MASSACHUSETTS TRAVEL GUIDE

massvacation.com

Includes: Regional Tourism Areas, Local Tips & Maps
LETTER FROM GOVERNOR CHARLIE BAKER

Welcome to Massachusetts, a state bursting with history, culture, and natural beauty.

We invite you to experience all that we cherish in Massachusetts: our charming cities, towns, and neighborhoods; our historic parks and scenic seashore; our rich cultural traditions and lively college campuses; and our robust culinary scene and popular shopping districts.

Whatever you do, talk with the locals. Everyone will share a story or two and give you advice on what to see next.

No matter where you go – from Stockbridge to Boston and from Salisbury to Provincetown – we hope you create memories that keep you coming back. You are always welcome in Massachusetts.

Charlie Baker
Governor of Massachusetts
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GREATER BOSTON

America’s walking city

- HERITAGE TRAILS
- MAJOR LEAGUE SPORTS
- HARBOR ISLANDS
- NEWBURY STREET SHOPS

A city steeped in revolutionary history with a distinct cosmopolitan buzz: great visual and performing arts; lively sidewalk cafés; major league sports teams; and sophisticated dining and shopping.

Photo: MOTT

Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston
**EXPLORE**

See Boston and beyond from the Skywalk Observatory or ferry over to one of the Boston Harbor Islands. Families flock to New England Aquarium, Boston Children’s Museum, and Museum of Science. Head over to beloved Fenway Park for a Red Sox game or to tour America’s oldest ballpark. For fast-action sports, it’s the TD Garden, for the Boston Bruins, the Boston Celtics, and The Sports Museum. The New England Patriots and New England Revolution play at Gillette Stadium, Foxborough. Enjoy views atop a brightly painted amphibious vehicle or a double-wide trolley. Glide along the Public Garden’s lagoon in an elegant Swan Boat or take an adventurous whale watch. Newbury Street is a shopper’s paradise – galleries, boutiques, and sidewalk cafés for the fashionable and funky. The Museum of Fine Arts, The Institute of Contemporary Art, and Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum showcase imaginative exhibits. The Boston Symphony Orchestra and Boston Ballet are standout cultural stars. The Black Heritage Trail focuses on the city’s 19th-century African American community and The Freedom Trail’s 2.5-mile red brick/painted trail links 16 historic sites of the American Revolution. Visit Boston’s diverse and vibrant neighborhoods like Chinatown, the North End Italian district, Beacon Hill, Jamaica Plain’s (“JP”) Latino and LGBT communities, or lively Roslindale: home to Harvard’s 265-acre Arnold Arboretum.

**INSPIRATION**

Cambridge, “Boston’s Left Bank,” is the multi-cultural home to Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), which feature art, ethnological, and science museums. Musicians, puppeteers and jugglers perform on the sidewalks of Harvard Square while Central, Kendall, and Inman Squares offer tasty restaurants, cool architecture, cozy jazz spots, and the height of technology.

**DON’T MISS**

Faneuil Hall Marketplace, a shopping, dining, and entertainment haven – features culinary treats at the original food stalls at Quincy (“Quin-zee”) Market. Nearby is Boston Public Market, a year-round indoor arcade with fresh, local food and Haymarket, an outdoor weekend market. The mile-long Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway connects downtown to the harbor with public art, a carousel, farmers markets, and live performances. At Columbia Point see the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate.

**LOCAL TIP**

Ten miles south is the City of Quincy, home of the Adams National Historical Park featuring the birth homes and gardens of two presidents: John Adams and John Quincy Adams. Picnic or promenade along Wollaston Beach with treats from area restaurants.
SNAPSHOT

NORTH OF BOSTON
A story in every mile

• WITCHES & PIRATES
• HARBOR TOURS
• ARTISANS’ STUDIOS
• FRESH SEAFOOD

Lighthouses and lobsters, picture-perfect harbors, miles of rocky coast, long sandy beaches, and a wealth of sites and events that celebrate the region’s rich arts and maritime traditions.
EXPLORE

The illustrious seafaring heritage of Gloucester, America’s oldest seaport, is celebrated by the Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center, where wooden vessels have been hauled and repaired for centuries. Marblehead is a yachting mecca. Old Town’s winding streets are lined with grand mansions and modest artisans’ houses, many of them predating the Revolution. Salem offers a coven of museums that explore the infamous Witch Trials of 1692. Essex’s main street bustles with antiques emporiums and seafood restaurants, where fried clams (invented here) take top billing. Elegant federal homes, built from fortunes made in shipbuilding and the maritime trade, stand shoulder-to-shoulder on Newburyport’s High Street. Explore 11 lighthouses including Annisquam Harbor Light Station in Gloucester and Winter Island Light in Salem along with 10 beaches like Salisbury Beach State Reservation, Singing Beach, Manchester-by-the-Sea and Good Harbor Beach, Gloucester.

INSPIRATION

This region has long inspired artists: Winslow Homer and Fitz Henry Lane painted at the Rocky Neck Art Colony in Gloucester; see Lane’s work at the Cape Ann Museum in Gloucester. In Salem, the Peabody Essex Museum showcases two centuries of art, architecture, and culture. Every summer the Rockport Chamber Music Festival in Rockport presents nationally acclaimed concerts in an intimate setting. Early riser? Choose from more than 21 beaches to watch a stunning sunrise.

DON’T MISS

Food fresh from the boat, farm, and bakery will have you coming back time and again to sample the North Shore’s culinary delights. Local farmers, fishermen, lobstermen, and bakers partner with area restaurants to create the most delicious fresh fare straight from the source. Some local farms provide evening events under the stars! Take a fishing trip in Gloucester and catch your own fish for your evening dinner. Enjoy cod, haddock, bluefish, Ipswich clams and, of course, lobster! Or take a lesson in cheese making, canning, gardening, or creating chocolate truffles.

