

# 5 Things: Spring in Massachusetts



After every winter, Massachusetts trades its white and salty streets for flower-filled parks and fresh starts. The spring story in Massachusetts is all about regeneration, from nature's warming welcome to the re-opening of the Bay State's most beloved attractions. We find our groove with a boost of daylight, fresh pavement itching for road races, the opening of scenic trails, and a burst of exciting experiences waiting to be had.

**Put a little spring in your step at [massvacation.com/spring](https://massvacation.com/spring)**



## THE BAY STATE IN BLOOM

Massachusetts has a thing for spring blossoms! From flower shows to our own local gardens, the whole state treasurers each pepping petal like a truffle. Blossom chasing is just as moving as our world renowned fall foliage, and this season brings even more fresh hues to lighten the landscapes from the darker winter months.



LILACS

### TULIPS, DAFFODILS, and LILACS, OH MY!

**If you're looking for some of the best in bloom this year, be sure to visit one of these beloved garden shows for a peek at this season's best in local color:**

#### Spring Bulb Show | March 4 - 19, 2017

The Botanic Garden at Smith College, Northampton  
[smith.edu/garden/event/spring-bulb-show](http://smith.edu/garden/event/spring-bulb-show)

#### Boston Flower & Garden Show | March 22 - 26, 2017

Seaport World Trade Center, Boston  
[bostonflowershow.com](http://bostonflowershow.com)

#### Daffodil Festival on Nantucket | April 28 - 30, 2017

Events throughout Nantucket  
[daffodilfestival.com](http://daffodilfestival.com)

#### Lilac Sunday | May 14, 2017

The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, Boston  
[arboretum.harvard.edu/news-events/lilac-sunday](http://arboretum.harvard.edu/news-events/lilac-sunday)

### FRESH and NEW

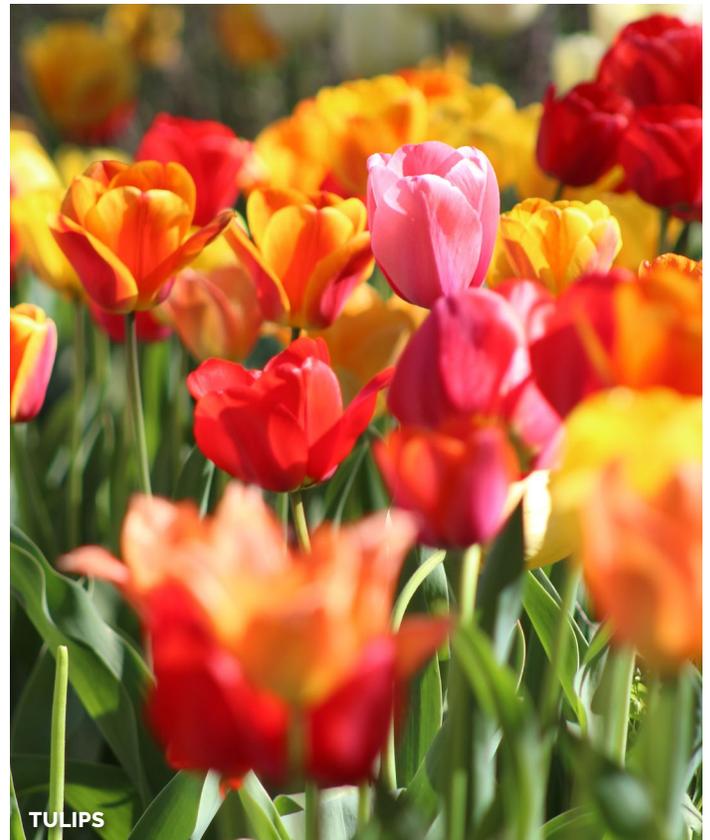
**There's something special about the discovery of springtime flowers. Leave your rose colored glasses behind and let mother nature do the work. Savor a leisurely tour of these destinations to witness the seasonal transition.**

Sashay through the cache of colors in the ornamental collections of plants at **Tower Hill Botanical Garden** in Boylston. This 132-acre property offers trails and seasonal programs that make this one of Massachusetts' premier destinations for green thumbed individuals, families, and even spring brides!

Head to **Heritage Museums and Gardens** in Sandwich for some fantastic springtime sightseeing. The site is home to one of the most nationally-significant garden collections in the country and known for their family of Dexter Rhododendrons!

Open mid-May through October, **Berkshire Botanical Garden** in Stockton is one of the oldest public gardens in the United States. The collections in this garden emphasize native New England roots for a fantastic floral display in the pictorial countryside of Western Massachusetts.

Take a walk through what feels like a storybook at **Garden in the Woods** in Framingham. A mélange of rare and native plants are scattered throughout this 45-acre garden. Where trees are ablaze with color and petal-filled paths perch over lofty, glacier-sculpted ridges, this garden is the perfect excuse to get outdoors!



TULIPS

## SPRING 2017 CHEERS TO MOMS and DADS

Spring hosts the beginnings of mid-May morning brunches, arts in the afternoon, and All-American sports games! This year, we're proposing that you revamp your spring calendar to make extra time for dear mom and dad. These excursions are certain to add rich textures and springtime feels into any celebration!



