



A special publication of
The Eagle-Tribune,
The Salem News,
The Daily News of Newburyport
and the Gloucester Daily Times

Summer on
**The
Coast**

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Basking in the splendor of summer on the coast

It's one of the most desirable regions of the country — the stretch of coastline along the Atlantic Ocean from Cape Ann and the North Shore up to Greater Newburyport and the New Hampshire Seacoast.

For years, visitors have been drawn to its shores to enjoy its beaches, tour its attractions, admire its views and envy those of us fortunate enough to call our part of the Northeast coast home.

On land and on sea, there's always new discoveries to be made, along with a host of familiar favorites to revisit.

The COVID-19 pandemic threatened to cancel much of the pleasure that comes with summer on the coast this year. But after some challenging delays, the sun is once again shining on the region.

Waterfronts are returning to life. Beaches have reopened, albeit with restrictions in place at many of them. Restaurants have begun welcoming back diners, with outdoor seating in high demand. Open-air music and drive-in movies are starting to fill calendars once again, and nature outings and excursions are taken steps to cover some picturesque ground.

Our Summer on the Coast special insert spotlights some of the many inviting destinations that are embracing the abbreviated season. The return to operation, however, continues to evolve, and we encourage visitors to check with destinations prior to their arrival so that they can plan their outings accordingly.

Pandemic or not, the lure of the coast will not be denied. And there's still plenty of summer to be had along its shores.

ON THE COVER

'FUN TIMES ON THE BEACH'

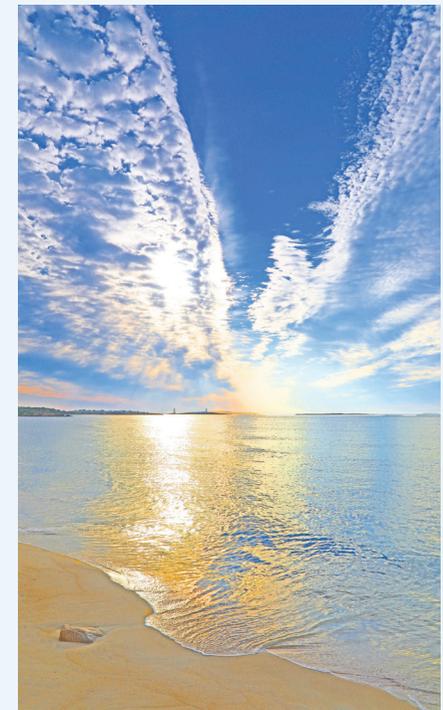
John Abisamra, Gloucester

John Abisamra was photographing the sunset over Plum Cove Beach in Gloucester when he encountered the two boys fresh from a swim and climbing onto the rock to watch the sun go down. When they turned around and noticed him, they started to wave, and Abisamra captured their playful spirit just as one of the boys was making rabbit ears behind his friend's head.

"Another priceless moment in time that summer on the beach brings," he says.

A native New Englander who moved to Gloucester six years ago, Abisamra tries to preserve the uniqueness of the seasons, along with the exquisite light that accompanies them. He particularly enjoys photographing the golden hours of sunrise and sunset, and is also drawn to images where nature and man-made elements meet.

Abisamra is a juried member of Gallery 53 on Rocky Neck, the Rockport Art Association and the Newburyport Art Association. To see more of his work, visit windowoflight.weebly.com.



John Abisamra captures the sunrise at Good Harbor Beach, left, and Long Beach, both in Gloucester.



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Marblehead

A seafaring past sails strong

Marblehead is often referred to as the “Yachting Capital of the World.” And you won’t hear any argument from many of the sailors in town.

Marblehead Harbor boasts one of the finest displays of sailing craft anywhere, according to town leaders. Over the years, the harbor has been both the starting and finishing port for numerous international races.

Standing at Fort Sewall, looking across the harbor and out to sea, it isn’t hard to imagine the pirate ships that threatened the town in its earliest days.

An imaginative visitor might also think of the USS Constitution, “Old Ironsides,” slipping under the fort’s protective guns on April 3, 1814, with two British frigates in pursuit.

It’s also easy to think of family members of the sailors in Marblehead’s fishing fleet, much of which was destroyed by a storm in 1846, who stood at this spot wondering if their loved ones would return from sea.

A trip along Ocean Avenue to Marblehead Neck allows visitors to see Old Town — and the spire of Abbot Hall — as part of one sweeping view.

It also allows them to admire the grounds of the Eastern and Corinthian yacht clubs, and the beautiful boats at anchor in the harbor.

Ocean Avenue leads visitors out to Chandler Hovey Park, where Marblehead Light stands, a metal framework around a central column that was erected in 1895 and is unique in New England.

This stark structure replaced the first lighthouse on that spot, a brick and wood tower that was built in 1835.

Noted for its contributions to the American Revolution and Civil War, Marblehead is also known for its narrow, crooked streets lined with more than 200 privately owned, Colonial-period homes and buildings built centuries ago.

Those streets lead to a bevy of landmarks, including Abbot Hall on Washington Street. In addition to being a town hall and historical museum, Abbot Hall displays



Staff file photos

Two stand-up paddleboarders traverse Ladys Cove in Marblehead Harbor.

the original of the widely reproduced “Spirit of ’76” painting by Archibald MacNeal Willard, the deed to Marblehead from the Nana-peshemet tribe of Native Americans (dated 1684), and a number of other artifacts.

