

Massachusetts

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GARDENS AND HIDDEN TREASURES OF MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts offers a unique and diverse collection of gardens, parks and museums with magnificent flora displays.

Days 1-3: BOSTON

Boston and Cambridge is a good place to begin. Here, one can visit the home and studios of Frederick Law Olmsted. Olmsted is recognized as the founder of American landscape architecture and the nation's foremost park maker. Grounds are open daily. National Park Ranger led tours are offered Wednesday through Sunday.

Olmsted designed Boston's Emerald Necklace, a chain of parks that represents the longest green space through an urban center in the United States. One can rent a bicycle or Segway, don their hiking shoes or use the "T" to explore Boston's Emerald Necklace. The park system is over seven miles long from end to end and covers 1,100 acres. It is an integral part of daily life in Boston, whether used for dog walking, listening to concerts on the Esplanade along the banks of the Charles River, recreational runs around Jamaica Pond, golfing at Franklin Park or educational opportunities at Arnold Arboretum.

Established in 1872 Arnold Arboretum is a National Historic Landmark and one of the best preserved of Olmsted's landscapes. Occupying 265 acres, the Arboretum's collection of trees, shrubs, and woody vines is recognized as one of the most comprehensive and best documented of its kind in the world. This living collection is supported by comprehensive curatorial documentation, herbaria containing more than 1.3 million specimens, extensive library and archival holdings, and a 43,000-square-foot state-of-the-art research center. Free and open to the public every day of the year, the Arboretum is a safe and accessible community resource that is utilized by thousands of visitors each year.

Historic bridges and fountains, sculptures and public art, sailboat rentals on the Charles and an outreach enrichment effort that includes children, adult and visitor education programs all help to create green space well-used for a variety of interests.

The Boston Public Garden, centrally located between Boston's Back Bay and downtown features every species of tree grown in New England. Its lush gardens, pond with Swan Boat rides, and island haven for ducklings made it the subject of the well known children's book *Make Way for Ducklings*.

In Cambridge, aka the Left Bank, one can tour Mt Auburn Cemetery, the country's first planned, landscaped cemetery and resting place of many notables such as the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, the founder of the Church of Christ Scientist Mary Baker Eddy, the cookbook author Fanny Farmer and many, many more. Detailed maps are available for touring the monuments and garden resting place.

Additional Horticultural Venues in Boston and Cambridge:

- *Garden in the Woods*; Just outside of Boston, the largest landscaped collection of native plants in the northeastern United States.
- *Harvard University Museums*; The Botanical Museum contains the world famous collection of Blaschka glass flowers, hand-blown detailed glass models of dozens of flower species.

Days 3-5 BERKSHIRES

Travel west to the Berkshires. En route, visit Old Sturbridge Village, one of the country's oldest and largest living history museums. It depicts early New England life from 1790-1840 with historians in costume, antique buildings, water-powered mills, and a working farm. The Village's purpose is to provide modern Americans with a deepened understanding of their own times through a personal encounter with New England's past.

The Berkshire Hills is a vibrant region with attractions that are based on music, art, and recreation.

The 210 acres known as Tanglewood is an estate and music venue in the Berkshires. It is the home of the annual summer Tanglewood Music Festival and the Tanglewood Jazz Festival and has been the summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra since 1937. In addition to hosting a world-renowned music program, Tanglewood provides musical training at the Tanglewood Music Center for pre-professional musicians. Music aficionados as well as people just wanting to enjoy a picnic on the lawn while listening to a concert fill Tanglewood every summer season.

The Berkshire Botanical Garden is a not-for-profit, membership-supported educational organization encompassing 15 acres of cultivated land in Stockbridge. Called "a glistening community gem" the Garden's mission is to fulfill the community's need for information, education and inspiration concerning the art and science of gardening and the preservation and improvement of the local environment. The public display gardens

are both functional and ornamental. They are among the oldest in the US and collections emphasize plants that are indigenous to or thrive in the Berkshires; more than 3,000 species and varieties are represented.