LOCAL TIP

On nearby Plum Island, birders flock to the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge to view migrating shore birds. Families head to Salisbury Beach State Reservation for swimming, fishing, and camping. Whale watching trips leave from Gloucester and Newburyport.

THE HOUSE OF THE SEVEN GABLES, SALEM
Photo: MOTT

MOTIF #1, ROCKPORT
Photo: MOTT

ANNISQUAM HARBOR LIGHT STATION, GLOUCESTER
Photo: Rod Parker

LET’S GO!

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northofboston.org
EXPLORE

Lexington and Concord’s town greens and monuments attest to the region’s critical role in the American Revolution. Every Patriots’ Day (the third Monday in April), a band of Patriots and Redcoats gather on Lexington Green at dawn to reenact the famous Battle of Lexington and the “shot heard ’round the world.” Concord lays claim to some of the greatest names in 19th-century American literature: Louisa May Alcott, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau. Lowell’s sturdy mill buildings are reminders of the city’s prominent role in the American Industrial Revolution. Exhibits and guided tours of the Lowell National Historical Park in Lowell chronicle the shift from farm to factory, the rise of immigrant labor, and the industrial technology that fueled these changes. Boot Cotton Mills Museum in Lowell features an operating weave room whose 88 power looms generate a roaring clatter. Just steps away, you’ll find a cluster of art museums and galleries, like the New England Quilt Museum in Lowell and The Brush Art Gallery and Studios in Lowell. The Butterfly Place in Westford is home to as many as 500 butterflies at any one time. In Lincoln, the 35-acre Sculpture Park at the deCordova Museum is the largest outdoor exhibition of American contemporary sculpture in New England. Explore the lively multi-ethnic culture of Lawrence, built as the nation’s first-planned industrial city in the 1840’s. Mills line the Merrimack River and the iconic Clock Tower stands proudly among the largely Hispanic, Dominican, and Cambodian populations.

INSPIRATION

The Liberty Ride trolley whiskers visitors to all the major historic sites and attractions in Lexington and Concord, including the Minute Man National Historical Park. Visit the Lawrence Heritage State Park and learn about the 1912 Bread & Roses Strike. Or glide along the “Locks-to-Locks Canal Tour” from Swamp Locks to Lower Locks in Lowell.

DON’T MISS

The Lowell Folk Festival is an exuberant celebration of the nation’s musical heritage. The three-day extravaganza serves up traditional music – rockabilly, the blues, gospel, zydeco, and more – plus food, parades, craft demonstrations, and dance parties.

LOCAL TIP

Artists abound at the Loading Dock Gallery at Western Ave Studios in Lowell. This rotating showcase features a new show monthly. Meet artisans whose work includes original artwork, jewelry, handmade soaps, pottery, prints and much more.
SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS
The uncommon place in the Commonwealth

- HISTORICAL & SEASIDE CHARM
- ZOOS & EXPLORIUMS
- WINERIES
- MARITIME HISTORY

Secluded beaches, cozy waterfront eateries, eclectic art galleries, and awe-inspiring state parks wrapped up in a maritime heritage and working waterfront.

Battleship Cove/Charles M. Braga Jr. Memorial Bridge, Fall River
Photo: Nancy Marshall
**EXPLORE**

New Bedford’s heyday as the capital of the 19th-century whaling industry is honored by the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park and the New Bedford Whaling Museum, both in New Bedford. The Seamen’s Bethel in New Bedford was featured in Herman Melville’s *Moby-Dick* while The Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum, a Greek Revival mansion, chronicles 150 years of economic, social, and domestic life in New Bedford. Fall River’s Battleship Cove boasts the world’s largest collection of US Naval vessels and is the home port for the WWII Battleship *USS Massachusetts* along with five other naval vessels and a 1920s wooden Fall River Carousel. The walking trails at the Lloyd Center for the Environment, which wind their way through forest, freshwater wetlands, salt marsh, and estuary, provide great views of Buzzards Bay and Martha’s Vineyard. Take a free tour (and taste) of Westport Rivers Winery in Westport, sample local Portuguese cuisine, and then visit Seekonk Speedway’s SYRA-certified track in Seekonk, which packs lots of excitement into its banked, 1/3-mile oval. Horseneck Beach in Westport is the region’s most popular beach and is located at the western end of Buzzards Bay. This sandy, two-mile-long beach is breezy all year, making it an excellent windsurfing spot. Gooseberry Neck, a rocky headland, lies to the east just behind the dunes. Discover your creativity at the Attleboro Arts Museum in Attleboro where rotating exhibits celebrate all mediums. In nearby Taunton, you’ll find unlimited outdoor recreation at a duo of state parks: Watson Pond and Massasoit.

**INSPIRATION**

Check your calendar: If you’re planning to be in New Bedford on the second Thursday of any month, you’re in for a treat. The city’s museums, galleries, dance and theater groups, artists, and restaurants roll out the welcome mat for an evening of cultural happenings appropriately dubbed AHA! (Art, History, Architecture).

**DON’T MISS**

In Southeastern Massachusetts, two zoos are better than one! Immerse yourself in the warmth and wonder of a tropical rainforest at Capron Park Zoo in Attleboro. At Buttonwood Park Zoo in New Bedford, you’ll meet black bears, mountain lions, river otters, bald eagles, and seals. Then, cross the covered bridge where you’ll enter Buttonwood Farm, home to rare breeds of farm animals.