Mass Audubon’s Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary is a haven for migratory birds, especially warblers, during the spring and fall migrations.

Hungry? Some shops in store offer the Joe Frogger, Marblehead’s own famous molasses cookie that has been cherished by residents for generations. The cookies, which date to Colonial times, were originally baked by a man known as Old Black Joe Brown and an Aunt Crese, who maintained a tavern on Gingerbread Hill. Because the cookies would keep for long periods of time, fishermen



It’s not uncommon to spot unusual birds at Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary. Its swamp, thickets and woodlands are a haven for migratory birds — especially warblers.

would take barrels of Joe Froggers along with them on their long voyages at sea.



Members of Glover’s Marblehead Regiment always mark Memorial Day and the Fourth of July with a 13-gun salute at Fort Sewall.

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Historic wharves highlight shoreline

Salem's Pickering Wharf is a popular harborside attraction designed to embody the authentic feel of a New England village.

There is much to do sprinkled in between history and landmarks. Visitors can browse through more than 20 shops and boutiques, and even do some antiquing.

Options for waterfront dining abound, with many top-rated restaurants to choose from. Or grab a coffee and ice cream, and watch the boats pass by. The marketplace area also is home to Salem Waterfront Hotel and Pickering Wharf Marina.

The Friendship, Salem's iconic tall ship, returned to its berth at adjacent Derby Wharf last year, after undergoing repairs for more than two years in Gloucester.

The replica of the late-18th-century East Indiaman merchant ship was built by the National Park Service in the late 1990s using modern materials and construction methods, while retaining the appearance of the original ship.

Launched in 1797, the actual three-masted, square-rigged, 342-ton vessel was crafted in the South River shipyard of Enos Briggs for the Salem mercantile firm Waite and Peirce.

The Friendship made 15 voyages during its career — to Batavia, India, China, South America, the Caribbean, England, Germany, the Mediterranean and Russia. It ended its activities as an American merchant vessel when it was captured as a prize of war by the British sloop of war HMS Rosamond in September 1812.

The replica ship has been among the most popular attractions at the Salem Maritime National Historic Site on Derby Street since its debut.

More seaside fun can be found at nearby Salem Willows, named for the white willow trees planted there in 1801 to create shaded walkways for patients convalescing at a local smallpox hospital. The 35-acre park, which opened in 1858, offers beaches, athletic courts, walking trails, a historic carousel, food to go and more.

Salem is equally known for its place in the 1692 Witch Trials as for its role in maritime history.

Many of Salem's witch museums and landmarks are nearby, including Salem Witch Village and Salem Witch Museum. Or check out The House of the Seven Gables, made famous by American author Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel. The circa-1668 Colonial is considered to be the oldest-surviving 17th-century wooden mansion in New England.



With the Custom House as a backdrop, Derek Dupuis relaxes by the water with a book at Derby Wharf in Salem.

Staff file photos



A man skips over rocks while visiting Dead Horse Beach at the Salem Willows.



The Friendship made a triumphant return to Derby Wharf last spring after more than two years in dry dock for repairs.



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Lynch Park blooms with beach beauty

David S. Lynch Memorial Park is situated on a point with views of the Atlantic Ocean to the east and Woodbury Cove to the west.

Owned and maintained by the city of Beverly, it is the former site of the vast summer home of Robert and Marie Antoinette Evans, who transformed it into one of the finest estates on the North Shore.

In the summers of 1909 and 1910, President William Howard Taft leased the property's Stetson Cottage as his seasonal White House, hosting leaders and dignitaries from around the world.

Taft is said to have signed the "Treaty of Beverly" here, which laid the foundation for future U.S. tariff policies.

The former location of the Stetson Cottage — which was floated to Peaches Point in Marblehead, where it can still be seen today — is now an elaborate Italianate garden with a tea house, adorned with rare plants and shrubs imported from around the world.

The 16-acre park, part of Essex National Heritage Area, also boasts a Carriage House, which is available for private rental, along with greens, two beaches, a children's play structure, a splash pad and more.

"The Falconer" on its white marble base stands guard between the Lynch Park Rose Garden and the seawall. Inspired by the original "Falconer" in Central Park, it depicts a larger-than-life-sized "Elizabethan" costumed youth striding forward while releasing a falcon from his outstretched left hand.

Interestingly, Daniel S. Lynch, for whom the park is named, never experienced the property.

He bequeathed \$400,000 upon his death in 1942 to create a public park in his native Beverly to make sure everyone would have a scenic place to go and enjoy the outdoors. He was inspired after encountering a private park in London that denied the public access to its natural splendor.

The Lynch Park Board of Trustees used Lynch's gift to purchase the land from Beverly Hospital in 1943.



Staff file photos

The Rose Garden at Lynch Park is a favorite spot to take a stroll, as well as a popular wedding venue.



Ty Galante paddleboards on a hot summer day at Lynch Park.



Manjola Kordha, left, and Vana Bila catch up under the watch of "The Falconer" statue at Lynch Park.

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Singing the praises of a seaside classic

The world may think Academy Award-winning movie when it hears “Manchester by the Sea,” but here on Cape Ann, Manchester-by-the-Sea is known as a pristine and perfectly preserved slice of prosperous New England seaside life.

