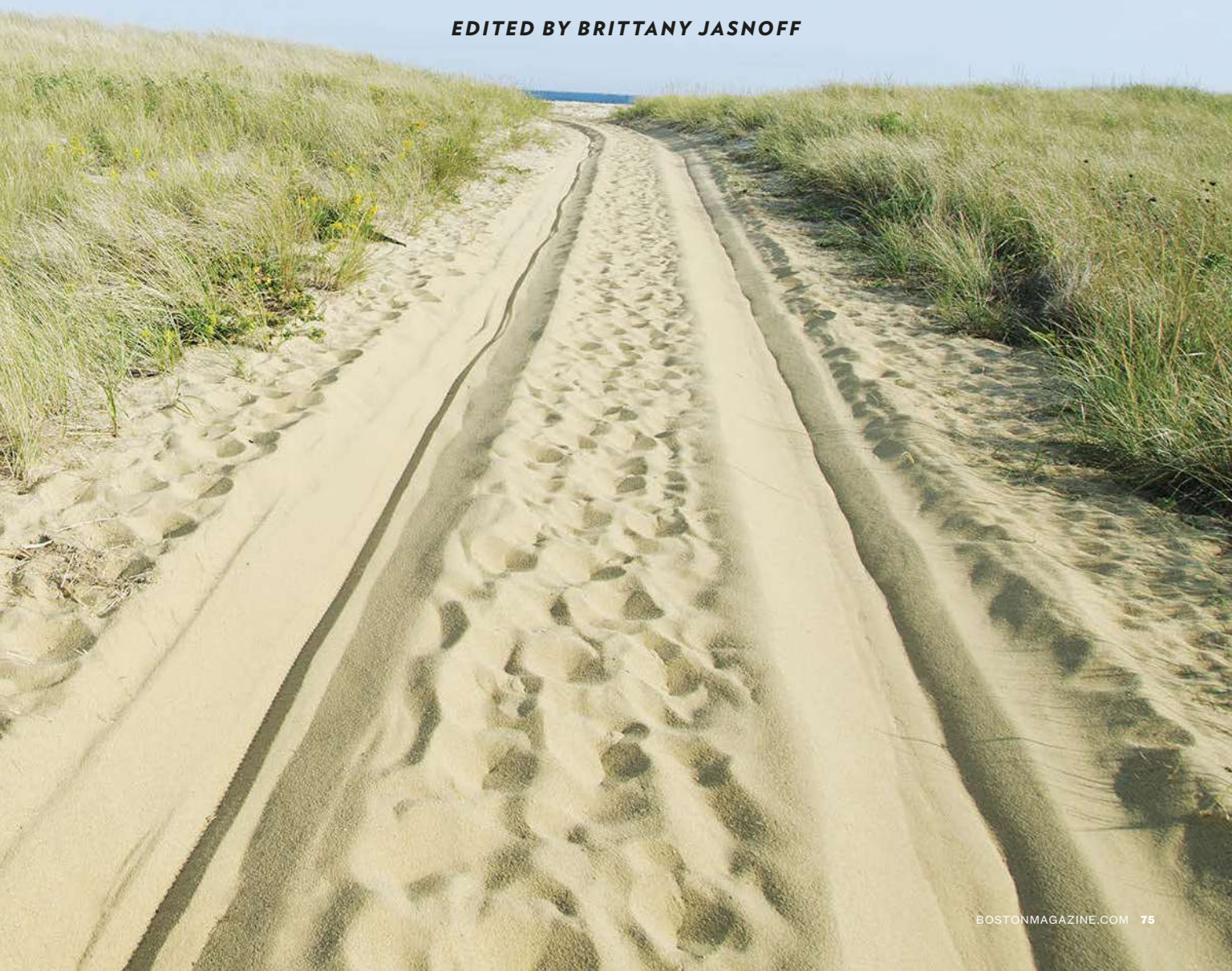


R E A D Y T O

GET OUT?

SUNSCREEN? CHECK. BUG SPRAY? CHECK.
MASK AND HAND SANITIZER? (SIGH.) CHECK.
NOW ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GO.

EDITED BY BRITTANY JASNOFF



O

One thing's for sure: This isn't going to be a normal summer. There'll be no fire-works. No festivals. No concerts. And we're all going to have to get used to strolling on the beach in a bathing suit and a mask. But that doesn't mean you have to stay inside all season and miss out on a wicked-good New England summer—no way. The fresh mountain air, the fried clams and ice cream, and the bracingly cold Atlantic on a hot, humid day are hardly canceled, and the good news is you don't have to travel far from home to get a taste. Featuring destinations less than two and a half hours from Boston, the following day trips are designed to help you safely get outdoors, whether you're in the mood to bike up (and down) a mountain, eat a peaceful picnic near the water, or check out a quirky display of vintage rocking horses in a field (yes, that's really a thing). So, while it may not be a normal summer, there's never been a better time to load up the car, grab a bottle of Purell, and just drive.