**LOCAL TIP**

Explore Southeastern Massachusetts’ history at the Old Colony History Museum in Taunton where you’ll find an extensive collection of more than 13,000 regional objects and archives. Technology brings unique exhibits showcasing local history and genealogy to life. Great events, too!
PLYMOUTH COUNTY

History is just the beginning

• WHALE WATCHING
• CRANBERRY HARVESTING
• MAYFLOWER II
• PILGRIMS & NATIVES

Plymouth Rock and the Mayflower II take center stage as enduring symbols of the Pilgrims’ arrival in the New World.

SNAPSHOT

Plymouth Harbor at Sunrise, Plymouth
Photo: Ron Chancey
EXPLORE

Plymouth, also known as “America’s Hometown,” showcases the history and sets the stage for the story of the Pilgrims who landed here in 1620. **Plimoth Plantation**, America’s premier living history museum, brings to life the stories of the Wampanoag and the Pilgrims in 17th-century New England. The region also offers picturesque harbors, historic lighthouses, state-of-the-art golf courses, and acres of cranberry bogs that turn ruby red as harvest time approaches. Whale watch cruises, harbor tours, party fishing boats, and ferries to Provincetown leave from Plymouth Harbor. In Carver, **Edaville USA**’s two-mile, narrow-gauge railroad and amusement rides are perennial family favorites. So too are the **Brockton Rox**, a Minor League Baseball team whose home base is **Campanelli Stadium** in Brockton. The nearby **Fuller Craft Museum** in Brockton is a dazzling showcase for contemporary crafts, and Duxbury’s **Art Complex Museum** in Duxbury features a Japanese garden and tea hut. For dramatic views of Hingham Harbor and the Boston skyline, stroll or bike to the top of one of the four drumlins comprising **World’s End** in Hingham, landscaped by Frederick Law Olmstead. Take a dip at nearby **Nantasket Beach** in Nantasket, then saddle up a wooden horse on the 1928 Paragon Carousel and listen to the Wurlitzer organ. Nantasket Beach offers traditional boardwalk fare like hot dogs, burgers, fries, and “twisty” soft ice cream. For more foodie fun, be sure to sample from Plymouth’s array of classic New England style chowder, fresh-caught-and-fried seafood, homemade chocolate fudge, and local beer and wine.

INSPIRATION

Permanence, stability, and strength describe not only the Pilgrims’ credo, but the Neo-Classical Revival style of the Portico at **Plymouth Rock**, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

DON’T MISS

Plymouth 400, a multi-year commemoration of the cultural contributions and American traditions that began with the interaction of the Wampanoag and English peoples. Events lead up to 2020 for the 400th Anniversary of the **Mayflower** voyage and the founding of Plymouth Colony.

LOCAL TIP

Get an up-close look at how cranberry bogs are harvested every fall. You’ll witness wet and dry cranberry harvestings, cooking demonstrations, juried crafters, and paddleboat rides on scenic Tihonet Pond.
CAPE COD
A short trip to far away

• 559 MILES OF BEACHES
• SEASIDE BIKEWAYS
• HARBOR TOURS
• SUMMER BASEBALL

Sandy beaches, rolling dunes, gray-gabled homes, plus family fun, golf, biking, summer theater, art, antiques galleries, and fresh-caught seafood.

Cape Cod National Seashore, Eastham
Photo: Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce
EXPLORE

The Cape Cod National Seashore stretches 40 miles from Eastham to Provincetown. It includes pristine sandy beaches, lighthouses, wild cranberry bogs, and walking and biking trails. The Heritage Museums & Gardens features Americana, antique cars, a carousel and, in the spring, rhododendrons bloom. In the port of Woods Hole, the mysteries of ocean life are on display at the Woods Hole Science Aquarium and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. The seaside resort village of Hyannis is the famed summer home of the Kennedy family. Be sure to visit the John F. Kennedy Memorial and Museum next to the Hyannis Town Green and a variety of shops and restaurants. On the tip of the Cape is Provincetown (P-Town), the site of the Pilgrim’s first landing in 1620. P-Town is also known for its legacy as an art colony and for the warm welcome it extends to the LGBTQ community. Whale watch trips leave from here and Barnstable Harbor. Did somebody say seafood? Crack open a lobster or order up a plate piled high with fried clams, scallops, or shrimp. September and October are considered the Cape’s “second summer” and the perfect time to enjoy quiet strolls on the beach, meander down Old King’s Highway, Rte. 6A, and shop for antiques or go gallery hopping. “Old Cape Cod” has a few new surprises from the giant indoor Cape Codder Water Park to the Cape Codder Resort & Spa in Hyannis, or the Cape Cod Inflatable Challenge Park in West Yarmouth, the first of its kind in the USA. The Cahoon Museum of American Art in Cotuit and the Cape Cod Museum of Art in Dennis, offer new exhibits regularly.

INSPIRATION

Pick a beach, any beach, and bask in the serenity and peace of a Cape Cod sunrise. Early risers will be duly rewarded with spectacular sunrises over the Atlantic Ocean. Like to sleep in? They have fantastic sunsets, too!

DON’T MISS

For a nostalgic evening of fun, head to the Wellfleet Drive-In Theatre for first-run double features every night during the summer. Built in 1957, this theatre is home to community events and complete with snack bar and playground!

LOCAL TIP

The Cape Cod Baseball League, founded in 1885, is a collegiate summer league featuring 10 teams. Competitions are held around the Cape from mid-June to mid-August. These family-friendly games are a storied Cape tradition and are open to the general public.

DOWNTOWN, PROVINCETOWN

Photo: MOTT

MAIN STREET SHOPPING, FALMOUTH

Photo: MOTT

JFK MUSEUM, HYANNIS

Photo: MOTT

LET’S GO!

