Allbirds
Allbirds
Shop now

nepm ALEXANDER SCHOLARSHIP
Saturday, June 4 / 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Hadley Town Common, Hadley, MA

PLACES TO STAY

Best Camping in New England | *Yankee* Favorites

From the mountains to the ocean, here is a selection of *Yankee* editor-approved spots for some of the best camping in New England.

Yankee Magazine • July 30, 2021 - Read Comments (10)

3.24 avg. rating (79% score) - 26 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.

While backyard camping never goes out of style, sometimes it's fun to pack up the tent, lawn chairs, and cooler and head for the great outdoors. Or maybe you prefer your campsite with hard-earned mountain views? Family-friendly amenities? Check out some of our picks for best camping in New England and start planning your future nature-filled escape. Our list features recent reviews from our annual "Best of New England" Editors' Choice Awards, but it's just a fraction of the many wonderful campgrounds, both large and small, throughout New England.

Best Camping in New England
Yankee

Best Camping in New England | *Yankee* Picks

Connecticut Camping

Bear Creek Campground — Bristol, CT

Best Campground with a Counter | A day at Lake Compounce, America's oldest amusement park, is doubly fun when you're just a short train ride away from a marshmallow roasting and movie nights. An on-site campground is Lake Compounce's newest thrill: Bring your own tent or RV or rent a cabin or handcrafted tipi — with electricity.

Charlie Brown Campground — Eastford, CT

Best Family Campground | Located on the Natchaug River, less than 40 miles from Hartford, Charlie Brown Campground offers the perfect family camping experience with 81 tent and RV sites, plus sports fields, nature trails, a playground, and recreation hall.

Maine Camping

Stephen Phillips Memorial Preserve — Opassnoc, ME

Best Primitive Camping | When you want to really escape, make a reservation, then grab a tent and canoe and head for this 400-acre preserve, with primitive sites dotting the shoreline and islands of Moosehorsehorsetic Lake.

Sebago Lake State Park — Casco, ME

Best Campground | It's surprising that with a depth of 316 feet and a surface area of more than 45 square miles, Sebago Lake doesn't have its own mythical sea monster. What it does have, though, are resident populations of landlocked salmon and lake trout, more than 100 miles of shoreline, and this 1,400-acre campground, now in its ninth decade, revered by the families who return year after year to the 230 wooded sites set back from the water. Hiking trails crisscross the surrounding woods, but most campers come to swim and bask in the piney surroundings.

Mount Blue State Park — Weld, ME

Best Undeveloped State Park | A roadside bargain, this 8,000-acre expanse has it all: Swimming, camping, picnicking, mountain biking, fishing, boating, hiking, ATV riding, ranger-led day activities, and evening amphitheater programs are spread over two sections, separated by Webb Lake, in the shadow of 3,187-foot Mount Blue.

Wallie's Neck Oceanfront Camping (Formerly Rocangenore Shore) — Freeport, ME

Best Seaside Campground | Part of the Wolfe's Neck Farm foundation in Freeport, Maine, this eco-sensitive, low-key campground with three miles of tidal frontage on Casco Bay caters to tenters, although a few sites have hookups.

Yankee's New England Adventures
Over 400 Essential Things to See and Do! Yankee's New England Adventures is your go-to source for in-depth travel information, with the same stunning photography and practical know-how Yankee brings to you every month.
BUY NOW

Massachusetts Camping

Shawme-Crowell State Forest Campground — Sandwich, MA

Best Campground | Sandy shore and tranquil forest — both sides of Cape Cod can be your playground all week for less than you'd pay for a single night at a family resort. So pack up your kids, the dog, and a tent (or reserve a yurt if you're new to camping) and head to Sandwich for a week of fun in the sun and under the stars. This 300-acre preserve on swimming in relatively warm bay waters. It's a little-unknown perk that campers here enjoy free access to nearby Scusset Beach. And even more obscure that mushroom foragers love these woods.

Salisbury Beach State Reservation — Salisbury, MA

Best Camping Area | Nature lovers may swarm to the Merrimack River every summer, but setting up a tent on its banks here all but guarantees you won't feel cramped. With almost 500 sites, access to a 3.8-mile stretch of beach (complete with seal sightings), and convenience like RV hookups and oceanfront bathrooms, campers have come away feeling as if they've spent their time communing with nature instead of just their neighbors. The campground doesn't sit right on the water, but it's within walking distance of Salisbury Beach, a four-mile strand of dunes and white sand beach, with plenty of room to spread out.

Martha's Vineyard Family Campground — Vineyard Haven, MA

Best Island Camping | The dappled shade of the campsites on the island's sole campground crowns an oir of summer idyll for tenners and RV drivers alike. For full immersion in the outdoor experience, bring a bike and pedal everywhere on beautiful Martha's Vineyard. Also available a few one- and two-bedroom cabins to rent.

