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THINGS TO DO

12 Coastal Weekend Getaways in New England | Your Perfect Weekend

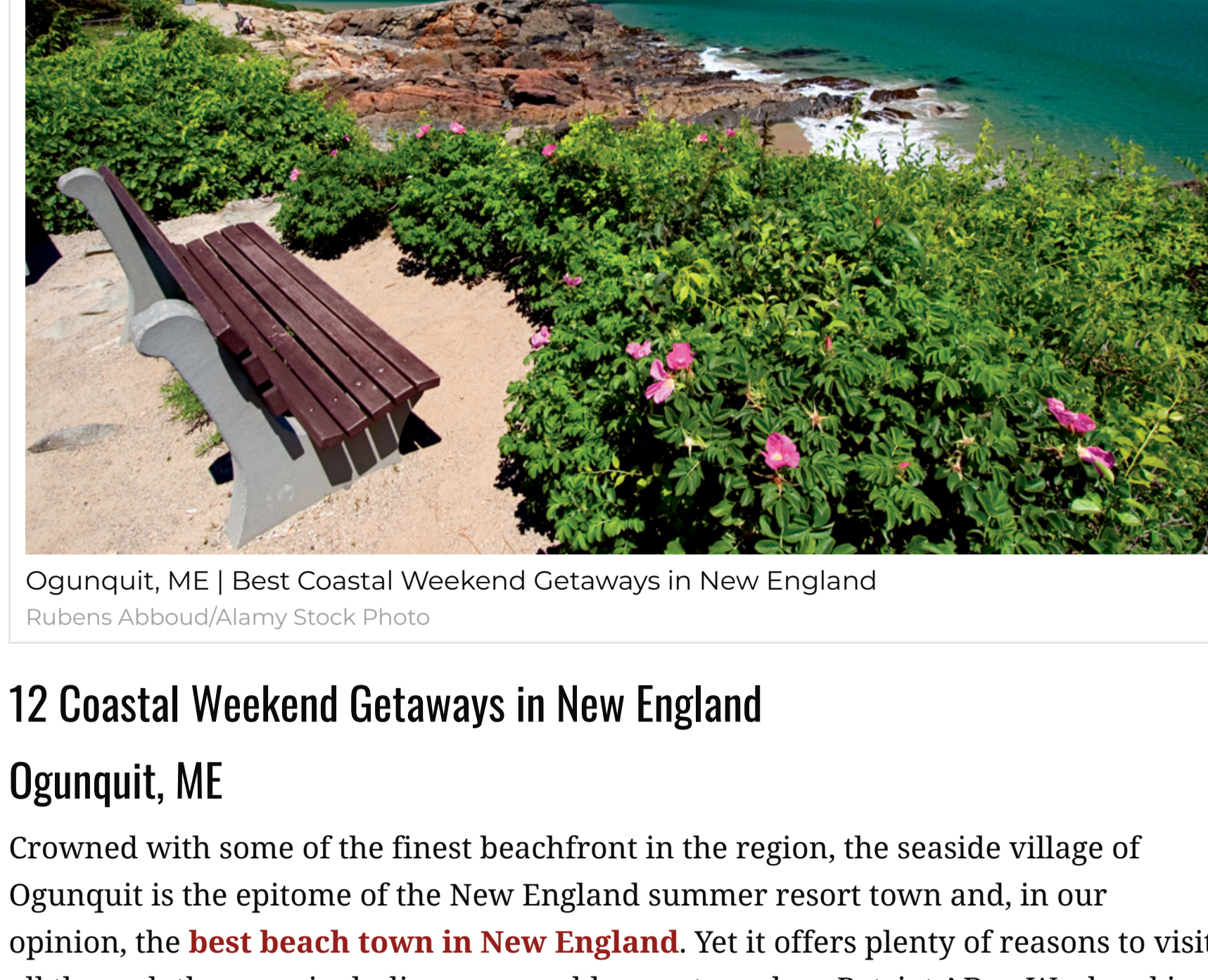
This selection of coastal weekend getaways in New England highlights some of our favorite places to visit, stay, and dine in the region.

