TRAVEL

A sea change for Nantucket

As the true story behind 'Moby-Dick' comes to our cinemas, Kathy Arnold travels to New England to visit the one-time whaling hub that is now one of America's most exclusive holiday retreats
"Every other building has a historic plaque"

The very slow move into Nantucket became clear from the outset. That story was told in 1846 when the town's lighthouse was standing on a high hillside, but nothing was done to improve its visibility.

That world is captured in the film "In the Heart of the Sea," which takes place in the 19th century. During his time in Nantucket, Herman Melville wrote his classic novel "Moby-Dick," after hearing of the real-life tragedy that befell the whaler Essex.

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The town's whaling heritage is celebrated each year with a festival that draws thousands of visitors.

Chris Herrington and his family Walker carry many stories up the street of the Heart of the Whaling Museum. The preserved sections of the ship give that feel and the whalers' living history on British homes and factories. In 174, the streets of Nantucket were illuminated with whale oil.

Women from the town worked alongside the men, earning their keep.

Nantucket is a place of memories, a place of history, a place of honor.
That 80-ton mammal took on a 238-ton vessel, and won!

Tip: Leander, England, on the Thames, is a must-visit place.

ESSENTIALS

Getting there

Amtrak's You-Go Line (800-USA-RAIL) is convenience and cost effective. It makes stops at various Amtrak stations.

Where to stay

The Jodet Hotel (401-500-220), 2000, is comfortable and has a beautiful view of the harbor. It is close to the main attractions in the harbor of Lancaster, and is the place to stay for those interested in getting to know the city better. It offers comfortable rooms and is a good base for those interested in exploring the city.

Further information

For more information, please visit the site of the Lancaster Visitors Bureau.