

onsisting of six states that extend from Maine in the north down to Long Island, New York in the south, New England has something for everyone: Abundant sporting choices, gorgeous scenery and historical and cultural highlights throughout. Each state is large enough for its own itinerary, but given that Newport in Rhode Island is considered America's yachting capital, head to this stretch of the northeast for a superyacht cruise.

DAY 1 NEWPORT

Board your yacht in Newport, celebrated as the yachting capital of America and the former home of the America's Cup. Founded in 1639 by a group of British dissidents, Newport soon became one of the five major ports in North America. It also became known as a society playground in 1881, when Lady Astor vacationed there and made it a fashionable summer destination. Its status was heightened further at the beginning of the 20th century when some of New York's most distinguished families adopted the city as a home-away-from-home and built grand summer "cottages" here. As a display of the families' wealth and status, the eclectic architecture resembles Italian palazzos and French palaces. Many are still privately owned, and, unlike Long Island's stately homes, a number of Newport's mansions are open to the public, including The Breakers, Hunter House, The Elms, Kingscote, Marble House. Château-sur-Mer and Rosecliff. The latter is one of the grandest and boasts a stunning ballroom with frescoed ceiling and crystal chandeliers. Be sure to stroll along Cliff Walk and enjoy the dualing views: The wild Atlantic Ocean to one side and the well-kept gardens of the mansions on the other.

The International Tennis Hall of Fame, housed in a former country club in Newport, has undergone a multimillion-dollar restoration and is well worth a visit. The historic courts are the world's oldest competition grass courts still in use. Book in advance and tread the turf where the most famous players in the world have played.

Though your accommodation is taken care of on your yacht, the **Castle Hill Inn** is still an excellent spot for an aperitif or dinner. Set on its own peninsula, the hotel's great lawn slopes down to the bay and provides the perfect vantage point to watch the yachts bobbing about as the sun sets over the Atlantic. Its terrace bar is a popular hangout for the yachting set who come for Sunday brunch and live jazz (Contact: Castle Hill Inn General Manager Daniel Braun, (401) 849-3800; info@castlehill.com; www.castlehillinn.com).

The **Vanderbilt Grace** is also an enchanting place for a cocktail or dinner. Originally built as a YMCA in 1909 by Alfred Vanderbilt, the historic district mansion was recently turned into a hotel, complete with a colorful bar lined with Pop Art paintings. Try the tasting menu, "An Evening at the Breakers," based on a grand dinner that was given at the Vanderbilt mansion in 1912 (Contact: Vanderbilt Grace General Manager Matt Parent, (401) 846-6200; res@vanderbiltgrace.com; www.vanderbiltgrace.com).

DON'T MISS

• The venerable annual Newport Jazz Festival from August 2 to 4, 2013.





NEW ENGLAND FAVORITES

- Head out of Boston to the North Shore where you will find the haunting town of Salem, home to the infamous witch trials of 1692. Visit the
 Salem Witch Museum for a history lesson.
- Take a detour to Cape Ann and the artist studios and galleries found in the seaside towns of Rockport and Gloucester.
- Located inland in the Berkshires, Tanglewood in Lenox is the summer home of the Boston Symphony. Famous for its musical evenings and picnics, there are plenty of classical concerts throughout July and August.
- Watch or participate in the sailing action at the Newport Bucket from August 22 to 25, 2013.

ALTERNATIVE DESTINATIONS | NEW ENGLAND

DAYS 2 & 3 NEWPORT TO MARTHA'S VINEYARD (60 NAUTICAL MILES)

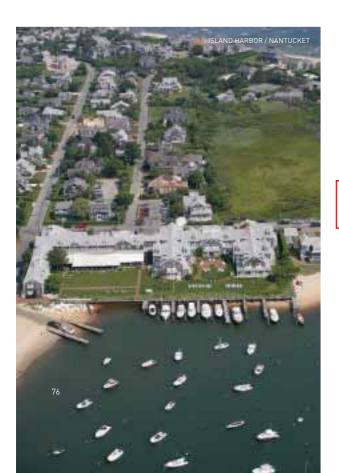
Glide into the exclusive Menemsha Harbor on Martha's Vineyard and enjoy an early evening aperitif as you gaze at the same view that Jackie O savored in the days when she cruised aboard Maurice Templesman's yacht. On shore, browse the shops and restaurants, or venture to the bustling towns of Oak Bluffs, Edgartown and Vineyard Haven. Back on board, tuck into freshly caught lobster and scallops that your chef has prepared.

Rise early for a walk along the cliffs of Gay Head (home to the Native American Wampanoag tribe) to the Gay Head Lighthouse, or simply dive into the beautiful Atlantic that laps the numerous sandy beaches encircling the island. Much of Martha's Vineyard is dedicated conservation land and has wooded trails that are accessible only on foot or by bicycle.

Wander around the 19th-century gingerbread cottages in Oak Bluffs. Once a Methodist campsite, the tents were replaced with small, elaborately decorated homes. The town's Circuit Avenue is the place to head for island nightlife; alternatively, Edgartown also has a nice selection of wine bars and quieter pubs.

DON'T MISS

If you happen to be on Martha's Vineyard on a summer Friday, join the locals at Grace Church in Vineyard
Haven for fresh lobster rolls. Another must-do is The
Bite in Menemsha. The small beach shack serves the
island's finest clams, oysters, shrimp and scallops.





