

Massachusetts

It's all here.®

North of Boston Fall Attractions:

Must-See Fall Favorites

September 4-7

25th Annual Gloucester Schooner Festival

America's oldest seaport, Gloucester, is hosting America's oldest schooner festival, the Gloucester Schooner Festival, celebrating its 25th anniversary. Close to 50 vessels from ports all along the Eastern Seaboard are scheduled to participate in two days of racing, celebration and events. There's a grand parade of sail, an evening lighted boat parade, fireworks, and shore-side fun at Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center. Call the Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce to learn more at 978-283-1601 or visit www.capeannvacations.com/schooner

September 18-20 & September 25-27

Trails and Sails Weekends

Explore the wonders of the Essex National Heritage Area during Trails & Sails weekends September 18-20 & September 25-27. Hike, paddle, and discover history, culture and natural resources with more than 200 free events across 135 locations throughout Essex County. This year's event will feature special programming and activities focused on the region's coastal treasures. For more information, visit www.essexheritage.org.

October 1-November 1

Salem's Haunted Happenings

Come and celebrate America's most exciting Halloween Festival in the bewitching seaport of Salem, Massachusetts. This month-long celebration features parades, street vendors, spooky tours, and spirited events. For more information, visit www.hauntedhappenings.org or call Destination Salem to get the Haunted Happenings guide at 877-SALEM-MA.

October 3-12

Topsfield Fair

Capture a slice of Americana at America's Oldest Agricultural Fair, celebrating 191 years in October, 2009. The Topsfield Fair runs from Oct. 3-12. Don't miss the New England Giant Pumpkin weigh-off, where pumpkins can weigh as much as 1,000 pounds or more. See livestock, beekeeping, agricultural exhibits, tractor pulls, a juried art show and the ever-popular Robinson's Racing Pigs— all part of a great day at the fair. This year's fair also features Jeff Corwin's Live Animal Show and a concert by LeAnn Rimes. To learn more, call 978-877-5000 or visit www.topsfieldfair.org

Autumn Activities and Harvest Festivals

August 29–November 8

Kimball Farm Corn Maze

Who knew getting lost could be so much fun? Kimball Farm in Haverhill has created its third annual corn maze, and you're invited to find your way out day or night! Enjoy a "Full Moon Maze" on September 4-5 and October 2-3, using flashlights and moonlight to guide you on your path through the corn. In October,

experience a Haunted Halloween Maze where visitors are welcomed by ghosts and ghouls of all kinds! The farm also features Pony rides, pumpkin launching, face painting, a petting zoo and hayrides to complete quintessential New England experience. For more information, visit www.kimballfarmcornmaze.com

September – October

Apple Picking at Smolak Farms

The apples have arrived! After a long spring and hot summer, kick off the fall season with Smolak Farm apples! Choose from more than 30 varieties, including Gravensteins, Macintosh, Cortland and Delicious – just to name a few. In addition, there will be classic cars, live music, hayrides, homemade apple crisp and yes, Smolak’s famous cider donuts. Apple Picking Dates: September 12 & 13, September 19 & 20, September 26 & 27 and October 3 & 4. For hours and directions, call 978-682-6332 or visit www.smolakfarms.com

September – November

Cider Donuts & Homemade Wine at Russell Orchards

Enjoy homemade cider donuts, pick your own apples and pumpkins and purchase jams and jellies at Russell Orchards in Ipswich. While visiting the farm, be sure to sample fresh homemade wines or ciders. For hours and directions call 978-356-5366 or visit www.russellorchardsma.com

September 18-20

Georgetown Days

Celebrate Georgetown Days with an Open Air Farmers Market, Craft & Artisan show, the Chili & Salsa Contest, live entertainment, and an afternoon ice cream and scavenger hunt sponsored by the Historical Society in conjunction with the Brocklebank Museum. For more information, visit www.georgetownfun.org.

September 26

Family Harvest Festival at Spencer-Peirce-Little Farm in Newbury

See tractors and other farm equipment spanning 80 years. Try corn husking or win a prize at the pie-eating contest. Find your way through a hay bale maze, harvest wild herbs, and see vegetables preserved in the traditional way. Enjoy a wagon ride through the fields, build scarecrows, go on a pumpkin treasure hunt, and make fall crafts. Listen to folk music or watch a puppet show. The c. 1690 manor house is open. Cider, donuts, and hot lunch are available. This festival will take place from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. For information, call 978-462-2634 or visit www.historicnewengland.org

September 26-27

Marblehead Fall Festival & Sidewalk Sale

Enjoy town-wide sidewalk sales, Artisan Craft Fair, Chili & Chowderfests, horse-drawn hay rides, face painting, pumpkin painting and much more! For more information, call 781-631-2868 or visit www.marbleheadchamber.org

October 11-12

Newburyport Fall Festival

A Newburyport tradition, the Fall Harvest Festival features talented artisans throughout historic downtown Newburyport offering handmade crafts & artwork, great local food vendors, live music and Kids Korner with live children’s entertainment, face painting, and the very popular Teddy Bear Parade! For more information, visit www.newburyportchamber.org.

