

# EXPLORE New BEDFORD



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# EXPLORE NEW BEDFORD

**There's a city by the sea known for its history as the 'Whaling City.' New Bedford, Massachusetts, was the 'City that Lit the World,' once the richest city due to its industry. Today, the city still lights the world with its innovative and entrepreneurial spirit and you'll find it rich in many things: cultural diversity, art, food, music, theater, and seafood, serving as the #1 fishing port in the nation.**

Walk along the working waterfront and through the Seaport Cultural District on cobblestone streets to soak in the historical charm and picturesque views sought out by filmmakers across the globe. As you stroll, discover a National Historical Park, public art, museums and galleries, outdoor music series and festivals, live art demonstrations, and an eclectic array of locally owned shops and restaurants.



# 10 REASONS TO VISIT NB



## Seafood

1

The freshest catch lets you taste the tradition that has made New Bedford the #1 fishing port in the nation for over twenty years. Learn about New Bedford's seafood at the New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center and take a tour along the working waterfront. Boat to table dining is easy in NB!

2

## Art

In New Bedford, "art is everywhere you look for it" (El Greco), even where you least expect. A chandelier from world-renowned glass artist, Dale Chihuly, to the traditional costumes of Folkloric dancers of Madeira, our museums house centuries of art from around the world. Get a glimpse of the city's public art with the Bloomberg Connects app and take a self-guided tour with the app when you visit.



3

## Festivals

New Bedford is home to many cultures and our diversity is celebrated throughout the year with feasts and festivals highlighting art, music, food, and traditions.. Experience the global influences of Cape Verde, Portugal, Guatemala, Mexico, and more. In addition to cultural festivals, enjoy music festivals, carnivals, food and craft beer festivals, concert series, and the New Bedford Film Festival.



4

## Family-Friendly

New Bedford is perfect for a long weekend with the whole family. Our beaches and parks offer outdoor spaces for kids to roam and explore nature. Spend a few hours at the Buttonwood Park Zoo, engage with interactive exhibits and a 3-D theatre at the New Bedford Whaling Museum. Wind down at any of our family-friendly restaurants or enjoy an energetic arcade complete with themed food like Tetris Tots and treats.





5

## Free

In addition to outdoor parks and playgrounds, free programming is made available to the public year round. In the summer chances are you'll stumble across outdoor concerts, live art demonstrations, and other pop-up events. The second Thursday of each month downtown is packed with workshops, vendor markets, live music and more both outdoors and inside museums, shops, and restaurants. Attendance to all is free and fun for all ages, thanks to the organizers AHA! New Bedford and partners.



7

## History

Immerse yourself in New Bedford's rich history of innovative industry that brought people from around the globe to settle in the city. Learn about New Bedford's Underground Railroad and recent scholarship showing its ties to maritime culture. Visit our museums and join a guided walking tour. Get started at the Whaling National Historical Park Visitor Center.



6

## Ocean Adventures

Tour New Bedford's working waterfront by boat with New Bedford Harbor Tours. Travel to the islands of Martha's Vineyard, Cuttyhunk, or Nantucket with the Seastreak Fast Ferry and Cuttyhunk Ferry Company. Go kayaking in Clark's Cove via Blue Lane Kayak Rentals. Travel to a waterfront restaurant in style with the New Bedford Launch. Try something new and schedule a row on an authentic Azorean Whaleboat with the Azorean Maritime Heritage Society!



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## International Cuisine

Experience New Bedford's cultural heritage by tasting your way through the city. Let New Bedford Food Tours be your guide with their North End Tour that takes you to Cape Verde, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Portugal all within a short walk. Between bites, take in architecture and public art and learn the history of Acushnet Ave, or as locals refer to it "The Ave."





