



MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA

BY TERRY WEBER MANGOS

Robert M. Ring Photography

THIS QUIET SEASIDE COMMUNITY IS SUCH A GLORIOUS DISCOVERY. Primarily residential, Manchester-by-the-Sea offers exceptional dining, shopping, beaches, parks and waterfront recreation. Exploring downtown on foot is the easiest way to enjoy the sights. In the town center is the Trask House, home to the Manchester Historical Museum—the perfect place to begin your day. The museum contains a collection of period furniture, artifacts, and fine art. You'll learn about the town's maritime history, and its later prominence as a summer vacation destination for the wealthy during the "Gilded Age." Check the museum's calendar for special events.

Just a five-minute walk from the museum is Masconomo Park, featuring a community bandstand for fun summer concerts, a baseball field and the playground. Take a seat on one of the park's many benches and enjoy the sights and sounds of this beautiful New England harbor (helpful hint: There are approximately 20 public parking spaces in the town parking lot behind the police station and two-hour street parking spaces along Beach Street).

If you prefer ocean to land, charter an overnight boat complete with a captain! Check out Frayed Knot Sailing Charters for charter opportunities and sailing lessons throughout Cape Ann.

If you'd rather enjoy the ocean from the shore, Singing Beach is Manchester's crown jewel. While parking at the beach is for residents only, you can ride the commuter rail into Manchester and walk to the beach, or bike into town. Walking to the beach is very popular—families strolling to Singing Beach is a sure sign of summer.

Another sign? Manchester's annual

Festival-by-the-Sea. It's a celebration of all things synonymous with Cape Ann in the summertime: art, music and food. The event occurs throughout downtown Manchester and you'll enjoy works from local artists, live music, and delicious, local foods.

Manchester is a lovely off-season and holiday destination as well. Fall and spring are perfect times for hiking, biking, beach combing and enjoying the small-town atmosphere. In December, take part in Christmas-by-the-Sea—a weekend's worth of special events including the

Manchester Holiday Stroll. Throughout the winter, enjoy cross-country skiing or hiking at Coolidge Reservation and then warm up at night with comfort food at one of Manchester's wonderful restaurants. There's nothing like a calm, coastal weekend to rejuvenate the soul—you may even finish that book you started last year.



WHAT'S NEW

- 375th anniversary celebrations
- Newly restored park in front of Town Hall
- New restaurant—The Mooring
- Essen rebranded as The Laughing Gull



Michelle Budrow

Tuck's Point. Top: Manchester Harbor.

GLOUCESTER

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coastal-exposure.com

WELCOME TO GLOUCESTER—YOU’VE ARRIVED AT THE PERFECT PLACE for breathing. We all know that fresh air is a key to health, happiness and sparking an appetite. You’ll need that appetite during your stay—with new restaurants to experience, new art galleries to inspire and new adventures to embark on. Gloucester is one of the U.S.’s most popular coastal destinations—and home to America’s oldest working seaport—promising stunning beaches and sunsets. It’s also an ever-evolving community, and you’ll notice new shops, cultural venues and homes.

As Gloucester moves forward, it honors its past. Fishermen still head out to sea each morning and battle the unpredictable waters (The Fishermen’s Memorial will tell you more). Artists remain inspired by Cape Ann’s elusive light and strive to capture it on canvas, from dawn to dusk. Beaches and natural resources remain protected and pristine. Gloucester takes great pride in its traditions yet

welcomes visitors and new residents to join in every aspect of its culture.

While downtown you’ll notice a bustling Main Street boasting locally owned retail shops, galleries, cafes and fine restaurants. Rogers Street, running parallel to Main, adds its own restaurants and shops, along with access to whale watching, schooner sails, and other waterfront recreation. While meandering

WHAT’S NEW

- Cape Ann Lanes Brewery
- Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce’s new Visitor Center

downtown, visit the Cape Ann Museum and learn more of the city’s history, its settlement in the early 1600s and its journey to becoming one of the world’s largest fishing ports by the mid 1800s. You’ll also stand in awe at the paintings of Fitz Henry Lane, Winslow Homer and others.

History, arts and culture, the freshest seafood—and some of the best ice cream and pizza to be found—Gloucester has thought of everything. And after a great dinner, live music awaits at any number of venues.

If you’re here to chill, Good Harbor and Wingaersheek beaches, to name just two, will transport you to a calmer place. The salt air, combined with a long walk or kayaking, will restore and invigorate.

Perhaps one of Gloucester’s best-kept secrets is its off-season. Special rates entice and cooler temps are often more invigorating. Winter hiking, cross-country skiing, ice skating and bird watching will fill your days. There’s also a fascinating concentration of winter seabirds—take the Cape Ann Winter Birding Boat Trip to Stellwagen Bank. In fact, “off” season is the new “on.”



Michelle Budrow

Gloucester Fishermen’s Memorial. Top: Gloucester Harbor.



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WHEN DESCRIBING THE FOUR TOWNS COMPRISING CAPE ANN, IT'S easy to use the same words over and over: unique, charming, quaint, picturesque, etc. Writers strive to find new descriptions that “paint the picture” (pun intended) and spark your imagination while avoiding the trap of clichés. One wonders, though, if it was actually Cape Ann that inspired those words to begin with. Rockport, located at the tip of the Cape, and its jaw-dropping views of the Atlantic and stunning coastline, will simply take your breath away.

Similar to Gloucester, European settlers in the early 1600s identified the waters off Rockport as a fertile fishing ground and settled there, beginning industries in granite, timber and fishing. If you walk or hike through Halibut Point State Park, you'll come across the old granite quarries, still impressive today. Pack a picnic because you'll find a great spot to enjoy more incredible views of the Atlantic.

Rockport's history as a magnet for artists holds true today. You'll find a thriving community of artists and galleries—not

to mention incredible talent. If you're a seasoned collector or just beginning, you could spend days roaming in and out of the studios and galleries along Broadway, Dock Square, Main Street and Bearskin Neck, meeting the artists and watching them work. As you roam you'll also discover excellent restaurants (from hot dog shacks to lobster in the rough and fine dining), weathered storefront cottages and, if you wander Bearskin Neck to the top, you'll arrive at the ultimate spot for a selfie—with the vast Atlantic as your backdrop.

WHAT'S NEW

- Newly restored Visitor Center at Halibut Point State Park
- Completion of Millbrook Meadow restoration

Music and performance are plentiful throughout the year along with many special town events. In the summer, there are free concerts at the Back Beach Bandstand and Fourth of July celebrations; in the offseason there are fun spring and fall festivals. The Shalin Liu Performance Center offers a year-round program of opera, classical, pop, jazz, film and more. And the holidays? “Christmas in Rockport” will become your new family tradition. Festivities include fairs and shows, strolling musicians, and special offers for holiday shopping. Even in the fall and winter, the beaches are no less inviting. There is something so beautiful about a seaside town in the midst of a gentle snowfall.

When booking lodging, you'll have many options to consider—from intimate inns to family-friendly hotels. There's something for every need, budget and “view preference”—whether overlooking a beach, the Atlantic, or a pleasant, tree-lined side street, you'll understand how hard it is to avoid the clichés.

Robert M. Ring Photography



Bearskin Neck. Top: Rockport Harbor.