

# The 10 best places to visit in New England

[Lonely Planet Editors](#)

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From historic towns to the great outdoors, a visit to New England will recharge your batteries. Maine the Way/Shutterstock

As you travel through [New England](#), a surprising variety of land and seascapes await your discovery. Yes, New England has some instantly recognizable locations, like the city of [Boston](#) and the beaches of [Cape Cod](#). But as you seek out the best places to visit in New England, don't skip the rest of the region.

Venture inland to explore the Green and the White Mountains, an area where Revolutionary War landmarks sit alongside working farms and leisurely ski resorts. Heading back towards the Atlantic Ocean, you can find the rugged beauty of the northern coast, including one of the [United States'](#) most iconic national parks.

Though New England has many scenic towns worth visiting, it's understandably difficult for first-time visitors to decide where to begin their New England journey. Fortunately, there are a few cities and towns that are their own well-rounded destinations, as well as convenient launchpads for the ideal road trip. To help you decide where to start your trip, here are ten of the best places to visit in New England.

## 2. Newport, Rhode Island

## Best for historic coastal elegance

The ocean breeze carries you back in time down Newport's cobblestone streets to a shimmering mix of history and opulence. Located on the southern tip of Aquidneck Island, [Newport](#) is bordered by Narragansett Bay to the northwest and the Atlantic Ocean at its rocky southern edge. The Gilded Age brought the ultra-rich here where they built "summer cottages" along the stunning shoreline, and wealth still sparkles in the sun at chic hotels and across the manicured lawns of stately homes. Must-see mansions include [Rough Point](#), a Tudor-inspired 1889 mansion housing a treasure trove of rare artwork, and [The Breakers](#), an 1895 Italian Renaissance-style palace at an exceptionally beautiful oceanfront location.

Newport's marinas are often graced by sleek sailboats and yachts, and colonial-era architecture is meticulously preserved. In the summer months, tourists fill the walkable downtown looking for seafood and ocean views. [Easton's Beach](#) (also known as First Beach) and [Second Beach](#) might actually have Rhode Island's best waves for surfing, while [Third Beach](#) tends to have fewer crowds and calmer waves that make this beach more kid-friendly.

**Detour:** For even more quality time at the beach, catch the ferry from Newport out to Block Island for a day of exploring photogenic lighthouses, walking nature trails and relaxing on [glorious beaches](#).