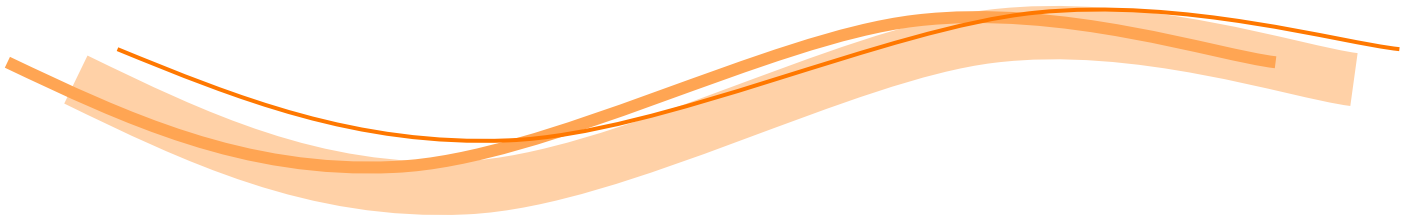




# MASSACHUSETTS





<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>	<p>Massachusetts – a diverse state that boasts “It’s All Here!” ...and just an hour and a half by direct flight from Montreal. Year round it's ideal for weekend getaways or longer vacations.</p> <p>Boston is a vibrant waterfront city with fascinating cultural neighbourhoods and world-class museums and architecture. Plus who can’t resist the lure of Fenway Park – home of the Red Sox.</p> <p>Travel to Cape Cod with its fine beaches with sand dunes, bike trails and visit the coastal cities of Nantucket and Martha’s Vineyard just a short ferry ride away. The Annual Provincetown Jazz Festival is one more reason to visit Massachusetts and Tanglewood in The Berkshires is the summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra with the Boston Pops!</p> <p>Visit the historical town of Salem and the Greater Merrimack Valley that is steeped in Revolutionary War history – plus literary connections: Louisa May Alcott, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Nathaniel Hawthorne all slept here.</p>
<b>Location</b>	The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is a state located in the New England region of the northeastern United States. It borders Rhode Island and Connecticut to the south, New York to the west, and Vermont and New Hampshire to the north. To the east, it borders the Atlantic Ocean.
<b>Geography</b>	Most of the state is uplands of resistant metamorphic rock that were scraped by Pleistocene glaciers that deposited moraines and outwash on a large, sandy, arm-shaped peninsula called Cape Cod and the islands Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket to the south of Cape Cod. Upland elevations increase to the north and west and the highest point in the state is Mount Greylock at 3,491 feet (1,064 m) near the state's northwest corner. The uplands are interrupted by the downfaulted Pioneer Valley along the Connecticut River and further west by the Housatonic Valley separating the Berkshire Hills from the Taconic Range along the western border with New York.
<b>Name</b>	The Massachusetts Bay Colony was named after the indigenous population, the Massachusett, whose name has been translated as "near the great hill".
<b>Population</b>	The state has a population of a little under 6.5 million
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Currency</b>	US Dollars. Current exchange rate as at 16 May 2009 is \$1 Cdn = 85 cents US
<b>Tipping</b>	As in Canada: 10-15% is the norm.
<b>Government</b>	The governor of Massachusetts is head of the executive branch and

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	serves as chief administrative officer of the state and as commander-in-chief of the Massachusetts National Guard. The current governor is Deval Patrick, a Democrat. All governors of Massachusetts are given the official style His/Her Excellency, a carry-over from the Commonwealth's British past, despite such styles being uncommon in American political traditions.
<b>Documentation</b>	Passports are now required for Canadian visitors arriving by air; currently Canadians only require photo ID if driving across the border, but a Passport is still strongly recommended and will become mandatory from 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2009. An enhanced provincial driving licence will also be an alternative.
<b>Time zone</b>	Eastern Time Zone, as Toronto and Montreal
<b>Health</b>	Excellent services available but ensure that you have travelers health insurance as health costs in the US can be very high
<b>Safety tips</b>	Sensible travellers precautions should be adopted, but this destination is considered a safe region to visit.

<b>CLIMATE</b>	
<b>General climate</b>	Summers vary from comfortable low 20s C to up to 35C. The fall season ranges from 0-20C. Winter temperatures usually hover around freezing and sometimes lower. Annual rainfall is between 40 and 48 inches.
<b>Today's weather</b>	19 Centigrade and sunny periods (16 May 2009)
<b>Best time to visit</b>	Boston attracts throngs of visitors year-round. Between April and November, the city sees hardly any slow times. Make reservations as early as possible if you plan to visit during traditionally busy periods. The periods around college graduation (May and early June) and major citywide events are especially busy. Families pour into the area in July and August, but Summer isn't the most expensive time to visit, though: Foliage season, from mid-September to early November, when many leaf-peepers stay in the Boston area or pass through on the way to other New England destinations, is a huge draw. The "slow" season is January through March, when many hotels offer great deals, especially on weekends. However, this is when unpredictable weather hits the region (often affecting travel schedules) and when some suburban attractions close for the winter.

<b>GETTING THERE</b>	
<b>Flying</b>	Logan Airport is located 3 miles from downtown Boston and is easily accessible by public transportation, taxi, and limousine services. A free shuttle bus marked "MASSPORT" stops at each airline terminal, the Airport "T" station, (blue line), and the water shuttle dock. Flying time from both Montreal and Toronto is around one hour.
<b>Cities</b>	<b>Boston</b> Boston is the capital of the state and the largest city in Massachusetts.

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The Official Visitor Website of the Greater Boston CVB is [www.bostonusa.com](http://www.bostonusa.com) Visitors to Boston this summer will remark on how beautifully Boston has transitioned to a vibrant 21st century destination that's been a recent hotspot for European travelers, especially for quick shopping breaks from London & Dublin, Toronto & Montreal. All of the old charm of Boston everywhere apparent, but all evidence of Boston's Big Dig is gone. The city is filled with new hotels, hot new restaurants, new public spaces like the Rose Kennedy Greenway, the beautiful waterfront Institute of Contemporary Art – Boston's first new museum in 100 years - and the completed Boston HarborWalk, which makes every part of Boston's waterfront accessible to families and visitors. A sign of the times: Boston is finally getting its own Wallpaper guide featuring everything that the visitor passionate about design will want to see, including up and coming neighborhoods, landmark buildings, design centers, and the best shops to buy items unique to Boston.

Boston has activities that are free, a bargain and truly unique to Boston: From culinary walking tours in Boston's Italian North End and the third largest Chinatown in the US to a Friday night Boston Barbeque & Kayaking Tour along the Charles river, Boston has something unique & surprising to offer visitors.

#### **What's Coming This Summer of 2009**

- HarborWalk Sounds at the Institute of Contemporary Art; Thursdays, seasonal
- Harborfest: June 30-July 5, 2009
- Sail Boston/Tall Ships: July 8-13, 2009
- Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular: July 4, 2009 - the concert is free and it's a great event
- Summer Restaurant Week Boston: August 9-14 and August 16-21

#### **What's New**

- Rose Kennedy Greenway: direct link between Faneuil Hall Marketplace and the North End
- HarborWalk – New England Aquarium Marine Mammal Center opening this summer
- Boston Harbor Islands – Thursday Night Clam Bake on Spectacle Island

#### **Charles River Canoe and Kayak – Boston Barbeque Tours**

Enjoy an evening paddling the Charles River, one of the most scenic sections of urban river in the country, followed by some of the best food the area has to offer. \$63.00 3-hour kayaking lesson with kayak rental followed by Friday night Redbones Barbeque picnic dinner in the