# Enhance your visit.

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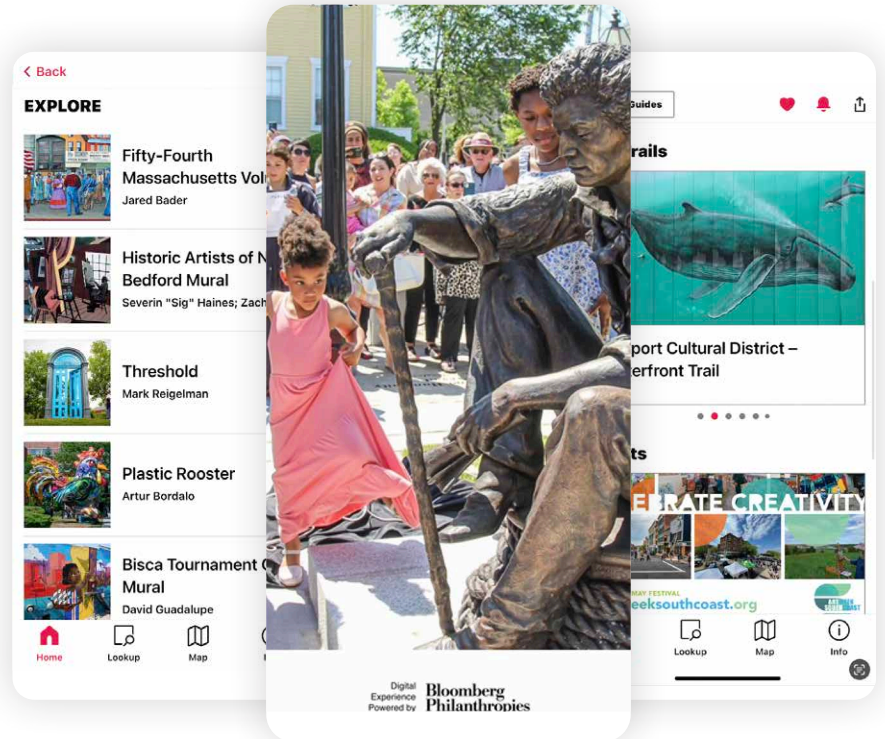
## Locally Owned

We take pride in the fact that one of the hardest things to find in the city is a chain store or restaurant. The entrepreneurial spirit that has led the way from New Bedford's early days thrives in the present. Step into a local shop or restaurant and you'll be greeted by the dream makers of our city keeping the heartbeat alive.

10

## LGBTQ+ Friendly

New Bedford has a deep-rooted history of embracing diversity and welcoming everyone from various backgrounds and cultures. Pride is something that is celebrated year round in the city. In June, the Queer Arts Council and AHA! team up to present their annual pride block party. Downtown turns into one big party as the streets fill with free entertainment, dancing, and interactive activities like arts and crafts for all ages to enjoy. If you're looking for an LGBTQ+ venue, the Gallery Bar is a mocktail bar that hosts drag shows, karaoke nights, and even silent book clubs.



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Connects**

Find expert insights, context, and more curated content by viewing our Public Art Guide on Bloomberg Connects for free. Install the app on your mobile device, search "New Bedford" and explore dozens of public art! Plus, view free guides on New Bedford Art Museum and New Bedford Whaling Museum. **Explore now.**





# HISTORY OF NEW BEDFORD

## New Bedford's history is deeply rooted in the stories of its diverse people.

Long before its incorporation in 1847, the land was home to the Wampanoag people, "The People of the First Light." We recognize them as the first stewards of the land and honor their untold stories.

They played a vital role in the city's development, particularly in the whaling industry, which became the heart of New Bedford's economy during the 1800s.

Whaling not only shaped the economy, but also brought new cultures to the area.

Immigrants from Portugal, Cape Verde and the Azores, along with formerly enslaved people seeking freedom all contributed to the city's growth and cultural tapestry. Maritime industries played a pivotal role in the Underground Railroad, with both on-land and dockside networks supporting the escape to freedom.



As the whaling industry declined, New Bedford adapted. Textiles became the city's new economic powerhouse, leading to the establishment of the New Bedford Textile School in 1895 to keep pace with new manufacturing technologies. The prosperity of this industry also fueled a vibrant arts scene, which continues to thrive today.