Yankee Magazine • February 15, 2022 • Read Comments (13)

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 4.67 avg. rating (88% score) - 3 votes

Please note that many establishments throughout New England have modified their hours and/or operations in response to COVID-19. Always check for the latest information before making travel plans.

The seaside strolls in *Yankee Magazine's* 2017 cover feature [Walks Worth Their Salt](#) | New England Ocean Walks are reason enough to visit these beautiful coastal New England destinations, but to complement your walk, we've compiled a list of some of our favorite places to dine, favorite things to do, and favorite places to stay in each location. With these suggestions, there's no doubt in our minds that you'll be able to enjoy a perfect weekend at each of these coastal weekend getaways in New England.



Ogunquit, ME | Best Coastal Weekend Getaways in New England
Rubens Abdo/istockphoto

12 Coastal Weekend Getaways in New England
Ogunquit, ME

Crowned with some of the finest beachfront in the region, the seaside village of Ogunquit is the epitome of the New England summer resort town and, in our opinion, the **best beach town in New England**. Yet it offers plenty of reasons to visit all through the year, including memorable events such as Patriots' Day Weekend in April, a spectacular Fourth of July fireworks celebration, the harvest-themed Ogunquitfest in October, and the magical Christmas by the Sea. Regardless of what time of year you decide to go, there will be plenty of great things to do in Ogunquit, Maine.

[See More: Things to Do in Ogunquit, ME | Coastal Weekend Getaways](#)

Block Island, RI

Located just 13 miles off Rhode Island's coast, Block Island packs a lot into its compact, 10-square-mile footprint — including 17 miles of beaches and two lighthouses. Much of Block Island's land is designated as protected, meaning that the beautiful seaside views are nearly untouched. There are plenty of things to do on Block Island that make it perfect for a summertime day trip, and its delightful restaurants and hotels make a longer stay worth your while, too.

[See More: Things to Do on Block Island, RI | Coastal Weekend Getaways](#)