It’s a fishing village and summer colony where sailing and swimming have long been the order of the day, and where coves and islands have been the subjects of many a painter, most notably master portraitist Charles Hopkinson. And when Hopkinson wasn’t painting people, he was obsessed with capturing in watercolors the sweep of sea, sun and sails surrounding his family home at the Sharksmouth Estate.

In 1916, painter John Singer Sargent came to call on the younger artist, and he, too, was captivated.

“Charles, what right have you to live in such a paradise?” Sargent is said to have asked Hopkinson.

Paradise aside, this exquisite town is not without its own very real and hearty history. You’ll get a sense of it at the Trask House, home today to the Manchester Historical Museum. It was originally the residence of Capt. Richard Trask, a prosperous merchant sea captain who co-owned and skippered the St. Petersburg, the largest ship ever built in Massachusetts at the time.

There are impressive views whether driving down a street filled with historic buildings or taking in the oceanscapes — from the harbor at Masconomo Park to the shores of Singing Beach.

The town became known as a summer spot for the wealthy during the Gilded Age, and the sprawling oceanfront mansions remain as a testament to that era.

By 1845, Boston’s elite, led by the socially influential poet Richard Dana, started flocking here for summer pleasures, and to socialize on the town’s seven beaches. Of those, Singing Beach, a half-mile crescent famed for its “whispering” white sands, became the spot for sea bathing.

For sheer natural wonder, there’s no better way to experience the town than with a visit to Coolidge Reservation, a Trustees of Reservations site. Perched on its own peninsula, its 66 acres are dense with field, forest, stream and sea, rocky outcrops, woodlands, wetlands, wildlife, sea coves, and sandy beaches, as well as — from its spectacular Ocean Lawn — some of the most breathtaking views of Massachusetts Bay, the North Shore and the shimmering skyline of Boston.

By the way, the “by-the-Sea” extension of Manchester is actually part of the town’s name. Several years ago, a group of residents who felt that every mention of Manchester was associated with the much larger New Hampshire city of the same name, promoted a campaign to change the name of the town to Manchester-by-the-Sea. It was approved by a close margin at Town Meeting.



Above, three people head out in a rowboat on the calm water of Manchester Harbor. At left, a boy looks to reel in a fish from Masconomo Park in Manchester-by-the-Sea.

Staff file photos

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Essex



Staff file photos

A woman throws a ball to her dog as they head through a field at Cogswell's Grant, where the grounds can be strolled from dawn to dusk.

Indulge in a small New England escape

In Essex, the main drag is anything but a drag. Route 133, the sun-drenched stretch of highway that slices through some of the most eye-catching seascapes in New England, is home to some of the best clam eating and the best antiques shops. In fact, there are more than 25 antiques shops in a 1-mile stretch.

The self-proclaimed birthplace of the fried clam and America's antiques capital, Essex is a small town with a big history of shipbuilding. At H.A. Burnham Boatyard, they're still building them from scratch, the way they did back in the 17th century.

Today, Harold Burnham, whose family has been building ships for generations, still sends freshly crafted schooners sailing down the river toward Gloucester. Next door is the Essex Shipbuilding Museum, housing items such as tools that are still hand-crafting vessels, like the schooners Ardelle and Thomas E. Lannon, which sail Gloucester Harbor.

On Choate Island, part of the Crane Wildlife Refuge, time seems to have stood still since the days of the Agawam tribe. A paradise for birds and bird watchers alike, the water here is as clear and pure as any you'll find anywhere.

No visit to Essex is complete without a trip down the river. So jump into a kayak or step onto a paddleboard, and drift beside rocky farmland and salt marsh, while working up an appetite.

Back on Route 133, with more than 20 eateries,



The Cox Reservation often draws painters eager to capture its beauty.

you're good for anything from a classic hot dog at a roadside stand to a four-course meal at an upscale restaurant. The Village and Woodman's have been frying, steaming and serving up seafood for more than 50 and 100 years, respectively. And at Riversbend Restaurant, you'll find inventive farm-to-fork, wood-fired New England coastal cuisine.

But there is more to Essex than clams, ships and seafood. The home at Cogswell's Grant, a 1,665-acre property on Spring Street, houses a premier collection of folk art, while the Cox Reservation — headquarters of Essex County Greenbelt on Eastern Avenue — is a fine place to see shorebirds, herons and ospreys.

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Rockport

Step into a quaint seacoast village

Rockport's seacoast is home to singular seafood and the only twin lighthouses in New England. Hotels, motels, inns and breezy little bed-and-breakfasts with big porches welcome you to discover this old fishing town.

The streets look like a quaint road map of early American history, but the shops are filled with treasures of today and the beaches are made for sunning, swimming and surfing.

Skygazing, too, is a Rockport must. Halibut Point State Park, one natural wonder of serene tidal pools and golden granite cliffs that were once the Babson Farm Quarry, is the darkest spot on the North Shore for viewing bright night skies. By day, you can see clearly to the shores of New Hampshire and Maine.

The 12-acre park is particularly regarded today for its birding opportunities, with its low coastal shelf overlooking the surf proving to be an attractive habitat.

Both the park and the adjacent 56-acre reservation, which was acquired in 1981, are managed cooperatively by The Trustees of Reservations and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Come smell the wild bayberry and greenbrier along the Atlantic Trail, where hikers can explore 2½ miles of craggy coastline carved in stone during the last ice age.