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	<p>shadow of Harvard along the Charles river.</p> <p><b><u>ArtsBoston.org</u></b>  New one-stop arts website for Boston-area Theatre, Concerts and Performing Arts shows and events; half-price tickets are available for some shows: <a href="http://www.artsboston.org">www.artsboston.org</a>  The website provides photos, citizen reviews, accurate, up-to-date information for visitors—who can make plans and purchase tickets in advance of their arrival. Arts organizations have information available on ArtsBoston.org for 6 or 12 months out, so that visitors will be able to discern what events are available during their stay. The GBCVB will also feature event listings from on <a href="http://www.BostonUSA.com">www.BostonUSA.com</a></p> <p><b>Boston Harbor</b> is one of the world's most scenic harbors and there are countless options along the waterfront:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Long Wharf:</b> harbor cruises, whale watch, Codzilla thrill ride, dining cruises, fast ferries to Salem, Cape Cod, new Marine Mammal Center at the New England Aquarium opening this summer. The new centre will provide an open air space of shallow pools and large decks where Aquarium visitors will be able to meet seals and sea lions face to face. Along with the construction of the marine mammal center, the entire harbor-side plaza has been rebuilt.</li> <li>• <b>Ferries</b> to the Boston Harbor Islands including a Thursday night clam bake and swimming at Spectacle Island and gourmet snack bar by Jasper White's Summer Shack in Boston</li> <li>• <b>HarborWalk Sounds</b> at the waterfront Institute of Contemporary Art is a free series of Thursday Evening concerts featuring rising stars in jazz, world, Latin and more. Relax on the harbor with a delicious drink from the Water Café and hot sounds from the coolest music school around and spectacular views of the harbor. Admission is free.</li> </ul> <p><b>Free Greater Boston Convention &amp; Visitors Bureau Publications</b> available to Canadian visitors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Boston &amp; Cambridge Summer Travel Planner: event listings and Visitor &amp; trip-planning information</li> <li>• New 18-page full-color Summer in the City book highlighting summer concerts, culinary tours, food &amp; wine events, festivals, outdoor activities. They are taking orders for Summer in the City now and they will be available starting May 27 2009</li> <li>• Request Visitor Information, trip planning advice, Travel Planner, Summer in the City: <a href="mailto:visitus@bostonusa.com">visitus@bostonusa.com</a> or <a href="http://www.bostonusa.com">www.bostonusa.com</a></li> </ul>
<b>Distances</b>	<p>Montreal – Boston – approx. 500 kms (drive takes about five and a half hours)</p> <p>Toronto – Boston – approx. 900 kms (drive takes about nine hours)</p>

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	Boston to Provincetown on Cape Cod is approx 2.5 hours driving
<b>Ferries</b>	<p><b>Island Ferries</b>          Island ferries are seasonal except where indicated by (YR=Year Round). Only the Steamship Authority transports vehicles to Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Island. Space is limited; reservations are required and should be made far in advance. Reservations are not required for passengers, bicycles, and motorcycles. If you plan to leave your car on Cape Cod, parking is available for a fee at the Steamship Authority docks. For more information go to <a href="http://www.islandferry.com">www.islandferry.com</a></p> <p><b>To Cape Cod</b>          From Boston to Provincetown (high-speed and regular)          Baystate Cruise Company, 866-683-3779-, 617-748-1428</p> <p>From Boston to Provincetown (high-speed)          Boston Harbor Cruises, 877-SEE-WHALE, 617-227-4321</p> <p>From Plymouth to Provincetown (high-speed)          Capt. John Boats, 800-242-2469</p> <p><b>To Martha's Vineyard</b>          From Woods Hole to Vineyard Haven (YR)          Steamship Authority, 508-477-8600, 508-693-9130</p> <p>From Hyannis to Oak Bluffs          Hy-Line, 800-492-8082</p> <p>From Falmouth to Edgartown          Falmouth-Edgartown Ferry, 508-548-9400</p> <p>From Falmouth to Oak Bluffs          Island Queen, 508-548-4800</p> <p>From Nantucket to Oak Bluffs          Hy-Line, 888-778-1132</p> <p>From Quonset Point, RE to Oak Bluffs          Vineyard Fast Ferry, 401-295-4040</p> <p>From New Bedford to Oak Bluffs and Vineyard Haven (YR)          New England Fast Ferry Company, 866-453-6800, 617-748-1428</p>

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	<p><b>To Nantucket Island</b>  All ferries arrive and depart from Nantucket Harbor.  From Harwichport  Freedom Cruise Line, 508-432-8999</p> <p>From Hyannis (YR)  Steamship Authority, 508-477-8600</p> <p>From Hyannis (High-speed catamaran) (YR)  Steamship Authority, 508-477-7447, 508-477-8600</p> <p>From Hyannis (high-speed catamaran) (YR)  Hy-Line, 800-492-8082</p> <p>From Hyannis  Hy-Line, 888-778-1132</p> <p>From Oak Bluffs, Martha's Vineyard  Hy-Line, 888-778-1132</p>
<b>Trains</b>	<p>Convenient <b>Amtrak</b> service, featuring high-speed Acela Express and the Northeast Regional train from Washington, D.C.; Philadelphia; New York; and New Haven, Connecticut, provide a fast ride with wide, comfortable seats, appetizing café menus and all the charm of scenic New England just outside your window.</p> <p>Amtrak provides service to Boston (Westwood, Back Bay Station and South Station), Framingham, Worcester, Springfield, Amherst and Pittsfield. For more Amtrak information and reservations, call 1-800-USA-RAIL or check <a href="http://www.amtrak.com">www.amtrak.com</a></p>
<b>Car Rental</b>	<p>All the major car rental companies have locations at Logan Airport, and most have downtown Boston locations. At most locations the minimum age to rent a car is 25.</p>
<b>Buses</b>	<p><b>MBTA Rapid Transit</b>  Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA)  617-222-3200, 800-392-6100 TTY 617-222-5146</p> <p>The T runs daily service on buses, boats, trains and trolleys throughout Boston and surrounding towns. Stations can be identified by a black T on a white circular sign.</p> <p>Purchase fare on a CharlieTicket with cash, debit or credit card at fare-vending machines in any station or aboveground trolley stop, or with cash only at a bus farebox. One bus or train ride is \$1.50 - \$3.50 depending on mode and transfers. Children 11 or under ride free with a paying adult, while customers 65 and over pay a reduced fare. The MBTA Web site has information more about fares, schedules, routes and the automated fare equipment.</p>

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	Visitors benefit from multi-day LinkPasses for unlimited bus, train, trolley and Inner Harbor Ferry access for one (\$9.00) or seven (\$15.00) days effective from date of purchase. Passes are available at any in-station or Logan Airport fare-vending machine or at vendors throughout the city. For information about fares, schedules, routes, sales locations, group sales information, and automated fare equipment visit <a href="http://www.mbta.com">www.mbta.com</a> .
<b>Passes</b>	Check out <a href="http://www.massvacation.com">www.massvacation.com</a> for information on the Mass Value Pass, which offers discounts of up to 25% at over 300 hotels, restaurants and attractions. In Boston, there are great deals on <a href="http://www.BostonUSA.com/greatdeals">www.BostonUSA.com/greatdeals</a>

<b>ACCOMMODATION TYPES</b>	<p>You can choose from a vast range of accommodation types in this region. Check out the prize hotels featured at the end of these notes. Here are a few more suggestions:</p> <p><b>Mandarin Oriental Boston</b> 776 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02199 (617) 535-8888 One of Boston's newest luxury hotels, the Mandarin Oriental adds another fine facade and upscale spa to undoubtedly one of the most desirable addresses on Boylston Street. The hotel is connected directly to the Prudential Center, home to the city's premier businesses and boutiques, and blends the simple beauties of Oriental style with Bostonian elegance. <a href="http://www.mandarinoriental.com">www.mandarinoriental.com</a></p> <p><b>Yankee Cricket Bed and Breakfast</b> 106 Five Bridge Road, Brimfield, MA 01010-9703 (413) 245-0030 Enjoy the quaintness and charm of an authentic 18th century inn with all the amenities of new construction. This bed and breakfast offers a number of specialty weekend packages with area restaurants and attractions, including: Murder Mystery Dinner Theater in conjunction with the Salem Cross Inn and Stageloft Repertory Theatre, old fashioned sleigh rides with Hollow Brook Farms and dog sledding with Northern Exposure Outfitters. Yankee Cricket also prepares custom itineraries for guests. <a href="http://www.yankeecricket.com">www.yankeecricket.com</a></p>
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<b>TARGET GROUPS</b>	
<b>Kids</b>	<p>Roar through high-speed turns on a teeth-rattling roller coaster. Snap a photo of your kids next to a one-and-a-half-story Tyrannosaurus rex. Get eyeball-to-eyeball with sharks and stingrays. Or find your way through a giant maze of corn. By the way, did you know that Massachusetts is home to 8 Children's museums? Hands-on exhibits and activities for the curious mind abound.</p> <p>At the <b>Springfield Science Museum</b>, explore the eco-center, the dinosaur and African halls, the mineral hall and the planetarium. Visit the Southwick's Zoo in Central Massachusetts — it's New England's</p>