SOUTH COAST

APPROXIMATE DRIVE TIME FROM BOSTON: 1 HOUR

The South Shore and the Cape might hog the summertime spotlight, but the cities and towns surrounding Buzzards Bay shouldn't be overlooked. After all, they're packed with just as much coastal beauty and plenty of quirky character to boot, including brand-new public art exhibits and a (possibly) haunted forest to explore.

By MADELINE BILIS

HIKE COPICUT WOODS, FALL RIVER

Part of the 13,600-acre Southeastern Massachusetts Bioserve, this Trustees-managed property delights day-trippers with fanning ferns and centuries-old stone walls. Its easy, well-marked trails lead to an abandoned 1830s-era farm settlement with a surprisingly intact foundation and cellar hole: Try walking down the steps if you can avoid the prickly raspberries growing in there.

NASKETUCKET BAY STATE RESERVATION, MATTAPOISETT

This 2.5-mile loop can be completed in an hour and a half, with plenty of time baked in for admiring its gentle eelgrass meadows and salt marshes. A walk through thick woods yields the ultimate reward: sparkling views of the bay, where you can spot sea snails sunbathing on the rocks



Nasketucket Bay State Reservation

underfoot. It's not the kind of beach where you'll want to stake an umbrella in the sand, but the water is perfect for a swim on a hot, sunny day.

FREETOWN-FALL RIVER STATE FOREST, ASSONET

Legend has it that Freetown-Fall River State Forest is home

to ghosts, UFOs, and Bigfoot, but the only thing you'll likely see on a hike to Profile Rock are views of Massachusetts' southern coast. Park at the forest's headquarters on Slab Bridge Road and follow the woodsy Massasoit Trail 2 miles to find the 50-foot-high formation, which resembles the face of the Wampanoag chief Massasoit.

It's a steep climb, but worth it on a clear day.

BIKE PHOENIX BIKE TRAIL, FAIRHAVEN

The 3.5-mile Phoenix Bike Trail showcases a range of coastal habitats, winding through residential neighborhoods, farms, and forests to the border of Mattapoisett. The best part? It's all protected from traffic. Pedal for one extra mile to connect to the Mattapoisett Rail Trail, where you can hop off your bike and stroll along a half-mile footpath to a beautiful section of the Mattapoisett River.

QUEQUECHAN RIVER RAIL TRAIL, WESTPORT TO FALL RIVER

Sandwiched between 195 and old riverside mills, this former railroad route mixes the area's industrial history with its unsung (and abundant) wildlife. Start at South Watuppa

Pond in Westport and bike 1.4 scenic miles along the river and its grassy shoulders, ending at Britland Park in Fall River.

SAULNIER MEMORIAL BIKE TRAIL, NEW BEDFORD

Pack a swimsuit, a towel, and lunch: This ride is all about making it to the beach. Maintained by the city of New Bedford, the paved 3.5-mile stretch traces the coast of the city's South End peninsula, starting at Clarks Cove and ending near New Bedford Harbor. The path passes by both West Beach and East Beach, meaning a picnic on the sand and a dip in the water are all but required.

REFUEL

Situated in Dartmouth's Padanaram Village, **FARM & COAST MARKET** offers a little something for every kind of picnicker: The lunch and dinner menus feature specialty pizzas and ramen, the bakery

serves fresh-baked croissants, the beer is local, and the grocery portion of the shop means you won't be kicking yourself for forgetting trail snacks.

BEST PLACE TO... APPRECIATE SOCIALLY DISTANT ART

THE MASSACHUSETTS DESIGN ART AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE (DATMA) is debuting two COVID-friendly art installations in downtown New Bedford this summer. The first, *Photo-kinetic Grid* by Soo Sunny Park (6/20–9/14), is a reflective light room made of chains and mirrors that can be viewed outside from DATMA's street-facing floor-to-ceiling windows. The second exhibit will showcase three large-scale animated murals depicting the region's maritime history: Called *Vessels*, the Masary Studios creations will be projected onto buildings along Union Street every day after sunset (6/21–7/19).

REASONS TO PULL OVER ALONG THE WAY

On your journey south, stop to admire the **BORDEN FLATS LIGHTHOUSE** as you cross the Braga Bridge into Fall River. The red-and-white-striped beacon in Taunton River, which typically offers overnight stays in its cozy brick interior, dates to 1881. Zip over to the Mattapoisett Land Trust to behold **SALTY THE SEAHORSE**, an oversize sea-creature statue that once anchored a long-shuttered gift shop and now stands tall over a small, flower-filled park. And after a day well spent, head to **FORT PHOENIX** in Fairhaven, a Revolutionary War-era stronghold overlooking Buzzards Bay, for a breathtaking sunset.