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SNAPSHOT

MARTHA’S VINEYARD

You have arrived

• AMAZING BEACHES
• HIKING & BIKING TRAILS
• PRISTINE GOLF COURSES
• LOCAL & FRESH CUISINE

Six distinctly different yet equally captivating island towns; pristine sandy beaches, charming towns, golf courses, and natural beauty – located just seven miles off the mainland.
EXPLORE

Oak Bluffs’ brightly painted “Gingerbread Cottages” have a rich history dating back to a 19th-century Methodist summer campground. It’s also home to the country’s oldest continuously working carousel, Flying Horses, and has an active nightlife and bustling inner harbor. Tisbury, home to the year-round port of Vineyard Haven, is picturesque and chock-full of unique shops and cultural venues. Edgartown, with the largest summer population, includes Chappaquiddick Island and the area of South Beach. Downtown Edgartown, a yachting community, has cobblestoned sidewalks and historic homes of whaling captains. “Up Island” includes the rural communities of West Tisbury and Chilmark with its working fishing village of Menemsha and the dramatic color-streaked Aquinnah Cliffs, where beach sunsets are applauded by visitors. Five lighthouses, all originally built in the 1800s, dot this 20 x 9 mile Island: West Chop Lighthouse, Tisbury; East Chop Lighthouse, Oak Bluffs; Edgartown Lighthouse; Gay Head Lighthouse, Aquinnah; and Cape Poge Lighthouse, Chappaquiddick. Enjoy the journey to the island from a variety of locations and choose from fast ferries, traditional ferries, or even fly in. The island has two ferry docks, one in Oak Bluffs and a year-round dock in Vineyard Haven.

INSPIRATION

So who’s Martha? And is there a vineyard on her Island? When 17th-century British explorer Bartholomew Gosnold landed on the Island in 1602, replete with grapes, he named it for his infant daughter, Martha. Contrary to its name, Martha’s Vineyard does not have a vineyard or winery. The Island’s original name, Noepe (meaning “land between the currents”), was from the Island’s original settlers, the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head.

DON’T MISS

Enjoy two cultural districts: Vineyard Haven Harbor includes a walkable one-mile radius of unique shops, working harbor, wooden shipbuilding, live theater, design, historic and independent movie theaters, public library, parks, and more. Aquinnah Circle is a blend of historic natural landmarks, Gay Head Lighthouse, and unique shops.

LOCAL TIP

Step off the beaten path and travel to rural Up-Island communities. Experience the Chilmark Flea Market, the West Tisbury Farmers Market, and the Vineyard Artisans Festival. These truly unique Vineyard experiences feature handmade items, locally grown foods, and one-of-a-kind treasures. Open twice weekly from June to September.
NANTUCKET ISLAND

Discover Nantucket, the heart of the story

- Stunning Beaches
- Year-Round Events
- Black Heritage Trail
- Conservation Land

SNAPSHOT

Thirty miles off the Massachusetts coast, this crescent-shaped island is in a world by itself; nicknamed “The Little Grey Lady of the Sea.”

Nantucket Harbor, Nantucket
Photo: Nantucket Chamber of Commerce
EXPLORE

Take your time to adjust to the slower pace of island life and explore – on foot or by bicycle – Nantucket’s unspoiled beaches, solitary lighthouses, and acres of conservation land. Take a dip in Nantucket Sound, surf cast for bluefish, or spend a day deep-sea fishing. Cobblestoned streets and an array of stately Georgian, Federal, and Greek revival homes reflect Nantucket’s history as a prosperous whaling port. Now, sea captains houses stand side-by-side with antiques stores and galleries. The Black Heritage Trail features 10 sites that reveal the heritage of African Americans living on Nantucket. The Nantucket Historical Association Whaling Museum features a 47-foot sperm whale skeleton, scrimshaw, and the original fabric of the spermaceti candle factory. Its exhibits and galleries offer a compelling insight into the island’s history as the “whaling capital of the world.” Visit a number of historic sites within walking distance, including the Oldest House built in the 1680’s; the stately Hadwen House, a ship captain’s mansion; The Old Mill; and Greater Light, an 18th-century livestock barn renovated into a summer home and art studio. Other historical treasures include Mitchell House, home of world-famous astronomer Maria Mitchell, and the African Meeting House. For a different type of adventure, take the kids to the Maria Mitchell Aquarium. Start your relaxing trip to Nantucket on the traditional ferry for a leisurely two hour, fifteen minute voyage from Hyannis. Need to get there faster? Take the high-speed ferry which is just one hour, door-to-door from Hyannis. Ferry service is also provided from New Bedford and New York and New Jersey.

INSPIRATION

Four great reasons to return to Nantucket in the off season: In April, the Daffodil Festival features three million bright yellow blooms planted by islanders to herald the arrival of spring. In the fall, Nantucket Restaurant Week features specially-priced menus at more than 20 of Nantucket’s top restaurants. Winter is celebrated, island-style, with the Nantucket Noel Christmas Stroll and the Nantucket New Year’s Celebration.

DON’T MISS

With over 80 miles of pristine beaches, every day on Nantucket is a beach day! Bike out to any of the 10 beaches or take the WAVE shuttle bus, which travels to both Surfside and Jetties Beaches.

