

Situated Between Boston And Cape Cod Is A Coastal Massachusetts Town With A Scenic Harbor And Cozy Charm

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When you're seeking a dose of quintessential New England charm, the beach communities along Massachusetts' shores will satisfy your craving. With historic architecture that transports you to another time and place, fresh seafood, and a weathered beauty that only the Atlantic can create, these small towns offer the chance to experience New England's seaside energy in all its glory. One coastal community welcomes visitors with a picturesque harbor, artisan boutiques and cozy galleries, uncrowded beaches, inviting restaurants, a rich history, and unexpected affordability: Scituate, Massachusetts.

Situated about a 35 to 45-minute drive from Boston and an hour from the start of Cape Cod, depending on traffic, Scituate has a population of less than 20,000, but still offers all the amenities for a comfortable stay. For a taste of New England hospitality, reserve a night at a historic inn or waterfront vacation rental. Overlooking the bobbing boats, The Inn at Scituate Harbor boasts a location directly across from the water and is the highest-rated guesthouse near the harbor.

Like Marblehead, an unsung town on the Massachusetts coast brimming with classic New England charm, water plays an integral part in Scituate's legacy. The Beaver, the ship from which colonists threw tea during the Boston Tea Party, was constructed in Scituate. Nowadays, visitors can learn more about the town's connection to the sea at The Maritime and Irish Mossing Museum or discover why Scituate is called "The Most Irish Town in America" by following the South Shore Irish Heritage Trail.

Stroll through the Scituate Harbor Cultural District and visit a historic lighthouse in Scituate



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As one of 30 designated cultural districts across Massachusetts, Scituate Harbor is one of the town's must-visit attractions. The district starts at St. Mary of the Nativity Church and follows the harbor to Scituate Lighthouse — an almost two-mile walk one-way with incredible ocean views, classic New England architecture, and delicious restaurants. Stop at Joye for unique gifts crafted by local artisans or visit Welch Company, an airy showroom dating back to 1879 where shoppers can find seaside-inspired decor. You'll find over 25 shops along the harbor, offering jewelry, leather crafts, apparel, home goods, and more.

See the work of local painters, sculptors, and ceramists at Front Street Art Gallery or take a class or workshop sponsored by the Scituate Arts Association at the historic Ellis House. Local artisan co-op Expressions is another can't-miss gallery easily within walking distance of all the main attractions. See why Nona's Homemade Ice Cream gets a 4.7-star review on Google or try fresh seafood, like scallops or clam chowder, at Satuit Tavern, a local favorite with a warm, casual atmosphere.

After your meal, stroll past the Scituate Harbor Yacht Club to Scituate Lighthouse. Constructed in 1811, this beautifully maintained landmark is the third oldest lighthouse in the U.S. and is still operational. The best time to visit is sunset when the ocean reflects the sky's vivid orange hues.

Take a whale watching tour or spend the day at the beach in Scituate



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While there are many experiences you can only have in neighboring Cape Cod, Scituate has plenty to offer. Situated off Scituate's coast, the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary competes with any top destinations for whale watching due to the volume of blue, humpback, and pilot whales. Between April and October, these gentle giants flock to the sanctuary's rich waters to feed on krill, plankton, squid, or small fish. Labrador Fishing

Charters offers private whale-watching tours that depart from Scituate Harbor and cater to small groups including families with children.

Alternatively, spend a day at one of Scituate's five town beaches. Only a 10-minute drive from Scituate Harbor, Minot Beach gives visitors a taste of local beach life. This sandy beach boasts impressive views of Minots Ledge Light, a navigational aid with a deep connection to the region's maritime history. Sunbathe, hunt for pretty pebbles on the beach, swim, or look for critters in the tidepools. A lot of the parking by the shore is for residents only, but visitors can park at either of the Bailey's Causeway Lots.

In terms of the best time to visit, Scituate is a cozy getaway year-round. However, if you're looking for warm weather and water-based recreation, the best time to visit is between June and September. During peak season, the population rises to 30,000, so it's important to book vacation rentals and inns well in advance.