Quequechan River Rail Trail



STANTEC (QUEQUECHAN RIVER RAIL TRAIL); COURTESY OF MICHELLE WU VIA TWITTER (WU)

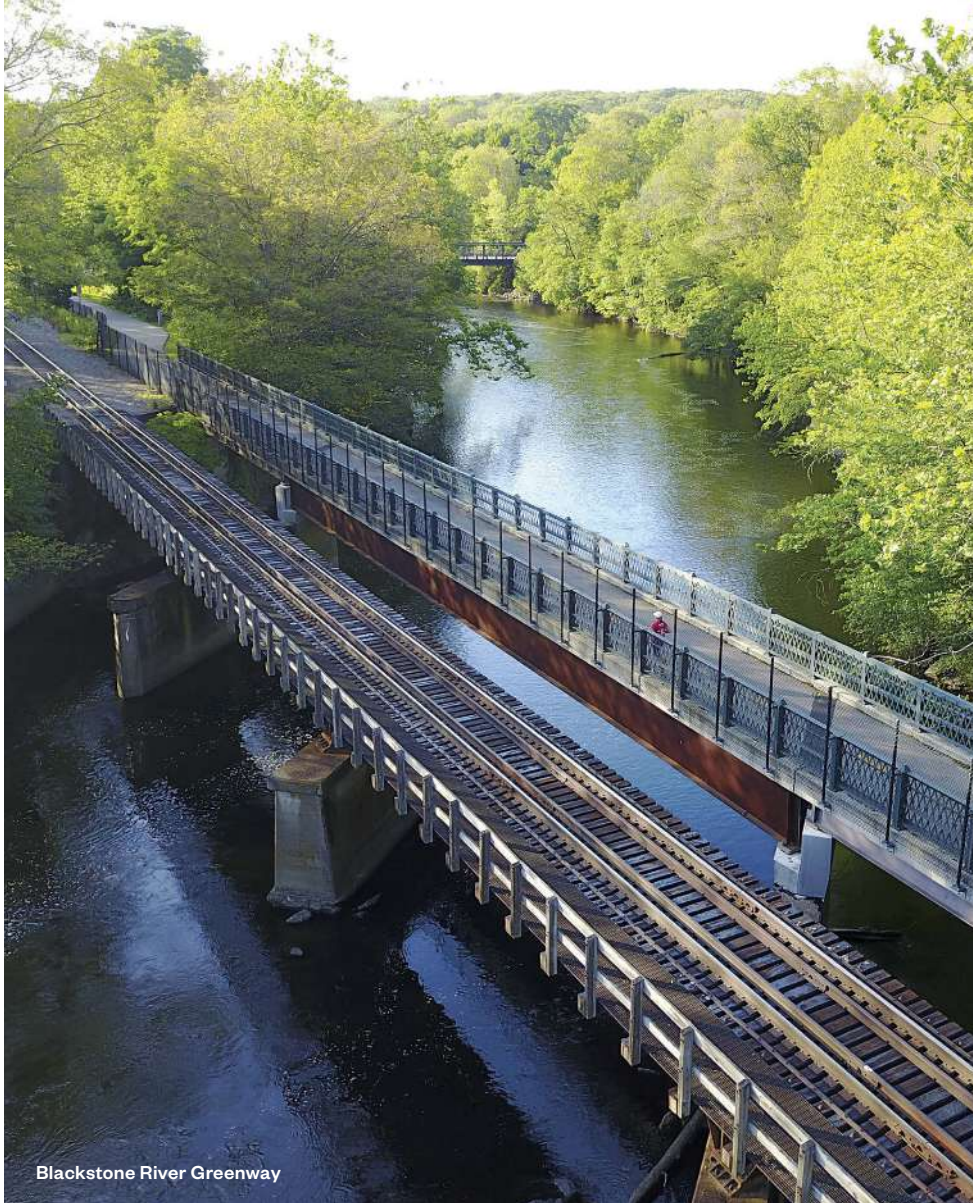
The FIRST PLACE

I Want to Go...



MICHELLE WU
BOSTON CITY COUNCILOR-AT-LARGE

"It's been a family tradition to visit **ACADIA NATIONAL PARK** every summer and spend a few days hiking in the breathtaking beauty of New England's only national park. There's something for everyone on Mount Desert Island, and our favorite spots have become even more joyful watching my two city kids delight in nature. We love walking along bubbling brooks and exploring the tide pools at low tide."



