

DEPARTURES

— Travel —

Beautiful New England Towns Perfect for a Summer Retreat



Sura Ark/Getty Images

Pack your bags and hit the beach at these picturesque New England towns.

By Pat Doherty on June 25, 2019

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For most of us, the mention of New England in the summer leads to visions of [quaint towns](#), lighthouses, beachside clambakes, lobster rolls, and chowder. Sandy shores, lakeside cottages, and chilly evenings around a fire pit also fit the picture very nicely. There's a good reason our imagination creates those images. They describe New England summers perfectly.

We've gathered a few destinations from the New England states, huddled in America's northeast corner along the Atlantic and blessed with inland mountains. Most fulfill the dream of historic lighthouses, plentiful beaches, and assorted outdoor activities. All boast abundant and varied seafood, from clams to oysters, lobsters, and fish of all kinds, good reason to head to one of America's oldest states.

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We hope these suggestions will inspire you to [plan a visit to the northeast](#) this summer. Rustic, luxurious hotels and inns await, and even if you spend more time in an Adirondack chair on the porch than swimming or paddling, you'll deserve an evening cocktail with sunset at the end of the day.



Courtesy The Woodstock Inn & Resort

Woodstock, Vermont

Less than three hours north of [Boston](#) in the Green Mountains, Woodstock is an inviting summer destination and a step back in time. Covered bridges over the Ottaquechee River, farmers' markets, wagon rides, antique shops, and a restored 1890 farmhouse remind visitors of the town's history dating to its 1761 charter. The Billings Farm & Museum, a working dairy farm features a museum dedicated to preserving the area's rural history. The Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, with more than twenty miles of shaded trails, includes a trail to Mount Tom's peak where hikers are rewarded with a panoramic view of the town. Browse the galleries and unique retail shops or just find a comfortable spot to relax as you enjoy the summer breezes. The luxurious [Woodstock Inn & Resort](#) is the ideal place to stay, offering restaurants, golf, tennis, falconry, and biking. Or join a Duvine guided bike tour to explore the area's scenic roads and towns with The [Woodstock Inn](#) as your home base.

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