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	<p>largest zoo, with delightfully large and small animals. The <b>Berkshire Museum</b> in Western Massachusetts offers art, natural science and a history exhibit, along with a touch-tank aquarium and children's programs.</p> <p>And with a variety of museums made just for kids, Massachusetts is the place for budding young naturalists and scientists. In the Greater Merrimack Valley, the two museums of the <b>Discovery Museums</b> encourage toddlers and older children to explore, experiment and play as they learn about science. The Children's Museum at Holyoke, in Western Massachusetts, offers hands-on exhibits for all ages. And adults and kids will find plenty to do at the <b>Boston Children's Museum</b>, where you can climb a rock wall, visit Japan and so much more.</p>
<b>Teens</b>	<p>For New England's largest theme park, head to <b>Six Flags New England</b> in Agawam. Experience the "Glow in the Park Parade", an all new nighttime spectacular with dramatic state-of-the-art floats, cirque-style music and thousands of sparkling lights! The Dept. of Conservation and Recreation presents Park Passport, a program where families are encouraged to continue to visit parks statewide in an effort to fill their passport with stamps from all the parks. Head to Campanelli Stadium in Brockton and catch a game with Brockton Rox, a minor league baseball team. On the North Shore, Salem Willows features a seaside promenade and amusement park with arcade games, children's rides and a harbor cruise. No matter what the weather is outside it'll feel like Summer at <b>Coco Key Indoor Water Park</b>. On Martha's Vineyard, the Flying Horses Carousel, the oldest in the nation, delights young children. Or stop at one of the many farm stands or "pick your own" orchards across the state to bring home strawberries, peaches, apples or pumpkins.</p>
<b>Romance</b>	<p>What could be more romantic than New England in the fall? Or perhaps an endless Cape Cod beach in springtime? Or a small country inn in the hills of Massachusetts? Yes, this is romance country and the possibilities are endless! See our prize hotels below for romantic accommodation.</p>
<b>Seniors</b>	<p>Boston-area businesses offer many discounts to seniors with identification (a driver's license, passport, or other document that shows your date of birth). The cut-off age is usually 65, sometimes 62. Restaurants, museums, and movie theaters may offer special deals. Restaurants and theaters usually offer discounts only at off-peak times, but museums and other attractions offer reduced rates - usually the equivalent of the student price - at all times.</p>
<b>UNIQUES</b>	<p><b>Llama Trekking:</b> You can trek across Central Massachusetts with a llama from Pinetum Farms who offer daily hikes up the mountain with llama as travelling companions for a unique way of seeing the</p>

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	<p>countryside! <a href="http://www.pinetumfarm.com">www.pinetumfarm.com</a></p> <p><b>Lighthouses:</b> There's Boston Light, the oldest lighthouse in America, established in 1716. There's Highland Light on Cape Cod, the first light seen on a voyage from Europe to Boston. There's Scituate Light, the oldest lighthouse in the U.S. with attached living quarters. There are so many more: come explore, learn about and experience the wondrous array of historic beacons, located up and down the coastline.</p>
<b>Surprising</b>	<p>Massachusetts is officially a "<b>commonwealth</b>." Colloquially, it is often referred to simply as "the Commonwealth," although "state" is used interchangeably. While this designation is part of the state's official name, it has no practical implications. Massachusetts has the same position and powers within the United States as other states and a similar form of internal government.</p>
<b>History</b>	<p>Massachusetts has been significant throughout American history. Plymouth was the second permanent English settlement in North America. Many of Massachusetts' towns were founded by colonists from England in the 1620s and 1630s. During the eighteenth century, Boston became known as the "Cradle of Liberty" for the agitation there which led to the American Revolution and the independence of the United States from Great Britain. In the nineteenth century, Massachusetts was the first U.S. state to abolish slavery. Also, it was a center of the temperance movement and abolitionist activity preceding the American Civil War. In 2004, Massachusetts became the first U.S. state to legally recognize same-sex marriage. The state has contributed many prominent politicians to national service, including the Adams family and, more recently, the Kennedy family.</p> <p>Originally dependent on agriculture and trade with Europe, Massachusetts was transformed into a manufacturing center during the Industrial Revolution. During the twentieth century the state's economy shifted from manufacturing to services. Today the state is a leader in higher education, health care, high technology and financial services.</p> <p><b>Historical experiences:</b> Step back in time at Hancock Shaker Village. Chat with Pilgrims about their perilous voyage on the Mayflower. Stroll down the gas-lit cobblestone streets of New Bedford's historic whaling district. Meet Paul Revere. Or stand on the exact spot where British troops and patriots clashed for the first time. Walk the Freedom Trail beginning on Boston Common where hordes of red-clad British troops once trained: the redbrick Freedom Trail connects 16 of Boston's most storied landmarks that changed America's history forever. Wind your way through the same narrow streets Ben Franklin once walked. Re-live the mayhem of the Boston Tea Party. Listen closely and you'll still hear the shouts of protest reverberating through Faneuil Hall.</p>

