



**For Immediate Release**

**10 ROMANTIC MASSACHUSETTS IDEAS FOR GETAWAYS, DAY TRIPS AND STARRY-EYED EVENINGS TO IMPRESS A SWEETHEART**

*Year-Round Suggestions For Those With or Without A Budget*

BOSTON, February 5, 2010. With less than two weeks remaining before the official day of romance, The Massachusetts Office of Travel + Tourism (MOTT) provides a sample of the best locations in the state for getaways, day trips or romantic evenings. Creating a little romance doesn't mean you have to break the bank. There are destinations across the state offering special deals and packages for couples.

“Whether someone is looking for a romantic overnight stay or simply a special evening, Massachusetts offers an array of affordable and unique ways to make this Valentines’ Day truly special,” said Betsy Wall, executive director of the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism.

The following is a sampling of romantic getaways, day trips and evening ideas across the Commonwealth that can be found at [www.massvacation.com](http://www.massvacation.com). MOTT’s social networking pages on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Visit-Massachusetts/132857061913> and Twitter <http://twitter.com/VisitMA>.

**10 Romantic Getaways:**

Northern Exposure Outfitters & Yankee  
Cricket Bed and Breakfast (Brimfield)  
Boston’s Waterfront  
Canyon Ranch (Lenox)  
Bayside Resort (West Yarmouth)  
Jiminy Peak Ski Area, Whitetail Quad  
Stonehedge Inn & Spa (Tyngsboro)  
Mepal Manor & Spa (New Marlborough)  
High Point Inn (West Barnstable)  
Orchards Inn (Williamstown)

**10 Romantic Day Trips**

Westport Winery (Horseneck Beach)  
Norman Rockwell Museum (Stockbridge)  
Seasons at the Spa (Auburn)  
Tower Hill Botanic Garden Guided Tour  
Mohawk Trail Driving Tours  
Nashoba Valley Winery  
Franklin County Driving Tour & Brunch

Rockport Seaport Village  
Museums of Boston

**10 Romantic Evenings**

Annisquam Lighthouse (Gloucester)  
Nantucket Bird Walk  
Newburyport Harbor Range Lighthouse  
Valentines Dinner at Top of the Hub  
(Boston)  
Berkshire Bach Society Valentines Day  
Brass & Organ Concert  
Candlelight Tours At Arrowhead, Home of  
Herman Melville (Pittsfield)  
Boston’s North End  
Johnson & Wales Inn (Seekonk)  
Nathaniel's at the Hawthorne Hotel (Salem)  
Featherstone Center for the Arts (Oak  
Bluffs)  
Beacon Hill (Boston)

## **10 ROMANTIC GETAWAYS:**

### **Northern Exposure Outfitters & Yankee Cricket Bed and Breakfast (Brimfield, MA)**

<http://www.yankeecricket.com/index.htm>

On a stone ridge overlooking the Massachusetts countryside, Yankee Cricket Bed and Breakfast offers guests a quiet woodlands retreat from the tourist activities of neighboring Sturbridge and the hustle of the thrice-yearly Brimfield Antiques Fair. Innkeepers Sherry and Bill Simonic warmly welcome guests and introduce them to the amenities of a brand new home with the coziness of an authentic 18th century inn. Make a reservation at Yankee Cricket and schedule a ride on a dog sled for a ride you will not forget! Party of two from \$360 to \$380 includes your overnight at the Cricket your dog sled ride and breakfast in the morning one price covers all.

### **Yankee Cricket Bed & Breakfast (Brimfield, MA)**

<http://www.yankeecricket.com/>

On a stone ridge overlooking the Massachusetts countryside, Yankee Cricket Bed and Breakfast offers guests a quiet woodlands retreat from the tourist activities of neighboring Sturbridge and the hustle of the thrice-yearly Brimfield Antiques Fair. Innkeepers Sherry and Bill Simonic warmly welcome guests and introduce them to the amenities of a brand new home with the coziness of an authentic 18th century inn.

### **Boston's Waterfront**

<http://www.bostonharborwalk.com/>

The HarborWalk has a changing character as it winds through the city's waterfront neighborhoods and downtown district, stretching from Chelsea Creek to the Neponset River, through East Boston, Charlestown, North End, Downtown, South Boston and Dorchester. Romantic proposals spots along the walk to consider include Christopher Columbus Park, the rotunda at Rowes Wharf, Long Wharf pavilion, Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA), Castle Island, Ship Yard Park (Flagship Wharf) and Piers Park.

### **Canyon Ranch (Lenox, MA)**

[www.canyonranchlenox.com](http://www.canyonranchlenox.com)

Relax, refresh and rejuvenate with the ultimate in spa getaways. Guests will experience award-winning cuisine while cultural and outdoor activities in the Berkshires and discover how to lead a healthier, more fulfilled life. Enjoy highly personalized attention as you explore preventive healthcare, life management, nutrition, fitness and spiritual growth and luxuriate in the most lavish spa treatments anywhere. The elegant Bellefontaine Mansion is the serene setting for your all-inclusive stay.