Hyannis, MA

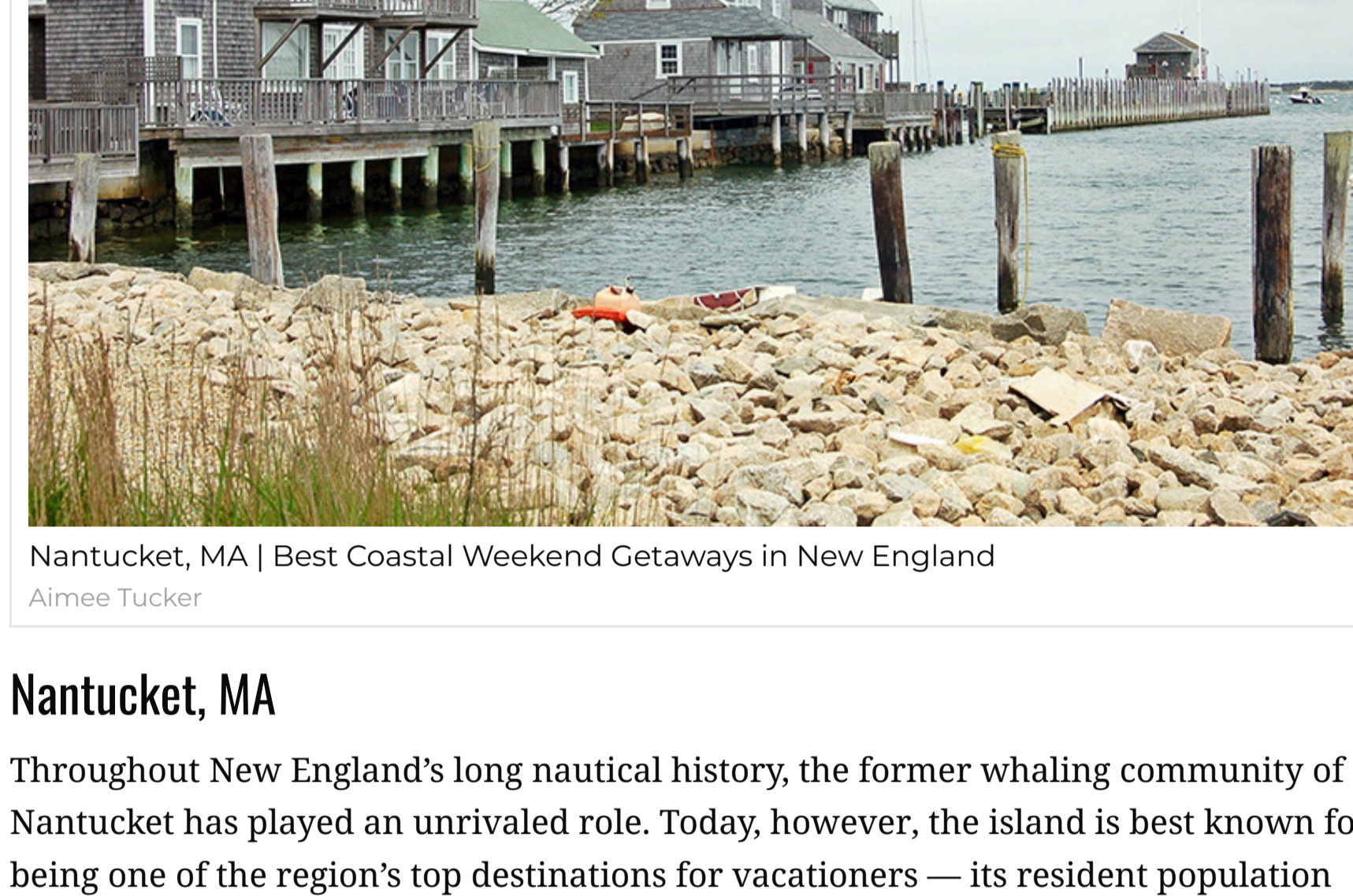
Located on Nantucket Sound within the town of Barnstable, Hyannis has earned a reputation as the "heart" of Cape Cod. Its mid-Cape location is ideal for day trips to Provincetown (an hour's drive away) and the islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, which are readily accessed by ferry from Hyannis Harbor. But historic, laid-back Hyannis is also a destination in itself — the area beckons with sandy beaches, a hometown-like Main Street, seaside art shanties, museums, restaurants, and ample opportunities to get out on the water. It's more than enough to keep you busy on a getaway weekend, as we show in our list of favorite places to eat, favorite places to stay, and favorite things to do in Hyannis, MA.

[See More: Things to Do in Hyannis, MA | Coastal Weekend Getaways](#)

Martha's Vineyard, MA

Alongside Block Island, Nantucket, and the Elizabeth Islands, Martha's Vineyard rounds out southern New England's collection of top-notch offshore destinations, with the Vineyard alone attracting thousands upon thousands of visitors — U.S. presidents included — each year. The Vineyard's pristine shores, boasting warm sands and cool ocean waters, provide summer visitors with countless places to relax, swim, and take meandering coastal strolls. And the bustling seaside towns that grace the island have their own sort of charm, too, what with their barnacle-encrusted docks and elegant Cape Cod-style architecture. From the red clay cliffs of Aquinnah to the busy streets of Edgartown, here are some of our favorite things to do on Martha's Vineyard, as well as a few of the island's most popular places to dine and stay.

[See More: Things to Do on Martha's Vineyard | Coastal Weekend Getaways](#)



Nantucket, MA | Best Coastal Weekend Getaways in New England
Aimee Tucker

Nantucket, MA

Throughout New England's long nautical history, the former whaling community of Nantucket has played an unrivaled role. Today, however, the island is best known for being one of the region's top destinations for vacationers — its resident population more than quadrupling in the summer months. With deliciously fresh seafood, quaint cobblestone streets, and luxurious seaside hotels, Nantucket is a weekend getaway well worth its (sea)salt.