Long a fine arts colony, Rockport's seascape, ocean light, craggy coves and iconic harbor led to it being a magnet in the early decades of the 20th century for a cast of colorful artists who made it their summer salon.

At the heart of the artistic center is Rockport Art Association & Museum on Main Street, now celebrating its 99th season. The galleries are free to the public and offer an array of art of all kinds.

A variety of charming shops lines Bearskin Neck, a peninsula named for an actual bear and built out into the harbor on granite boulders. There, you'll find Rockport's famed Motif No. 1, the most picturesque fishing shack on either coast of America.

If you look up at the tower of First Congregational Church of Rockport, one can see a "cannonball" that was fired during the War of 1812. On Sept. 8, 1814, the British frigate Nymph invaded Sandy Bay. When one of her barges was spotted entering the harbor, the church bell sounded the alarm and the crew fired a cannonball to silence the bell. But it hit the steeple. The church still has the cannonball. A wooden replica remains in the steeple, added in a later renovation.

No visit to Rockport is complete without a sampling of Finnish nisu bread. It's one of the many living vestiges of a town settled by generations of Finnish immigrants, who wove their customs, colors, architecture, culinary culture and Old World celebrations into the fabric of the community.



Above, a swan swims past the famous Motif No. 1 fishing shack in Rockport Harbor. At left, Halibut Point State Park provides stunning views of the Atlantic Ocean.

Staff file photos



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The charm of America's oldest seaport

The nation's oldest fishing port, Gloucester's waterfront boasts working fishing vessels along with memorials dedicated to fishermen and their families.

Gloucester Harbor, with its panoramic views, can be taken in while walking along the waterfront via Stacy Boulevard.

One section reopened in 2017 after a \$7 million seawall reconstruction project. That section is home to the Fishermen's Wives statue, which stands amid the memorial plaza and will celebrate its 20th anniversary next year. The sculpture depicts a woman looking out to sea, carrying one child in her arms and holding the hand of another.

Heading toward the city center, after crossing over the Blynman Canal drawbridge, also called the Cut Bridge, visitors will come across the famed Fisherman's Memorial, "Man at the Wheel." Sculpted by artist Leonard Craske, the statue is dedicated to the many thousands of men who were lost at sea over the past 400 years.

Visitors can follow the sidewalk and head toward Gloucester's Main Street and Rogers Street, which runs alongside parts of the working waterfront. Both streets are home to many restaurants, shops and art galleries.

But Gloucester's working waterfront remains one of its biggest draws. HarborWalk — a 2 1/2-mile, self-guided, interactive, audiovisual walking tour — introduces visitors to the city's history,

legends and lore.

There are more than 40 granite posts in all, each a "touchstone" where, for example, you may learn more about the city's illustrious fishing history or meet its literary lions, among them T.S. Eliot and Rudyard Kipling, who wrote "Captains Courageous" about Gloucester fishermen. Each marker highlights an aspect of Gloucester's history as a seaport, its culture and people, and how it has evolved in response to a modern, sustainable fishing industry.

Since 1920, more than two dozen movies have been filmed in Gloucester and Cape Ann. In 2000, Warner Bros. released "The Perfect Storm," filmed in the city with an all-star cast, including George Clooney and Mark Wahlberg as Capt. Billy Tyne and Bobby Shatford — two of the real-life fishermen who were lost at sea.

The reality TV show "Ghost Hunters" has also come to the city, with Hammond Castle proving to be the most active of the 400 properties that the crew had visited. The show documented 11 entities at the oceanfront medieval-style castle built by inventor John Hays Hammond Jr. in the 1920s to house his collection of Roman, medieval and Renaissance artifacts.

Now a museum, the castle was also home to Hammond Research Corp., under which Hammond had more than 400 patents — second in number only to Thomas Edison.



