

**Build awareness, drive website traffic, generate leads.** [Get started](#)

NEW ENGLAND

## Best New England Garden Attractions

These eight New England garden attractions offer natural beauty in a curated setting.

Yankee Magazine · March 17, 2022 · Read Comments (5)



★★★★★  
5.00 avg. rating (86% score) - 1 vote

**TRAVEL NOTE:** Operating seasons and hours—as well as peak bloom times—will vary by location. In addition, Covid-19 concerns may affect operations this spring and beyond. Before making your travel plans, please check the latest visitors' information for individual businesses and attractions by going to their websites or contacting them directly.

From a bridge of flowers to the oldest topiary garden in the country, these eight New England garden attractions offer natural beauty in a curated setting.



Lush foliage on the Bridge of Flowers in Shelburne, MA.  
Heather Marcus

### Best New England Garden Attractions

#### Bedrock Gardens | Lee, NH

What was once a historic dairy farm is now transitioning to a 20-acre showcase of horticulture and art for public enjoyment. Among the eclectic attractions are a rock garden, a Japanese garden and tea house, a 200-foot water channel planted with lotus and water lilies, an abstract "painting" made up of ornamental grasses, scattered sculptures, and woodland trails. [bedrockgardens.org](http://bedrockgardens.org)

#### Bridge of Flowers | Shelburne Falls, MA

Once a trolley bridge and now a footbridge, the Bridge of Flowers lives up to its name: a stately 400-foot span with cascades of bright blooms from April to October, and greenery arching up and billowing over. Truly, this is a walk to remember. [bridgeofflowersmass.org](http://bridgeofflowersmass.org)

#### Celia Thaxter's Garden | Appledore Island, Kittery, ME

Tours are relatively few and offered by reservation only, so you have to plan well in advance to visit the garden made famous in Celia Loughton Thaxter's *An Island Journal*—but it's an experience like no other in New England. Here, a reconstructed version of the 19th-century poet's flower garden is filled with heirloom plants grown to maturity on the mainland by the Shoals Marine Laboratory (which is based on Appledore and oversees the plot), then transplanted to the island to bloom all summer. [shoalsmarinelaboratory.org/celia-thaxters-garden](http://shoalsmarinelaboratory.org/celia-thaxters-garden)

#### Green Animals Topiary Gardens | Portsmouth, RI

Artistry meets arboriculture at the oldest topiary garden in the U.S., where you'll find more than 80 trees and bushes sculpted into geometric forms and animal shapes, from a giraffe to a teddy bear. Part of the Newport Mansions, this former country estate also boasts vegetable and herb gardens, orchards, and a Victorian house overlooking Narragansett Bay. [newportmansions.org](http://newportmansions.org)

#### Kinney Azalea Gardens | Kingston, RI

Few places are as romantic as this hidden gem in spring, when more than 500 varieties of azaleas come into bloom, and couples pose for photos at the signature Moon Gate stone archway. The public is welcome to explore the six-acre wonderland, which also has hundreds of types of rhododendrons and wildflowers, trees, shrubs, and evergreens. Donations welcome; many plants are offered for sale too. [kinneyazaleagardens.com](http://kinneyazaleagardens.com)

#### Mount Desert Island Gardens | Mount Desert Island, ME

The ultimate one-stop destination for garden inspiration. The Land & Garden Preserve maintains three of the island's gems: the historic Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden in Seal Harbor (reservations required); and the Japanese-inspired Asticou Azalea Garden and English-style Thuya Garden, both in Northeast Harbor. Plus, you can visit the onetime home of landscape architect Beatrix Jones Farrand, Garland Farm, in Bar Harbor, or explore nature's diversity in the Wild Gardens of Acadia, in Acadia National Park. [gardenpreserve.org](http://gardenpreserve.org); [beatrixfarrandsociety.org](http://beatrixfarrandsociety.org); [nps.gov/places/wild-gardens-of-acadia.htm](http://nps.gov/places/wild-gardens-of-acadia.htm)

#### Mytoi | Chappaquiddick Island, MA

Nearly destroyed by a 1991 hurricane, this 14-acre Japanese-style landscape of intimate gardens, winding paths, and hidden nooks has been brought back better than ever by the Trustees of Reservations. [thetrustees.org](http://thetrustees.org)

#### Pickity Place | Mason, NH

Step into a storybook at Pickity Place, crowned with a c. 1786 cottage that was the model for Elizabeth Orton Jones's *Little Red Riding Hood* illustrations. It's set amid 10 acres of woodlands and gardens that range from butterfly and bird themes to a kitchen garden that provides ingredients for the gourmet five-course luncheons served here. Plus, there's an herb shop, a garden shop, and a greenhouse with plants for sale. [pickityplace.com](http://pickityplace.com)

#### See More:

[Best New England Nurseries & Garden Centers](#)

[Best Public Gardens in New England](#)

[Best New England Arboretums & Botanical Gardens](#)

#### Related Articles



Best New England Arboretums & Botanical Gardens



5 Lost & Gone (But Not Forgotten) New England Amusement Parks



Best Pancake Houses in New England

#### Tags

abby aldrich rockefeller garden, acadia, acadia national, azalea, botanical gardens, bridge of flowers, farm, flower garden, garden, gardens, greenhouse, historic, Home, horticulture, kitchen garden, landscape, mount desert, mount desert island, narragansett, new england, new england nurseries, newport, pickity place, plants, seal harbor, topiary, tours, trees.

