

PLACES TO STAY

10 Best Seaside Inns in New England

Summer and seaside inns go together like lobsters and melted butter. In other words, now is the time to pick your summer escape, grab your sunglasses, sunscreen, and the novel you're dying to finish, and book a getaway.

Tracey Minkin · August 1, 2019 ·



★★★★☆

4.06 avg. rating (80% score) - 35 votes

Love a room or porch with an ocean view? Here are 10 of the very best seaside inns in New England, from Cape Cod to Down East.

10 Best Seaside Inns in New England



Ocean House in Watch Hill, Rhode Island | 10 Best Seaside Inns in New England

Courtesy of Ocean House

Ocean House Watch Hill, RI

A resplendent Victorian grande dame that got considerably grander with its 2010 renovation, Ocean House is peak luxury in Rhode Island's laid-back but nonetheless exclusive summer enclave. There's a resident croquet pro (book a lesson), and the resort's OH! Spa is world-class. Named a 2018 *Yankee* Editors' Choice for "Best Luxury Escape."



The Red Inn | 10 Best Seaside Inns in New England

Courtesy of the Red Inn

The Red Inn Provincetown, MA

Painted sassy red and set right on the water (the slender beach disappears at high tide), this outpost in **Provincetown** on the far end of **Cape Cod** has hosted presidents, celebrities, and lucky pilgrims since 1915. Upscale but very friendly, and not-to-miss sunsets from those bleached white Adirondack chairs dotting the deck.

The Beach Plum Inn and Restaurant Menemsha, MA

What may recommend this gorgeous little inn with just 11 rooms overlooking Menemsha Harbor on **Martha's Vineyard** is that it's likely you can't get cell service here. Let the romance begin, with private patios, cozy hammocks, country-French décor and a stunning destination restaurant.



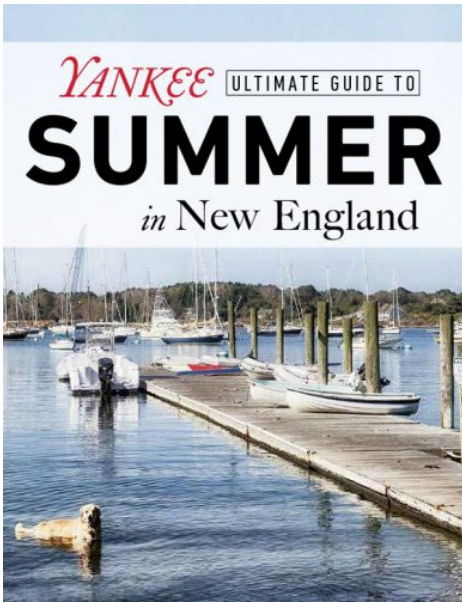
The Tides Beach Club, Kennebunkport, ME | 10 Best Seaside Inns in New England
Alyson Horrocks

The Tides Beach Club Kennebunkport, ME

It's hard to decide what to love most at this upscale/casual boutique inn: the broad, breeze-loving porch, the view of Goose Rocks Beach (one of our picks for the **10 Prettiest Beaches in New England**) right across the road, great local catch at TBC's house restaurant, or an in-house stand-up-paddling instructor (who also teaches beach fitness). The best part? You've got all weekend to debate it.

Bass Rocks Ocean Inn Gloucester, MA

An easy reach from Boston, the rugged shores of Cape Ann feel surprisingly distant. Face the bracing Atlantic and Thacher Island's twin lighthouses from all 51 rooms of this classic seaside inn (the 1897 Stacy House's king suites crown them all). A billiards table, darts, and warm cookies every afternoon are old-fashioned delights.



Ultimate New England Summer Guide

Get New England summer vacation ideas, outdoor adventures, and classic New England summer flavors in this **FREE** guide, *Yankee Magazine's Ultimate New England Summer Guide*.

SUBMIT



The White Elephant Inn, Nantucket, MA | 10 Best Seaside Inns in New England
White Elephant Inn

The White Elephant Inn

Nantucket, MA

Sophisticated, impeccably designed, and an easy stroll to the bustling fun of **Nantucket Harbor**, the rooms and suites in the Hotel building or any of the Village residences are pure luxury. Don't miss the afternoon port and cheese tastings, and cocktails at the property's Brant Point Grill are a seaside must.