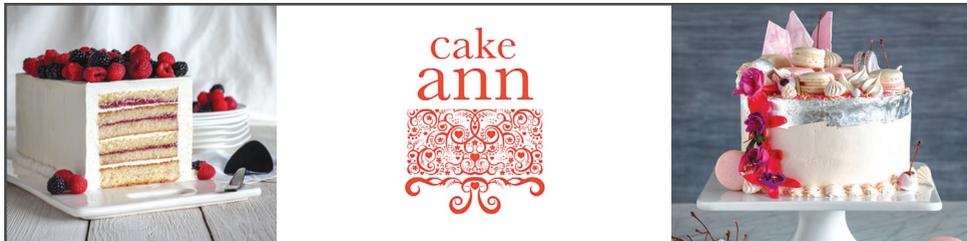
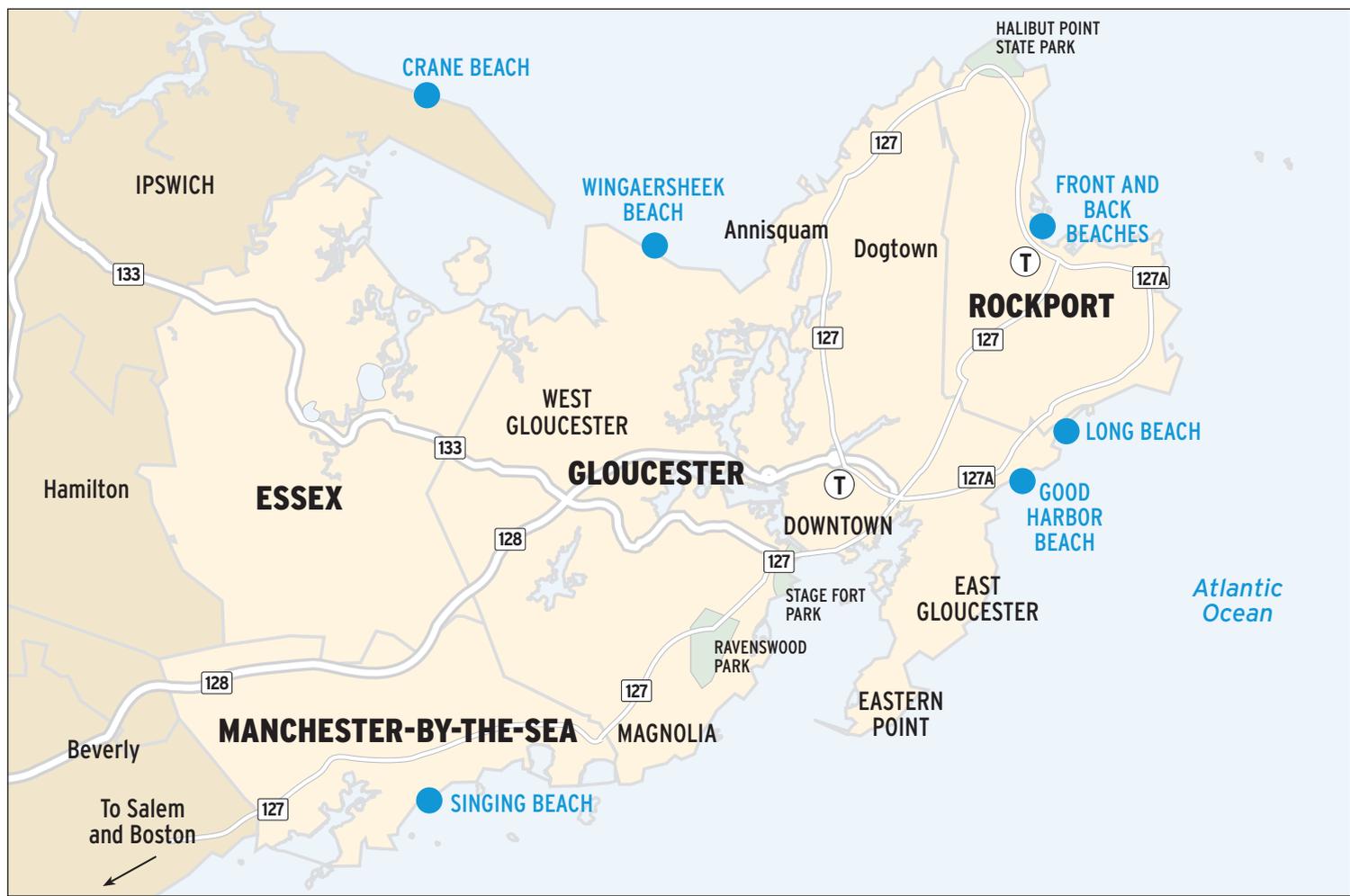
The Susanna C motors into Gloucester Harbor past the Paint Factory on Rocky Neck followed by a flock of opportunistic sea gulls.



Hammond Castle Museum is a unique place to explore along the coast of Gloucester.

Staff file photos

CAPE ANN AND ITS BEACHES



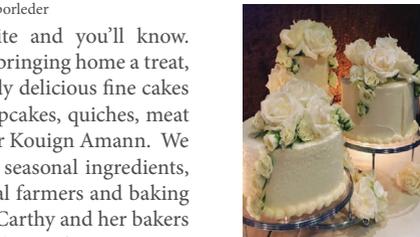
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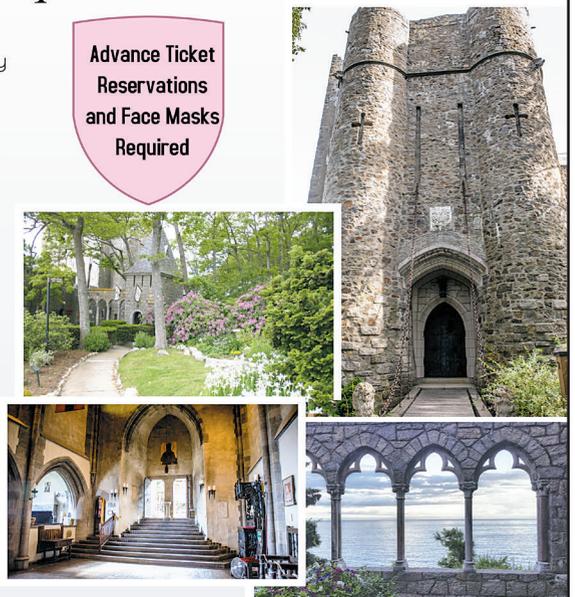
Hammond Castle Museum

Rediscover One of Cape Ann's Most Unique Treasures

Hammond Castle Museum has stood on Gloucester's rocky coast for nearly 100 years. Built as the home of John Hays Hammond Jr., one of America's most prolific inventors of his time. Its architectural style is mix of medieval castle, French chateau, and Gothic cathedral. It was custom built to encompass Hammond's residence, laboratory, and museum quality collection of architectural elements such as the facades of medieval shops and doorways from chateaus. Also on display is his extensive list of patents, his work with radio control and echo guided torpedoes for the military.

