



For Immediate Release

State of Romance: Top Spots To Propose In Massachusetts

BOSTON, February 5, 2010. Whether it's asked on bended knee at a park bench, whispered at a museum or projected on the jumbotron at a baseball game, getting the right answer depends on the old adage – location, location, location. With less than two weeks remaining before the official day of romance, The Massachusetts Office of Travel + Tourism provides a sample of the best locations to propose in the state. Whether it's Valentines Day or just a Tuesday night, Massachusetts offers diverse and creative settings to make THE proposal truly special. From popular sites like Fenway Park to undiscovered locations such as city overlooks, historic landmarks, picturesque Cape Cod lighthouses or moonlight harbor cruises, it's all here.

“Massachusetts has hundreds of unique proposal destinations. To think your marriage engagement can begin quietly dining on top of lighthouse or in front of a crowd of thousands allows romance to happen anytime of the year,” said Betsy Wall, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism.

To begin your search for the perfect place to pop THE question, visit: www.massvacation.com or MOTT's social networking pages on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Visit-Massachusetts/132857061913> and Twitter <http://twitter.com/VisitMA>.

The following is just a sampling of the romantic and memorable locations across the Commonwealth that can be found at www.massvacation.com

Westport Winery (Horseneck Beach)

<http://www.westportivers.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.

The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum Courtyard (Boston, MA)

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

Opened in 1903, the Isabella Stewart Gardner has remained essentially unchanged since its founder's death in 1924. Three floors of galleries surround a garden courtyard blooming with life in all seasons. The galleries are filled with paintings, sculpture, tapestries, furniture, and decorative arts from cultures spanning thirty centuries.

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.

The Boston Public Library Courtyard

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

Founded in 1848, the Boston Public Library (BPL) was the first large free municipal library in the United States. In addition to its 6.1 million books, the library boasts over 1.2 million rare books and manuscripts, a wealth of maps, musical scores and prints. The deep interior courtyard delights and charms visitors and can be a haven of peace and beauty rarely found in a public building in the middle of a bustling city.

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.

Cape Cod Recreation Area

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

This bikeway follows the Cape Cod Canal through sections of Bourne and Sagamore. Partially maintained by the Army Corps of Engineers, it offers fantastic views of the canal's various boat traffic, along with the area's quaint shoreline scenery of unique homes and natural beauty.

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.

Race Point Beach (Provincetown, MA)

<http://www.capecodchamber.org/beaches>

Once you arrive, the sun, the dunes, the tall green grass, the Atlantic Ocean is yours. The clean, white sand allows for that truly romantic walk on the beach, a place to lay a cozy blanket for two or search for colorful stones or savor a bottle of wine.

Martha's Vineyard or Nantucket Ferry

<http://www.mvy.com>

<http://www.nantucketchamber.org>

The beauty of the ocean and coastline offers a classic, memorable and creative setting to propose. Ferries to the Island sail from Falmouth, Hyannis, Nantucket, New Bedford and Woods Hole in

Massachusetts; Quonset Point in Rhode Island, Montauk in New York and NYC, New York. Ferries from Woods Hole and New Bedford operate year round.

The Charles River Gondola (Boston)

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

Experience the history, mystery and romance on a private tour that is Boston's best kept secret. Indulge in the Boston and Cambridge skyline as your gondolier gently rows his craft, while being serenaded by an accordion player.

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.

Fenway Park Scoreboard

http://boston.redsox.mlb.com/index.jsp?c_id=bos

To see your marriage proposal in lights on the Fenway Park scoreboard, messages must be requested at least two days before the game, but many fill up well before. If you want to propose while the Sox take on AL East foes the Yankees, for instance, be sure to reserve your date way before the two-day deadline. A scoreboard proposal cost a minimum \$250 donation to the Red Sox Foundation.

Jiminy Peak Ski Area, Whitetail Quad

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. www.jiminypeak.com/

Lars Anderson Park (Brookline, MA)

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/forparks.htm>

The Larz Anderson park is a 64-acre estate that was left to the city of Brookline by Isabel Anderson in 1948. Set amidst beautiful, calming and well-maintained landscaped acreage are rolling lawns, a skating rink, group picnic areas, and many interesting architectural and garden features. The top of the hill affords a spectacular view of the Boston skyline. Steady breezes and dappled open space makes the park one of the best kite-flying spots in the city. This is a great place for a day out in the sun with the family, or for just a few hours of calm with a good book.

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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