't miss dinner at the creative Cold Mountain Cafe.

The next day, journey east on Rte 302, enjoying spectacular views of the White Mountains all around. Stop at the historic Mount Washington Hotel at **Bretton Woods**. This is the base for a ride on the Cog Railway to the top of **Mt Washington**, New England's highest peak. Or, if you prefer to make the climb on your own two feet, continue on Rte 302 to **Crawford Notch State Park**, the trailhead for countless hikes in the area.

To give your legs a break, drive west across the **White Mountain National Forest** on the spectacular Kancamagus Hwy and hook up with I-89, which will take you across the border into Vermont. Along this route, the tireless will find even more opportunities for hiking, camping and otherwise outdoor adventuring.

Expansive vistas unfold with abandon as you approach the Green Mountains. Cut over to **Killington**, great for wintertime skiing and summertime mountain biking. Continue north on VT 100, which is often called 'the spine of the state.' Snaking north through the mountains, this classic route feels like a backcountry road, littered with cow-strewn meadows and white-steeped churches. Spend a few hours or a few days exploring this route, turning off on the gap roads and stopping in any number of tiny towns along the way. Don't miss **Warren** and **Waitsfield**, excellent for browsing art galleries and antique shops. If you're ready for more adventure, there's mountain biking, horseback riding, hang gliding and of course skiing at nearby Mad River Glen and Sugarbush ski resorts.

Outdoor enthusiasts should sidle on up to **Stowe**, as its looming **Mt Mansfield** is the outdoor capital of northern Vermont. After exerting yourself sledding or skiing, biking or hiking, indulge in some Ben & Jerry's ice cream from the factory in **Waterbury**. Now, having climbed many peaks, skied many slopes and snapped many photos, you can hop back on I-89 and motor back to Boston.



Two Weeks

Coastal New England

New England is intrinsically tied to the sea – historically, commercially and emotionally. To see this connection firsthand, just follow the coastline. Spend a day in **Mystic**, where the unmissable Mystic Seaport Museum brings to life a 19th-century maritime village. Nearby, in quaint **Stonington**, the Old Lighthouse Museum is perched on the peninsula's tip.

The following day, catch the ferry to **Block Island**, where you can ride your bike, greet some piping plovers and hit the beach. In **Newport**, meander along the Cliff Walk and admire the mansions of a previous century. Afterwards, explore ye olde downtown and spend the evening on Thames St.

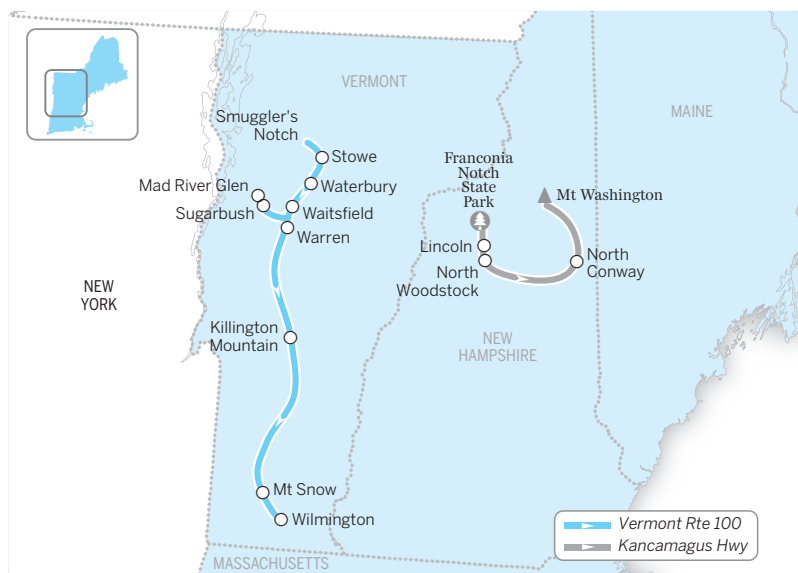
Continuing north, dip into Cape Cod briefly at **Falmouth**, where you can check out a lovely lighthouse and plenty of historic houses surrounding a picture-perfect town green. Don't miss the world-famous oceanographic institute at **Woods Hole**. And don't forget to sample the oysters.

Stop at **Plymouth** to relive the Pilgrims' transatlantic voyage and experience a replica of their early settlement at Plimoth Plantation. Then head north to **Boston**, a city that has recently rediscovered its connection to the sea. Follow the HarborWalk along the water's edge from Christopher Columbus Park, stopping at the New England Aquarium and the Institute for Contemporary Art. The following day, board a ferry out to the Harbor Islands.