The Black Point Inn | 10 Best Seaside Inns in New England
Annie Graves

Black Point Inn Scarborough, ME

This historic grey-shingled inn set on Winslow Homer's beloved **Prouts Neck** is a deluxe getaway from May through October, and pulls out all the stops with a summer special for four-night stays that includes either a complimentary sail on a vintage, Maine-built schooner or lobstering expedition on Casco Bay.

The Claremont Hotel Southwest Harbor, ME

At the mouth of the only fjord on the East Coast (Somes Sound), this historic retreat has retained the charms of bygone days: a clay tennis court and two tournament-class croquet courts, rowboats, rush-seated rockers on the porch, and a serenading pianist at cocktail hour. Consider coming for August's Croquet Classic. Named a 2018 *Yankee* Editors' Choice for "Best Historic Hotel."



Blue, Plum Island, MA | 10 Best Seaside Inns in New England
Aimee Seavey

Blue, The Inn on the Beach Plum Island, Newbury, MA

This stylish getaway on **Plum Island** on Massachusetts's North Shore is set among sand dunes and sparkles like a lapis lazuli gemstone. With a quiet South Beach vibe and nautical look, rooms and cottages include fireplaces, wood-burning stoves, and Jacuzzis. Named a 2017 *Yankee* Editors' Choice for "Best Updated Favorite."

Inn at Stonington Stonington Borough, CT

Historic and romantic in equal measure, this 18-room inn occupies a charming Connecticut colonial village (one of our picks for the **10 Prettiest Coastal Towns in New England**) full of great antiquing, gallery-hopping, and dining. Watch for the only fishing fleet left in the state to pass by your waterfront-view windows, with the freshest catch of the day.

What are your picks for the best seaside inns in New England?

This post was first published in 2014 and has been updated.

SEE MORE:**10 Prettiest Coastal Towns in New England****The 25 Best Beach Towns in New England****Comments**

Tina June 26, 2019

Any inns for the handicapped?

Reply

Susan May 8, 2019

In your opinion, where is the best food and easy terrain in house for a chap w a walker

Reply

Jo September 12, 2018

Would LOVE a list of pet friendly inns even if not on water – that don't charge 100 per night per dog! Anything about 150 a night would be great to know about- many of us travel with pets and are weary of La Quintas!

Reply

Karen August 3, 2018

How about the razed and rebuilt Wentworth-By-the-Sea in New Castle, NH??

Reply

Reader April 28, 2018

You forgot the magnificent Steamboat Inn ,Mystic,CT on the Mystic River just south of the historic drawbridge.

Reply

Reader April 24, 2018

As others have noted Spruce Point Inn in Boothbay is a contender: dog-friendly — and was named a 2018 Editor's Choice for Maine oceanside lodging. As Yankee noted, "the village is a mile and a half bike ride away... assuming you can tear yourself away from the view!"

Reply

CAROL October 30, 2017

you forgot the Cliff House in Wells Maine We have b een going there for many years

Reply

Gwen October 30, 2017

I love Chatham Bars Inn and couldn't believe it wasn't on this list. The food is great and they grow a lot of it at their own local farm. Their desserts are spectacular.

Reply

Reader October 24, 2017

We stayed at the Eden Pines Inn in Rockport, Massachusetts this past August. We knicknamed it "paradise"! It is located right on the ocean with balconies overlooking the ocean where we could watch the lobstermen go about their trade. They have a very nice expanded continental breakfast in their all-windows dining area that looks out on the ocean or you can go on the veranda with recliners again overlooking the ocean. All the furniture is white wicker...beautiful! They have homemade cookies & iced tea in the afternoon. It's only an easy 5 minute drive to the many shops & restaurants in quaint Rockport. A vacation to remember...and return to!

Reply

Perry August 16, 2017

What's the best inn at Moosehead lake?

Reply

Marilyn August 16, 2017

For years I've loved the Ocean Point Inn in East Boothbay, Maine – away from the bustle of town, and facing a beautiful scene.