Bourne Scenic Park — Bourne, MA

Best Canalside Camping | Families have been coming to this woodsy enclave for shifts on the Cape Cod Canal in the shadow of the Bourne Bridge for more than 50 years. Two in-ground pools offer freshwater swimming; and saltwater beaches are only a short bike ride away. Catch dinner by fishing off the rocks.

Normandy Farms RV Resort — Foxborough, MA

Best Luxury RV Park | Even city slickers could become converts to camping at this RV resort with bike park, fitness center, fishing pond, 18-hole disc golf course, sauna, Jacuzzi, four swimming pools, and wellness center with massage treatments. Bring your own RV (or even a tent). Sites range from most basic (no services) to premium (water, septic, cable, high-amperage electric).

Peddocks Island — Boston, MA

Best Urban Camping | Turkic nomads from the Central Asian steppes probably never pitched camp on the Boston Harbor Islands, but their signature structure-the yurt-is available on Peddocks Island, which has portable water (but no showers) and vistas of Fort Andrews.

Tully Lake Campground — Royalston, MA

Best Lake Recreation | Formed by a flood-control dam, 200-acre Tully Lake and the surrounding woodlands have become a recreational gem for the North Quabbin region. Even non-campers can access hiking and mountain biking trails, rent canoes and kayaks, and join the free ranger programs. If you haven't tried disc golf, this is a good place to start.

Savoy Mountain State Forest Campground — Florida, MA

Best Hiker's Campground | Vehicle and tent campers may choose between open orchard locations and private wooded spots at this state forest in the Berkshires. Trails range from an easy hike with its abundance of wildlife and carnivorous plants, to a 3.5-mile round-trip hike to the 50-foot drop of Tannery Falls.

New Hampshire Camping

Dolly Copp Campground — Gorham, NH

Best Campground | Nestled after backwoods folk lore Dolly Copp and partly situated on the Continental Divide with two Sunland, Maine, in the mid-to-late-1800s, this hidden gem is a perfect place to pitch a tent. Or, if you prefer a comfortable bed, book a cabin rooms at the doorstep of the Presidential and Carter-Moriah ranges, which the nearby Daniel Webster Scout Trail leads hikers straight to the summit base of Mount Washington. For first-time visitors to the Whites, there's no better outdoor stop.

Northern Waters Outfitters — Errol, NH

Best Wilderness Camping | Take a long, deep breath, check your 9-to-5 routine, and jump off the map. The wild beauty of Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge is yours for the paddling, with Northern Waters Outfitters' canoe-and-tent-camping at several wilderness sites, including near its base camp and school. Canoe the refuge by day; sleep under the stars at night; Or sign up for instruction in kayak touring and whitewater rafting, plus pontoon-boat wildlife tours.

White Lake State Park — Tamworth, NH

Best Campground Swimming | New Hampshire has plenty of reasons to thank the glaciers, but White Lake ranks high, with some of the best swimming in the White Mountains, a wide and sandy beach, big playground, and a family campground. Our Yankee lake critic says, "I'm a total lake snob. I can't swim in most lakes. This one I could."

Rhode Island Camping

Ashaway RV Resort by Jellystone — Bradford, RI

Best Campground | Just 10 miles inland from ocean beaches, yet with so much on-site fun you might not leave once you park, Ashaway is the newest member of Zemax Homes' RV resort collection. That doesn't mean changes are afoot, though. Oh sure, there'll be some new campfire entertainers on Saturday nights. But this eye-pleasing property's distinctive amenities — including a mini golf course, audio-control car track, kiddie trials, and pool—are exactly what appealed to its new owner. Rent a cottage if you're RV-less and want in on the fun.

George Washington Memorial Campground Area — Chepachet, RI

Best Off-the-Grid Escape | This no-frills, never-crowded campground spreads over 100 wooded acres (part of the 4,000-acre George Washington Memorial Area) and features a lake for swimming and kayaking, a walking trail, and plenty of peace and quiet.

Vermont Camping

Smugglers' Notch State Park — Stowe, VT

Best State Park | Straddling a sharply accessible corkscrew of a road sentinelled by 1,000-foot cliffs, one of Vermont's most popular parks draws hikers, campers, and those who simply want to navigate the notch by car, narrowly squeezing through towering boulders. The Long Trail crosses the road at one point, and even those who are hiking reverse may be tempted to stroll the quarter-mile path to spectacular Bingham Falls. The steep, mile-long Sterling Pond Trail, which begins at the crest of the notch, summits at the eponymous pond of a pond, one of the state's highest bodies of water.