LOCAL TIP

Trek out to the Sankaty Head Light located at the easternmost point of the island in the village of Siaconset. Built in 1850, this stately lighthouse was automated in 1965.
The intersection of old and new, cutting-edge technologies with centuries-old history, unspoiled garden sanctuaries, sporting facilities, and shopping galore.
EXPLORE

Located 20 minutes west of Boston, MetroWest is home to Fortune 500 companies and historic towns, anchored by unparalleled shopping. Shoppers’ World, one of the oldest outdoor suburban shopping malls in the USA, opened in 1951 and recently updated to include popular national brands and restaurants. Natick Mall features designers like Coach, Gucci, Louis Vuitton, and more. Continue through the three-square-mile shopping experience along Route 9. Leave transportation to the MWRTA bus stretching from Marlborough’s Solomon Pond Mall to town centers and hotels. Further south, the GATRA bus links more communities to explore, including the retail districts of Franklin, Milford, and Bellingham. Ready to relax? Plenty of hotels for you to choose from whether you’re ambling down the 18th-century Boston Post Road or whizzing through the modern intersection of I-90 and I-495. On a business trip, attending a sporting tournament, or exploring cultural attractions, you’ll find a home away from home; from historic inns (their oldest is 1716) to upscale, high-tech hotels. Accommodations with fine dining, en-suite kitchens, conference facilities, and fitness centers summon you. Meeting planners love MetroWest with 166,000 sq. ft. of highly functional conference spaces that can accommodate intimate gatherings and major trade shows alike.

INSPIRATION

Centuries-old innovation is the foundation for the rich cultural community and performing arts at the Center for the Arts in Natick, the Framingham Community Theater in Framingham, the River’s Edge Arts Alliance in Hudson, and the Wellesley Symphony Orchestra in Wellesley. An abundant selection of visual arts await at the 6 Bridges Gallery in Maynard, Danforth Art in Framingham, and the Wayland Art Center in Wayland. History aficionados will relish in the exhibits at the Museum of World War II in Natick.

DON’T MISS

You have two chances each year to catch the Paradise City Arts Festival, the award-winning fair of fine and functional art: March and November. The Festival sets up at the Royal Plaza Trade Center in Marlborough, and features more than 175 extraordinary artists showcasing the very best in American craftsmanship.

LOCAL TIP

Garden in the Woods is a magical place nestled in Framingham and set among 45 acres of rare native plants. Two miles of meandering paths lead to a pond, a wooded bog, and an ever-flowing brook. Great for families and learning about the diversity of New England’s wild flowers and woody plants. Enjoy picnics on the patio, the gift shop, and weekend gardening series.
A country setting with family-friendly outdoor activities is only the beginning at the Johnny Appleseed Trail. The natural beauty winds you through landscapes perfect for year-round outdoor recreation.
EXPLORE
This area is named for Johnny Appleseed, born John Chapman in Leominster in 1774, who traveled far and wide planting apple orchards. “U-Pick” farms dot the trail with apples, pumpkins, raspberries, blueberries, peaches, and more. Most farms have general stores and bakeries with pies, turnovers, cookies, and treats! Try: Bolton Orchards in Bolton; Carlson Orchards in Harvard; Hollis Hills Farm in Fitchburg; Lanni Orchards in Lunenburg; Meadowbrook Orchards and Davis Farmland in Sterling; or Red Apple Farm in Phillipston. At Sholan Farms in Leominster enjoy cross-county skiing and visit the winery at Kalon Farm in Ashburnham and Lancaster. The route crosses through wineries, cheese trails, and breweries like Wachusett Brewing Company in Westminster, and Gardner Ale House in Gardner. Enjoy the Great Wolf Lodge in Fitchburg, an all-suite resort with a 68,000 sq. ft. indoor water park, amusement rides, laser tag, and a kid spa. Visit the Fitchburg Art Museum in Fitchburg and explore Leominster’s vibrant night life. Located just 1.7 miles from Leominster State Forest and less than 6 miles from Wachusett Mountain Ski Area in Princeton is a premier ski area with a 2,006 foot summit, 25 trails, 8 lifts, and cafés, pubs, and ski instructors for everyone. Enjoy a magical experience of night skiing under the stars.

INSPIRATION
For indoor exploration, stop by the Museum of Russian Icons in Clinton, and the Top Fun Aviation Toy Museum in Fitchburg. Learn about the area’s rich heritage at either the Fitchburg, Leominster, or Winchendon Historical Societies.

DON’T MISS
Try a late-winter trip to sugar houses that tempt you with the sweet smell of boiling maple sugar. Get close-up with the farmers annually as they tap their maple trees during “sugar weather” with below freezing nights and mild days. Many sugar houses offer sleigh rides, petting zoos, gift shops, and hot pancakes with fresh syrup.

LOCAL TIP
No trip is complete without a visit to Davis Farmland in Sterling, a family owned destination since 1846. Start at Children’s Discovery Farm with baby animals and rides, or spend time in their peaceful U-pick apple orchard. Need greater adventure? Visit the Davis Mega Maze. This corn maze changes configurations each fall. And don’t miss the Davis Outdoor Laser Tag and Zip Zone Zipline.
A major living history museum, family-friendly attractions, rolling hills, and deep woodlands dot rural, stunning county landscapes rich with orchards and pristine village greens.
EXPLORE

In Worcester, the world-renowned Worcester Art Museum’s 35,000-piece collection spans 5,000 years of art and culture, including unique exhibits about cyanotypes, tapestries, and armors. The exquisite Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston hosts more than 150,000 people a year and features 8 gardens. Take the family to Southwick’s Zoo in Mendon, home to more than 850 exotic animals from around the world; or discover astronomy at EcoTarium’s Alden Digital Planetarium in Worcester where images from NASA and the Hubble Space Telescope are projected onto a 40-foot dome. The DCU Center, Mechanics Hall, and Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts, all in Worcester, regularly host major acts, conventions, concerts, and cultural events. The region is also home to campgrounds, bicycle and hiking trails, fresh water ponds, and orchards. Discover natural landscapes from Purgatory Chasm in Sutton to the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley Heritage National Corridor which runs from Worcester through 24 cities and towns, or take a ride on the Indian Princess around Webster's beautiful Lake Chaubunagungamaug (or Webster Lake) in Webster. Be inspired by a trip to Old Sturbridge Village, which re-creates a rural New England town of the 1830s. Homes, stores, craft shops, and meetinghouses are clustered around a traditional common, and visitors join in the community’s many seasonal celebrations. Don’t miss the gift shop filled with old-fashioned games.