October 16

Octoberfest, Marblehead

Savor great food, wine, and take part in a beer-tasting event. Marblehead's Octoberfest will take place at the Corinthian Yacht Club in Marblehead. For more information, call 781-631-2868 or visit www.marbleheadchamber.org

October 17

Pumpkin Festival at Cogswell's Grant in Essex

Enjoy horse-drawn wagon rides, pumpkin carving and decorating, pie-eating contests, cider pressing, crafts and games. Choose a jack-o-lantern from our pumpkin patch and enjoy hot mulled apple cider and homemade pumpkin pie. The historic Cogswell's Grant house will also be open for tours. For information, call 978-768-3623 or visit www.historicnewengland.org

October 17-18

5th Annual Rockport Harvest Festival

Celebrate the fall in Rockport with a weekend filled with activities and entertainment for the whole family. For more information, call 978-546-6575 or visit www.rockportusa.com

October 17

Green Meadow Farm's Annual Harvest Festival

Hear great music from Back Eddy Bluegrass plus excellent food, fresh baked goods and of course, organic produce. Hayrides, pony rides and the Farm's animals will entertain the kids, along with children's activities. Admission is free! This event takes place from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. For more information, call 978-468-2277 or visit www.gmfarm.com

October 17-18

Fall harvest at Alfalfa Farm Winery

Enjoy live music, food, tastings, baskets and gifts at Alfalfa Farm Winery a family-owned and -operated vineyard in rural Topsfield, Massachusetts. For more information, call 978-774-0014 or visit www.alfalfafarmwinery.com

Special House Tours

September 5 & October 3

17th Century Saturdays

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Peek inside homes and buildings across Essex County that date from the nation's "First Period" (1625- 1725) and explore the lives of early settlers as part of *17th Century Saturdays*. Now in its third year, *17th Century Saturdays* has 29 sites participating with tours, special events, family programs and more. Regular admission fees apply. Go to www.escapesnorth.com and click on the 17th Century Saturday's icon for a downloadable brochure.

September 24

Maritime Mansions at Twilight Tour - Point Shore Stroll / Lowell's Boat Shop

Amesbury's Point Shore neighborhood was home to captains, merchants, and gentleman whose lives, literally and figuratively, faced the sea. This special tour is part of the Maritime Mansions at Twilight Tours, an Escapes North program. It begins at Lowell's Boat Shop, the oldest operating boat shop in America, located at 459 Main Street in Amesbury and strolls down "the shore" to enjoy houses from the 18th century to the present. \$12 per person/20 maximum participants. Visit www.escapesnorth.com and click on the Maritime Mansion's icon for a downloadable brochure or to purchase tickets.

October 10

Ipswich Opens its Doors

Ipswich is celebrating its 375th anniversary this year, and from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. on October 10, the public is invited to tour some of Ipswich's loveliest homes, from colonial to more modern styles, during this event to benefit the Ipswich Visitor Center. Held rain or shine. No children under 10 years old allowed. Please note that no cameras, backpacks, food or packages are allowed in the private homes. Tickets (\$25) and maps are available at the Ipswich Visitor Center, 36 South Main Street/Route 1A, Ipswich. Call 978-356-8540 or visit www.ipswichma.com/housetours/house1.htm.

October 29

Maritime Mansions at Twilight Tour - An Evening with Captain and Abigail Trask

You are invited to the 1823 home of one of the North Shore's most successful merchant sea captains. Follow the transformation of Manchester-by-the-Sea from simple fishing village to its Golden Age as a playground for the rich and famous prior to World War I. Two tours are scheduled, one at 7 p.m., one at 7:45 p.m. These special tours are part of the Maritime Mansions at Twilight Tours, an Escapes North program. \$8 per person/8 maximum participants per tour. Meet at 10 Union St., Manchester-by-the-Sea. Visit www.escapesnorth.com and click on the Maritime Mansion's icon for a downloadable brochure or to purchase tickets.