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<b>Books</b>	<p>As ever, Frommer's offer invaluable advice for the visitor to this region and I heartily recommend a couple of their guides for your trip:  <b>Frommer's New England, 14<sup>th</sup> Edition</b>  <b>Frommer's Cape Cod, Nantucket &amp; Martha's Vineyard 2009</b></p>
<b>1000 Places to see before you die</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>The Freedom Trail</b> in Boston;</li> <li>2. <b>Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum</b>, Boston – idiosyncratic collection of European, Asian, American art;</li> <li>3. <b>Brimfield Outdoor Antiques Show</b>, 80 miles West of Boston in May, July and Sept, America's largest and most famous antiques market;</li> <li>4. <b>Cape Cod National Seashore</b>;</li> <li>5 <b>Tanglewood Music Festival</b> – summertime home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra for last 60 years, 210 acre estate in hilly Berkshires, 120 miles west of Boston, end June to Labor Day;</li> <li>6 <b>Martha's Vineyard</b> -20 miles by 10 miles, rolling sand dunes and cranberry bogs, pretty and historical;</li> <li>7. <b>Nantucket</b> – 30 miles off Mass coast, floats in own time and space, 12000 residents, beaches, 19th century homes, wildlife refuge;</li> <li>8. Thanksgiving at <b>Plimoth Plantation</b> – 1627 Village and 1621 dinner, costumed interpreters 17th century colonists, 1620 Plymouth Rock and Mayflower II</li> </ol>
<b>Must Sees – Cape Cod</b>	<p>It doesn't take long to discover why <b>Cape Cod</b> is known as Massachusetts' year-round playground. You'll find miles of warm-water beaches, fresh-caught seafood, hiking and biking trails, and challenging golf courses. All this in a peninsula that's known for its distinctive architectural style of gable-roofed houses, their shingles weathered to a soft gray.</p> <p>Summer on Cape Cod is all about families, spring &amp; fall are for adults: from girlfriends weekends, to the fishing derby, from the romance of unfettered coastlines and miles of trails to bike &amp; hike, to fabulous dining experiences that focus on local farms and the local catch.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sandwich</b>, the Cape's oldest town and home to Heritage Museums &amp; Gardens with its rhododendron-filled grounds and collections of early American artifacts and antique cars.</li> <li>• <b>The National Marine Fisheries Aquarium</b> and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in Woods Hole.</li> <li>• <b>The John F. Kennedy Museum in Hyannis</b>, a bustling seaside town with seafood restaurants and warm-water beaches.</li> <li>• A bicycle ride on the <b>Cape Cod Rail Trail</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Chatham Light</b>, one of the Cape's many lighthouses. Stop by Chatham's Town Pier when the fishing boats are unloading and you'll realize what Cape restaurants mean when they say dinner is "fresh-caught."</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 27,000-acre <b>Cape Cod National Seashore</b> with its long stretches of sandy beaches and stunning desert-like sand dunes. 27,000 acres; 40 miles of sandy beaches; bicycle and nature trails, marshes, woodlands, and sand dunes. Lifeguard, Jul. &amp; Aug.; visitors center with orientation film, exhibits, and interpretive programs.</li> <li>• The lively artists' colony of <b>Provincetown</b> on the tip of the Cape.</li> <li>• <b>Whalewatching</b> trips from Barnstable and Provincetown.</li> <li>• <b>Aquinnah Light</b>: Est. in 1799; one of the first electrified lighthouses. Stands atop 130-foot clay cliffs. Public entry on weekends.</li> </ul> <p>Bristol County: Stroll down the gas-lit cobblestone streets of New Bedford's historic district and it's not hard to imagine the port in its heyday as the hard-driving whaling capital of the world. Nearby Fall River has a rich history, too, as a center of textile manufacturing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The New Bedford Whaling Museum</b>, where you can board a half-scale model of a whaling vessel.</li> <li>• <b>Seamen's Bethel</b>, a chapel for seafaring families and the inspiration for Herman Melville's Moby-Dick.</li> <li>• <b>The schooner Ernestina</b>, a 100-year-old ship with a rich history as a fishing vessel and arctic explorer, which is docked on the New Bedford waterfront when not at sea.</li> <li>• <b>Fall River's</b> discount outlet stores, housed in the granite and brick mill buildings that once hummed with textile machinery.</li> <li>• <b>Battleship Cove</b>, which features the WWII battleship USS Massachusetts.</li> <li>• Big-name jazz, folk, rock, and classical concerts at the <b>Tweeter Center</b> for the Performing Arts.</li> <li>• The beach at <b>Horseneck State Reservation</b> and the delightful seaside villages along Buzzards Bay.</li> </ul>
<b>Must Sees – North of Boston</b>	<p>The 50 kms of rocky coastline north of Boston are punctuated with long sandy beaches, rugged fishing ports, and sparkling sailing harbors. Nautical lore and the ghosts of witches past offer fascinating glimpses into the region's rich history.</p> <p><b>Salem</b>, the home of the witch trials of the 1690s and novelist Nathaniel Hawthorne's House of Seven Gables. The Peabody Essex Museum underwent a major expansion in 2003 and now focuses on the art and culture of New England and the world. Before million-dollar legal teams and Court TV, there were the Salem Witch Trials of 1692. Learn about the infamous event and the bizarre circumstances that preceded it on this 1.7 mile long trail. The trail is not limited to tales of witchcraft. Wind your way through this charming port city and you'll be transported back to the days of sea captains, pirates, and noted novelist Nathaniel Hawthorne.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Marblehead</b>, one of the East Coast's premier sailing centers. Old Town is chock-a- block with 18th- and 19th-century homes of fishermen,</li> </ul>

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	<p>merchants, and artisans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gloucester</b>, a rugged fishing port, packed with work boats and seafood restaurants and a departure point for four whale watch operators.</li> <li>• <b>Motif #1</b>, a fishing shack in Rockport harbor that's been the subject of countless paintings.</li> <li>• <b>Essex</b>, a mecca for antique hunters and seafood lovers (the fried clam was first cooked here).</li> <li>• <b>Newburyport's High Street</b>, lined with splendid early-American mansions, built by wealthy sea captains and merchants. Nearby Plum Island is a barrier reef island and nature preserve with six miles of smooth white beach.</li> <li>• <b>Salisbury</b>, the state's northernmost coastal town and home to the 520-acre Salisbury Beach State Reservation, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean and the Merrimack River</li> </ul>
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<b>SPORTS ACTIVITIES</b>	<p>Massachusetts has a long history with amateur athletics and professional teams. Most of the major professional teams have won multiple championships in their respective leagues. Massachusetts teams have won five Stanley Cups (<b>Boston Bruins</b>), seventeen NBA Championships (<b>Boston Celtics</b>), three Super Bowls (<b>New England Patriots</b>), and eight World Series (seven for the <b>Boston Red Sox</b>, one for the Boston Braves). The state is also the home to the Basketball Hall of Fame (Springfield) and the Volleyball Hall of Fame (Holyoke); those sports were invented in the Commonwealth.</p>
<b>Golf</b>	<p><b>Cape Ann Golf Course</b>  Play a round of golf on this scenic public course set among the marshes in Cape Ann and see a beautiful ocean view from the fourth tee. The course was built on hilly terrain and features well manicured greens and sand bunkers spread throughout its entire design. The course includes a putting green, pro shop, pull carts and power carts, and food available. Cost: \$22 for 9 holes; \$37 for 18 holes. Senior rate is \$19 for 9 holes; \$32 for 18 holes. Essex 978-768-7544  <a href="http://www.capeanngolf.com">www.capeanngolf.com</a></p> <p><b>Cranwell Resort, Spa and Golf Club</b>  Named one of the "100 Must-Play Courses of New England" by Golf Styles Boston Magazine, Cranwell's championship 18-hole golf course combines spectacular views with challenging golf. The course is open to the public or seasonal memberships are available that include advance tee times, unlimited driving range privileges, discounted access to the resort's spa and pool, as well as shopping and dining discounts. The course opens early-to-mid April, weather dependent. Cost: Spring fees are \$39-\$79 per person, depending on day of week and number of</p>

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	<p>holes. Lenox 800-272-6935  <a href="http://www.cranwell.com/golf_recreations.php">www.cranwell.com/golf_recreations.php</a></p> <p><b>Falmouth Country Club</b>  Falmouth Country Club is a challenging 27-hole public golf course not far from the Atlantic beaches, cranberry bogs and all that is Cape Cod. Walk or ride the championship 18-hole, par 72 course, or enjoy the 9-hole, par 37 "Talon" course. Take note of a majestic pair of ospreys patrolling the water from their nest on the 10th hole. Falmouth Country Club is open year round.  <a href="http://www.falmouthcountryclub.com">www.falmouthcountryclub.com</a></p> <p><b>Cyprian Keyes Golf Club</b>  Cyprian Keyes Golf Club is a daily-fee golf club offering 27 holes of golf on an 18-hole championship course and a 9-hole par 3. The course is open to the public seven days a week, from mid-March to mid November, weather permitting. Cost: 9-hole Par 3 fees range from \$9.00-18.00, 18-Hole Championship Course is \$43.00-66.00  Boylston 508-869-9900 ext. 37  <a href="http://www.cypriankeyes.com">www.cypriankeyes.com</a></p> <p><b>Pine Oaks Golf Course</b>  Pine Oaks is a public golf course designed for players of all skill levels. The 18-hole course offers five different sets of tee markers on every hole, so golfers can choose the best level of play for them. The course also boasts an advanced yardage marker system that makes choosing the right club easier and faster. Grab a bite to eat at the Wood Bar and The Iron Grill after the game. Cost: Rates range from \$13-33, depending on day of week and number of holes. South Easton 508-238-2320 <a href="http://www.pineoaks.com">www.pineoaks.com</a></p>
<b>Fishing</b>	<p>Sport fishing has a strong following. Spin-casting during the warmer months and ice fishing during the winter on inland lakes and ponds, fly fishing inland rivers for trout, surf casting for striped bass and bluefish, and deep-sea fishing for cod and haddock also remain popular. Freshwater fishing venues range from the ice-cold streams of the Berkshire Hills to the mighty Connecticut and Merrimack rivers. More than 500 lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams are stocked with 700,000 trout annually. For saltwater fisherman, party and charter boats leave from 27 Massachusetts ports.</p>
<b>Horse riding</b>	<p>There are many stables throughout Massachusetts – here's a recommendation:  <b>Harmony Trail Horseback Riding</b>, 659 Kirchner Rd. Dalton , MA  <a href="http://Harmonytrails.com">http://Harmonytrails.com</a> Phone: 877-874-4598  Trail rides for the whole family. Beautiful trails terrain and views. Family</p>