Though the industries that shaped much of New Bedford's history saw sharp declines, the city's ability to adapt and innovate persisted.. The city's fishing industry, now a major economic driver, found renewed momentum as technology advanced. By 1952, New Bedford landed 85% of the nation's scallops, and since 2001, it has remained the #1 fishing port in the United States by value.

Today a growing Central American population, supported by the fishing industry, has added another layer to the city's rich cultural and culinary landscape.

New Bedford's story is that of its artists and entrepreneurs, its fishing community, its freedom fighters and freedom seekers, its whaling community, its textile workers, and its Indigenous community. Today, the city honors and preserves the heritage of those who shaped its identity while looking to the future with a commitment to sustainability and growth.

**Learn more about our history at**  
[ExploreNewBedford.org/Visionary-Voices/](https://ExploreNewBedford.org/Visionary-Voices/)





# SIGHT SEE IN NB



Stretch your legs in one of the city's over thirty parks. In Buttonwood Park, find "one of the finest small zoos in the nation" and the 12th oldest zoo in the United States. Accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), the Buttonwood Park Zoo is dedicated to preserving the future of wildlife by creating engaging and educational experiences that connect you with the natural world. Explore over 240 species, a play area for kids, and plenty of events and programs that entertain and educate visitors of all ages.



Did you know? New Bedford has a National Historical Park right downtown! Visit the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park Visitor Center where you can watch a short film on New Bedford's History, browse educational exhibits, enjoy rotating artist-in-residency exhibitions, and join guided walking tours led by expert park rangers on a variety of topics all for free.

Breathe in the ocean air at Fort Taber Park, situated on a peninsula surrounded by the open waters of Buzzards Bay.

Follow the paved walking path around a Civil War-era military fort and browse through decades of preserved military memorabilia on display at the Fort Taber-Fort Rodman Military Museum and Veterans Memorial. Get up close to a real WWII tank recovered from Exercise Tiger. Visiting with kids? They can enjoy the playground in the park while you take in the scenic views as recreational and fishing boats move in and out of the harbor.

New Bedford has long been referred to as the "Whaling City." Today it is home to the nation's largest museum devoted to the history of whaling.

Climb aboard the Lagoda, a half-scale model of a whaling bark within the walls of the New Bedford Whaling Museum. Little ones can even journey through a life-sized model of a whale heart and enjoy a 3-D movie inside the museum's theatre.

Immerse yourself in a world of wonder at the New Bedford Art Museum.

With rotating exhibits that excite the senses and public programs offering a mix of visual and performance art, your experience at the museum will be an unforgettable journey. Don't forget to look up! Experience the jaw-dropping Dale Chihuly Luminous Silver Chandelier on permanent display.

It's "all hands on deck" at the New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center.