[See More: Things to Do in Nantucket, MA | Coastal Weekend Getaways](#)

Newburyport, MA

This coastal town just 35 miles north of Boston is considered a model of preservation, thanks to a 1970s urban renewal project that revitalized the downtown to showcase its lovely waterfront setting and historic architecture. Today, visitors are drawn to Newburyport's treasure-trove of local independent businesses and restaurants, the cultural attractions of the Firehouse Center for the Arts and the Maudslay Arts Center, and the promise of outdoor adventure in the form of bird- and whale-watching, kayaking, hiking, and more. To get you started on your itinerary, here are some of our favorite places to eat, favorite places to stay, and favorite things to do in Newburyport, MA.

[See More: Things to Do in Newburyport, MA | Coastal Weekend Getaways](#)

Mystic, CT

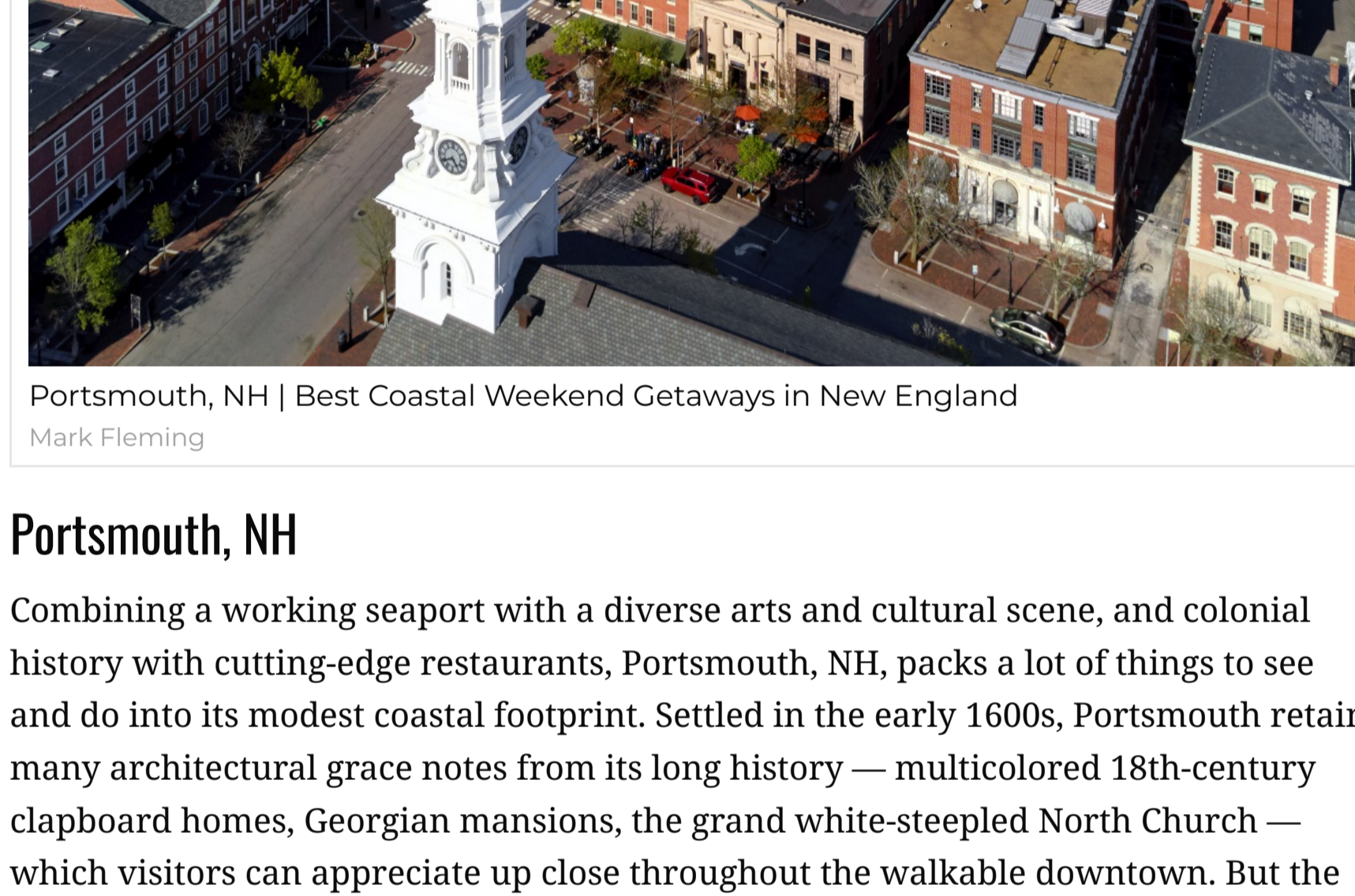
Founded in 1654, this waterside village includes parts of the towns of Stonington and Groton, but centers on a historic downtown area nestled along the banks of the Mystic River. There are things to do in Mystic, CT, for everyone — whether you're a nature lover, maritime history buff, or just someone who enjoys discovering great places to stay and eat within sight of one of New England's most scenic shorelines.