Continue northward to **Marblehead** and **Salem**, both rich in maritime history. Don't miss the Peabody Essex Museum and its wonderful maritime exhibit. To glimpse New England's fishing industry at work – and to sample its culinary treats – journey to **Gloucester**. This is also your jumping-off point for a whale-watching cruise to Stellwagen Bank.

The New Hampshire seacoast is scant, but not without merit: frolic among the waves and visit historic **Portsmouth**.

Explore the handsome buildings of **Portland**, as well as the Portland Head Light and the Portland Museum of Art. Venture into the lovely (but crowded) **Boothbay Harbor** for a harbor cruise. Stop in **Camden** to take a windjammer cruise and clamber to the top of Camden Hills State Park for fine views. Beautiful **Bar Harbor** and **Acadia National Park** are the northernmost and overall highlights of the New England coast.



Three Days

Vermont Rte 100

Vermont's scenic highway VT 100 snakes north from the Massachusetts border along the backbone of the Green Mountains. The rolling farmlands are as green as billiard felt, lining backcountry roads where the only traffic is the farmer's tractor. Heading north from **Wilmington**, your first destination is either **Mt Snow** or **Killington Mountain**, both prime for skiing (obviously), as well as hiking and mountain biking. After all that physical exertion, reward yourself with a tour and tasting at the Long Trail Brewing Company.

Continuing north, the tiny towns of **Warren** and **Waittsfield** are places where time has stood still. The same holds true for **Mad River Glen** and **Sugarbush**, resorts that feature old-time skiing on hand-cut trails.

A brilliant stretch of VT 100 continues through the Mad River Valley: barns hug the roadside, silos stand guarding disappearing family farms and Mt Mansfield looms in the distance. The old town of **Waterbury** isn't much to write home about, but you'll return here to pick up the highway. Spend your last day in **Stowe**, packed with outdoorsy opportunities. Before heading home, drive up VT 108 through the rocky gorge known as **Smuggler's Notch**.

Three Days

Kancamagus Hwy

The Kancamagus Hwy (NH 112) is a beautiful wilderness road over Kancamagus Pass, which cuts through the heart of the White Mountain National Forest. Before setting out on the highway, head north on I-93 through Franconia Notch, a narrow gorge shaped aeons ago by a wild stream cutting through craggy granite. The surrounding **Franconia Notch State Park** will keep you busy for a day, riding the aerial tramway or hiking the Mt Pemigewasset Trail. Spend the night in **North Woodstock** or **Lincoln**, twin towns that anchor the west end of the 'Kanc.'

The winding Kancamagus Hwy – utterly unspoiled by commercial development – was built as logging roads in the 19th century. Spend a leisurely day cruising, pulling off for scenic overlooks and stopping to hike to hidden waterfalls or picnic alongside a swimming hole.

The Kanc's eastern terminus is Conway, but the region's activities capital is **North Conway**, 5 miles north, where traffic moves at a glacial pace. Use this town as your base to explore **Mt Washington**, whether you drive up the auto road or hike up one of the trails.



Three Days Cape Cod Rte 6A

Only have three days to spare? Welcome to the club. Bostonians head down to the Cape for long weekends throughout the year. After you've successfully fought the bridge traffic (in summer and on holiday weekends, stop in **Sandwich** to chill out at the tranquil Shawme Pond, poke around the oldest house on the cape and visit a renowned glass museum. Slide slowly down Rte 6A, popping into antique shops and turning left toward Cape Cod Bay wherever it suits your fancy. Stop in **Yarmouth Port** to walk the Grey's Beach boardwalk across a marsh to broad views of sand and sea. In **Brewster**, stop at the Brewster Store and Nickerson State Park, and walk the tidal flats. Have a picnic lunch overlooking Rock Harbor or at Nauset Beach in **Orleans**.

If you have fantasies about finding the perfect beach, spend an afternoon at the **Cape Cod National Seashore**. Bayside or oceanside, the artsy **Wellfleet** is a charmer. At night, however, there's only one place to be: **Provincetown**. Stay for a whale watch and learn about the painters and authors who continue to summer here.