Unique Events for the Whole Family

September 11-13

Hermann's Royal Lipizzan Stallions of Austria Perform at Cogswell's Grant in Essex

Leap into action and see the Royal Lipizzan Stallions horse show at Cogswell's Grant. The stallions of the Herrmann line are among the last horses capable of executing the "Airs Above the Ground" maneuvers. These dramatic leaps and plunges were developed as aggressive battle maneuvers in the 16th century, and are now among the most beautiful displays of equine grace and strength. The shows run for 90 minutes. Snacks and souvenirs are available. For more information, call 978-768-3623 or visit www.historicnewengland.org

September 19

Salty Dog Day at Essex Shipbuilding Museum

Did you know that dogs have been an integral part of maritime history? Find out how they have, and continue to be, important friends not only on land, but at sea. Bring the whole family - including your dog - to the first Salty Dog Day at the Essex Shipbuilding Museum at 66 Main Street in Essex. Activities include: a presentation on "Old Ironside's" dog, Guerriere; a celebrity appearance by a 4-legged star from Animal Planet; a talk and demonstration on dog safety aboard a boat; a raffle for a cruise; face painting, food, music, and bobbing for tennis balls. For more information, call 978-768-7541.

September 19

Downtown Gloucester Block Party

From 6 p.m.- 11 p.m.. Come to Main Street in Gloucester from Pleasant to Washington Street. for a Free downtown block party! Enjoy live music, art exhibits and outdoor cafe dining. Get ready to dance, party and show off your hip-shaking skills for the HOOLA HOOPLA. Everyone from the tiniest hoopster to Gamma is welcome to compete in this fun event. Visit www.downtowngloucester.com for more info.

October 2, 2009 – January 17, 2010

"Whirligigs & Whimmydiddles: Celebrating American Folk Toys"

Bring the children to see Wenham Museum's exhibition, "Whirligigs & Whimmydiddles: Celebrating American Folk Toys" at the Thompson Gallery. Created with imagination and every day materials, handcrafted folk toys like Jacobs Ladder, Bull Roarers and rag dolls reflect childhood and family life in

early America. Push, pull and play with 20 over-sized reproductions of the most popular American folk toys and learn the science and historic value behind them. The Wenham Museum is located at 132 Main Street in Wenham. For more information, call 978-468-2377 or visit www.wenhammuseum.org.

October 3-4

Gran Prix of Gloucester

The Gran Prix of Gloucester is two days of national calibre races where competitors from all over the U.S., Canada & Europe converge to race on the most beautiful race course in North America. For more information, call 978-462-2634 or visit www.gpgloucester.com

Arts-Related Events

August 27 – September 13

Gloucester Stage Presents “Sins of the Mother”

Founding Artistic Director Israel Horovitz returns to Gloucester Stage to direct the New England premiere of “Sins of the Mother,” the latest in his series of Gloucester plays. Set in the world of Gloucester’s waterfront, the play intertwines events of the past with personal and economic politics of the present. Ticket Prices: Adult \$37, Seniors \$32, Students \$23. Gloucester Stage Company is located at 267 E. Main Street in Gloucester. For more information call 978-281-4433 or visit www.gloucesterstage.com.

September 5-20

Amesbury Playhouse Dinner Theatre Presents “Five Women Wearing the Same Dress”

“Five Women Wearing the Same Dress,” a play by Alan Bull, takes place at a wedding reception with five gals, each with her own reason for avoiding the celebration. These very different women discover a common bond in this wickedly funny, irreverent and touching celebration of the women's spirit. Adult Comedy, Mature Audiences Only Please (Rated "R"). Matinees held on September 9 & 10. Call the Playhouse, located at 194 Main St. in Amesbury for reservations at 978-388-9444 or visit www.amesburyplayhouse.com.

September 19

The House of the Seven Gables Celebrates Sophia Peabody Hawthorne’s 200th Birthday: Her Art, Her Writing, Her Influence

Come to the House of Seven Gables at 115 Derby St. in Salem at 4:30 p.m. to learn about Sophia Peabody Hawthorne. Born in Salem in 1809, she was a professional artist, recognized for her contributions as a travel writer, and was married to another Salem resident, Nathaniel Hawthorne, who regarded her as his most important critic. Her influence on his writing was subtle and profound. Admission: Members: \$10 and Non-Members \$15. Visit www.7gables.org for details.