[See More: Things to Do in Mystic, CT | Coastal Weekend Getaways](#)

Newport, RI

Though Newport is one of New England's most venerable cities (it was founded in 1639), the "City by the Sea" is hardly stuffy — what with its bustling harbor and lively downtown scene. Still, history has its place here, especially when it comes to Newport's magnificent 19th-century seaside mansions. There are a ton of things to do in Newport, RI, as well as some of our favorite places to stay and eat... So why not make a weekend of it?

[See More: Things to Do in Newport, RI | Coastal Weekend Getaways](#)



Portsmouth, NH | Best Coastal Weekend Getaways in New England
Mark Fleming

Portsmouth, NH

Combining a working seaport with a diverse arts and cultural scene, and colonial history with cutting-edge restaurants, Portsmouth, NH, packs a lot of things to see and do into its modest coastal footprint. Settled in the early 1600s, Portsmouth retains many architectural grace notes from its long history — multicolored 18th-century clapboard homes, Georgian mansions, the grand white-steeped North Church — which visitors can appreciate up close throughout the walkable downtown. But the city is also close to nature, with lovely Odiorne State Park and Wallis Sands State Beach lying just a few miles to the southeast, in Rye. With Portsmouth's blend of sophistication and scenery, it's no wonder that, as one travel writer put it, "When Boston needs a vacation, it loves Portsmouth!"

[See More: Things to Do in Portsmouth, NH | Coastal Weekend Getaways](#)

Provincetown, MA

Perched at the northernmost tip of Cape Cod, Provincetown is a place renowned for its bustling nightlife and beautiful, sandy beaches. There are plenty of things to do in Provincetown that make it perfect for a summertime day trip, though this lively destination's many fine restaurants and hotels make a longer stay worth your while, too. Of course, being one of the **prettiest coastal towns in New England** doesn't hurt P-town's draw either!

[See More: Things to Do in Provincetown, MA | Coastal Weekend Getaways](#)

Scarborough, ME

Located less than 10 miles from Maine's largest city, Scarborough is one of those best-of-both-worlds destinations. You can easily access all the food, art, and shopping action in Portland, and yet you'll also find plenty to do in this classic coastal town of almost 20,000 residents. Home to Maine's largest salt marsh, pristine white-sand beaches, and dramatic ocean vistas, Scarborough — as you'll soon discover — has its own distinctive collection of things to do, places to eat, and places to stay.

[See More: Things to Do in Scarborough, ME | Coastal Weekend Getaways](#)

