

# › Understand New England

## **NEW ENGLAND TODAY .....504**

A regional transformation is being fueled by new industries, new immigrants and renewed interest in both city and country living.

## **HISTORY .....507**

The history of New England is the history of America: 400 years of political, philosophical, industrial and technological revolution.

## **NEW ENGLAND LITERATURE..... 518**

The region's rich literary tradition runs the gamut from groundbreaking philosophy to thought-provoking poetry to spine-tingling horror.

## **BACK TO SCHOOL .....523**

Hundreds of colleges and universities provide New England with an annual influx of energy and an ever-active incubator for ideas.

## **BEYOND BAKED BEANS ..... 527**

Old-fashioned recipes and new international influences bring out the best in farm-fresh produce and ocean-fresh seafood.

## **APPALACHIAN TRAIL .....532**

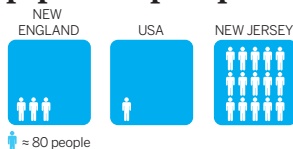
A hiking trail like no other, the Appalachian Trail crosses three mountain ranges and five states in New England.

## **BASEBALL IN NEW ENGLAND .....535**

America's favorite pastime has deep roots in New England, and today's baseball fans still have a lot to cheer about.



## population per sq mile



# New England Today

You're likely to return from New England with an album of images: white-clapboard churches on greens; redbrick buildings on leafy college campuses; granite mountains ablaze with fall colors; and fishing boats with peeling paint. New England today is all that, and more.

## East Coast Liberals

New England is politically liberal. That said, a lasting strain of independent politics is evident in New England's northern states, sustained by fiscal conservatism, social libertarianism and a healthy suspicion of politics. In 2010 the Massachusetts Senate race captured the nation's attention when pickup driving, independent-voting Republican Scott Brown was elected to replace stalwart liberal Ted Kennedy after 47 years.

One of the most definitive features is the region's supportive political climate for social reformers, carrying on a legacy that includes 19th-century abolitionists, 20th-century suffragettes and 21st-century gay-rights advocates. The region has recently been at the forefront of countless 'progressive' issues, including antismoking legislation (smoking in the workplace is illegal in all six states) and health care (the national legislation enacted in 2010 was modeled after a pre-existing system of universal healthcare in Massachusetts). Four out of six states have legalized some form of same-sex union (an act that other states in the US are outlawing).

## Cultural Diversity

New England is increasingly international. Irish, Italian and Portuguese communities have been well established in the urban areas since the 19th century. In more recent years, New England cities have continued to attract immigrants from non-European origins: you can hear Caribbean rhythms in Hartford, Connecticut, and Springfield, Massa-

Three quarters of the region's population live in southern New England, home to its biggest cities. Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut are three of the country's four most densely populated states, with 80% to 90% of their populations living in urban areas.

## Top Films

**Good Will Hunting** (1998) A blue-collar boy from South Boston who becomes a math savant at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**The Cider House Rules** (2000) Won Michael Caine an Academy

Award for his role as a doctor in an orphanage in rural Maine.

**Mystic River** (2006) The story of three friends who are thrown together in adulthood when one of their daughters is murdered in Boston.

## Faux Pas

» Don't mock, mimic or otherwise imitate a local's accent. New Englanders know they talk differently than you do, but they don't care.

» Don't 'pahk your cah in Hahvahd Yahd.' You're not funny and your car will get towed.