**DUCKLING DAY PARADE in BOSTON**  
photo source: bostonmagazine.com, credit: Olga Khvan

### Honor Mother's Day the Massachusetts way with some of these arts and culture crowd pleasers:

We all know that art is everywhere - but with the new **WOW® World of WearableArt** exhibit at the Peabody Essex Museum this February through June, art will take over fashion.

Beloved Boston favorite, **Make Way for Ducklings**, will take over the Boston Public Garden on Sunday, May 14th for the Duckling Day Parade. Festivities include the Parkman Bandstand and several activities for your own family of Mallards.

Awaken romance with the Boston Ballet's **The Sleeping Beauty** from April 18th through May 25th. This cherished fairytale is guaranteed to remind you and the mom in your life that love does conquer all.

Visit **The Crane Estate** in Ipswich and be transported to a life of old world decadence at this stunning property.

Pamper your mom with a **personal shopping experience**. You can go to a department store or Massachusetts outlet and ask for assistance, or play fashion-expert yourself, to make sure mom's style is on point this spring.

Treat mom like a queen with a trip to a real Venetian-style palace, the **Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum**, to view their most intimate, private collection and gardens this Mother's Day.

If you're looking for an *early* Mother's Day experience, head to Worcester for an exhibit of works by the quintessential patroness of mother-child bonding, **Mary Cassatt**, at the Worcester Art Museum from February 8th through April 2nd. Or book your tickets for the one-day showing of the Russian National Ballet's **Cinderella** on April 14th at the Hanover Theater.

### Father's Day falls right in the crux of spring and summer fun! Dust off the old standbys with some new adventures in the Bay State.

Embrace planes, trains, and automobiles with a trip to **Collings Foundation Collection Tour** for an exclusive on June 17th and 18th that will feature original World War II airplanes and antique cars from the private collection, or head down to Hyannis for the **22nd Annual Father's Day Car Show** in Hyannis.

Give sports games a facelift with a trip to Boston's **The Sports Museum**, or journey west to the **Basketball Hall of Fame** in Springfield.

Instead of trying your hand at baseball, try fishing on for size with an adrenalin packed **Deep Sea Fishing** outing in Gloucester. Oh, and you can probably spare mom the details of any shark sightings.

With more and more craft **breweries** popping up, create your own pub crawl for you and dad. Nothing says bonding quite like a beer (and maybe some pretzels).

The early bird gets the worm this spring, and you could get a jump on your celebrations with musical numbers like **Motown The Musical** at the Hanover Theater from May 23rd to May 28th or Boston's Arts Emerson's **How to Be a Rock Critic with Lester Bangs** from May 11th through May 21st.

Because nothing says Father's Day like the *Godfather* and seafood. Make dad an offer he can't refuse with a trip to the Massachusetts edition of **Eataly** in Boston's Prudential Center.

Celebrate one of Massachusetts favorite dads by taking a trip to either the **Boston** or **Hyannis JFK Museum**. This first family was beloved by a nation, with family ties as strong to the Bay State as they do to each other.

# 3

## STEP IT UP

There's no time like spring to add some pep to your step! Take your winter workout outdoors and enjoy this season's hiatus from cool temperatures and early evenings. More daylight means Massachusetts gets more active - from road races to hikes for the whole family, we've got everything you'll need for a spring power boost!

### TAKE IT EASY

**If you're looking for a leisurely spring walk with friends or a pet, we recommend these historic and beautiful Massachusetts trails:**

Hop a ferry to Chappaquiddick Island on Martha's Vineyard and walk around the Japanese-style gardens at **Mytoi** or go for a nature walk along the ever-changing **Wasque** shore.

Time travel to the early Industrial Revolution by taking a walk in Uxbridge's **Cormier Woods**. These woods lead through pastures, woodlands, and a boulder field along the Blackstone River Valley.

Speaking of history, one of our favorite and most beloved patriotic trails can be found in Concord and Lexington on **Battlefield Road**, which chronicles Paul Revere's infamous ride and the redcoats' march through 17th century countryside.

After April 1st be sure to visit **Chesterfield Gorge** in Chesterfield, and behold one of Mother Nature's masterpieces with a 70 foot high rock canyon carved by riverbed erosion.

Get away from civilization with a day trip to **Copicut Woods** in Fall River. These 13,600 acres house forests, wetlands, and waterways echoing the area's agricultural roots.

### SCENIC JAUNTS

**Searching for the next "best scenic route" for springtime adventure? Try one of these mildly challenging, yet stunning, trails that will make you feel even more tied to the elements of springtime!**

Follow the carriage ways of Mashpee and Sandwich along the **Lowell Holly** as you head toward the beech woodlands— the shorelines of both fresh water ponds will make you feel like you're the first to explore these ancient Wampanoag lands.

Visit vibrant Petersham for a glimpse of one of Mass Audubon Society's treasures, **Brooks Woodland Preserve** and bird sanctuary. With beautiful hemlocks, red oaks, and maidenhair ferns, this special reservation will make you believe in the magic of springtime transformation!