Five Days Maine Rte 1

From **Boston**, take I-93 North to I-95 North, and cross the Piscataqua River into **Kittery**. If shopping isn't your bag, keep going. Your first stop will be family-friendly **Ogunquit**, known for its 3-mile sand beach and its gay culture. Alternatively, spend a day exploring the posh **Kennebunks** or playing at honky-tonk **Old Orchard Beach**. Rife with cobblestone streets, brick buildings and gas lanterns, **Portland** begs for exploration and rewards with excellent restaurants, shops and museums.

Continuing north, you're now entering Midcoast Maine, the section celebrated for dramatic coastlines, friendly seaside villages, thick pine forests and lots of outdoor activities. Detour off US 1 to **Pemaquid Point**; artists flock here to capture the beauty of the grainy igneous rock formations and the dramatically placed Pemaquid Light. Either **Rockland** or **Camden** is a required stop so you can set sail on a windjammer cruise. At Ellsworth, detour south on ME 3 so you can take a circle tour of **Mt Desert Island**. This is where mountains of spruce forest rush into meet fingers of deep water. Spend some time hiking or biking in **Acadia National Park** and spend the night in Maine's oldest summer resort, **Bar Harbor**.



Freda Moon

Connecticut, Rhode Island Before moving to Connecticut for a direct-from-journalism-school newsroom job, Freda had only seen the state through the window of a speeding train. She endured the desk life for just one year before hightailing it to Central America in search of international intrigue. But New England's strengths, weaknesses and eccentricities remained a fascination. In returning to the region's southern states, she has relearned two life lessons: the

best seafood is always found at places that smell of fish guts and seagull guano and 'quaint' is, indeed, a synonym for 'ungodly expensive.' Freda's journalism and travel writing can be seen at www.fredamoon.com.



Caroline Sieg

New Hampshire, Vermont Caroline's relationship with New England began when she briefly lived in Boston and her best friend moved to New Hampshire. Subsequent trips to the region yielded countless hikes in the White Mountains, lobster-filled afternoons, excessive beer- and cheese-tasting in Vermont, bean-hole suppers and a profound obsession with blueberry pie and apple-cider donuts. She also believes one of the best ways to embrace the area is to explore

its ubiquitous lakes and waterways by boat. (She's had the luxury of testing out this theory during numerous sunset cruises tooling around Silver Lake on a very special antique vessel named *The Hustle*.) These days, Caroline hangs her hat in Berlin, Germany, but she visits New England as often as she can. Caroline also wrote the Directory and Transportation chapters.



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Melbourne, London and Oakland, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



Mara Vorhees

Coordinating Author, Boston, Around Boston Born and raised in St Clair Shores, Michigan, Mara traveled the world (if not the universe) before finally settling in 'the Hub.' She spent several years pushing papers and tapping keys at Harvard University, but she has since embraced the life of a full-time travel writer, traveling to destinations as diverse as Russia and Belize. She now lives in a pink house in Somerville, Massachusetts, with her husband, two kiddies and two kitties.

She is often spotted sipping Sam Seasonal in Union Square and pedaling her road bike along the River Charles. The pen-wielding traveler is the author of Lonely Planet's *Boston City Guide* and *Boston Encounter*, among others. She has also written for *National Geographic Traveler* and the travel section of the *Boston Globe*. Follow her adventures online at www.maravorhees.com.



Ned Friary & Glenda Bendure

Cape Cod, Nantucket & Martha's Vineyard, Central Massachusetts & the Berkshires

Although Ned and Glenda have traveled far and wide, when it finally came time to plant a garden, they zeroed in on Cape Cod. Over the years, they've explored their chosen home from one end to the other, leaving few rocks unturned. They've searched for the best lobster roll, canoed the marshes, stayed in old sea captains' homes on Nantucket, and hiked and biked the trails. And when summer comes around it's a rare day that passes without a dip in the sea. Ned's college days were spent in Amherst and working in his old stomping ground always feels like a homecoming of sorts. Ned and Glenda have written extensively about the region and are the authors of the New England chapter of Lonely Planet's *USA* guide.



Emily Matchar

Maine Though a Southerner by birth, Emily spent several years living amid the Yankees of New England. She learned to love their ways, especially as they relate to lobster, boating and wearing belts adorned with tiny whales; the whole 'swimming in freezing cold seawater' thing, not so much. Chapel Hill, North Carolina, is her current port of call, where she writes for a number of national magazines, newspapers and websites. She's contributed to more than half

a dozen Lonely Planet titles, including *USA*, *Canada*, *Mexico* and *The Carolinas, Georgia & the South Trips*.

OVER MORE
PAGE WRITERS

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