

History Welcomes You Ashore in Massachusetts



Massachusetts is steeped in history; we're the home to the Pilgrims' landing, the Revolutionary War, treasured national authors and more 'firsts' than you can count! We're also home to nine historic ports including Gloucester, America's oldest fishing port and Boston Harbor, an active trading port since the early 1600s.

For centuries, our ports and their coastal communities have beckoned sea captains, sailors, neighbors and visitors to gather, enjoy the natural landscape beauty and the many bounties of the sea. As you stroll through the seaside villages of the nine Historic Ports of Massachusetts, you'll be captivated by the stature and architecture of charming homes once occupied by sea captains and their families and you'll find a soothing simplicity in the natural beauty of windswept dunes, inspirational sunrises and miles of sandy beaches.

Each port's unique community welcomes you with talented artisans, hidden treasures and the freshest seafood anywhere! Come explore the distinctive nooks and crannies of the Historic Ports of Massachusetts --- welcome ashore!

Points of Interest

Gloucester

- Gloucester Fisherman's Memorial
- Cape Ann Museum
- Wingaersheek & Good Harbor Beaches
- Hammond Castle
- Cape Ann Brewing Company & Brewpub
- Ryan & Wood Distilleries

Salem

- Peabody Essex Museum
- The House of the Seven Gables
- Salem Witch Museum
- Pickering Wharf
- Salem Ferry
- Capt. Bill & Sons Whale Watc

Boston

- Freedom Trail
- Faneuil Hall Marketplace
- Union Oyster House
- Boston Public Garden & Boston Common
- Fenway Park Tours
- Boston Duck Tours

Provincetown

- Pilgrim Monument
- National Seashore Park
- Race Point Light
- Provincetown Art Association
- Art's Dune Tours
- Provincetown Ghost Tours

Plymouth

- Pilgrim Memorial State Park
- Myles Standish State Forest
- Plimoth Plantation
- Plymouth Harbor & *Mayflower* II
- Plymouth Rock
- Richard Sparrow House

Fall River

- Battleship Cove
- USS *Massachusetts*
- USS *Lionfish*
- Lizzie Borden House
- Marine Museum at Fall River
- Mount Hope Bay

New Bedford

- New Bedford Whaling Museum
- Buttonwood Park Zoo
- Fort Rodman
- Seamen's Bethel
- Zeiterion Performing Arts Center
- Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden

Martha's Vineyard

- Flying Horses Carousel
- Joseph Silvia State Beach
- Aquinnah Cliffs
- Gingerbread Cottages
- Mytoi Gardens
- Chappaquiddick

Nantucket

- Nantucket Whaling Museum
- Brant Point Light
- Nantucket Atheneum
- Nantucket Shipwreck & Lifesaving Museum
- Dreamland Film & Performing Arts Center
- Cisco Brewers

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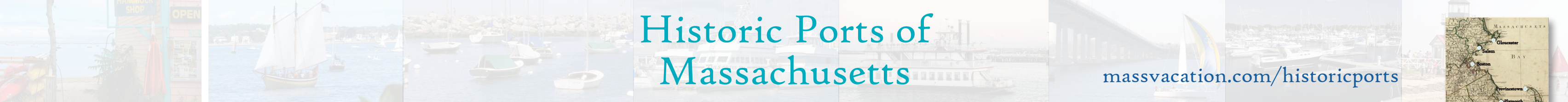
Gloucester · Salem · Boston · Provincetown · Plymouth
Fall River · New Bedford · Martha's Vineyard · Nantucket

HISTORIC PORTS OF MASSACHUSETTS



Annisquam Harbor Lighthouse, Gloucester/Rod Parker, Essex Heritage

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Historic Ports of Massachusetts

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Gloucester



Gloucester Fisherman's Memorial

“America’s Oldest Seaport”

As America’s oldest fishing port, Gloucester has been serving the world as a harvester of quality seafood since 1623 and has been a destination community ever since. Conveniently located less than one hour from Boston, you’ll find spectacular natural beauty, an energetic and picturesque working port, time-honored cultural traditions and a variety of recreational activities.

Provincetown



View from Pilgrim Monument

“Where it all began”

Located at the very tip of the Cape Cod peninsula, Provincetown has been hosting visitors since the *Mayflower* landed in November of 1620. Since then, it’s become a walking/bicycling town surrounded by a National Park – full of sand dunes and miles of idyllic beaches. This charming town provides a variety of activities, from shopping and gallery hopping, to dining, cabaret and theater.

New Bedford



Working Waterfront

“The Whaling City”

The City of New Bedford is the world’s most famous whaling- era seaport and the number one fishing port in America. When visiting, you’re sure to find beautifully-maintained parks and public beaches. Plus, the neighborhood restaurants, cafes and bistros offer delicious ethnic cuisines. Be sure to stop in at the New Bedford Whaling National Historic Park and Whaling Museum during your visit.

Salem



Pickering Wharf

“Bewitching Seaport”

Founded in 1629 as a small fishing port, Salem is also famous for its 1692 witch trials and home to one of America’s early authors, Nathaniel Hawthorne. His novels, which include *The Scarlet Letter* and *The House of the Seven Gables*, were set in this quaint village. Colonial-era cobblestone paths wind you through this bewitching downtown dotted with museums, specialty shops and historic sites. Take the Salem Ferry from Boston for a quick trip to this magical city.

“America’s Home Town”

Located approximately 40 miles south of Boston, Plymouth is best known for being the settlement of the *Mayflower* and the Pilgrims. Founded in 1620, it is the oldest municipality in New England and one of the oldest in the United States. The town has served as the location of several prominent and historical events, the most notable being the first Thanksgiving feast and, naturally, is home to Plymouth Rock. Plymouth lures you with everything from water sports to whale watching, golfing to ghost tours and cranberry bog harvests.

Plymouth



Plymouth Harbormaster

“Inspiring Artists for Centuries”

This jewel of New England sits a mere five miles off the southern coast of Massachusetts. With a thriving culture and miles of seemingly endless beaches, it’s no question why Martha’s Vineyard is such a popular destination. Within its 100 square miles, Martha’s Vineyard houses six distinctly different towns, each one featuring a proud history and unique charm. Whether you seek fun or romance, a family vacation or wedding, a corporate retreat with every amenity, your island experience is just a short ferry ride or flight away.

Martha’s Vineyard



Edgartown Lighthouse

Boston



Boston Light

“Cradle of Modern America”

Boston is the oldest continually-active major port in the Western Hemisphere. Though it did not become an international cargo port until 1630, for a least four thousand years previously, it had served as a settlement and trading area for Native American tribes. The port is home to two shipyards, numerous public and private ferry operations and world-renowned marine research institutions.

Fall River



Battleship Cove

“Mystery, History & the Sea”

As a port-of-call, Fall River is a city that is rich in history, culture and architecture. Fall River houses a wide variety of ethnic restaurants and bakeries too. Fall River’s early history included textile manufacturing and its port played an integral role in the city’s early fortunes. Today’s most notable attractions include Battleship Cove, Marine Museum and the Lizzie Borden Museum.

Nantucket



Easy Street

“Island Home of Sea Captains”

Windswept beaches, sand dunes, blinking lighthouses and a charming pace of life await on this 50-square mile island. The world’s former top whaling port is now designated a National Historic District and recently dubbed the ‘Best Island in the World’ by National Geographic. Seaside cottages, old whaling captains’ mansions and historic harbors contain quaint inns, boutique stores, pristine farmlands, chowder shacks, and upscale dining delights. Swim, surf or load up the tackle for Nantucket’s excellent striper, bluefish and bonito fishing.