DAY 4 MARTHA'S VINEYARD TO NANTUCKET ISLAND (20 NAUTICAL MILES)

It is just a short hop across to the small, crescent-shaped island of Nantucket, where you will find immaculately pruned privet hedges, gray-shingle and clapboard architecture and cobblestone streets with 20-miles-per-hour speed limits. During the 18th and 19th centuries, Nantucket was the whaling capital of the world and home to some of the wealthiest Americans. When the oil market crashed in the early 1900s, the island went back to its roots as a poor fishing community. In the 1920s, it was rediscovered by the Broadway set, who were followed by the affluent Northeasterners in the 1950s, and it remains a preppy summer retreat to this day.

A stone's throw from the Nantucket Boat Basin, the rarified old Nantucket Town is groomed to perfection. There are no neon signs or fast-food diners; in fact, the only branded store here is **Ralph Lauren**, a label that sums up the island's aesthetic. Nantucket only allowed Ralph Lauren to set up shop here after the house designed a line exclusive to the island. But it is **Murray's Toggery**Shop that is best known as the place to buy original Nantucket red trousers.

The best way to discover the island's acres of conservation land and beaches, quaint boutiques, antique shops and 19th-century clapboard mansions is by bicycle—perhaps not the entire 80 miles of coastline, but you can easily cycle from one end of the island to the other. Take a four-wheel drive to reach the iconic **Brant Point** lighthouse at the tip of the coast, where you will find hundreds of seals bathing in the warm eddies created as the Atlantic currents hit the Nantucket Sound.

Back in Nantucket Town, enjoy an aperitif on the harborside terrace at the **White Elephant**. An island landmark, the hotel has a lovely view over the harbor and a private berth where you can step ashore from your tender.

DON'T MISS

- The **Whaling Museum** in Nantucket Town has a large collection of memorabilia from Nantucket's heyday as a bustling international port. From the skeleton of a huge finback whale to captains' diaries and shipping logs, the museum will capture your imagination for hours.
- July and August see the island come alive with an influx of visitors, but equally special times to
 visit are in April, when the island hosts the Daffodil Festival, and in October for the Nantucket
 Harvest Weekend.

DAY 5 NANTUCKET ISLAND TO PROVINCETOWN (58 NAUTICAL MILES)

Provincetown is where the *Mayflower* pilgrims first landed, and as you approach the fishing village you will see the impressive **Pilgrim Monument** looming in the background. The tallest granite structure in the US, it commemorates the pilgrims' first landing in the New World in 1620. Today, Provincetown is a scenic destination where you will find great eats including fudge shops and restaurants like **Chester**, which is set in a former captain's home in the art district and serves Wellfleet oysters and fresh lobster and features a wine list of over 160 wines. Alternatively, the awardwinning **Front Street** has a great menu of Mediterranean and American cuisine (*Contact: Chester Restaurant chef and owner Jay Coburn, (508) 237-3021; www.chesterrestaurant.com).*

DON'T MISS

• Your crew can escort you on a bicycle ride through the dune trails that edge the national seashore. The Outer Cape has an array of cycling paths from Provincetown to Wellfleet and beyond.

DAYS 6 & 7 PROVINCETOWN TO BOSTON (25 NAUTICAL MILES)

Dating back to the 17th century, Boston has a long and colorful history. Unlike most American cities, Boston is a great town for walking. For newcomers, the Freedom Trail serves as a fantastic introduction to the town. The red-brick path winds its way around the city, linking 16 historical sites. Learn about the American Revolution and the Revolutionary War as you stroll through the streets. The Museum of Fine Art is also well worth a visit and houses a world-class Monet collection, one of the finest outside of France, and also has some of the largest and most significant collections of European decorative arts and sculptures in the US. If you are in search of more culture, The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum displays an impressive collection of paintings, decorative arts, sculptures and tapestries spanning 30 centuries.

DON'T MISS

 Watch the world drift by as street musicians entertain at the bustling cafés that line Cambridge's Harvard Square.



Robert Shepherd at Edmiston Yachts has been a charter broker for eight years. He recommends cruising the coastline of New England aboard the 116-foot *Highlander*.

"The variety of activities on offer and the cultural and historic areas make New England an interesting and fun cruising ground. In New England, Sag Harbor and The Hamptons are a must-visit for the great beaches, restaurants and nightlife they both have to offer. Block Island is also fantastic for great beaches and cycling. Newport and the historic downtown area, along with Cliff Walk, the mansions and Bellevue Avenue and the ten-mile Ocean Drive are also worth stepping ashore to visit. Martha's Vineyard cannot be missed of course, and the same goes for Nantucket, with its historic town, great shopping, delicious restaurants and the stunning beaches found all around the island."

Highlander is available through Edmiston Yachts this summer in New England. Prices start from \$60,000 a week for up to eight guests.

Contact: Charter Broker Robert Shepherd, [212] 792-5370; rs:@edmiston.com; www.edmiston.company.com

Agnes Howard is a charter broker for Camper & Nicholsons International. Howard knows the coastline of New England well, having spent a number of years as a crew member aboard superyachts before becoming a charter broker.

"While the summer months of July and August are ideal for cruising the coastline and islands of New England, September and October should not be overlooked. A combination of the clement weather with warm blue skies and fantastic light over the colorful foliage, and of course the space as the visitors disperse, make it a magical time to visit. The islands and mainland coastline offer social activities aplenty, from beach clambake picnics to concerts and cultural activities, but there are also many off-the-beaten-track hidden coves and beaches to explore when on board the likes of the 118-foot Savannah."

Savannah is available through Camper & Nicholsons International this summer in New England. Prices start from \$49,500 a week for up to eight guests.

Contact: Charter Broker Agnes Howard, (954) 524-4250; ahoward@camperandnicholsons.com; www.camperandnicholsons.com