### Comments

Donna R. March 25, 2021  
Heritage Gardens, Sandwich, Massachusetts  
Reply

Diana M. March 27, 2021  
Agree!  
Reply

Cynthia G. March 25, 2021  
I took some beautiful pictures of my nephew when he was a baby in Prescott Park in Portsmouth, NH. The flowers made a lovely backdrop.  
Reply

Ann P. March 22, 2021  
You forgot Elizabeth Park in Hartford, CT. It is the first municipal rose garden in the US and the third largest in the country today. It opened in 1904 and its Rose Garden is renowned as the first official test garden for the American Rose Society in the early 1900s. The park hosts a Rose Weekend each June that draws visitors from across the country. It has several other gardens and greenhouses, a pond, The Pond House Cafe, and is a desired site for outdoor weddings, concerts, garden tours and festivals. It comprises just over one hundred acres. See <http://www.elizabethparkct.org>  
Reply

Aimee T. March 22, 2021  
Hi Ann. We love Elizabeth Park! You can find it on our list of the Best Public Gardens in New England. <https://newengland.com/today/travel/best-public-gardens/>  
Reply

#### Leave a Comment

Logged in as Fotoula Pantazopoulos. [Log out »](#)

Comment

**SUBMIT COMMENT**

**Rockport Escape**  
BOOK NOW

#### Topics

- TRAVEL
- FOOD
- LIVING

**LinkedIn Marketing Solutions**  
How to get started with LinkedIn ads  
[Learn more](#)

#### Free Guides

**Yankee Magazine's Best of New England:** Outdoors Edition

Yankee Magazine's Ultimate Guide to Autumn in New England

Yankee Magazine's Ultimate New England Winter Guide

Yankee Magazine's Ultimate Holiday Guide

**Best New England Vacations:** Things to Do in Boston, Maine Vacations, Things to Do in New Hampshire, Things to Do in Rhode Island and More

Yankee Magazine's Ultimate New England Summer Guide

63 Reasons Why We Love the Cape & Islands

**Best of New England in the Fall:** Fall Foliage, Great Hikes, Apple Picking and More!

**Best of New England Fall Travel:** Best Places to See Foliage in New England, Best Fall Drives in New England, Things To Do in Maine, Things To Do in the Berkshires, Things To Do in Vermont, and More!

**Best Apple Recipes:** Easy Desserts with Apples, Best Apples for Apple Pie, Our Favorite Apple Turnover Recipe, and More!

**Best of New England Seafood Recipes:** How to Cook Scallops, How to Make Clam Chowder, Cooking Lobster Tails, Cod Fillet Recipes, Haddock Recipes and More.

**Lost and Vintage Recipes:** Breakfasts and Breads from the Editors of Yankee Magazine

**Do business where business is done.** [Learn more](#)

LinkedIn Marketing Solutions

#### Popular Articles

- You Might Be a New Englander If...
- Pineapple Right-Side-Up Cake
- Italian Easter Bread with Dyed Eggs
- 5 Lost & Gone (But Not Forgotten) New England Amusement Parks
- Vermont Maple Cookies

#### NETWORK HOME

TODAY  
BEST OF NEW ENGLAND  
SHOP  
YANKEE MAGAZINE  
FREE PREVIEWS  
WEEKENDS WITH YANKEE TV

Yankee Publishing, Inc.  
An Employee-Owned Company  
PO Box 520  
DUBLIN, NH 03444  
(603) 288-4284

© 2022 Yankee Publishing, Inc., An Employee-Owned Company, all rights reserved.



#### TRAVEL

Connecticut  
Maine  
Massachusetts  
New England  
New Hampshire  
Rhode Island  
Vermont

#### FOLIAGE

#### FOOD

Appetizers  
Beverages  
Breads  
Breakfast & Brunch  
Condiments  
Cooking Advice  
Desserts  
Lunch  
Main Dishes  
New England Made  
Salads  
Seasonal Recipes  
Side Dishes  
Soups, Stews, & Chowders  
Special Occasions

#### LIVING

Backyard  
Cleaning  
Crafts  
Gardening  
Home Decor  
Home Remedies  
Home Repair & DIY  
Homes  
Humor  
Made in New England  
New England Environment  
New England History  
New England Nostalgia  
Pests  
Profiles  
Trivia

#### FREE GUIDES

Best New England Vacations  
Ultimate New England Winter  
Ultimate New England Summer  
Cape Cod & The Islands  
Best of New England Seafood Recipes  
And Many More

#### NEW ENGLAND LINKS

Newsletter Sign Up  
About Us  
Advertise With Us  
Article Archive  
Author Index  
Browse Topics  
Contact Us  
Employment  
Glossary  
Keyword Index  
Press Contact  
Privacy Policy  
Subscriber Services  
Newsstand Locations  
RSS Feed  
Yankee HQ Webcam  
The Old Farmer's Almanac  
Family Tree Magazine  
NH Magazine  
NH Business Review  
Yankee Custom Marketing

Our Partners