The Museum offers tours, rotating exhibits, and numerous educational and cultural events throughout the year. It is also available for weddings and elopement rentals.

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Newburyport

Clipper City's heritage built on the sea

There's a lot to celebrate in this seaside city famous for clipper ships and the birth of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Art, music, waterfront dining and maritime history rise to mind like a tide along its shores.

The present city of Newburyport, on the Merrimack River, was originally the northern "Waterside" area of Newbury, which was settled as an agricultural enterprise by English colonists in 1635. Newburyport became a separate town in 1764, and a city in 1851.

It flourished initially through shipping and fishing, then later through shipbuilding, including the famed clipper ships of the 1850s; and later mill manufacturing.

The redevelopment of the 1970s restored the community to the gem it is today. Newburyport

set an example across the country as the first municipality to use urban renewal funds for historic preservation. And the fruits of leaders' labors are evident at every turn.

The thriving city center bustles with activity. When visitors want to just plain meander, the downtown offers art galleries, small shops, and an abundance of dining and takeout options. The sea awaits across from Market Square in Waterfront Park, where grassy patches and benches along the boardwalk provide places to soak in the activity on the Merrimack. A public embayment in the park welcomes mariners to the shore.

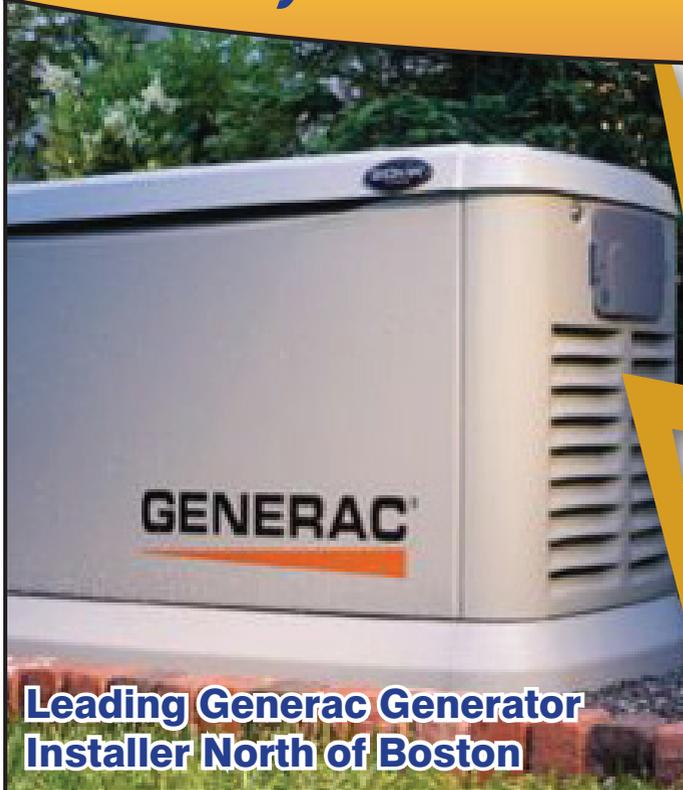
History is always afoot in Newburyport, but no place more than at the Custom House Maritime Museum on Water Street. Designed by Robert Mills, the



Blooming beach roses add a lot of color to the scenery on the Newburyport boardwalk.

Staff file photo

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Alicia Teague and her daughter, Evie, enjoy sweet treats while taking a break at Newburyport's Waterfront Park.

structure was built in 1835 to facilitate growing overseas trade and tax collection of imported goods on the waterfront. The vaulted ceilings and cantilevered staircases are hallmarks of Mills' work.

Among Newburyport's notable natives is abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, who was born and raised in its anti-slavery climate. Visit his statue located one block from the central waterfront in Brown Square, the scene of abolitionist meetings back in the day.

While you're near the waterfront, be sure to check out

Somerby's Landing Sculpture Park. Located on the Merrimack River at the west end of the Newburyport boardwalk, it boasts large sculptures by New England artists.

The 1.1-mile Clipper City Rail Trail at the edge of downtown brings visitors from the MBTA commuter rail station at Parker Street to the waterfront, where travelers on foot can venture over to downtown or continue over the Gillis Bridge into Salisbury, where they can connect with the Old Eastern Marsh Trail and continue on their way.

Farther inland, the 450-acre



Lyla Ericson jumps back from the stream of water while cooling off this summer at the Inn Street Fountain.

Maudslay State Park is an exquisite place for walking, hiking, horseback riding, informal picnics and leisurely strolls.



A sailboat heads up the Merrimack River past downtown Newburyport.

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Plum Island

Peaceful beach life flourishes on barrier island

Like many stops along New England's coast, Plum Island is endowed with a wealth of natural treasures.

But unlike nearby arcade- and tavern-strewn beach haunts, the 11-mile-long Plum Island offers more sand and wind and room to unwind, attracting an eclectic mix of summer and year-round residents.

It's got a windswept rural feel, ideal for a convertible or bicycle or just your feet.

An abundance of public space, refuge land and eggshell brown beach sand combine to make this barrier island straddling Newburyport and Newbury an open window to relaxation, leisurely drives, summer reading and a tranquil surf.

Bring a camera and a long lens, if you have one, to capture the bird life.