Blackstone River Greenway

CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS

APPROXIMATE DRIVE TIME FROM BOSTON: 50 MINUTES

Looking for new adventures close to home? Venturing beyond 128 has its rewards—namely, mountain-climbing, stargazing, and one very satisfying chili dog. Along the way, you’ll discover remnants of old mill towns that bring the state’s manufacturing history to life.

By MADELINE BILIS

The
FIRST PLACE
I Want to Go...



WYC GROUSBECK
BOSTON CELTICS LEAD OWNER

“One of our favorite places is Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire, specifically **WOLFEBORO**. It would be great to be out on the ski boat with family and friends.”

HIKE
CROW HILLS,
WESTMINSTER

This stunning hike in Leominster State Forest feels worlds away, yet is only a quick drive up Route 2. Park in the lot on Fitchburg Road in Princeton, then cross the street to climb a series of stone steps and ledges. You’ll notch 275 feet in elevation in just a few minutes, and from the top, you can glimpse Crow Hill Pond and nearby Mount Wachusett.

MOUNT WATATIC,
ASHBURNHAM

Ditch the crowds scaling the ever-popular Mount Wachusett in favor of this monadnock near the New Hampshire border, one of the highest peaks in the state east of the Connecticut River. On a clear day, you can spy Vermont’s Green Mountains and the peaks of southern New Hampshire from the summit.

PURGATORY CHASM
STATE RESERVATION,
SUTTON

Steep drop-offs and scenic passageways invite thrill-seekers

MILO BATEMAN/RAIL TO TRAILS CONSERVANCY (BLACKSTONE RIVER GREENWAY); COURTESY OF THE CELTICS (GROUSBECK)



Assabet River Rail Trail

to this rocky fissure off Route 146. Climbing up and through the unique rock formation is an exhilarating agility test, but if wedging your way through skinny crevices like “Fat Man’s Misery” isn’t up your alley, the low-key, 1.5-mile Chasm Loop Trail circles the gorge without forcing you to hoist yourself onto any rock faces.

BIKE

ASSABET RIVER RAIL TRAIL, MARLBOROUGH TO HUDSON

Wind through old mill towns along this rail trail, which runs on an abandoned branch of the Fitchburg Railroad. For the perfect afternoon sojourn, hop on in Marlborough by parking near Kelleher Field and ride 5.8 miles to newly hip Hudson, passing windmills and reservoirs and 19th-century mill buildings. Your sweet prize? A scoop of vanilla-bourbon ice cream from New City Microcreamery.

MASS CENTRAL RAIL TRAIL, RUTLAND TO BARRE

Local advocacy groups are working to transform a former railroad route that once spanned from Boston to

Northampton into a continuous 104-mile bike path. Until then, the best place to get on is the section completed by the nonprofit group Wachusett Greenways, where you can pedal past forested conservation areas and wetlands along a rocky cliff.

BLACKSTONE RIVER GREENWAY, UXBRIDGE TO BLACKSTONE

Cross eight bridges showcasing panoramas of the historical Blackstone River along this 3.5-mile portion of the Blackstone River Greenway, which will eventually connect Worcester to Providence. Be sure to hop off your bike for a quick walk to the Millville Lock, the only intact lock out of 48 that once allowed canal boats to pass through it.

REFUEL

Worcester may be Massachusetts’ newest dining mecca, but nothing beats the comfort of 102-year-old **GEORGE’S CONEY ISLAND**, which doles out hot dogs for about \$3 apiece. Make like a local and order one with the works (yellow mustard, chili sauce, and chopped onion) and a Polar Orange Dry.

BEST PLACE TO... PICNIC UNDER THE STARS

Part of the Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor, south-central Massachusetts is one of the few remaining swaths of uninterrupted green space from Boston to Washington, DC. Not surprisingly, the huge stretch of rural land offers a rare dark sky ideal for stargazing—try it at **STURBRIDGE TRAILS HEINS FARM CONSERVATION AREA**, where you can park for free and relax in a field shielded from headlights.

REASONS TO PULL OVER ALONG THE WAY

Plan ahead and reserve a time to visit the Massachusetts Horticultural Society’s **GARDENS AT ELM BANK**, a combination of historical and contemporary flower gardens in Wellesley. Kids in tow? Curbside pickup of something sweet from **HEBERT’S CANDY MANSION** in Shrewsbury should keep energy levels high. And if you have the energy for it after a day on the trails, round out a classic New England summer day with a nighttime showing at the **MENDON TWIN DRIVE-IN** before heading back to Boston.

BABY STEPS

For those who prefer to stay in the car, these short, scenic drives prove it’s the journey and not the destination that matters.