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	friendly, pony rides for the very young and from beginner to advanced riders.
<b>Hiking</b>	<p>If you want to put your hiking skills to the test, head west to the Appalachian Trail and Mt. Washington State Forest. For botanical variety, check out Greater Boston's Garden in the Woods. For a leisurely walk through the forest, Weir Hill Reservation, located in Greater Merrimack Valley, is ideal. And for family fun, you'll find an abundance of picnicking areas and moderately difficult trails in the central part of the state in places such as Royalston Falls and the Swift River Reservation.</p> <p>The Metacomet-Monadnock Trail, the Midstate Trail, and the Bay Circuit Trail are all long-distance hiking trails. The Tully Trail, a 35 km loop near the northern end of the huge Quabbin reservoir (through the towns of Athol, Orange, Warwick, and Royalston) incorporates waterfalls and stunning vistas</p>
<b>Cycling</b>	<p><b>Ashuwillticook Rail Trail</b>  Bring your bike, roller blades or walking shoes to the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail, a former railroad corridor converted into a 10-foot wide paved, universally accessible, passive recreation path. The 20km trail passes through the Hoosic River Valley, between the Mount Greylock and the Hoosac Mountain Ranges. Cheshire Reservoir, the Hoosic River, and associated wetlands flank much of the trail offering outstanding views of the scenery and abundant wildlife. Equipment rentals are available at Berkshire Outfitters (413-743-5900). The trail is open year round, dawn to dusk. <a href="http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/asrt.htm">www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/asrt.htm</a></p> <p><b>Minuteman Bikeway</b>  The Minuteman Bikeway is a 19km bike path that runs through Bedford, Lexington, Arlington, and Cambridge, passing through the historic area where the American Revolution began in April 1775. In June 2008, the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy inducted the Minuteman Bikeway into the national Rail-Trail Hall of Fame. The trail is open year round from 5:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. <a href="http://www.minutemanbikeway.org">www.minutemanbikeway.org</a></p> <p><b>Cape Cod Rail Trail</b>  The Cape Cod Rail Trail follows a former railroad right-of-way for 38km through the towns of Dennis, Harwich, Brewster, Orleans, Eastham and Wellfleet. Its paved surface, few hills, and well-marked automobile crossings make it ideal for cyclists. The trail has a wide unpaved shoulder on one side to accommodate horseback riding, walkers, and runners. There are many opportunities to get off the trail and visit a beach, and food, water, public restrooms and bike rental shops are available at many points along the way. <a href="http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/southeast/ccrt.htm">www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/southeast/ccrt.htm</a></p>

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<b>Boston Marathon</b>	<p>The Boston Marathon is unique because of its indisputable position as the world's oldest annual marathon and the fact that it's widely regarded as the world's most prestigious road race. It's the only major marathon where most runners have to achieve a target time in a prior marathon to qualify to apply to run the race. It's run on Patriots' Day, the third Monday in April and this year I had the privilege of running the Marathon – check out the Travel Show blog at:  <a href="http://christalkstravel.blogspot.com/2009/05/boston-marathon.html">http://christalkstravel.blogspot.com/2009/05/boston-marathon.html</a>  Full details of the event itself can be found at:  <a href="http://www.bostonmarathon.org/News.asp">http://www.bostonmarathon.org/News.asp</a></p>
<b>CULTURE</b>	<p>From world-famous paintings to rustic folk art, the Massachusetts art world is a feast for the eyes. Not to mention the ears - from classical to classic rock, the live music scene is always hopping. Massachusetts' vibrant theater will keep you on the edge of your seat, its multicultural events will inspire you, and the dance scene, from ballet to modern, is sure to move you.</p>
<b>Arts</b>	<p>Study the masters at Boston's <b>Museum of Fine Art</b> <a href="http://www.mfa.org">http://www.mfa.org</a>  One of the world's great art museums, the MFA works nonstop to become even more accessible and interesting. Every installation reflects a curatorial attitude that makes even those who go in with a feeling of obligation leave with a sense of discovery and wonder. That includes children, who can launch a scavenger hunt, admire the mummies, or participate in family-friendly programs scheduled year-round (and extra offerings during school vacations). Among the numerous highlights of the magnificent collections are the Impressionist paintings (including one of the largest collections of Monets outside of Paris), Asian and Old Kingdom Egyptian collections, classical art, Buddhist temple, and medieval sculpture and tapestries.</p> <p>Be wowed at Boston's <b>Institute of Contemporary Art</b> <a href="http://www.icaboston.org">http://www.icaboston.org</a>. The Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) presents a full schedule of summer programming, including an expanded music partnership with World Music/CRASHarts; HarborWalk Sounds in collaboration with Berklee College of Music; Talking Taste with renowned Boston chefs; the world premiere of a work commissioned by Summer Stages Dance at Concord Academy; and film programmed to complement the exhibit Shepard Fairey: Supply and Demand.</p>
<b>Music</b>	<p>Massachusetts features music for all tastes: classical, jazz, early music, even a rich history of rock and roll.</p> <p>The cornerstone is one of the world's greatest orchestras, the <b>Boston Symphony Orchestra</b>. It performs in Symphony Hall, celebrated the world over for its magnificent acoustics and historic location -</p>

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	<p>conveniently just steps from the T.</p> <p>For opera buffs, the <b>Berkshire Opera Company</b> and the <b>Boston Lyric Opera</b> feature lavish productions. Of course, no Fourth of July would be complete without the Boston Pops concert at the Hatch Shell on the Charles River Esplanade. Two popular venues for contemporary music: the dramatic Bank of America Pavilion on Boston Harbor and the Tweeter Center for the Performing Arts, a 19,000-seat amphitheater in Mansfield.</p>
<b>Theatre</b>	<p>Massachusetts enjoys a rich heritage of outstanding theatre, and the tradition continues today. From venues that attract major stars to puppet shows for the little ones, there's always something on stage to delight you.</p> <p>Visit Cape Cod and take in America's oldest professional summer theatre — the <b>Cape Playhouse</b> in Dennis. For a big-city theater fix, the American Repertory Theater (ART) in Cambridge is a nationally acclaimed company, and Boston University's Huntington theatre is a professional theatre featuring comedies and classics in two of the city's best theatre spaces.</p>
<b>Films</b>	<p><b>Good Will Hunting, The Perfect Storm, and Mystic River</b> are among the best movies with Boston-area backdrops. TV shows set in Boston include: Boston Legal, The Practice, St. Elsewhere, and Spenser: For Hire. Most famously, <b>Cheers</b> was based on a local pub called the Bull &amp; Finch, and the show became so popular that the original bar changed its name and a spin-off opened in Faneuil Hall Marketplace.</p>
<b>Museums</b>	<p>Hancock Shaker Village in Western Massachusetts provides fascinating insights into the Shaker way of life...See the splendid homes and gardens of two U.S. Presidents at the Adams National Historical Park...Check out the dazzling display of Medieval and Renaissance armor at the Higgins Armory Museum in Worcester...In Concord, take a tour of Louisa May Alcott's Orchard House.</p> <p>In Boston there are so many museums you could spend a month and not see them all. My top three suggestions are:</p> <p>For the ultimate pain-free educational experience, head to the <b>Museum of Science</b>. The demonstrations, experiments, and interactive displays introduce facts and concepts so effortlessly that everyone winds up learning something. Take a couple of hours or a whole day to explore the permanent and temporary exhibits, most of them hands-on and all of them great fun. Among the 500-plus exhibits, you might meet a dinosaur or a live butterfly, find out how much you'd weigh on the moon, battle urban traffic (in a computer model), or climb into a space module. Activity centers and exhibits focus on fields of interest - natural history (with live animals), computers, the human body - while others take an interdisciplinary approach. Investigate! teaches visitors to think like</p>