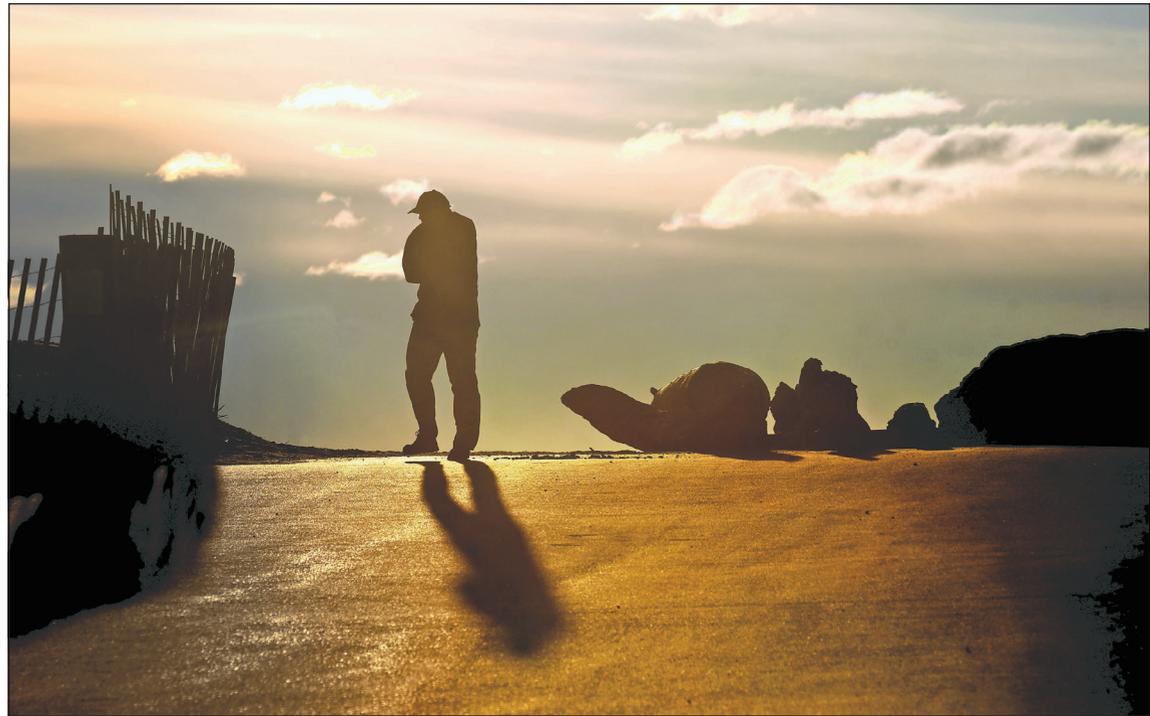
A walk on the beach brings

sights galore.

Gulls swoop and call out high-pitched squeals. Sandpipers race a step ahead of the intruding tide. Seashells sprout between toes. Big bass swim these waters, especially later in the summer, with some anglers hauling in 45- to 50-pound catches. It's not unusual to catch a glimpse of seals.

The island's namesake, the noble beach plum, or prunus maritima, ripens in late summer. Native Americans harvested the plums back in the day, and there's been talk about restoring the fruit as a commercial crop. There are also cranberry bogs on the island.

Located along the Atlantic flyway is the 4,700-acre Parker River Wildlife Refuge, a vital stopover point for more than 300 species of waterfowl, shorebirds and songbirds.



A man casts a shadow as he walks toward the beach on the Newbury side of Plum Island during sunrise.

Staff file photo

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Administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the refuge — one of more than 550 in the national wildlife refuge system — was established in 1941 to provide feeding, resting and nesting habitat for migratory birds.

None of the species is more in need of protection than the piping plover, a small white and gray bird with orange legs and red on the beak. The black that rings the plover's neck gives the bird a formal appearance, a formality offset by a silly black spot on its forehead.

For much of the summer, most of the refuge beach is off limits to provide undisturbed nesting and feeding habitat for the plover. Typically, all sections of the refuge are reopened by mid- to late August.

Sandy Point State Reservation is a 77-acre park located beyond the refuge, at the very southern tip of Plum Island (in Ipswich). The park is one of the state's most beautiful coastal beaches — just don't go during greenhead season.

On the way to or from the island, stop to watch the planes take flight at Plum Island Airfield. The fields, salt marshes and sand dunes along the turnpike have been used for aviation since the early 1900s. There's a museum at the airport that chronicles its history, including W. Starling Burgess' landmark 1910 flights on the marshes, which were at the leading edge of aviation.



A sailboat catches the wind off Woodbridge Island in the Merrimack River as it passes by the Plum Island landscape, including the lighthouse.