INSPIRATION

It’s Christmas year-round at Vaillancourt Folk Art in Sutton, where generations have been hand-painting chalkware collectibles and creating chocolate molds. Take a studio tour and watch artisans use techniques dating back to the 19th century. Then shop in their classic museum of antiques and art.

DON’T MISS

The region is best known for its classic New England charm and scrumptious dining selections – from orchards and farms to festivals and antiques shops. Sturbridge is home to dozens of antiques shops and U-Pick orchards. Gourmet enthusiasts will love the array of food selections, from farm-to-fork freshness courtesy of local farmers to breweries, wineries, and ethnic restaurants. For that sugar fix, maple-sugaring abounds in the early Spring.

LOCAL TIP

Take in a show at the newly renovated Hanover Theatre for Performing Arts in Worcester. Shop in the nearby Canal District in Worcester, home to Crompton Collective, a curated vintage boutique of local, independent makers, and top it off with a hot meal or a cold beer along Shrewsbury Street’s Restaurant Row.
GREATER SPRINGFIELD

Arrive curious. Leave inspired.

• SCENIC BIKEWAYS
• OUTDOOR EXHIBITS
• SPORTS HISTORY
• THRILLER RIDES

Top-notch family and cultural attractions, a thriving crafts community, and great places to hike and bike throughout the Pioneer Valley.
EXPLORE

Basketball was invented here in 1891. You can walk among the Hall of Famers at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield where cutting-edge technology celebrates the sport with interactive games, special exhibits, and events. If volleyball is more your game, another shrine awaits you at the Volleyball Hall of Fame in Holyoke where the game was invented in 1885. For the story of America’s first armory, visit the Springfield Armory National Historic Site in Springfield. A must do is the Springfield Museums in Springfield, with fascinating science, history, and art museums, and the Dr. Seuss National Memorial Sculpture Garden. The life and legacy of Springfield author Theodor Seuss Geisel is celebrated with a highly-interactive exhibit at The Amazing World of Dr. Seuss Museum. For super-fast, upside-down fun, enter the world of Six Flags New England in Agawam: home to the fastest, tallest, wildest rides in New England. For more family fun, visit the Zoo at Forest Park in Springfield (which presents Bright Lights at holiday time) with more than 200 domestic and exotic animals like llamas, goats, kangaroos, emus, cougars, wolves, and lemurs. CityStage & Symphony Hall in Springfield bring Broadway-style theater, concerts, and performances to Springfield from October through April while nearby MassMutual Center in Springfield hosts concerts and sporting events throughout the year.

INSPIRATION

The 11-mile Norwottuck Rail Trail follows the route of the old Central Massachusetts Line and crosses over the Connecticut River on a quarter-mile-long iron trestle bridge.

DON’T MISS

Visit the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, better known as THE BIG E. Each fall, this 17-day fair combines all six New England states and offers timeless agricultural traditions, entertainment, a magical midway, and more food than you can imagine, including giant eclairs and cream puffs. Don’t miss the Avenue of the States, with replicas of each New England state’s original State House.

LOCAL TIP

Calling all antique lovers every May, July, and September to the Brimfield Outdoor Antique Shows in Brimfield, the world’s largest outdoor antique exhibit. Since the 1950’s this show has grown to more than a half-mile along Rt. 20 and now includes everything from the finest antiques to low-cost collectibles. Here, thousands of dealers interact with more than 300,000 buyers to strike a deal during the six-day shows.
Music, museums, and mountains set the scene for this region which begs you to slow down, be yourself, and enjoy life on ‘The Other Side of Massachusetts.’
EXPLORE

Hampshire County is home to the “Five College Consortium,” a cluster of five private and public colleges adding a distinct cultural flavor. Amherst College, Hampshire College, University of Massachusetts (all in Amherst); Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, and Smith College in Northampton, are just a stone’s throw from each other, making it easy to visit top-notch museums: Smith College Museum of Art, Mead Art Museum at Amherst College and Mt. Holyoke College Art Museum. Monuments and walking tours steer you through their rich and diverse history. Did you know that U.S. President Calvin Coolidge lived and retired in Northampton or that Sojourner Truth lived in Florence? Learn more at Amherst History Museum at the Strong House, Emily Dickinson Museum in Amherst, and Historic Northampton. For indoor family fun, visit the Very Hungry Caterpillar and other friends at the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Amherst. Outdoors, take a bike ride along rail trails or hilly back roads on the outskirts of town. Hike around the Chesterfield Gorge or the Quabbin Reservoir in Ware and Belchertown. In the wintery months, go cross-country skiing at the Friends of the Manhan Rail Trail in Northampton and Easthampton, ice-skate across frozen ponds, and try ice fishing on Highland Lakes. Warm up by the fireplace in a cozy B&B. From ethnic restaurants to all-night diners, ritzy bistros to food trucks, your craving is covered.