Brighton State Park — Island Pond, VT

Best Campground | Deep in the craggy Northeast Kingdom, scrub oak and native blueberry bushes hem in the edges of Brighton State Park's Spectacle Pond. On the pond's western shore, 54 tent sites, 23 lean-tos, and five rental cabins play host to overnight visitors, seeking extra serenity or easy lakefront access? Hit the high numbered sites in the park's northern loop, where the peace and quiet are interrupted only by the loon's yell.

Campbell's Bay Campground — West Swanton, VT

Best Refuge by a Refuge | Canoeing and kayaking are popular pastimes at this Lake Champlain complex bordering a 7,500-acre wildlife refuge, but fishing reigns supreme. The lakefront cottages offer basic but comfortable accommodations; boat rentals are available.

North Beach Campground — Burlington, VT

Best Urban Camping | Although sites are small, this campground in bustling Burlington, Vermont, overlooking Lake Champlain is just a short hop to town via the adjacent bike path.

This post was first published in 2012 and has been updated.

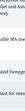
What are your picks for the best camping in New England?

SEE MORE:
Acadia National Park Camping | Where to Go
Best Beach Camping in New England | Favorite Spots
Ogunquit Camping Guide | Favorite Maine Campgrounds

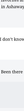
Plan Your Summer Adventure
New Hampshire summers are made up of unforgettable adventures. Find yours. Discover Your New.
VISIT NH

Related Articles

Favorite Waterways Modern Hotels in New England



Best Lakeside Lodging in New England | Maine, Vermont & New Hampshire



Best Boutique Hotels in New England

Tags

acadia, acadia national, acadia national park, acadia national park camping, beach, bear creek campground, berkshires, best camping in new england, best of new england, biking, blueberry, boston, boston harbor, boston harbor islands, bourne scenic park, Bristol, burlington, burlington vt, camping in new england, cape cod, cape cod national seashore, charlestown, charlestown ri, charlotte, chepachet, champlain, maine, martha's vineyard, massachusetts, mohawk trail, mountains, new england, new england yankee, new hampshire, north beach campground, ogunquit, ogunquit camping, park, peddocks island, plants, pond, quabbin, rhode island, salisbury beach state reservation, sebago lake, smugglers notch, Stars, stephen phillips memorial preserve, stowe, summer, swimming, tamworth nh, the berkshires, the white mountains, tours, tully lake campground, vermont, vineyard haven, vineyard haven ma, VT, white lake state park, white mountain, white mountain national forest, white mountains, yankee.

Comments

28 July 28, 2019
Alaris, We would love to know what New England Campground you're referring to. Thank you!
Reply

21 July 3, 2019
New Hampshire's lot is missing a few wonderful campgrounds. Dunbeth Bay Camping & RV Resort is wonderful for families and has TONS of fun for adults are great options for seasonal or beginner campers in Freedom, NH. Situated on Danforth Bay of Ossipee Lake with access to heated sub-water pools in the heart of the White Mountains and Lakes Region. These family-owned campgrounds are worth exploring for your next camping adventure.
Reply

Alaris May 16, 2018
The best campground in New England is listed in the guidebook of a foreign country as one of the top ten campgrounds in the United States. And the best part is, it isn't listed here! That will keep it from getting overcrowded so I can enjoy it just the way it's always been.
Reply

Jeff May 16, 2018
Your list has shortchanged Rhode Island. Two of my favorites are Whispering Pines Campground in Hope Valley and Ashaway RV Resort in Ashaway There is even a Kid's splash pad at Ashaway.
Reply

Wendell H July 6, 2017
Cranberryville in Bartonsville MA used to be fun but I don't know if it's still there or not.
Reply

Sheila A. May 27, 2017
My favorite is Hermit Island Campground in Maine. Been there several times.
Reply

Jordan L. May 17, 2018
Hermit island is a must for ocean camping.
Reply

Dolores September 27, 2014
Try Dolly Copp Campground...White Mountain National Forest...south of Gorham NH
Reply

William G. April 23, 2021
There is great trout fishing in the Peabody River that runs there along RT 16.
Reply

Annette A. May 24, 2012
Our family camped at Bourne Park for many years when our children were younger. Whenever
a large boat or cruise ship came through the canal,the kids would stand at the top of the
banking yelling "BLOW YOUR HORN". Those were fun times for us
Reply

Leave a Comment

Logged in as Petsola Pantazopoulos. Log out »

Comment

SUBMIT COMMENT

BEST WEB SITES EO
Copyright © 2021 Yankee Publishing, Inc., an Emmis Communications Company, all rights reserved.
Yankee Publishing, Inc.
an Emphasis Group
Company
PO Box 520
Dublin, NH 03444
(603) 563-8111