Test your hiking skills with **Ward Reservation's** three hills. Shrub, Boston, and Holt hills will bring you to some of the highest points for excellent sightseeing.

**Bear Swamp** (doesn't it just *sound* like a storybook destination?) in Ashfield is a bucolic playground that spans three miles of trails where all kinds of creatures come to play, like owls, woodpeckers, and frogs...but no bears!

There's no better place to snap a coastal-scape photo than **World's End** in Hingham. With 251 acres of hilltops and shorelines, this local beauty doesn't disappoint!



### FEEL THE BURN

**If you're willing to work for your blossom-peeping, these rough and rugged trails are not for the faint-of-heart and will turn things up a notch in no time.**

**Peaked Mountain** in Monson is no joke. The 1,227 foot summit is home to some of the most pristine land in the state. With stunning 360 degree views from the top, this mountain is perfect for sightseeing hikers with an interest in wildlife, nature, and a serious workout.

**Coskata-Coatue Wildlife Refuge** on Nantucket isn't reserved for summer tourists! These rolling dunes and forest uplands run along two peninsulas and are home all kinds of maritime wildlife.

Chase waterfalls at picturesque **Royalston Falls** in Royalston!

Join literary lions like Nathaniel Hawthorne and Herman Melville with a hike to the summit of **Monument Mountain** in Great Barrington! These famous authors wrote some of their greatest masterpieces atop this 1,642-foot mountain. Be inspired by its spectacular views and sounds from the melodic Housatonic River Valley below Squaw Peak.





**REEBOK**  
photo source: reebok.com



**ADIDAS**  
photo source: adidas.com



**ROCKPORT**  
photo source: rockport.com

## MASSACHUSETTS KICKS

Because Massachusetts is so active, it's no surprise many world-renowned footwear (and then some!) brands have made the Commonwealth home. With a high demand for seasonal activities and outdoor adventures, these brands capture the runner spirit.

**Converse** in Boston

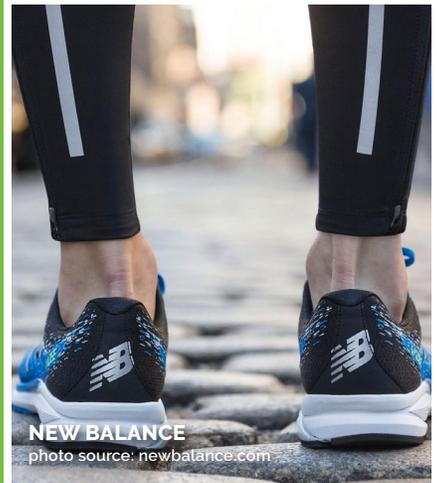
**Reebok** in Canton

**Saucony** in Waltham

**Adidas** (Boston Marathon sponsor) in Canton

**New Balance** in Brighton

**Rockport** in Newton



**NEW BALANCE**  
photo source: newbalance.com



**CONVERSE**  
photo source: converse.com



**SAUCONY**  
photo source: saucony.com

No springtime Massachusetts fitness list would be complete without a special nod to one of the Bay State's most famous pastimes... Runners, we salute you! Each spring, runners rekindle their relationship with the road, from shorelines through Heartbreak Hill, and all the way through the tangled, wooded trails of the Berkshires. Runners will join **road races** across the state and participate in various qualifying races for our annual Boston Marathon, which welcomes visitors from around the world to compete in the iconic 26.2 mile challenge to Boston each Patriot's Day.

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# 4

## HOLIDAYS



### PASSOVER and EASTER



### PATRIOT'S DAY



### MOTHER'S DAY



### MEMORIAL DAY



### BUNKER HILL DAY



### FATHER'S DAY

# 5

## 2017 SPRING HAPPENINGS

Spring is in session and festivities are in full supply. From flower shows to arrival of the much anticipated tall ships, the Commonwealth is hopping. For more events and happenings this spring, visit [massvacation.com/events](http://massvacation.com/events)

**Mary Cassatt Exhibit, February 8 - April 22**

**Celebration of Thoreau's 200th Birthday, February 10 - August 20**

**WOW® World of WearableArt™, February 18 - June 11**

**Seafood Expo North America, March 19 - 21**

**Anime Boston, March 31 - April 2**

**Boston International Film Festival, April 13- 17**

**Boston Marathon, April 17**

**73rd New England Folk Festival, April 21-23**

**Independent Film Festival Boston, April 26 – May 3**

**Daffodil Festival on Nantucket, April 28 - 30**

**ArtWeek Boston, April 28 - May 7**

**Lilac Sunday at the Arnold Arboretum, May 14**

**MCNAA Spring Planting Moon Pow-Wow, May 28 - 29**

**Motown the Musical, May 23 - 28**

**Boston Calling Music Festival, May 26- 28**

**JFK Centennial Concert, May 28**

**JFK 100th Birthday Celebration, May 29**

**Boston Pride Parade, June 10**

**38th Annual Boston Dragon Boat Festival, June 10 - 11**

**Collings Foundation Wings and Wheels Tour, June 17 - 18**

**Sail Boston & Tall Ships Event, June 17 – 22**