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	<p>scientists, formulating questions, finding evidence, and drawing conclusions through activities such as strapping on a skin sensor to measure reactions to stimuli or sifting through an archaeological site. Beyond the X-Ray explores medical-imaging techniques and allows would-be diagnosticians to try to figure out what's ailing their "patients." The Science in the Park exhibit introduces the concepts of Newtonian physics through familiar objects such as playground equipment and skateboards. Cost: \$17 adults <a href="http://www.mos.org">www.mos.org</a></p> <p><b>Paul Revere House:</b> One of the most pleasant stops on the Freedom Trail, this 2 1/2-story wood structure presents history on a human scale. Revere was living here when he set out for Lexington on April 18, 1775, a feat immortalized in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem "Paul Revere's Ride" ("Listen, my children, and you shall hear / of the midnight ride of Paul Revere"). It holds neatly arranged and identified 17th- and 18th-century furnishings and artifacts, including the famous Revere silver, considered some of the finest anywhere. The oldest house in downtown Boston, it was built around 1680, bought by Revere in 1770, and put to a number of uses before being turned into a museum in 1908. Cost: \$3 adults <a href="http://www.paulreverehouse.org">http://www.paulreverehouse.org</a></p> <p><b>New England Aquarium:</b> This complex is home to more than 15,000 fish and aquatic mammals, and at busy times, it seems to contain at least that many people -- in July and August, try to make this your first stop of the morning, especially on weekends. Pause as you enter to visit with the harbor seals, which frolic in a free outdoor enclosure just past the ticket booth. Inside, penguins from three continents greet visitors as they enter. The focal point of the aquarium is the four-story, 200,000-gallon Giant Ocean Tank. A four-story spiral ramp encircles the tank, which contains a replica of a Caribbean coral reef and an assortment of sea creatures that seem to coexist amazingly well. Part of the reason for the peace might be that scuba divers feed the sharks twice a day. The two-floor Amazing Jellies exhibit is home to hundreds of eye-catching jellyfish. At the Edge of the Sea exhibit, visitors can touch the sea stars, sea urchins, and horseshoe crabs in the tide pool. Cost: \$19 adults <a href="http://www.newenglandaquarium.org">www.newenglandaquarium.org</a></p>
<b>Festivals</b>	<p><b>Boston Events &amp; Festivals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HarborWalk Sounds at the Institute of Contemporary Art; Thursdays, seasonal</li> <li>• Harborfest: June 30-July 5, 2009</li> <li>• Sail Boston/Tall Ships: July 8-13, 2009 – Canadian schooner Bluenose II will be on view and racing in the Tall Ships Atlantic Challenge that starts in Spain</li> <li>• Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular: July 4, 2009 – free concert</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer Restaurant Week Boston: August 9-14 and August 16-21 Summer visitors to Faneuil Hall Marketplace in Boston will enjoy the Children's Cobblestone Concert Series on June 27, August 15 and 29. Musical performances will provide family-friendly musical entertainment for the young and young at heart. Visit <a href="http://www.faneuilhallmarketplace">www.faneuilhallmarketplace</a> for complete details.</li> </ul> <p><b>Martha's Vineyard Events &amp; Festivals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Martha's Vineyard Restaurant Week – June 21-25, 2009</li> <li>• Martha's Vineyard International Film Festival – Sept. 10-13, 2009</li> <li>• Martha's Vineyard Food &amp; Wine Festival – Oct 16 – 18, 2009</li> </ul>
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ATTRACTIONS	
<b>Beaches</b>	<p>In the Boston area, visit Revere Beach, America's first public beach. North of Boston, head to Crane Beach in Ipswich, one of the most picturesque swimming beaches in all of New England, or swim though history at Walden Pond in Concord, where Henry David Thoreau once lived. South of Boston, grab your surfboard and ride the waves at Nantasket Beach in Hull and Nauset Beach on Cape Cod. And to the west, fresh water abounds on Bell Pond in Worcester and Lake Mattawa in Orange.</p>
<b>Wildlife</b>	<p>Coyote, White-tailed Deer, Raccoon, and Wild Turkey are found in suburbs of major cities and are increasing in population. Black Bear and moose have made comebacks in western and central Massachusetts, and are slowly expanding their range. Peregrine Falcon can be found nesting on artificial platforms on many of the state's tallest buildings in larger cities such as Boston, Worcester and Springfield.</p> <p><b>The Atlantic Flyway</b> is the primary migration route for North American bird species. Common Loon are a relatively recent addition to the breeding bird list, their nests at the Wachusett Reservoir are considered the most southerly in the world population of this species. A significant portion of the eastern population of Long-tailed Duck winter off Nantucket. Small offshore islands are home to a significant population of breeding Roseate Terns, and some beaches are important breeding areas to the endangered Piping Plover.</p> <p><b>Gray Seal</b> have a large nursery near Monomoy Island and other islands in Nantucket Sound. Harbor seals are commonly seen feeding and playing just offshore year round. Finally, a significant number of the endangered North Atlantic Right Whales summer on feeding grounds in Cape Cod Bay, so many that the state has recently unveiled a special license plate depicting a right whale with the slogan, "Preserve The Trust". It is an attempt to raise public awareness that these animals are</p>

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	<p>in fact endangered.</p> <p><b>Whale watching</b> is a popular summer activity off the coast of Massachusetts. Boats regularly sail to Stellwagen Bank to view species such as Humpback Whale, Fin Whale, Minke Whale and Atlantic White-sided Dolphin. The World Wildlife Fund named Massachusetts as one of the world's top ten whale watching spots. Whale watch cruises operate <b>April to October</b> and start from \$46 US from Boston, Salem, Cape Cod and Gloucester.</p>
<b>Parks</b>	<p>No trip to Cape Cod would be complete without a visit to the <b>Cape Cod National Seashore</b> on the Outer Cape and an afternoon barefoot stroll along the "The Great Beach," where you see exactly why the Cape attracts artists and poets. In 1961, Pres. John F. Kennedy signed a bill designating 27,000 acres in the 75kms from Chatham to Provincetown as the Cape Cod National Seashore, a new national park. Unusual in a national park, the Seashore includes 500 private residences, the owners of which lease land from the park service.</p>
<b>Gardens</b>	<p>One of the gifts of Massachusetts' English heritage is a rich tradition of gardening and horticulture. Take a trip back in time to 1800s Charleston, South Carolina, when you visit the magnificent gardens and woodland trails of Long Wood, the Sedgwick Gardens, north of Boston. A century later, author Edith Wharton, Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist and authority on architecture and design created magnificent formal gardens at her mansion, the Mount. The greenhouse gardens of the Lyman Estate in the Greater Boston area will evoke the grandeur of a country estate. And the Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Central Massachusetts is a living museum of plants featuring a Lawn Garden, Secret Garden, Cottage Garden, Systematic Garden and in winter an Orangerie filled to capacity with fragrant, blooming plants.</p> <p><b>Boston Public Garden:</b> at 1 Arlington St., Boston, MA 02116 Formal gardens and rare trees, this was the setting for McCloskey's "Make Way for Ducklings" book and sculpture and is where you can enjoy seasonal Swan Boat rides.</p> <p><b>The Mount Estate and Gardens</b> Elegant 1902 mansion and magnificent formal gardens designed by Edith Wharton, Pulitzer Prize winning novelist and authority on architecture, interior design, and gardens. Open daily May through December. Terrace cafe; bookstore <a href="http://www.edithwharton.org">http://www.edithwharton.org</a> Address: 2 Plunkett St. Lenox , MA 01240</p>
<b>Castles/Forts</b>	<p><b>Fort Phoenix</b> is a Pre-Revolutionary War fort which overlooks the harbor at Fairhaven: <a href="http://www.state.ma.us/dem/parks/ftph.htm">http://www.state.ma.us/dem/parks/ftph.htm</a> One of the smaller parks in Massachusetts, Fort Phoenix State Reservation combines historic features, scenic views and a variety of</p>