THE DRIVE:

BOSTON TO CONCORD VIA BATTLE ROAD HISTORIC BYWAY

THE ROUTE: It’s hard not to feel patriotic while winding along this scenic route, which marks the beginnings of the Revolutionary War as well as other important moments in American history. Take Massachusetts Avenue north through Arlington and Lexington, then turn onto Route 2A West to drive through Minute Man National Historical Park. There, you can imagine life in the “witness houses” where families of militiamen undoubtedly stayed up late worrying. Continue into Concord and past Louisa May Alcott’s Orchard House, the setting for the novel and 2019 hit film *Little Women*, before following 126 South into Lincoln to admire decidedly more modern dwellings from the road—including the family home of Bauhaus founder Walter Gropius, now a National Historic Landmark.

THE DRIVE:

BOSTON TO WACHUSETT DAM, CLINTON

THE ROUTE: Peer out the window as you drive by the farms and fields along Route 2, then head down I-495 and turn off into Bolton. There, you’ll pass the lush Nashoba Valley Winery en route

to your final destination: a 200-foot lookout with stunning views of pristine water ringed by protected land, visible from the parking spots along the shoulder of Boylston Street. While crossing the Sterling Street Bridge in West Boylston, which bisects the reservoir, keep an eye out for the historical Old Stone Church—an abandoned but impressively restored 19th-century structure that’s now draped in a massive American flag—before heading back to the city.

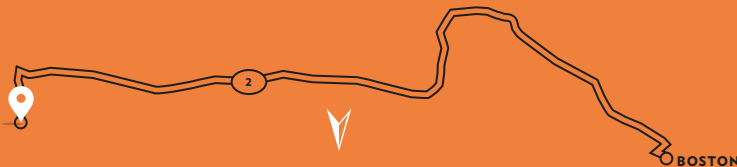
THE DRIVE:

BOSTON TO ROCKPORT VIA ESSEX SCENIC COASTAL BYWAY

THE ROUTE: Pick up this famously beautiful 90-mile seaside route in Lynn before winding up the coast toward Marblehead, prime territory for ogling sprawling cliffside homes (because what’s a day drive without house porn?). You’ll then pass through Salem—feel free to take some photos out the window while zooming by the Salem Witch Trials Memorial—on the way to Rockport’s craggy shores. If you have a little extra time on your hands, follow the byway to its terminus near Salisbury Beach. No matter where you end up, finding a perch to watch the waves is all part of the experience.



Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge



LINCOLN/CONCORD

APPROXIMATE DRIVE TIME FROM BOSTON: 30 MINUTES

Urban sprawl hasn't compromised Lincoln's still-rural character or Concord's colonial charm, which remains centuries after Paul Revere set out for the town on his famous midnight ride. It also hasn't compromised the still-quiet natural attractions in both places, from freshwater wetlands teeming with wildlife to recently built rail trails. **Get trotting.** *By* SCOTT KEARNAN

HIKE HAPGOOD WRIGHT TOWN FOREST, CONCORD

Discover the "Peaceful Easy Feeling" that inspired Eagles musician (and noted conservationist) Don Henley to purchase and protect several

trails within these storied woods. The soft drum of footsteps through old-growth pine, the bird songs around enchanting Fairyland Pond, and the quotes by luminaries such as Gandhi inscribed on granite stones at the secluded Reflection Circle are all music to a nature lover's ears.

GREAT MEADOWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, LINCOLN/ CONCORD

Look closely as you navigate the nature paths surrounding these town-spanning freshwater wetlands, a birdwatcher's heaven: In addition to flocks of great blue heron, you might

spy red fox, white-tailed deer, and more wildlife on the grassy green banks, especially at dusk and dawn. The views are especially prime along the observation-tower-equipped Dike Trail in Concord.

WRIGHT WOODS, CONCORD

Walden Pond is a gorgeous local landmark, but right now, its notoriety may work against it. ('Tis not the season for crowds.) Instead, explore this abutting 311-acre crown jewel of the Concord Land Conservation Trust. Nine miles of trails wind through the hickory- and birch-filled forest; the Andromeda Ponds, glacial kettle holes that are now picturesque bogs; remnants of a former fairground; and a historical stone boat-house astride the scenic Sudbury River.

BIKE BAY CIRCUIT TRAIL & GREENWAY, LINCOLN TO CONCORD

Traverse as much—or as little—as your calf muscles allow along this impressive 230-mile route, which cuts through 37 towns but is particularly scenic in the Lincoln/Concord area. Along the dirt and paved trails, you'll pedal through forests and fields, pass quaint farmhouses and placid ponds, and connect to other pathways that are just as scenic.