INSPIRATION

Farms and farmers inspire you to enjoy fresh and local food from their generations-strong farming traditions. Visit Mockingbird Farm in Easthampton; Red Bucket Sugar Shack in Worthington; or Outlook Farm in Westhampton.

DON’T MISS

Craft breweries and small batch wineries are everywhere. Seasonal brews at the Northampton Brewery and Amherst Brewing Company appeal to your sudsy side. For local wine head over to Black Birch Vineyard in Southampton or Mineral Hills Winery in Florence.

LOCAL TIP

Main Street shopping in Northampton, or “Noho,” is an experience for all senses. Talented street musicians serenade you as you stroll past interesting architecture. Be sure to visit Thones Marketplace, Noho’s inimitable 55,000 sq. ft. indoor mall filled with unique retail and specialty foods.
FRANKLIN COUNTY
A breath of fresh air

• RURAL CHARM
• WHITewater RAFTING
• COZY B&Bs
• SKIING & SNOWSHOEING

Green River Festival, Greenfield
Photo: Ann Hamilton

Rural charm – cozy B&Bs, arts & craft galleries and antiques shops – plus river rafting and other outdoor adventures.
EXPLORE

The Deerfield River presents spectacular whitewater rafting and kayaking. Charlemont outfitters offer float trips on the mild side – ideal for families with children five and older – and adrenaline-fueled runs through Zoar Gap, which runs 17 miles from Florida to Buckland. For landlubbers, Northfield Mountain Recreation & Environmental Center has miles of trails for hiking and biking, groomed in winter for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls has naturalist exhibits about the Connecticut River’s rich cultural and industrial history. Mile-long Old Main Street in Old Deerfield is lined with 18th- and 19th-century homes and period collections. Franklin County is headquarters for two major candle emporiums. Yankee Candle Village in South Deerfield includes the Bavarian Christmas Village, Nutcracker Castle, and a home goods store. Visitors can dip their own candles, tour the candle museum, and enjoy a sweet treat, lunch, or dinner at Chandler’s Café & Restaurant. Ten miles north in Bernardston is the campus of Kringle Candle, noted for scented white candles, gifts, and the Farm Table Restaurant. Shelburne Falls boasts the Bridge of Flowers, a cluster of craft galleries and cozy coffee shops. The glass Pavilion at Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory & Gardens in Deerfield is filled with thousands of exotic plants and butterflies. Annual fairs and festivals provide venues for musicians, entertainers, artisans, and competitions. Enjoy two diverse and exciting weekend signature events in Franklin County each summer and fall. In July, take a hot air balloon ride, enjoy music, local beer & wine, and handmade crafts at the Green River Festival at the Greenfield Community College. In November, celebrate all things apple with county-wide tours, cider tastings, and workshops at Cider Days.

INSPIRATION

Poet or not, you’ll be inspired by the panoramic views from Poet’s Seat Tower atop the ridge overlooking Greenfield and Turners Falls. This 1912 sandstone observation tower is Greenfield’s most notable landmark and is surrounded by scenic woodsly trails.

DON’T MISS

The Nasami Farm and Sanctuary in Whately grows locally-sourced New England native plants and opens their 75-acre farm to the public. The seasonal retail shop, owned by the New England Wild Flower Society, features plants grown in partnership with local nurseries.

LOCAL TIP

Walk, run, or bike along the 3.8-mile track of the Franklin County Bikeway extension, part of a 240-mile long trek. Located along rivers, canals, and on one of the seven cultural Western Massachusetts Scenic Byways.
A thriving cultural mecca – music, theater, dance – and a year-round destination for outdoor fun.
EXPLORE

Bring a pre-concert picnic to the lush green lawns of Tanglewood in Lenox, the summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and a venue for jazz and popular artists like local James Taylor. Sample the region’s visual arts: evocative Americana illustrations at Norman Rockwell Museum in Sturbridge; cutting-edge art in MASS MoCA’s sprawling mill complex in North Adams; historic sculptures at Chesterwood Estate & Museum in Stockbridge; American, Asian and Contemporary exhibitions at the Williams College Museum of Art; along with the special exhibits at The Sterling & Francine Clark Art Institute (“The Clark”) in Williamstown. Jacob’s Pillow brings dance companies from around the globe to its 3 indoor and outdoor stages in rural Becket. Each summer, stage and screen stars return to The Berkshires to practice their craft at The Williamstown Theatre Festival in Williamstown and The Berkshire Theatre Festival in Stockbridge. The Barrington Stage in Pittsfield presents musicals, dramas, and original productions and the Bard rules at Shakespeare & Company in Lenox. Pittsfield’s Colonial Theatre, restored to its vaudeville splendor, presents Broadway shows, musical concerts, and dance. Hancock Shaker Village, in Pittsfield provides fascinating insights into the Shaker way of life. When the snow flies, it’s time for skiing and winter sports at Berkshire East Mountain Resort. Area resorts offer scenic day and night cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowboarding, tubing, children’s programs, lessons, and rentals. Many resorts have lodging and dining on-site for après ski.

INSPIRATION

In Lenox, a visit to The Mount, Edith Wharton’s 1902 estate and gardens, offers tours of her classical home. Enjoy lunch on the veranda overlooking the 3-acre formal gardens or take a stroll through the grounds for a close-up view of the blossoms.

DON’T MISS

Each day, from dawn til’ dusk, the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail beckons. This former railroad corridor, now a 10-foot wide paved, universally-accessible, passive recreation path, offers outstanding scenic and wildlife views along its 11.2-mile stretch through the Hoosic River Valley between Mount Greylock and the Hoosac Mountain Ranges. The southern end starts at the entrance to the Berkshire Mall on Rt. 8, Lanesborough and travels north to Adams.