September 25-27

6th Annual Newburyport Film Festival

The Newburyport Documentary Film Festival takes place at various locations in historic downtown Newburyport, including, The Screening Room and The Firehouse Center for the Arts. See great movies and enjoy special events throughout these three days. Call 978-462-7336 or visit www.newburyportfilmfestival.org for the full line-up of documentaries and speakers.

September 26

Meet Me Downtown, Lynn’s Annual Festival of the Arts

Live music, local cuisine, arts & craft vendors and much more can be found in Lynn's Central Square at this year's Meet Me Downtown Festival of the Arts from noon-5pm. This annual event is held in partnership with Lynn EDIC and the Office of Mayor Chip Clancy. For more info, visit www.lynnarts.org or call 781-598-5244.

October 10-12

Cape Ann Artisans Studio Tour

Travel along the coastline of Gloucester and Rockport and look for the bright magenta banners at the studios of 13 painters, photographers, sculptors, potters and jewelers. Items include hand-made jewelry, pottery, painting, pastels, photography, mosaics, and fabric art. For a map of locations and artist information, visit www.capeannartisans.com.

October 17, 2009 – February 7, 2010

The Peabody Essex Museum presents “Rare Bird of Fashion: The Irreverent Iris Apfel”

“Rare Bird of Fashion: The Irreverent Iris Apfel” will be on view at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem from October 17, 2009 through February 7, 2010. The exhibition features more than 80 dramatic ensembles from the personal collection of legendary tastemaker and style icon Iris Apfel. Known for her eclectic permutations of designer clothing and exotic baubles, Apfel has inspired bold developments in the clothing and design industries through her spirited irreverence and pitch-perfect taste. Call 978-745-9500 or visit www.pem.org.

October 24

Haverhill’s “Shoe-La-Bratton” Gala Auction

From July through October, 10 5-foot tall fiberglass shoes were decorated by various artists to commemorate Haverhill's heritage as a shoe-making hub and put on display in prominent locations around downtown Haverhill. The Soles of Haverhill “Shoe-la-bratton” is a first-time community art celebration. There's even a Stuart Weitzman shoe covered with Swarovski crystals. These whimsical art pieces will be auctioned off at a gala event at the Buttonwoods Museum on Oct. 24 with proceeds to support local non-profit organizations. Visit www.solesofhaverhill.com to learn more or buy tickets.

Food-Focused Events

September 13

Peabody International Festival

11:30 a.m.- 5:30 p.m.- Head to Peabody Square to enjoy many food specialties representing the city's rich cultural heritage plus live entertainment throughout the day. The annual gathering draws thousands of people to sample the unique cuisine of over 60 booths from ice cream to specialties of Greece, Brazil, China and Poland to name but a few! Come hungry. For more info, visit www.peabodychamber.com or call 978-531-0384.

September 17, October 1, October 22, & November 12th

Celebrity Chef Series Returns to Castle Hill on the Crane Estate

Back by popular demand, the Celebrity Chef Series returns to Castle Hill on the Crane Estate this fall, beginning on September 17, followed by October 1, October 22, and November 12. Dinners, prepared by four of Boston and North Shore's most renowned Chefs, will be held at The Inn at Castle Hill and is open to the public. The “connection with local land and foods” is a simple but important theme of the dinner series; a unique blending of the freshest local produce, seafood and meats, prepared by the area's most imaginative and creative chefs, resulting in regional cuisine that is unsurpassed anywhere! The events are run by Trustees of Reservations, the non-profit organization who owns and operates The Inn at Castle

Hill, Appleton Farms, and the Crane Estate, among other properties. Reservations, limited and required, may be made by contacting The Inn at Castle Hill, 978-412-2555. For more information on future dinners go to www.theinnatcastlehill.thetrustees.org.

- **September 17:** Chef Robert Grant, and Cheese Director, Stephanie Santos, of The Butcher Shop offer prix fixe menus that emphasize rustic French and Italian cuisine in a four-course dinner with two wine pairings, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres for \$135 per person.
- **November 12:** Chef Barbara Lynch, the force behind No. 9 Park, B&G Oyster, The Butcher Shop, Sportello and more, offers a special evening of dishes from her eagerly-awaited first cookbook *Stir, Mixing it Up in the Italian Tradition*. A signed copy of the book is included in the price of \$145.00 per person.