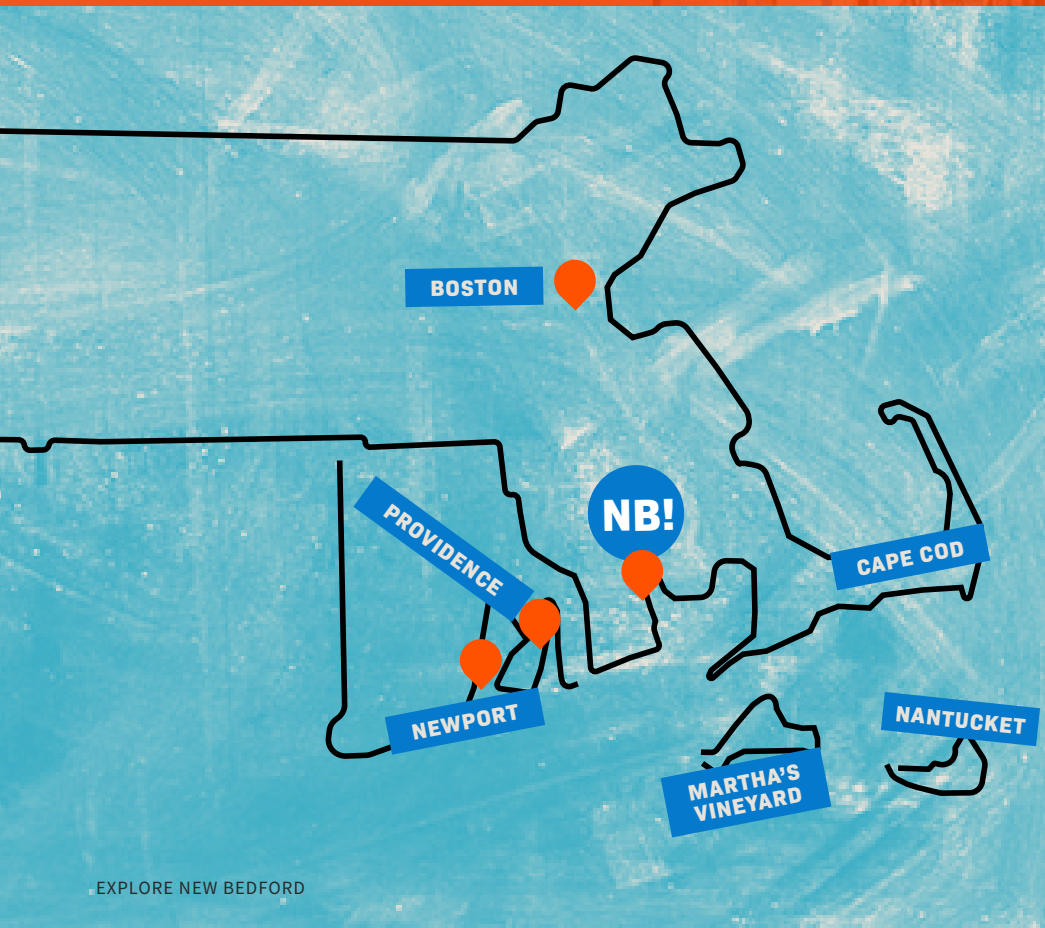
Dive into the diverse roles of the fishing industry that bring fresh seafood to your plates. Work a scallop dredge, try on diving suits, and take a guided tour of the working waterfront. Catch the Tradition that makes enjoying seafood in New Bedford an exquisite boat-to-table experience.



# GETTING HERE, STAYING HERE:

## WHERE IS NB?

Located close to Boston, Plymouth and Cape Cod in Massachusetts and Providence and Newport in Rhode Island, New Bedford is a perfect stop on a tour of coastal New England.



### FERRY:

Make New Bedford your homebase and take a **day trip on a fast ferry** from New Bedford to Martha's Vineyard or Nantucket. Two of our hotels are located within walking distance of the Seastreak Ferry Terminal.



### PLANE:

Fly into **Boston Logan International Airport**, the largest airport in Massachusetts, located 60 miles from New Bedford. Most major airlines fly into this airport. From Logan take a rental car, bus, or the MBTA train to New Bedford.

Fly into **Providence T.F. Green Airport**, about 40 miles from New Bedford. Rent a car or take a shuttle to New Bedford.

Fly into the **New Bedford Regional Airport**, servicing smaller aircraft and regional flights. Visit [flyewb.com](http://flyewb.com) for flight updates..



### BUS/TRAIN:

**Peter Pan:** Daily bus service from Providence and Boston to the New Bedford downtown bus terminal.

**Amtrak Thruway Connector:** Amtrak offers bus service connecting Amtrak riders from Providence to New Bedford. Riders can take a bus on one of the three trips planned per day to and from the Providence, RI, Amtrak terminal.



### STAY:

Nestled in the heart of downtown, **New Bedford Harbor Hotel** is a boutique hotel located within walking distance of major attractions like the Whaling Museum and local shops and restaurants.

**The Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott**, situated on the waterfront, is steps away from waterfront attractions such as New Bedford Harbor Tours, waterfront dining, and the Seastreak Ferry Terminal.

**Explore short-term rentals in and around New Bedford.**

Millie's is a luxury two-story penthouse in the heart of Historic Downtown New Bedford. This short-term rental occupies the top two floors of the solid stone Taber Building, circa 1815, boasting scenic waterfront views and a private deck.





PLAN YOUR VISIT!

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