### **Bayside Resort (West Yarmouth, MA)**

[www.baysideresort-hotel.com](http://www.baysideresort-hotel.com)

Resort offers a 3 - Day / 2 - Night Package includes luxurious accommodations for 2 in a spacious Deluxe Room, an expanded Continental Breakfast Buffet, and a reserved table at the Moby Dick Pub\*. A Girlfriends Welcome Package with Top Fashion and Celebrity Gossip Magazines, 2 Bottles of Wine (Red or White), Snacks, Chocolates, a Disposable Camera, and Discount Shopping Information and Coupons for Outlets, Christmas Tree Shops, and other local shops.

### **Jiminy Peak Ski Area, Whitetail Quad**

[www.jiminypeak.com/](http://www.jiminypeak.com/)

Visit Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort in the Berkshires, and experience unmatched comfort and convenience in a uniquely beautiful setting. Situated in the northern Berkshires, this New England resort offers stunning views and amenities beyond the ordinary. Discover everything you need to relax in our spacious 1, 2, and 3-bedroom lodging accommodations which are more spacious than other New England Resorts featuring personalized service and luxury in a distinct setting convenient to New York and Vermont. The preferred choice of resorts in New England,

Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort offers easy access to everything the area has to offer, including: Mountain top or an elegant site by a roaring fireplace, Jiminy Peak is the perfect choice among Berkshire Wedding sites for your wedding, reception or special event.

### **Stonehedge Inn & Spa (Tyngsboro, MA)**

[www.stonehedgeinnandspa.com](http://www.stonehedgeinnandspa.com)

The Vinotherapy Spa at Stonehedge is a unique hideaway day and wellness spa in the serene woodlands of Massachusetts. The spa offers the perfect respite from stressors of everyday life and features a tranquil private atmosphere designed to calm your inner soul. The unique day spa is its own entity, nestled deep in the serene woodlands of Massachusetts. Offering private parking and tranquil grounds, consider it your own personal oasis.

### **Mepal Manor & Spa (New Marlborough, MA)**

[www.mepalspa.com](http://www.mepalspa.com)

The Spa, in collaboration with Comfort Zone, the innovative treatment line from Italy, invites guests to experience extraordinary sensorial journeys and result-based therapies. The 6,000 square foot Spa features four embracing and spacious treatment rooms; ample, quite lounging space, a large outdoor hot tub, a yoga and movement studio, fully equipped locker rooms, with steam, showers, robes, slippers, towels and retail gallery. The Salon is designed to complement the Spa with a Moroccan-inspired, retro design, complete the private entrance and lounge areas.

### **High Point Inn (West Barnstable, MA)**

[www.thehighpointinn.com](http://www.thehighpointinn.com)

Voted as a 2005 Top Ten Inn in North America, 2009 InnKeepers of the Year and Best Mid-Cape B&B since 2004, the High Point Inn is a small intimate property with ocean views who cater to discerning travelers who appreciate fine lodging and superb service. Although small in size, the B&B has a mobile spa service with a variety of spa services in guest rooms.

### **The Orchards Hotel**

<http://www.orchardshotel.com/>

The snow is falling In the beautiful Berkshires. The Orchards Hotel has lit the fireplaces and the twinkling lights are strung in the courtyard. Downhill skiing at Jiminy Peak or Berkshire East, snowshoeing and all the winter outdoor activities are awaiting your visit. Winter is a magical time to visit Williams College with it's snow covered stately buildings, and bustling student life. Stay at the Orchards Hotel for the graciously attentive service and contemporary fusion dining at Gala Restaurant & Bar.

### **10 ROMANTIC DAY TRIPS:**

#### **Westport Winery (Horseneck Beach)**

<http://www.westportrivers.com/>

Westport Rivers is a family owned vineyard and winery producing estate grown wines from New England 's largest vineyard. In 1982 the Russell Family purchased the historic, 140 acre "Long Acre Farm." The family declared they would use this South Coast farmland both for agricultural products (including food, wine and beer) and for education (about the value of working natural resources). The Russell's founded both Buzzards Bay Brewing and Westport Rivers Winery upon this deep regard for local agriculture and education. Over 300 acres of working farmland has been permanently preserved by the companies.

#### **Norman Rockwell Museum (Stockbridge, MA)**

<http://www.nrm.org/>

Norman Rockwell Museum is dedicated to education and art appreciation inspired by the legacy of Norman Rockwell. The museum preserves, studies and communicates with a worldwide audience the life, art and spirit of Norman Rockwell in the field of illustration. The museum is a gathering place for reflection, involvement, and discovery through the enjoyment of the artist's

work. Norman Rockwell's unique contributions to art and society, popular culture and social commentary influence the museum's programs and interpretations.

