



New England



THIS EDITION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY

Mara Vorhees,

Gregor Clark, Ned Friary, Paula Hardy, Caroline Sieg

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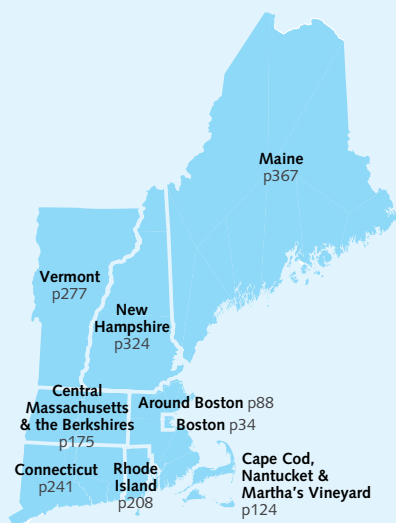
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On the Road





Portland
Lit up by America's
oldest lighthouse (p377)

Boston
History and eye-catching
architecture (p34)

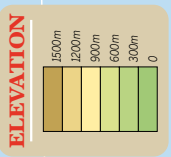
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refreshing surf (p166)

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Fabulous mansions
along Cliff Walk (p222)

Lenox
Open-air classical music
at Tanglewood (p201)

Litchfield Hills
Rolling hills blanketed
with forests (p272)





Caroline Sieg

[New Hampshire, Maine](#) Caroline Sieg is a half-Swiss, half-American writer. Her relationship with New England began when she first lived in Boston and her best friend moved to New Hampshire and she began heading up to Maine for foodie treats and windswept coastal walks. She was delighted to return to the land of lobster and blueberry pies for Lonely Planet.

Read more about Caroline at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/carolinesieg



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, covering destinations as diverse as Russia and Belize. She lives in a pink house in Somerville, Massachusetts, with her husband, two kiddies and two kitties. She

is often seen eating doughnuts in Union Sq and pedaling her bike along the Charles River. The pen-wielding traveler is the author of Lonely Planet's *Boston* guide, among other titles. Follow her adventures online at www.havetwinswilltravel.com.



Gregor Clark

Vermont Gregor Clark fell in love with Vermont at age 16, while working as a summer conservation volunteer in the state's southwestern corner. His long-held dreams of moving to the Green Mountain State came to fruition in 1997, and he's been here ever since. A lifelong polyglot with a degree in Romance languages, Gregor has written regularly for Lonely Planet since 2000, with a focus on Europe and Latin America. He lives with his wife and two daughters in Middlebury, Vermont.



Ned Friary

Cape Cod, Nantucket & Martha's Vineyard, Central Massachusetts & the Berkshires Ned's college days were spent in Amherst, and traveling around his old stomping grounds always feels like a homecoming of sorts. He now lives on Cape Cod and has explored the region from one end to the other, searching out the best lobster roll, canoeing the marshes, and hiking and cycling the trails. His favorite moment while researching this book: catching the sunset over the Connecticut River Valley from the summit at Skinner State Park.



Paula Hardy

Rhode Island, Connecticut The British half of an American-British couple, Paula spends a lot of time hopping across the pond, torn between the bright lights of London town and Boston, where weekending in the New England countryside is a near-weekly activity. Research for this book though took her way off the beaten path into Connecticut's dairy barns, lobster shacks (yum!) and wine-tasting rooms, and Rhode Island's tiny East Bay villages and breezy Block Island cycling trails – the lasting memories of Baggio defeats and Mudslide sundowners won't be easily forgotten.

OVER MORE PAGE WRITERS

Published by Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd

ABN 36 005 607 983

7th edition – Mar 2014

ISBN 978 1 74220 300 3

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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in China

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Plan Your Trip

Itineraries



10
DAYS

Fall Foliage

The brilliance of fall in New England is legendary. Scarlet and sugar maples, ash, birch, beech, dogwood, tulip tree, oak and sassafras all contribute to the carnival of autumn color.

Start in Connecticut's **Kent**. Hike up Cobble Mountain in Macedonia Brook State Park for sweeping views of the forested hills against a backdrop of the Taconic and Catskill mountain ranges. Heading north on Rte 7, stop at **Housatonic Meadows State Park** to snap a photo of the Cornwall Bridge, then continue into Massachusetts.

Blanketing the westernmost part of the state, the rounded mountains of the Berkshires turn crimson and gold as early as mid-September. Set up camp in **Great Barrington**, a formerly industrial town now populated with art galleries and upscale restaurants. It's a good base for exploring **October Mountain State Forest**, a multicolored tapestry of hemlocks, birches and oaks. This reserve's name – attributed to Herman Melville – gives a good indication of when this park is at its loveliest.

