

10 Beautiful Coastal Stops On A Road Trip In New England

Discover picturesque havens along New England's coastal highways on this captivating road trip.

In the embrace of the Eastern Seaboard, a journey unfolds, tracing the contours of New England's storied coastline—a tapestry woven with the whispers of maritime legends, the brushstrokes of artistic expression, and the timeless allure of coastal tranquility. [From the quaint allure of Mystic, Connecticut](#), where the waters of the Mystic River reflect the town's maritime history, to the opulent landscapes of Newport, Rhode Island, where Gilded Age mansions gaze upon the unfurling Atlantic horizon, this expedition transcends mere miles.

It is a voyage of discovery, unveiling Provincetown's artistic soul nestled on Cape Cod's tip and Rockport's picturesque harbor, where fishing shacks dance in vibrant hues. Each stop along this coastal odyssey is not merely a waypoint but an immersion, a chapter in a novel of experiences. From the rocky vistas of Ogunquit, Maine, to [the urban vibrancy of Portland](#), each destination beckons with its own allure, a blend of historical significance, artistic inspiration, and the timeless allure of the sea, a siren's call that draws travelers into a journey beyond the ordinary, along the enchanting coastline of New England.

9 Day 2: Newport, Rhode Island

58 miles from Mystic, Connecticut



Departing quaint Mystic, the coastal ambiance crescendos towards Newport, an opulent seaside playground perched along the shimmering Atlantic. Here, mansions like The Breakers stand as stoic landmarks to a gilded age when Vanderbilts and Astors sauntered along the Cliff Walk's rugged course high above the sea. Though Newport conjures images of aristocratic luxury, its magnetism transcends material wealth.

The convergence of architectural extravagance against the untamed beauty of the pounding surf builds Newport's inimitable coastal allure. Against the steady march of time, Newport remains frozen as a portrait of elegance and scenic grandeur, with one foot planted firmly in old money and the other perched atop craggy cliffs beside the unrestrained Atlantic.

Things to Do in Newport, Rhode Island

- **Tour the extravagant Gilded Age mansions** like The Breakers, Marble House, and Rosecliff to see how America's wealthiest families of the late 1800s lived. **Book a Tour - from \$46.25 USD**
- **Stroll along the famous Cliff Walk** for dazzling views of the Atlantic coastline and a peek at the lavish backyards of the mansions
- **Explore the Brick Market Place and Bowen's Wharf area** full of boutiques, art galleries, restaurants and street performers
- **Take a scenic drive down Bellevue Avenue** to see the elegant historic "summer cottages" and get a taste of Newport's glamorous past

1 Day 10: Watch Hill, Rhode Island

127 miles from York



Watch Hill delivers a fitting seaside finale for a New England coastal road trip. Its prime location on Rhode Island's southwestern shore rewards travelers with sunset vistas over Block Island Sound, where the Atlantic meets the horizon. Quaint New England clapboard cottages line the winding lanes reminiscent of coastal towns from Connecticut to Maine.

Yet unique attractions set Watch Hill apart, like its historic Flying Horse Carousel, spinning seaside with antique wooden horses since 1876, plus the landmark Ocean House hotel, recalling Victorian grandeur. With grassy bluffs for picnicking, boutique shopping and bay beaches meeting the open ocean, Watch Hill encapsulates the nostalgic coastal village charm trippers yearn for while still dazzling with its own distinctive seaside ambiance and activities.

Things to Do in Watch Hill, Rhode Island

- **Tour the Watch Hill Lighthouse** - Take in panoramic views of the Atlantic Ocean and Block Island Sound from this historic lighthouse
- **Explore Flying Horse Carousel** - Ride the oldest continuously operating carousel in the United States, featuring hand-carved horses dating back to the late 1800s
- **Experience the Ocean House** - Stay or dine at this luxurious historic hotel offering fine dining, spa services, and stunning ocean views