Reply

Reader August 16, 2017

We had an amazing stay at the Chatham Bars Inn (Chatham, MA). Exceptional service, wonderful food and a beautiful beach. The Farm dinner was very special (they do several each summer- chef Kenny Gilbert of Gilbert's Underground Kitchen and Gilbert's Social in Florida was guest chef on our visit). It was a very special experience. Yes....it is expensive- but we felt worth it for the exceptional service, meals and setting.

Reply

Beth June 23, 2017

Great list of Inn's and it will make my life easier in building a good driving itinerary! Thank you for providing this list. Travel Agent – Beth Walter

Reply

Phyllis March 16, 2017

What happened to the Beachmere Inn in Ogunquit, ME? Absolutely gorgeous, right on Marginal Way!

Reply

Steve January 23, 2017

The Tides in Kennebunkport was terrific!

Reply

Carol September 1, 2016

The Seadar in Harwich Port on Cape Cod should be among the seaside Inns not to be missed. Water views, gorgeous white sand Nantucket sounde beach and a stroll to historic Main Street for fun and fine dining, galleries, shops and Cape Cod at its best.

Reply

Patty October 30, 2017

Love Harwich Port. My grandparents owned the house on 17A Miles St, My great aunt's owned the house on 7 Ayer Ln overlooking the ocean. My brother and I use to look out her bay window through telescopes watching all the boats and ships. My 2nd cousin June's husband Edric and his brothers owned the famous Snow Inn and Clam Bar.

Reply

Gloria August 31, 2016

How about listing inns and B&Bs that are pet friendly. My silky terrier goes everywhere with me,

Reply

P. August 5, 2016

The Spruce Point Inn, Boothbay Harbor. Delightful.

Reply

Paul July 10, 2017

Every time we have stayed at Spruce Point Inn has been a pleasure. We always come back. We have been coming since our daughter was a toddler.

Reply

Bill August 2, 2016

Ocean House in Watch Hill (Westerly) is not a renovation. The old building was razed, and this one built in its place

Reply

Thomas September 25, 2016

Correct. The original Ocean House (1868-2005) was torn down. The new Ocean House

was built built 2007-09.

Reply

charles August 2, 2016

this year will be our 67 wedding anniversary- we spent near 30 at “Seaside” resort Kennybunkport, Maine and enjoyed every day—we miss that part of our life, now in Old-age-Home– CEH

Reply

Ryan July 26, 2016

Inn by the Sea in Cape Elizabeth, ME. Been there two years in a row. Absolutely beautiful. Private beach, Sea Glass Restaurant. Affordable.

Reply

DAN June 7, 2017

We spent Memorial weekend there. Absolutely the finest. Accommodations, meals, and staff are all superb. Somewhat expensive, but worth it! Indulge yourself.

Reply

Joyce August 11, 2015

Are there any affordable inns for those of us who are not part of the 1%? Just curious.

Reply

Mike August 11, 2015

Great article and picks, Tracey!

Reply

June August 11, 2015

Hoow aboot the Wequassit in W. Harwich?

Reply

Anne July 11, 2015

We’re so honored to be in such great company! Thank you Yankee Magazine.

Reply

Suzanne November 12, 2014

If you want a beautiful taste of down east Maine at its best try the Island View in Sullivan Maine, simple beautiful, you will not be disappointed if you like Maine.

Reply

Sarah September 22, 2014

agreed- was there this summer for a delightful visit!

Reply

QUARRY September 16, 2014

Have to agree. Aquidneck island is Shangrila.

Reply

CP September 2, 2014

Newport RI has some of the best inns in New England.

Sorry one wasn't listed.

Reply

Wil August 6, 2014

I have to say this is a nice list, but Inn at Peak's Island off the coast of Portland Maine should definitely be on this list. It's a truly wonderful place.

Reply

Lynn August 5, 2014

What? Not one of the amazing Inns in Newport, RI? That's okay, we'd rather keep our beautiful area off the grid!:)

Reply

Gay August 5, 2014

These are wonderful places, but you forgot the Weekapaug Inn, Westerly, Rhode Island. The Inn has been there forever, and recently underwent a massive renovation/restoration. Or maybe it's best left unmentioned, to prevent it being overrun by enthusiastic visitors? ;-D

Reply