BRUCE FREEMAN RAIL TRAIL, CONCORD TO LOWELL

Eventually, this 10-foot-wide recreation trail, which traces a historical railroad route, will connect Lowell to Framingham. But the ongoing project has already yielded

WHAT DO I DO IF...

Rejoining civilization for the first time in months? You might have a few questions.

...I SEE FELLOW HIKERS ON THE TRAIL?

Let's get this out of the way: When you visit a beautiful park on a beautiful day, you're pretty much guaranteed to see other people out enjoying it too. But don't panic: Just be sure to practice safe social distancing and remove those earbuds so you can hear others on the trail. When passing, downhill hikers should yield to those heading uphill, form a single-file line, and shout, "On your left" loud enough for others to hear.

...I HAVE TO FILL UP THE TANK AND USE THE BATHROOM AT A REST STOP?

A few months ago, we wouldn't have given this question a second thought—now it requires a full-on battle plan. Pack your own snacks and drinks to avoid lines at the cash register, and wear disposable gloves while pumping gas. Most important, don't assume public restrooms are stocked with everything you need to stay safe: A kit consisting of paper towels (to dry your hands and avoid touching handles and toilet seats) and sanitizer and wet wipes (in case soap and hot water are unavailable) should do the trick.

...I WANT TO CHECK OUT AN OPEN SHOP IN A CUTE TOWN?

If you've been out grocery-shopping recently, you already know the drill: It's all about the mask. Bring it and wear it to protect yourself and others—it's the law, after all. And try not to touch anything unless you're going to buy it.



Bay Circuit Trail & Greenway

a paved, tree-lined segment easily accessed from the West Concord MBTA station. Take in tranquil Nashoba Brook, gaze at the murals bordering the path in Chelmsford, and continue to the trail's northern terminus to make an afternoon of it.

REFORMATORY BRANCH TRAIL, BEDFORD TO CONCORD

This rustic offshoot of the Minuteman Bikeway—a paved route for daily commuting to Cambridge—offers 4 more miles of packed-earth pathways perfect for weekend exploring. Bounce over old rail ties, hop off to check out wooded detours, then refuel with takeout from the aptly named Trail's End Café in Concord.

REFUEL

Pack the perfect picnic using curbside pickup from the landmark **CHEESE SHOP** in Concord, one of the area's best fromageries. From buttery Camembert to funky blues, you'll find dozens of varieties to create your dream

cheese board. There's also an excellent selection of other necessary al fresco provisions, from dips to imported charcuterie to bottles of fine wine.

BEST PLACE TO... STAGE AN ARTSY INSTAGRAM SHOOT

It's called "**PONYHENG**"—a graveyard of dozens of abandoned rocking horses that stand sentinel on a bucolic pasture in Lincoln. The arrangement often mysteriously changes, and the toy herd's number is constantly growing thanks to community contributions.

REASONS TO PULL OVER ALONG THE WAY

Scratch your museum itch at the reopened grounds of Lincoln's **DECORDOVA SCULPTURE PARK AND MUSEUM**. One of the contemporary-art-filled sanctuary's latest additions is *Watershed*, a granite structure built into a hill that cleverly incorporates rain runoff into its design. More of a bookworm? Honor the rich

history of local literati with a pilgrimage to **AUTHOR'S RIDGE AT SLEEPY HOLLOW CEMETERY**, resting place of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and others. Finally, take home a slice of the area by picking up pie-ready fruit at family-owned **VERRILL FARM**, where juicy strawberries await.

The FIRST PLACE

I Want to Go...



ANA SORTUN
CHEF AND CO-OWNER OF
OLEANA, SOFRA, AND SARMA

"I vacation for a couple of weeks every year in **TRURO**, and it's the most magical part of the Cape. The Chequessett Chocolate shop is my happy place, and I have a thing for Ballston Beach, sharks and all!"



Chesterwood



BOSTON

90



THE BERKSHIRES

APPROXIMATE DRIVE TIME FROM BOSTON: 2 HOURS AND 20 MINUTES

You may not be rolling out the picnic blanket at Tanglewood this summer, but there are still plenty of reasons to head west on the Pike for the day. Among them: idyllic artist-inspired strolls, overflowing gardens, and one seriously hard-core mountain-bike ride.

By JONATHAN SOROFF

HIKE CHESTERWOOD, STOCKBRIDGE

The summer estate of legendary sculptor Daniel Chester French showcases his Colonial Revival house and studio, but it's the hiking trails that'll bring you back year after year. French was as talented a

landscape architect as he was an artist, carving his Woodland Walk through the forest to take full advantage of the location, with carefully planned "vistas" to highlight points of beauty. Prefer a bracing climb to a vantage point with panoramas of the surrounding mountains? Try the Ledges Trail.