### **Seasons at the Spa (Auburn, MA)**

[www.seasonsatthespa.com](http://www.seasonsatthespa.com)

Relax and renew with a wide array of spa services including facials, body wrap treatments, massage, hair care and make-up artistry. The Parafango body wrap treatment tones, firms, detoxifies, trims inches, softens stretch marks and revitalizes tired skin. And strong hands and warm basalt stones release stubborn muscle tension and stress for deeper relaxation during a hot stone massage.

### **Tower Hill Botanic Garden Tour (Boylston, MA)**

<http://www.towerhillbg.org/>

Enjoy a guided tour of this magnificent garden, with seasonal highlights including spring bulbs and flowering trees and shrubs, summer annuals, fall colors, and in winter the warm interior of the Orangerie, filled to capacity with blooming and fragrant subtropical plants. Learn about the history of the Worcester County Horticultural Society and future goals of Tower Hill Botanic Garden.

### **Mohawk Trail Driving Tours**

<http://www.mohawktrail.com/driving-tours.html>

The Mohawk Trail, State Route 2 from Orange to Williamstown, was America's first scenic automobile route. Driving tours include Mount Greylock, Savoy State Forest, the North Berkshires and Pioneer Valley. These driving destinations include plenty of locations to stop and experience romantic B&B's, dining, arts, shopping and scenic views of the countryside.

### **Nashoba Valley Winery (Bolton, MA)**

<http://www.nashobawinery.com/>

Located in the heart of Massachusetts' apple country, Nashoba Valley Winery is a stunning hilltop orchard overlooking the charming town of Bolton. Since first producing superior fruit wines in 1978, Nashoba Valley Winery has earned wide acclaim as a pioneering winery orchard and a premier destination for visitors seeking excellent wine, exquisitely prepared food, and a gorgeous country setting. The family-owned orchard, winery & restaurant, set on 52 rolling acres, boasts a state-of-the art wine-making and distillation facility, an exceptional wine and gift shoppe, a brewery, and a gourmet restaurant.

### **Franklin County Driving Tour & Brunch**

<http://www.franklincc.org/index.php>

Franklin County offers rural charm – cozy B&Bs, craft galleries, and antique shops – plus river rafting and other outdoor adventures. Take in a blissful brunch at the Deerfiled Inn and enjoy jazz with your espresso and eggs benedict.

### **Rockport Seaport Village**

<http://www.rockportusa.com/>

Escape to historic Rockport, Massachusetts. For over 160 years, people have traveled to Rockport for our miles of lovely beaches, boulder-strewn paths through woods and glades, and that uncommonly magical light that has inspired painters since Winslow Homer. In an hour's pleasant drive north of Boston, you can enjoy a romantic getaway, exquisite dining and a unique shopping experience—all in a single day.

### **Museums of Boston**

<http://www.bostonusa.com/>

Massachusetts has a rich heritage of making and collecting art; this heritage is on display across the state in museums of all kinds. The world-renowned Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) in Boston

has an encyclopedic collection that ranges from French Impressionists to ancient Egyptian art. The Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) showcases contemporary art in its striking new building overlooking Boston Harbor.

### **10 ROMANTIC EVENINGS:**

#### **Annisquam Lighthouse (Gloucester, MA)**

<http://www.lighthouse.cc/annisquam/index.html>

The Annisquam Lighthouse is located on the Annisquam River, the estuary that connects Ipswich Bay to Gloucester Harbor. In 1631, the village of Annisquam was founded on the eastern side of the northern end of the river. The village grew into a fishing and shipbuilding center that during its heyday rivaled Gloucester. For ships traveling the coast, the river was considered an important refuge. Annisquam Harbor Lighthouse, with its 41-foot white tower and black lantern, is the quintessential image of a New England lighthouse.

#### **Nantucket Bird Walk**

<http://www.nantucketchamber.org/>

Join the Nantucket Bird Club for a romantic walk that explores and educates those interested in learning about the birds that call Nantucket home.

#### **Newburyport Harbor Range Lighthouse**

<http://home.comcast.net/~debee2/mass/Newburyport.html>

The Newburyport Rear Range Light in Newburyport, Massachusetts, is the only lighthouse in America with a dinner table at the top. With a donation to the Lighthouse Preservation Society, you'll enjoy incredible views and a memorable meal while helping to protect America's fragile and beautiful lighthouses.