Westerly, RI

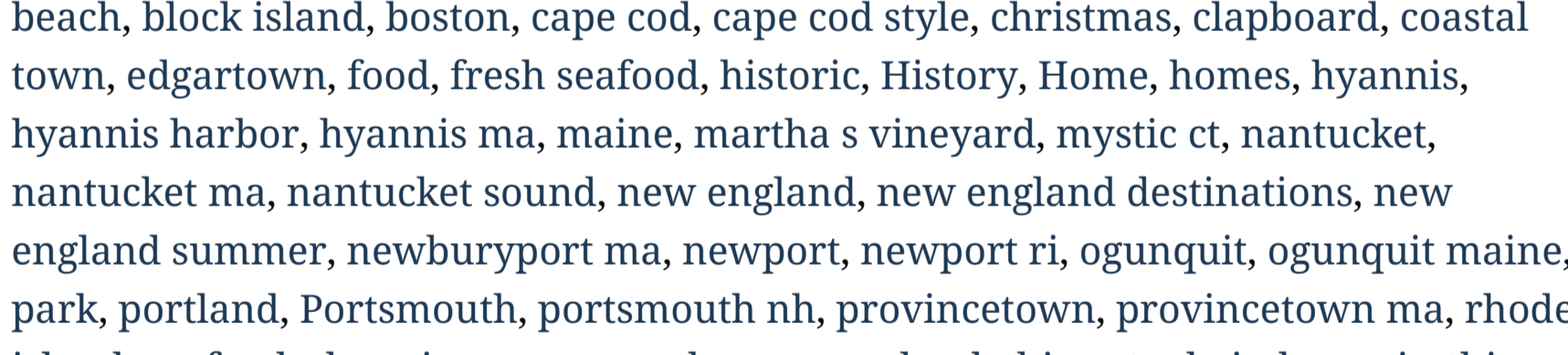
Though rather unglamorously named for its geographical position on Rhode Island's southwestern tip, Westerly is a classic New England town with a vibrant personality — especially in summer, when visitors flock to the beachfront communities of Misquamicut and Watch Hill. You can wander Westerly's historic downtown, with its shops and restaurants, art galleries, and 15-acre Victorian strolling park, and then take a 10-minute drive south to reach the picturesque shoreline and nature escape of Napatree Point. It all makes for a great weekend getaway, especially with this roundup of our favorite places to eat, favorite places to stay, and favorite things to do in Westerly, RI.

[See More: Things to Do in Westerly, RI | Coastal Weekend Getaways](#)

Where is your favorite coastal weekend getaway in New England? Let us know in the comments below!

This post was first published in 2017 and has been updated.

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Comments

Paul S. February 15, 2022
 We are all pretty lucky to have all these beautiful places to visit in New England. It's a great area to live
 Reply

Reader L. February 9, 2021
 "Doesn't a destination become more of what we bring to it than that which awaits us? I've found vast peace in crowded spaces, and frenetic chaos in solitary places."
 — C. Desidor Rachel
 Reply

Reader L. March 2, 2020
 I've lived in resort/tourist towns my whole life, from the Cape to Key West, and ski areas in the Rockies and I've always been irritated by people who remain seasonal visitors. Most towns that are now tourist destinations would long go have ceased to exist when their local industries shut down if not for the seasonal income visitors bring.
 The same people fail to realize that every time they set foot out of their town and visit their favorite secret getaway spot, they are that tourist that could be annoying the locals.
 So, welcome visitors with open arms and hearts and hope that they continue to return to your lovely town!
 Reply

Donna L. February 29, 2020
 We go to Foxwoods a lot, never thought of going to Westerly, R.I., thanks for posting this article!
 Reply

Daniel C. February 4, 2019
 Chatham, MA at the elbow of the Cape. Surrounded by water, pretty harbors and a great downtown.
 Reply

ceroestres May 2, 2018
 Yankee Magazine, thank you for your blog post. Really thank you! Awesome.
 Reply

Reader L. April 30, 2018
 A getaway from what, home or people. If it's home ok, but if people, putting locations out for free will guarantee you lots and lots of people. My favorite geta2ays are where we can go and enjoy everything without the impersonal crowds. Places like!
 Reply

Reader L. April 30, 2018
 If I told you then it wouldn't be a getaway!
 Reply

Joanne B. May 5, 2018
 And along those same lines, thanks for not mentioning my personal favorite, "The only village [and port] in the world so named!"
 Reply

Karen B. March 20, 2018
 Lovely places to plan a getaway
 Reply

Nancy D. March 12, 2017
 Nantucket is beautiful. I definitely want to visit and look for permanent residence and employment.
 Reply

Nancy D. March 12, 2017
 I have always wanted to visit Nantucket
 Reply

Howard C. February 19, 2017
 Thanks to everyone that worked on the wonderful article and photos connected with "Walks Worth Their Salt". We have had the privilege of walking the Margat Way numerous times and it never gets old, no matter the season. We are anxious to go to some of the others noted in this piece and congratulate you for a job well done!
 Reply

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