PLEASANT VALLEY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, LENOX

Wend your way through wetlands, forest, meadows, and the slopes of Lenox Mountain, and you'll likely encounter signs of this 1,000-acre sanctuary's celebrity residents: an active beaver colony. Pathways range

from family-friendly to strenuous; the All Persons Trail, meanwhile, provides universal accessibility, and the wildlife viewing deck overlooking Pike's Pond features trail information in braille, large-print, audio, and tactile formats.

STEVENS GLEN, WEST STOCKBRIDGE/ RICHMOND

At only 1.4 miles long, Stevens Glen is more of a pleasant walk than a vigorous hike, but the scenery makes it more than worthwhile. Formerly a loop but now an out-and-back trail due to erosion of creek beds, the path meanders through hemlock forest along what were once carriage roads, wide enough to allow for social distancing. The prize awaiting you at the end: a waterfall view and several lovely spots for contemplation.

BIKE ASHWILLTICOOK RAIL TRAIL, LANESBOROUGH TO ADAMS

Hop onto this peaceful 12.7-mile paved path—an old rail route that traces the Hoosic River and the Cheshire Reservoir—for gorgeous water and mountain views, not to mention the occasional chicken or turtle sighting. While some maintenance has been planned for this season in the Lanesborough/Cheshire area, much of the trail remains wide open and ready to ride.

GREAT BARRINGTON TO UMPACHENE FALLS, NEW MARLBOROUGH

Fire up the GPS and get ready to take a ride through some of the most unspoiled towns in the Berkshires, ending at a rolling waterfall that fairly screams out for an Instagram

post. Start in Great Barrington and head south for about 12 miles, passing by the oldest covered bridge in the state and pedaling through picturesque farmland with lovely glimpses of the Housatonic River.

MOUNT GREYLOCK SUMMIT, LANESBOROUGH TO ADAMS

Careful on those hairpin turns, and be prepared for four seasons in a day: Called “the ultimate cycling destination in Massachusetts” by Bike New England, this 37-mile round-trip challenge begins with a quad-burning ride up Lanesborough’s Rockwell Road to ascend 3,941-foot Mount Greylock. The descent back down into North Adams gives any roller coaster a run for its money.

REFUEL

Did someone say tailgate? Long

a local favorite for pre-Tanglewood drinks and dinner, **ZINC BISTRO & BAR** in Lenox is offering its jambalaya, coq-au-vin, and famous burger for pickup.

BEST PLACE TO... LITERALLY STOP AND SMELL THE ROSES

The **BRIDGE OF FLOWERS** in Shelburne Falls is one of the most photo-worthy spots in the western part of the state. Once a trolley bridge, it’s been transformed into a magical garden of flowering plants, vines, and shrubs—like a fairy with a green thumb cast a spell over an old railroad trestle.

REASONS TO PULL OVER ALONG THE WAY

Got *Cat in the Hat* fans in your crew? Swing by Springfield’s **DR. SEUSS NATIONAL MEMORIAL SCULPTURE GARDEN** to spot your kiddos’ favorite characters—including the titular silly feline—cast in bronze. If you prefer gardens of the blooming variety, the historical **NAUMKEAG** estate in Stockbridge delivers, with 48 acres of lush roses, beautifully sculpted evergreens, and more. For a much-deserved indulgence after a day’s exertion, stop by Charlton’s **TREE HOUSE BREWING** for contactless pickup of its coveted unfiltered IPAs and rich stouts.

Mount Greylock



Need an excuse to road-trip down to the famous Island Creek Oysters farm for a few shuckable delights? Try getting your steps in with a quiet walk in the woods across from a Duxbury cranberry bog, or pointing your bike toward a leafy trail in Marshfield. Then break out the oyster knife and enjoy the sweet taste of summer on the South Shore.

By JONATHAN SOROFF

HIKE WOMPATUCK STATE PARK, HINGHAM

Forty miles of trails increase your chances of finding solitude as you wander amid acres of wetlands, ponds, streams, and forest. Refill your water bottle at Mount Blue Spring, which has been slaking thirsts since the 19th century, and remember the bug spray and the sunscreen.

WHITON WOODS, DUXBURY

Shh—don’t tell anyone else about this wooded reservation set back from the road and across from a working cranberry bog. Less well-trod than other Duxbury destinations, the wide trails (the remains of colonial cart paths) allow for safe social distancing over the course of 1 to 4 miles, and the birdwatching is top-notch.

WORLD’S END, HINGHAM

Designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, this coastal Trustees of the Reservations property was originally laid out as a rural subdivision, with broad carriage routes that make for excellent hiking, whether you want to amble around or scramble up and down its four drumlins. Exquisite views of the Boston skyline and Harbor Islands and a postcard-pretty shoreline make it a gem for picnics, as well.