Staff file photo



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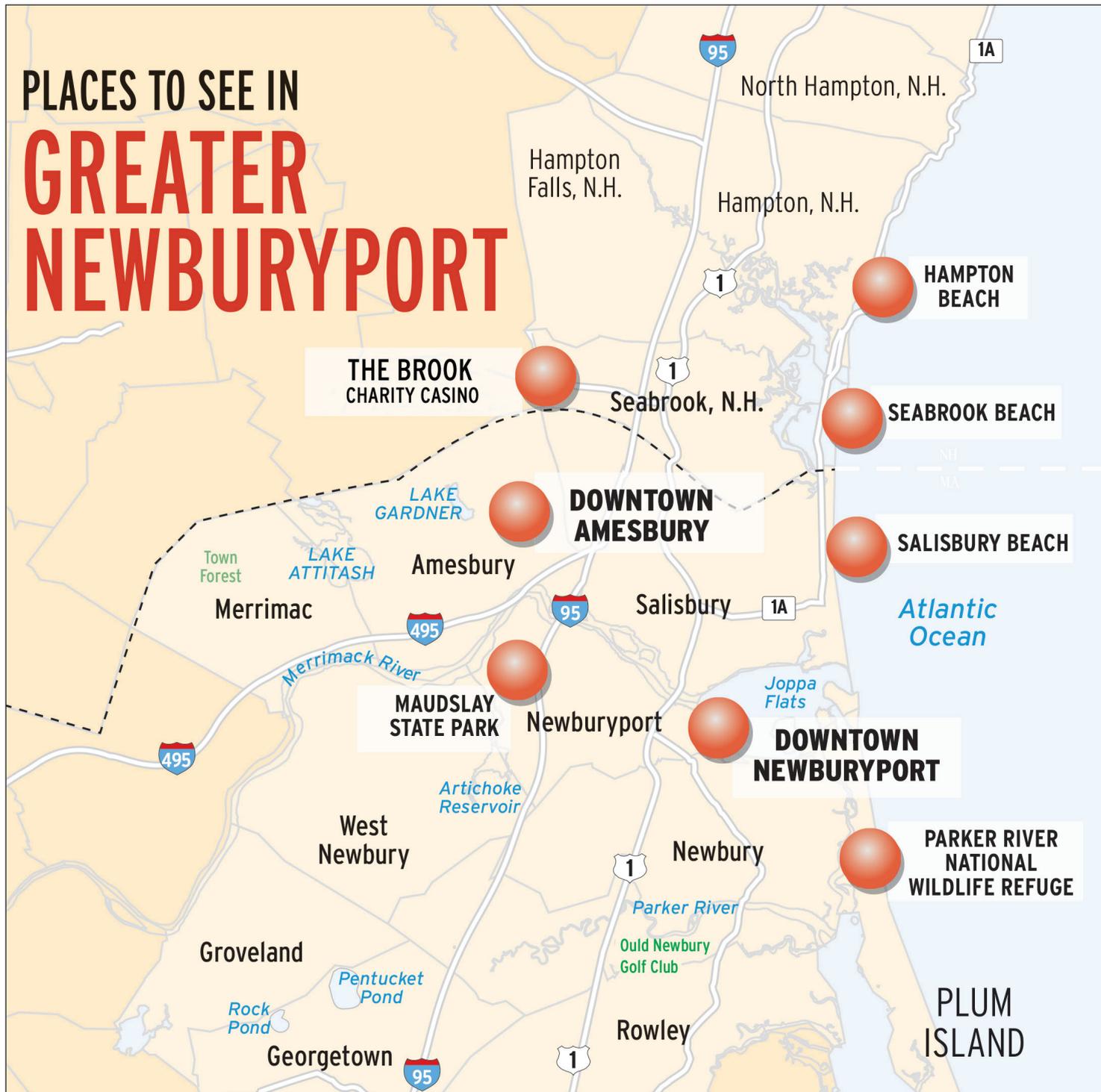
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Sun, sand and surf at two summer playgrounds

The 3.8-mile sandy stretch that makes up Salisbury Beach and Salisbury Beach State Reservation was purchased by the state of Massachusetts in 1933 and developed to ensure public access to the ocean.

A large portion of the beach, controlled by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, is bordered by private properties of summer homes and rental cottages.

The recent addition of a seaside boardwalk has been a big hit with residents, visitors and even Hollywood producers.

Salisbury Beach State Reservation is at the southern end of the property, winding along a large area of the coast.

The reservation offers swimming, boating, fishing, camping and wildlife viewing. The facilities include a 484-site campground, as well as a few large parking lots for daily beach visitors and boat-launching facilities.

For those looking to stretch their legs or avoid crowds, Salisbury's coastal trails, including the Salisbury Point Ghost Trail, Old Eastern Marsh Trail and Beach Road bike route, offer a nearly 5-mile stretch for bicycling, walking and bird-watching.

Up the road from Salisbury is the more expansive Hampton Beach. Those who head up the Hampton Beach Village District say its popularity may trace back to the 1840s, when the first hotels were opened for vacationers, or 1900, when the trolleys arrived at the Hampton Beach Casino.



Staff file photos

Various piscine works of art line the promenade at Hampton Beach in New Hampshire.



A sailboat catches an onshore breeze just off Salisbury Beach State Reservation as it heads up the Merrimack River.

Or perhaps it dates back even further, to when Native Americans camped out on the shores of Hampton Harbor.

Up until the formation of the beach village district in 1907, Hampton was essentially a major farming community, originally settled in 1638.

Today, the beach offers plenty

of room for people to sunbathe, in addition to swimming and strolling. And this year, Ocean Boulevard has been closed off to vehicular traffic between A and O streets to accommodate outside dining.

To see real-time views of the beach, check out the webcam at hamptonbeach.org/beach-cam.



Salisbury Beach Center is home to longtime staples like the Cristy's and Tripoli pizza shops and Joe's Playland, an arcade and snack bar.



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