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	<p>recreational facilities. Minutes from downtown New Bedford, the park contains a half-mile of Buzzards Bay beachfront. Adjacent to the park (and managed by the Town of Fairhaven) is Fort Phoenix, a national landmark Fort which gives the park its name. From the ramparts remnants, one can gaze across the bay where the first naval battle of the Revolutionary War was fought, to the rolling meadows of the Elizabeth Islands.</p>
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OTHER ACTIVITIES	
Shopping	<p>Surveys of visitors to <b>Boston</b> consistently show that shopping is their most popular activity, beating museum-going by a comfortable margin. Boston-area shopping represents a tempting blend of classic and contemporary. Boston and Cambridge teem with tiny boutiques and sprawling malls, esoteric bookshops and national chain stores, exclusive galleries and snazzy secondhand-clothing outlets. One of the best things about shopping in Massachusetts is that there's no sales tax on clothing priced below \$175 or on food items. All other items are taxed at 5% (as are restaurant meals and takeout food).</p> <p>The area's premier shopping district is <b>Boston's Back Bay</b>, where dozens of up-market galleries, shops, and boutiques make Newbury Street a world-famous destination. Parallel to Newbury is retail-rich Boylston Street.</p> <p>Stretching from Boylston Street past Huntington Avenue, the <b>Shops at Prudential Center and Copley Place</b> (linked by an enclosed walkway across Huntington) bookend a giant retail complex that includes the posh department stores Neiman Marcus, Lord &amp; Taylor, and Saks Fifth Avenue. A branch of Barneys New York, the luxe fashion wonderland, is in Copley Place. The adjacent South End, though less commercially dense, boasts a number of art galleries and quirky shops; it's a great destination for strolling, shopping, and snacking.</p> <p>Another popular destination is chain-heavy <b>Faneuil Hall Marketplace</b>. The shops, boutiques, and pushcarts at Boston's busiest attraction sell everything from candles to costume jewelry, sweaters to souvenirs. Nearby, the North End has augmented its dozens of Italian restaurants a limited but fun retail scene.</p> <p><b>Beacon Hill</b> is a classic shopping destination. Picturesque Charles Street, at the foot of the hill, is a short but retail-heavy street noted for its excellent gift shops and antiques dealers.</p> <p>One of Boston's oldest shopping areas is <b>Downtown Crossing</b>, a traffic-free pedestrian mall along Washington, Winter, and Summer streets near Boston Common. You'll find Macy's, Swedish fashion phenomenon H&amp;M, tons of smaller clothing and shoe stores, food and merchandise pushcarts, and a Borders bookstore.</p>

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	<p><b>Harvard Square in Cambridge</b>, with its bookstores, boutiques, and T-shirt shops, is about 15 minutes from downtown Boston by subway. Despite the neighborhood association's efforts, chain stores have swept over "the Square." You'll find a mix of national and regional outlets, and more than a few persistent independent retailers.</p>
<b>Markets</b>	<p><b>Faneuil Hall Marketplace</b>          Since Boston's most popular attraction opened in 1976, cities all over the country have imitated the "festival market" concept. Each complex of shops, food counters, restaurants, bars, and public spaces reflects its city, and Faneuil Hall Marketplace is no exception. Its popularity with visitors and suburbanites is so great that you might understandably think the only Bostonians in the crowd are employees.          The marketplace includes five buildings - the central three-building complex is on the National Register of Historic Places - set on brick and stone plazas that teem with crowds shopping, eating, performing, watching performers, and just people-watching. In warm weather, it's busy from just after dawn until well past dark. <b>Quincy Market</b> (you'll also hear the whole complex called by that name) is the central three-level Greek revival-style building. It reopened after extensive renovations in 1976, 150 years after Mayor Josiah Quincy opened the original market. The South Market building reopened in 1977, the North Market building in 1978.          The central corridor of Quincy Market is the food court, where you can find anything from a cream puff to a full Greek dinner, a slice of pizza to a fresh-shucked oyster. On either side, under glass canopies, are full-service restaurants as well as pushcarts that sell everything from crafts created by New England artisans to hokey souvenirs. Here you'll find a bar that exactly replicates the set of the TV show Cheers.  <a href="http://www.faneuilhallmarketplace.com">www.faneuilhallmarketplace.com</a></p>
<b>Nightlife</b>	<p>Countless musicians, actors, and comedians went to college or got their start in the Boston area, and it's a great place to check out rising stars and promising unknowns. You might get an early look at the next Branford Marsalis, Matt Damon, Bonnie Raitt, or Yo-Yo Ma. And you'll certainly be able to enjoy the work of many established artists.          For up-to-date entertainment listings, consult the "Sidekick" section in the daily Boston Globe, the "Edge" section of Friday's Boston Herald, and the Sunday arts sections of both papers. Four free publications, available at newspaper boxes around town, publish good nightlife listings: the weekly Boston Phoenix and Weekly Dig, and the biweekly Stuff@Night</p>
<b>Antiques</b>	<p><b>Brimfield Antique Show</b>          This event has grown to some 20 plus shows along a 2km stretch on Route 20 in this small Central Massachusetts community and has become the largest outdoor antiques event in New England, and</p>

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	possibly in the U.S.A. <a href="http://www.brimfield.com">http://www.brimfield.com</a> The dates this year are: May 12-17, 2009 July 14-19, 2009 Sept 8-13, 2009
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<b>CUISINE</b>	Seafood is king in Boston: it's ubiquitous, it's fresh and it's wonderful! But the steakhouses are also justly prized and there are also most international cuisines represented somewhere in the city. Outside of Boston, there are some memorable country restaurants, often a part of the rural inns.
<b>Food</b>	<p>In Boston, the only city that has a tea party named after it, the tradition of afternoon tea at a posh hotel is alive and well. At all of them, reservations are strongly recommended.</p> <p>Experience the <b>Bristol</b> in the Four Seasons Hotel, 200 Boylston St. (tel. 617/351-2037). The gorgeous room, lovely view, and courtly ritual elevate scones, pastries, tea sandwiches, and nut bread from delicious to unforgettable. The Bristol serves tea (\$28) every day from 3 to 4:30pm.</p> <p><b>Intrigue</b>, in the Boston Harbor Hotel, Rows Wharf (tel. 617/856-7744), serves tea daily from 2:30 to 4pm in an elegant space that faces the harbor. It's just \$18.50 per person.</p> <p><b>The Langham, Boston</b>, 250 Franklin St. (tel. 617/956-8751), serves afternoon tea daily from 3 to 4:30pm. The chain's flagship is in London, and as you'd expect, this is a proper British experience. The price is \$18, \$24, or \$36 per person, plus \$2 to \$5 for premium teas.</p> <p><b>Taj Boston</b>, 15 Arlington St. (tel. 617/598-5255), serves tea in the celebrated Lounge at 2 and 4pm; it's available Wednesday through Sunday in the winter, Friday through Sunday the rest of the year</p>
<b>Drink</b>	<p>You don't have to travel to the West Coast for an American wine experience. And along with wine for your drinking pleasure, Massachusetts offers some of the nation's best microbreweries for beer lovers. Producing an impressive 10,000 gallons a year, Plymouth Winery, south of Boston, is a good place for a taste. In the very same town you'll find Plymouth Bay Brewing Company, where beer aficionados can taste their favorite brews. Out on the islands, Chicama Vineyards on Martha's Vineyard offers tours and tasting. On Nantucket, Cisco Brewers features meticulously handcrafted ales and periodic tastings.</p> <p><b>Wachusett Brewing Company</b> 175 State Road East, Westminster, MA 01473 (978) 874-9965 Wachusett Brewing Company offers guided tours to provide a brief history of the brewery and walk visitors through the brewing, cellaring</p>