Additional Horticultural Venues in the Berkshires:

- *Ashintully Gardens*; Surrounding a farmhouse and barn are composer John McLennan, Jr.'s lovely "musical" gardens
- *Chesterwood*; the country home of Daniel Chester, sculptor of the statue of Abraham Lincoln in the Memorial in Washington, DC, and The Minute Man, Concord, MA. Chesterwood's landscape featuring mountain vistas, woodland walks, and perennial gardens is French's own design
- *Hancock Shaker Village*; More than 100 varieties of herbs, medicinal plants, heirloom vegetables and seed beds. The historic gardens include crops of Shakers who lived at Hancock during the 19th and early 20th centuries
- *The Mount Estate & Gardens*; This elegant home and its gardens were designed by renowned American writer, Edith Wharton, in 1902. The 49-acre property features one of the most significant formal gardens in New England, including an Italian walled garden, French flower garden, and a lime walk lined with pleached linden trees.
- *Naumkeag*; The Choate family summer estate is distinguished by beautifully landscaped grounds

Days 5-7 CAPE COD

Cape Cod is one of the largest barrier islands in the world, shielding much of the Massachusetts coastline from North Atlantic storm waves. It extends 75 miles from the town of Sandwich to Provincetown at the tip of this bended-arm shaped island.

In Sandwich one will find Heritage Museums and Gardens. Heritage offers 100 acres of trees and shrubs, designed gardens, exquisite flowers and sweeping lawns. The spring features rhododendrons and flowering trees, while summer boasts brilliant annuals and dazzling daylilies. Autumn highlights blazing foliage and the fall-blooming Franklinia.

The beautiful grounds surround buildings that include revolving and permanent exhibitions, including American Folk art collections, an antiques automobile collection and an antique hand-carved carousel.

While staying on Cape Cod, take the ferry to Martha's Vineyard and spend the day. Nestled within Chappaquiddick Island on Martha's Vineyard, is the intimate Japanese-style garden, Mytoi. Sheltered by a lovely pine grove, the garden's signature feature is a

small pond with an island that is reached by walking over a raised bridge. Winding footpaths take visitors through a birch walk, camellia dell, stone garden, and hillside garden. A rustic shelter offers broad view of the garden and a chance to become immersed in the meditative qualities of the landscape. In addition to a terrestrial environment, the garden's pond supports turtles, frogs, and goldfish. One can also walk additional trails through a pitch pine forest and along the salt marshes of Poucha Pond.

Additional Horticultural Venues on Cape Cod:

- *Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary*; Woodlands, salt marsh, barrier beach and heath lands attract a wide variety of wildlife, especially songbirds and shorebirds. Five miles of scenic trails wind through these habitats and provide a lovely view of Cape Cod.

Days 7-9 NORTH SHORE

Spend the next two nights exploring Massachusetts' North Shore.

In Salem, explore the museums of the Peabody Essex Museum. The Peabody Essex is one of the nation's major museums for Asian art, and presents the earliest collections of Native American and Oceanic art in the nation. The historic houses and gardens, and American decorative art and maritime art collections provide an unrivaled spectrum of New England's heritage over 300 years.

And in Beverly, the Trustees of Reservations maintains Long Hill, the former family retreat of the *Atlantic Monthly* editor. 114 acres of gardens are laid out in a series of separate garden "rooms" surrounding a handsome, Federal-style, brick house. Each "room" is distinct in its own way, accented by ornaments and statuary.

Today, the gardens retain the "Garden for Living"—style with integrated outdoor rooms, mature plantings that blend into the surrounding woodlands, and a spirit of innovation in horticulture.

Additional Horticultural Venues in the North Shore:

- *Period Mansions throughout Marblehead and Salem*; Feature 4 centuries of historically accurate planting schemes