#### **Valentines Dinner at Top of the Hub (Boston, MA)**

<http://www.topofthehub.net/>

Dubbed one of the most romantic restaurant locations in the world by The Travel Channel, Top of the Hub's Valentine's Day menu includes options like Duck Confit or Pan Seared Scallops, Sesame Seed Crusted Salmon, Pan Seared Rainbow Trout, Roasted Beef Tournedos "Poivrade" or Anise Seed Scented Pork Loin, and much more. Soaring 52 floors above the Back Bay, the restaurant and adjoining Skywalk Observatory offer guests a spectacular view of the Boston skyline from every table.

#### **Berkshire Bach Society Valentines Day Brass & Organ Concert**

[http://www.berkshirebach.org/press\\_021410.htm](http://www.berkshirebach.org/press_021410.htm)

The Berkshire Bach Society will offer its audience a "Valentine Bouquet" of music from three centuries for organ and brass instruments. The enthusiastically received combination of organist Peter Sykes of Cambridge and brass ensemble headed by local trumpet virtuoso Allan Dean returns from last year's February triumph to offer a wide-ranging program blending familiar and unfamiliar repertory. Joining Mr. Dean in the brass ensemble will be Neil Mueller, trumpet, Laura Klock, french horn, Tom Hutchinson, trombone, and Morris Kaiuma, tuba. Berkshire Bark Chocolates will provide sweets for the palate.

#### **Candlelight Tours At Arrowhead, Home of Herman Melville (Pittsfield, MA)**

<http://www.brookfarm.com/blog/2009/12/herman-melvilles-arrowhead-by-candlelight/>

Long known as the home where Herman Melville wrote his epic novel, *Moby Dick*, will be shown in a unique way this winter. The Berkshire Historical Society at Herman Melville's Arrowhead, 780 Holmes Road, Pittsfield, will feature special "Candlelight and Chocolate Tours" of its beautifully decorated 1783 farmhouse during the holiday season.

### **Boston's North End**

<http://www.bostonusa.com/>

Here, the streets are narrow and compact, and there is history – Old North Church, Paul Revere's house, burial grounds – seemingly around every corner. The neighborhood is packed with restaurants, virtually all of them Italian, and the locals carefully maintain their deeply-rooted ties to Italian culture.

### **Johnson & Wales Inn (Seekonk, MA)**

<http://www.jwinn.com/>

Audrey's Restaurant & Lounge, where dining is casual yet elegant, the menu is traditional and the presentation is creative. Breakfast, lunch and dinner selections change seasonally, focusing on the freshest products and the finest ingredients. Relax in Audrey's Lounge with cocktails and appetizers such as our signature calamari or lobster cakes. Audrey's dinner entrée's include selections such as premium sirloin, orange spiced braised chicken or lobster pot pies. Signature desserts are prepared daily by our pastry chefs and international Baking & Pastry students.

### **Nathaniel's at the Hawthorne Hotel (Salem, MA)**

<http://www.hawthornehotel.com/>

Designated an "Historic Hotel of America," the Hawthorne provides every amenity a "modern" traveler could desire and continues to welcome thousands of visitors every year. For an unforgettable dining experience, visitors from all points of the compass enjoy the ambiance, warm hospitality and award-winning seasonal cuisine of Nathaniel's Restaurant. Our menu offers a range of dishes, including historic items from a bygone era to contemporary, eclectic fare. Nathaniel's also offers demi-portions of its most popular items including our signature dish "Scallops Sophia."

### **Featherstone Center for the Arts (Oak Bluffs, MA)**

<http://www.featherstoneart.org/>

Featherstone, the island's only year-round non-profit arts center, celebrates 14 very fruitful years of bringing art, in a myriad of forms, to island audiences and participants. The gallery welcomes the public to view the latest show: Kiss, Kiss, Hug, Hug Revisited: The Art of Love.

### **Beacon Hill (Boston, MA)**

<http://www.bostonusa.com/>

Beacon Hill is a 19th-century downtown Boston residential neighborhood situated directly north of the Boston Common and the Boston Public Garden. Most people think of city living as anonymous and isolating. But this cozy enclave, filled with nearly 10,000 people, is more like a village than an anonymous city. It has a rich community life, with neighbors knowing neighbors and everyone meeting on the Hill's commercial streets and at its myriad activities.

### **CONTACT:**

Lisa Simmons

(617) 973-8508

[lisa.simmons@state.ma.us](mailto:lisa.simmons@state.ma.us)

Ron D'Amico

Connelly Partners

(617) 521-5428

[rdamico@connellypartnres.com](mailto:rdamico@connellypartnres.com)

#

About MOTT:

*The Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism is the state agency dedicated to promoting Massachusetts as a leisure travel destination and to stimulate the Massachusetts economy by generating state and local tax revenues, creating jobs, and supporting the growth of travel related businesses. MOTT serves as a leader in the tourism industry, bringing together the public and private sectors to promote Massachusetts as a leisure travel destination. For more information about MOTT visit [www.Massvacation.com](http://www.Massvacation.com)*