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	<p>and packaging processes. The walking tour of the brewery takes anywhere from ten to 45 minutes, depending on whether visitors choose a condensed or full tour. There are tastings of two 2oz. samples.</p> <p><a href="http://www.wachusettbrew.com/tours.htm">www.wachusettbrew.com/tours.htm</a></p>
<b>Restaurants</b>	<p>Eat freshly shucked shellfish at the <b>Union Oyster House</b> in Boston, the oldest continuously operating restaurant in the country.</p> <p><b>Clink</b> (in the Liberty Hotel): 215 Charles Street, Boston MA 02114 (617) 224-4000          Old becomes new at this restaurant, housed in the Liberty Hotel. Once the storied Charles Street Jail, The Liberty Hotel welcomes guests to Boston with the spirit of a landmark liberated following an extensive \$150 million acquisition, renovation and construction process. In Clink, Executive Chef Joseph Margate's menu showcases his classically trained European technique coupled with the freshness of in-season American ingredients. Vestiges of original jail cells create cozy nooks for dining, and an open kitchen displays the theater of cooking as each stylish dish is prepared.</p> <p><a href="http://www.libertyhotel.com/clink">www.libertyhotel.com/clink</a></p> <p><b>Cambridge</b> is a better destination for outdoor dining than Boston, but both cities offer agreeable spots to lounge under the sun or stars. Across the street from the Charles River near Kendall Square, the Sail Loft, 1 Memorial Dr. (tel. 617/225-2222), opens onto a leafy plaza that usually picks up a breeze from the water. Both restaurant patios at the Royal Sonesta Hotel, 5 Cambridge Pkwy. (tel. 617/491-3600), have great views. The hotel's Gallery Café is casual; Marco's is fancier. On one of Harvard Square's main drags, Shay's Pub &amp; Wine Bar, 58 John F. Kennedy St. (tel. 617/864-9161), has a small, lively seating area. More peaceful are the patios at Henrietta's Table and Oleana.</p>

<b>MORE INFO</b>	
<b>Brochures</b>	<p><b>Massachusetts Office of Travel &amp; Tourism</b>          10 Park Plaza, Suite 4510, Boston, MA 02116 U.S.A.          Toll-free: 1-888-297-9472          email: <a href="mailto:MOTT@voxtm.ca">MOTT@voxtm.ca</a></p>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.Massvacation.com">www.Massvacation.com</a>

<b>PRIZE PARTNERS</b>	<p>This fabulous trip for two to Massachusetts features flights from Montreal and a fantastic Massachusetts experience including:</p> <p><b>Cape Cod</b>          2 nights 3 days at <b>The Lighthouse Inn</b> on the ocean          Lighthouse Inn will take you to a time gone by...secluded and relaxing,</p>
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with refreshing ocean breezes to rejuvenate your spirit...this is Classic Cape Cod. Situated on nine secluded oceanfront acres, the Lighthouse Inn offers a private sandy beach, heated pool, tennis, children's activity program and a full service restaurant with panoramic ocean views. Accommodations are provided in Cape-style guest houses and one-,two- and three- bedroom cottages. Most have gorgeous ocean views and wood burning fireplaces.

<http://www.lighthouseinn.com>

\$25 Gift certificate at the **Skipper Restaurant**

2 Round Trip Tickets on the **Island Queen** to Martha's Vineyard from Falmouth Harbor.

2 Passes to the **Heritage Museum & Gardens** in Sandwich.

### **Martha's Vineyard**

2 night stay in **Lambert's Cove Inn**

The Lambert's Cove Inn & Restaurant is known as one of the most romantic retreats on Martha's Vineyard. Situated on 7 acres of spacious lawns, gardens, forest and meadowlands in the pastoral town of West Tisbury, it offers tranquility and seclusion. As you follow the winding road, shaded by towering trees, that leads to the inn, you'll know when you arrive, that you have indeed found a very special place.

<http://www.lambertscoveinn.com>

Dinner at **The Sweet Life Café** in Oak Bluffs.

Round trip **ferry tickets** on the Steamship Authority from Woods Hole to the Vineyard

Sightseeing tour of the Island

Passes to the **Martha's Vineyard Museum**

A subscription to Cape Cod Life Magazine, t-shirts, a Vineyard DVD, a guide book, and the Vineyard Experience book.

### **Boston**

- two nights at The Best Western New Englander, located just north of Downtown Boston with deluxe complimentary breakfast

- complimentary hotel shuttle to the nearest commuter station to downtown Boston

- [www.bestwestern.com/newenglander](http://www.bestwestern.com/newenglander)

### **Best Western New Englander**

Situated just off I-93, nine miles north of downtown Boston, 12 miles from Logan Airport, this full-service Woburn, Massachusetts hotel features beautifully appointed guest rooms and a complimentary continental breakfast. Hotel guests will be located nine miles north of the exciting attractions available in downtown Boston. Each guest room features cable satellite television with complimentary high-speed Internet access and free wireless access in the lobby and public

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	<p>spaces. The hotel features an on-site restaurant and sports bar. Other hotel amenities include an indoor heated swimming pool, fitness center, business center offering complimentary email access, and free parking and shuttle service to Anderson Commuter Rail Station for direct service to downtown Boston.</p> <p><b>Boston Tours</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Boston Duck Tour</b> for two departing daily from the Museum of Science, Prudential Center or the New England Aquarium: <a href="http://www.bostonducktours.com">www.bostonducktours.com</a></li> <li>• <b>Freedom Trail Foundation:</b> Walk Into History Costumed Guided Tour of the Freedom Trail for four: <a href="http://www.thefreedomtrail.org">www.thefreedomtrail.org</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Boston Attractions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1-Day Adult <b>Go Boston Cards:</b> ticket to over 70 attractions in Boston and the surrounding areas - Cape Cod, Salem, Lexington, Concord, &amp; Newport RI. Enjoy the freedom to visit Boston's attractions at your leisure, with the flexibility to choose from a selection of activities including New England Aquarium, Mass Bay Lines Whale Watch, Fenway Park Tour, and Museum of Science: <a href="http://www.gobostoncard.com">www.gobostoncard.com</a></li> <li>• tickets to the <b>Skywalk Observatory</b> offering breathtaking panoramic 360 degree views of Greater Boston and beyond. The best view in Boston awaits - on the 50th floor of the Prudential Building: <a href="http://www.topofthehub.net">www.topofthehub.net</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Boston Theatre</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two theatre tickets to any 2009-2010 Season production at the <b>Huntington Theatre Company</b>, subject to availability: <a href="http://www.huntingtontheatre.org">www.huntingtontheatre.org</a> .</li> </ul> <p><b>Boston Dining</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$100 Gift Certificate to <b>Durgin Park</b>. For well over a century, Durgin Park has catered to the hearty appetites of straw-hatted, white-aproned market men and local characters. Today it hosts visiting celebrities, business men and women, students, and tourists from every part of the globe. Located in Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Durgin Park is known for its fun atmosphere and great Yankee cooking at reasonable prices. House specialties include Prime Rib, fresh New England Seafood, Boston Baked beans, Indian pudding, New England Clam Chowder, corn bread, Yankee pot roast and strawberry shortcake: <a href="http://www.durgin-park.com">www.durgin-park.com</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>PERSONAL EXPERIENCES</b></p>	<p>Boston, Plimoth Plantation, Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Cambridge, Salem, Mystic Seaport, 2009 Boston Marathon</p>

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