Cruising north from Great Barrington, you pass through the Berkshires' most charming towns: **Stockbridge**, **Lenox**





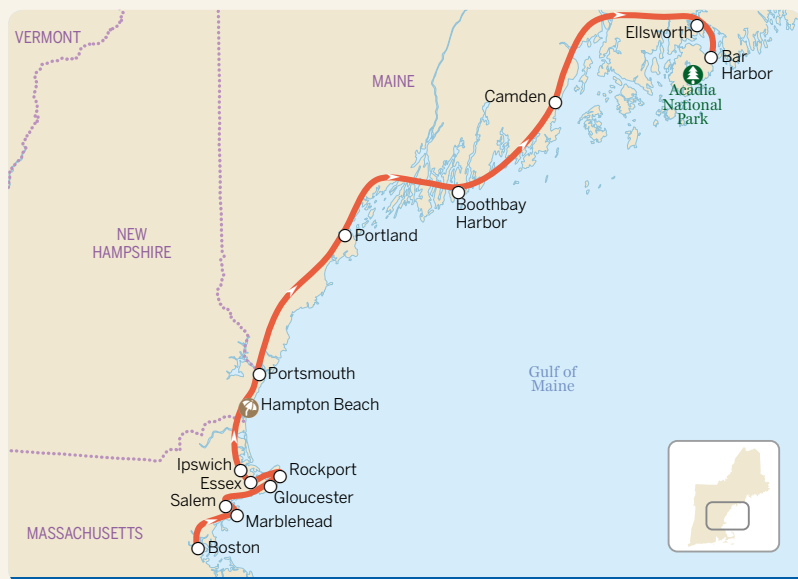
Maple trees, Vermont

and **Williamstown**. Stop for a few hours or days for fine dining, shopping and cultural offerings. Dedicate at least one day to **Mt Greylock State Reservation**: the summit offers a panorama stretching up to 100 miles across more than five states.

Cross into Vermont and continue north through the historic villages of **Bennington** and **Manchester**. For fall foliage views head to the top of **Mt Equinox**, where the 360-degree panorama includes the Adirondacks and the lush Battenkill Valley. Continue north to **Burlington**, your base for frolicking on Lake Champlain, and sail away on a schooner for offshore foliage views.

Head southeast through Montpelier and continue into New Hampshire. Your destination is **Bretton Woods**, where you can admire the foliage from the porch of the historic hotel or from a hanging sky bridge. Then make your way to the summit of **Mt Washington**, whether by car, by train or on foot.

When you're ready to come down from the clouds, descend into **North Conway**. Many of the town's restaurants and inns offer expansive views of the nearby mountains, making it an ideal place to wrap up a fall foliage tour.



2
WEEKS

Coastal New England



JEFF FOOTY / GETTY IMAGES ©

New England is intrinsically tied to the sea – historically, commercially and emotionally. To see this connection firsthand, just follow the coastline.

Start in **Boston**; 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 next day, board a ferry out to the Harbor Islands.

Head north 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 sample its culinary treats) journey to **Gloucester**. This is your jumping-off point for a whale-watching cruise to Stellwagen Bank.

Circle around Cape Ann to discover the charms of the **Rockport** and the mysteries of Dogtown. Then continue up the coast to frolic in the waves at Crane Beach in **Ipswich** and feast on fried clams in **Essex**.

The New Hampshire seacoast is scant, but not without merit: walk the boardwalk at **Hampton Beach** and admire the old houses in historic **Portsmouth**.

In Maine, spend a day or two exploring **Portland**. Eat, drink and shop the Old Port District and check out the collection at the Portland Museum of Art. Don't leave town without snapping a photo of the Portland Head Light on Cape Elizabeth. Continuing north, stroll around lovely (but crowded) **Boothbay Harbor**, perhaps stopping for a seafood lunch on the harbor.

Don't miss a stop in pretty **Camden**, where you can take a windjammer cruise up the rocky coast. When you return to dry land, clamber to the top of Mt Battie in Camden Hills State Park, for sweeping views of Penobscot Bay.

End your trip in beautiful **Bar Harbor** and **Acadia National Park**, which are highlights of the New England coast. You'll have no problem occupying yourself for a weekend or a week, exploring Mt Desert Island's beautiful scenery while hiking, biking, kayaking, camping and more. For a fun and delicious detour, head to the Trenton Bridge Lobster Pound in **Ellsworth**. This is your last chance to get your fill of fresh Maine lobster, so tie on your bib and enjoy.



PAUL THOMPSON / GETTY IMAGES ©

Top: Acadia National Park (p403)
Bottom: Boothbay Harbor (p392)

1
WEEK

Mountain Meander

PLAN YOUR TRIP ITINERARIES

If you long to breathe pure mountain air and gaze over mountain majesty, follow this route through the region's most glorious peaks.

Start your Mountain Meander at **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 a few nights at one of many welcoming inns in **Franconia** or **Bethlehem** and don't miss dinner at the creative Cold Mountain Cafe.

The next day, head east on Rte 302, relishing the spectacular views of the White Mountains. 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 access point for countless hikes in the area.

To give your legs a break, drive west across the **White Mountain National Forest** on the scenic Kancamagus Hwy. This route offers countless opportunities for hiking, camping and other outdoor adventuring. Otherwise, just enjoy the scenery and motor through to I-93, continuing southwest into Vermont.

Expansive vistas unfold with abandon as you approach the Green Mountains on US 4. Continue on to **Killington**, for a day of wintertime skiing or summertime mountain biking.

Continue north on VT 100, often called 'the spine of the state.' Snaking north through the mountains, this classic route feels like a back-country road, littered with cow-strewn meadows and white-steepled churches. Spend a few hours or a few days exploring, 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, while the nearby ski resorts offer mountain biking and horseback riding.

Sidle up to **Stowe**, where looming **Mt Mansfield** is the outdoor capital of northern Vermont. After exerting yourself sledding or skiing, cycling or hiking, indulge in some Ben & Jerry's ice cream from the factory in **Waterbury**. After climbing many peaks, skiing many slopes and snapping many photos, you've earned it.

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Top: Railway in Crawford Notch State Park (p363)
Bottom: Waterway off the Kancamagus Hwy (p353),
White Mountain National Forest



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