

Welcome to New England

Mount spectacular summits and feel ocean breezes. Tantalize your taste buds with succulent seafood and sweet maple syrup. Relish history and high culture.

History

The history of New England is the history of America. It's the Pilgrims who came ashore at Plymouth Rock and the minutemen who fought for American independence. It's the ponderings of Ralph Waldo Emerson and the protests of Harriet Beecher Stowe. It's hundreds of years of poets and philosophers, progressive thinkers who dared to dream and dared to do. It is generations of immigrants who have shaped New England into the dynamic region that it is today.

Outdoor Adventure

New England undulates with the rolling hills and rocky peaks of the ancient Appalachian Mountains, from the beautiful birch-covered Berkshires in Western Massachusetts, to the lush Green Mountains in Vermont, to the towering White Mountains that stretch across New Hampshire and Maine.

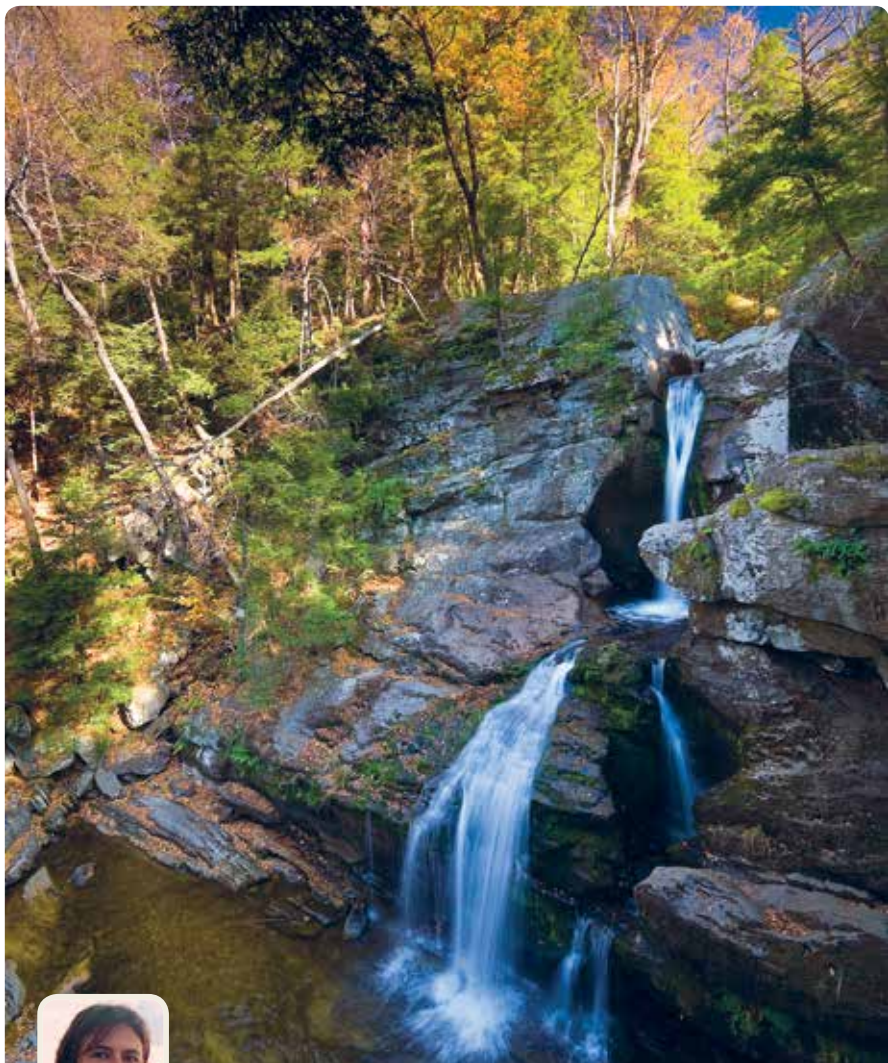
Nearly 5000 miles of coastline means that New Englanders are into water sports: opportunities for fishing, swimming, surfing, sailing and sunbathing are unlimited. So pack your sunglasses and your sunblock and settle in for some quality time on the ocean.

Culture

At the cutting edge of culture, New England is home to two exciting, experimental contemporary-art museums, as well as myriad traditional art museums. Indie bands rock out in Boston, Portland and Burlington. The world-renowned Boston Symphony Orchestra takes its show on the road in summer, delighting audiences in the Berkshires. Meanwhile, there are blues jams in Maine, folk festivals in Newport and Lowell, and classical music in Rockport. Concert series, film festivals and theater productions mean the cultural calendar is jam-packed.

Food

To get a taste of New England, check out the calendar of events celebrating local delicacies, such as Maine lobsters, Wellfleet oysters and Vermont beer. Blessed with a burgeoning locavore movement and a wealth of international culinary influences, New England cuisine fuses the best of both worlds. A pile of pancakes drenched in maple syrup; fresh farm produce and sharp cheddar cheese; fish and shellfish straight from the sea; exotic dishes with influences of Portugal, Italy or Asia: this is just a sampling of the epicurean delights that travelers will find in New England.



Why I Love New England

By Mara Vorhees, Writer

For a place that is steeped in history, New England is ever moving forward. I am proud of the region's 18th-century revolutionary roots, but I'm even prouder that all six states embraced marriage equality in the 21st century. Emerson and Thoreau are inspiring, but it's Geraldine Brooks, Jhumpa Lahiri and Elizabeth Strout that keep me up reading late into the night.

John Singer Sargent is iconic indeed, but even more intriguing is the art being created in the SoWa studios. New England's history is rich, to be sure, but the here and now is downright exhilarating.

For more about our writers, see p448.