LOCAL TIP

Indulge in local craft beer and spirits, farm-fresh cheeses, and artisan breads; a bounty of local agriculture supplies Berkshire restaurants with the freshest fare of the season.
MOHAWK TRAIL

A short drive to a world away

• Driving Tours
• Rural Landscape
• Sugar Maples
• Zip Line Tours

America’s first scenic byway winds its way through lush rural landscape and charming small towns of the state’s northwest corner.

Zoar Outdoor, Charlemont
Photo: MOTT
EXPLORE

Think of the Mohawk Trail as a relaxing 63-mile journey escorting you through Franklin County and The Berkshires winding through the most charming small towns in Massachusetts. From Athol to Williamstown you’ll find yourself in towns like Savoy, and Florida which were both added to the National Register of Historic Places. Don’t miss the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum or the Quaker Meeting House, both in Adams. Blaze through the “Highway of History” and discover more than 100 attractions, country inns, gift shops, museums, artisans, and camping areas nestled amid the seasonal changing beauty of the Berkshire Hills and Connecticut Valley. Slow things down and unwind at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (Mass MoCA) in North Adams, and in Williamstown, The Sterling & Francine Clark Art Institute, and the Williams College of Art. When it’s time for an adrenaline rush, head over to the Deerfield River where outfitters are ready to get you kayaking, whitewater rafting or soaring on a zip-line canopy tour. The hilly terrain provides for great spring and summer hiking and in the winter months, pristine skiing and snowshoeing. In Shelburne Falls, stroll across the Bridge of Flowers an ever changing display of flowers and natural greenery.

INSPIRATION

The “Hail to the Sunrise” monument commemorates the Mohawk Trail’s origins as a Native American trail; it depicts a Mohawk, arms uplifted, looking east. Across the Deerfield River is The Bridge of Flowers, a deserted trolley bridge which displays a profusion of flowers and shrubbery. Downstream is Salmon Falls, whose dry riverbed reveals the largest glacial potholes in the country.

DON’T MISS

More than 50,000 acres of state parks and forests are located within The Mohawk Trail. Enjoy an overnight stay in a log cabin at the Mohawk Trail State Forest or hike to the top of Spruce Mountain at the Monroe State Forest. Stop by the High Ledges Wildlife Sanctuary to identify rare and native plants and wildflowers.

LOCAL TIP

Grab a seat at one of The Mohawk Trail Concerts each summer. This musical series, established in 1970, takes place amidst the Trail’s beautiful countryside. Concerts are held at the Federated Church at Charlemont, an intimate setting with superb acoustics and family-friendly ticket prices.
ANNUAL SPECIAL EVENTS

JANUARY
Boston Wine Festival, Boston

FEBRUARY
Chinese New Year Celebrations, Boston
Lowell Winterfest, Lowell

MARCH
Holyoke St. Patrick’s Day Parade, Holyoke
Worcester St. Patrick’s Parade, Worcester

APRIL
Boston Marathon, Boston
Daffodil Days, Nantucket
Patriots’ Day Celebrations, Boston and Concord
Red Sox Opening Day, Boston

MAY
Boston Calling Music Festival, Somerville
Brimfield Antique Show, Brimfield (also: July & September)
Northampton Pride, Northampton
Paradise City Arts Festival, Northampton

JUNE
Boston Pride Parade, Boston
Boston Dragon Boat Festival, Boston
Nantucket Film Festival, Nantucket
St. Peter’s Fiesta, Gloucester

JULY
Barnstable County Fair, East Falmouth
Boston Pops 4th of July Fireworks Spectacular, Boston
Green River Festival, Greenfield
Harborfest, Boston
Lowell Folk Festival, Lowell
New Bedford Folk Festival, New Bedford
Newburyport Yankee Homecoming, Newburyport
Outside The Box Performing Arts Festival, Boston
Puerto Rican Festival Betances, Boston
Shakespeare on the Common, Boston
North End Italian Feasts & Processions, Boston

AUGUST
August Moon Festival, Quincy
Falmouth Road Race, Falmouth
Gloucester Waterfront Festival, Gloucester
Latino Family Festival, Boston
Marshfield Fair, Marshfield

SEPTEMBER
Berklee BeanTown Jazz Festival, Boston
New England Indonesian Festival, Boston
THE BIG E - Eastern States Exposition, W. Springfield
ScallopFest, Falmouth
Franklin County Fair, Greenfield

OCTOBER
Haunted Happenings, Salem
Head of the Charles Regatta, Cambridge
HubWeek, Boston
Paradise City Arts Festival, Northampton
Topsfield Fair, Topsfield

NOVEMBER
America’s Hometown Thanksgiving Celebration, Plymouth
Bright Nights at Forest Park, Springfield
Parade of the Big Balloons, Springfield

DECEMBER
Boston’s Annual Tree Lighting on Boston Common, Boston
First Night/First Day Celebrations, Boston
Nantucket Christmas Stroll, Nantucket

For a complete listing of daily events, visit massvacation.com
The Massachusetts Sports Marketing Office (MSMO) of the Massachusetts Marketing Partnership is the state agency dedicated to promoting the Commonwealth as a premier sports destination. MSMO is the official and lead agency to facilitate and attract major sporting events and championships in the Commonwealth.

The Massachusetts Film Office facilitates film, television, commercial and digital media production and promotes the Commonwealth, worldwide. Recent films include:

- The Finest Hours: Disney
- The Judge: Robert Downey Jr.
- Black Mass: Johnny Depp
- Ghostbusters 3: Melissa McCarthy and Kristen Wiig
- Joy: Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper
- The Heat: Sandra Bullock

For more information, check us out at:

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