October 3

Mercury Brewing Company's Ipswich Ale Festival

Enjoy great music, food and local beer, plus activities for the kids! At Green Meadows Farm in South Hamilton. For more information, call 978-468-2277 or visit www.gmfarm.com

October 3

Tales and Ales at the Swett-Ilsley House in Newbury

In the late 17th century, the Swett-Ilsley House at 4 High Road in Newbury was Swett's Tavern, one of three watering holes in town. The huge fireplace and massive beams are a perfect backdrop for an evening of historic fun. Enjoy traditional local brews and a hearty tavern dinner from 6:30-8:30 p.m. while listening to true tales of sword fights, scandalous romances, and bloody brawls, all from Newbury's storied past. For full details, visit www.historicnewengland.org.

Departs Saturdays and Sundays on October 10, 11, 17 & 18

Foliage & Chowda' Cruise

Warm up with a complementary cup of fresh clam chowder as you take in the changing colors of fall and a friendly narration of the surrounding area. This informative 14-mile cruise gives passengers the opportunity to see and learn all that Salem Sound has to offer while comfortably viewing the beautiful transition from summer to winter. For more information, call 800-992-6244 or visit www.mahicruises.com

October 24

Essex Clamfestival

In its 27th year, the Essex Clamfest celebrates the most famous food of Essex. Enjoy seafood, a chowder competition, crafts, live entertainment, kiddie rides and more from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Memorial Park in Essex. For more information, call 978-283-1601 or visit www.capeannvacations.com .

September 19 & October 10

Wine Tasting Cruises

Sip on the local homemade wine of the Russell Farm of Ipswich while cruising past the breathtaking vistas of Essex River. Cruise with Essex River Cruises and Charters on this 1 ½ hour narrated excursion then grab dinner afterward at one of the many local Essex restaurants. For more information, call 800-748-3706 or visit www.essexcruises.com

Special Boat Cruises

September 5

Celtic Music Sail Aboard the *Schooner Thomas E. Lannon*

Join Michael O'Leary and friends, a variety of Celtic musicians and singers aboard the *Schooner Thomas E. Lannon* for an evening of craic (that's Irish for FUN!). Totally Celtic, totally enjoyable! This is a sail that will undoubtedly be a highlight of your season. These sails usually sell out, so reserve your space early. The sail, which departs from Seven Seas Wharf in Gloucester, is from 3 p.m.- 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$47.50/adults, \$42.50/seniors, \$35/kids. For more information, visit www.schooner.org.

Saturdays and Sundays, starting September 12 - October 4

The I-Want-To-Be-A-New-England-Lobsterman Cruise

Come on, don't deny it, everyone has fantasies... Check out Salem's own version of "Deadliest Catch" - fun for the whole family! Be a real lobsterman for a day as the passengers help set and retrieve lobster traps just as real lobsterman do. On this adventurous and interactive cruise, passengers will not only learn all about New England's famous lobsters, but they'll get to see lobsters and other marine life up close and personal. For more information, call 800-992-6244 or visit www.mahicruises.com

Departs Saturdays and Sundays, starting September 12 - October 11

Lighthouse Cruise

A photographers dream! Hop on this narrated cruise to seek out five historic lighthouses. Throughout the cruise, informative details will be revealed as passengers closely cruise by Salem's Pickering and Derby Light, Beverly's Hospital Point Lighthouse, Marblehead's Chandler Hover Lighthouse, and the famous isolated Bakers Island Light of the Misery Islands that can only be closely seen by boat. For more information, call 800-992-6244 or visit www.mahicruises.com

October 17-18

Haunted Harbor Happenings Halloween Cruise

Come learn about the haunted happenings of Salem Sound on this 1½-hour cruise by the shores of Salem, Marblehead, Beverly, Manchester and mysterious Misery Islands. Passengers will enjoy a fun-filled informative cruise loaded with spooky stories of ruthless local pirates, haunted lighthouses, mansions, abandoned mental wards, tails of local ghosts, ocean demons, and living monsters who reek havoc on local ships to this day! This cruise departs at 1p.m. and 3 p.m. and is an unbeatable way to see North Shore's breathtaking autumn beauty while reveling some of its most mysterious secrets! For more information, call 800-992-6244 or visit www.mahicruises.com

October 17-18

High Tide Fall Foliage Cruises

On this special high tide cruise with Essex River Cruises and Charters, you'll have the opportunity to see the spectacular Choate Island up close. One of the island's distinguishing features is its dark spruce forest, planted in the 1930's. High tide in October is the best time to view the outstanding New England fall foliage at its peak. Enjoy a complementary cup of Hot Mulled apple cider and donuts from a local apple orchard. For more information, call 800-748-3706 or visit www.essexcruises.com.