BIKE BRIDLE TRAIL AND RAIL TRAIL, MARSHFIELD

Looking for a ride the whole family will enjoy? Throw the bikes onto the roof rack and head south to check out this wide, evenly paved route, which runs along an old railway bed

The FIRST PLACE

I Want to Go...



COLETTE PHILLIPS
PRESIDENT AND CEO, COLETTE PHILLIPS COMMUNICATIONS

“I’d love to go to **OGUNQUIT, MAINE**, for lobsters, art, and great shopping. Plus, I love that it is very embracing of the LGBTQ community. As a person of color, anywhere that embraces difference is a place where you feel ‘safe,’ particularly in these uncertain, dangerous times.”



World's End

and skirts the Marshfield Fairgrounds as well as Pratt Farm, a town-owned conservation area. Navigate several road crossings and cut over the South River until you get to Dandelion Park, a perfect spot for sandwiches and a cool drink.

HINGHAM TO HULL

The 7.9 miles from Hingham's twee downtown to the end of the peninsula at Hull is a stunning seaside ride. The route passes through Weir River estuary, the largest salt-water marsh system in the area, and offers views of undulating grasses in untouched wetlands and the vast blue expanse of Massachusetts Bay. Itching to jump in? Park your wheels and cool off at Nantasket Beach along the way.

MYLES STANDISH STATE FOREST, CARVER

Mountain bikers will be

in hog heaven with 20 miles of trails winding through pine barrens and woodland. Beginners should find the East Head Reservoir and Bentley loop trails fairly easy at roughly 3 to 4 miles each, while the 13.6-mile-long Plymouth Wishbone trail is recommended only for experts. Either way, you'll be rewarded with stunning vistas of ponds and pine forest.

REFUEL

Call ahead to **THE CATERED AFFAIR** in Rockland, which provides victuals for Boston's most elegant events, for a to-go fried chicken meal for two with potato salad and coleslaw. Bring along a bottle of rosé and you have the perfect al fresco lunch.

BEST PLACE TO... PURCHASE AN EDIBLE SOUVENIR

No trip to the South Shore

is complete without a stop at the **ISLAND CREEK OYSTERS** farm in Duxbury to pick up a dozen (or three) fresh oysters to shuck at home—the ideal starter, or main course, after a day in the sun.

REASONS TO PULL OVER ALONG THE WAY

Unlike most ultra-wealthy enclaves, the imposing mansions along **JERUSALEM ROAD IN COHASSET** are easily visible from the street and deliver a glimpse into a Gatsby-esque world. The **MYLES STANDISH HOMESTEAD** site in Duxbury may be little more than a stone foundation, but it's worth a gander for its historical (and scenic) merit. **MINOTS LEDGE LIGHT** in Scituate, meanwhile, is quintessential New England.

CAPE COD

APPROXIMATE DRIVE TIME FROM BOSTON: 1.5 TO 2 HOURS

You don't have to check into a weekly rental to enjoy everything the Cape has to offer, from the surf and sand you've always loved to rugged but gorgeous trails that veer well off the beaten path. Just load up the car (don't forget the bathing suits!), cross the Sagamore, and find your happy place.

By BRITTANY JASNOFF

HIKE CLIFF POND TRAIL, BREWSTER

Hiking around this 206-acre, crystal-clear kettle pond in

PETER MAROTTA/COURTESY OF THE TRUSTEES

the middle of woody Nicker-
son State Park, you might for-
get you're in Cape Cod. Keep an
eye out for wildflowers, wildlife,
and a colossal boulder along the
2.7-mile loop trail surrounding
the water—and if it's a hot day,
don't be afraid to jump in.

GREAT ISLAND TRAIL, WELLFLEET

This isn't your average beach
walk. Set aside at least half a day
to traverse the entire 8.8-mile
loop, which takes you through
pitch-pine forests and across
sandy dunes en route to Great
Beach Hill, where you'll be
treated to panoramas of the
pristine coastal landscape. If
you're up for a little adventure
afterward, scurry over to Jer-
emy Point, a sand spit that can
be reached only at low tide.

NAUSET MARSH TRAIL, EASTHAM

This short, beginner-friendly
hike starts near the Cape
Cod National Seashore's Salt
Pond Visitor Center, mean-
dering along picturesque Salt
Pond and Nauset Marsh and
through fields and forest. Pro
tip: When you reach the 1.5-
mile trail extension leading
to Coast Guard Beach, take it.

BIKE CAPE COD RAIL TRAIL, YARMOUTH TO WELLFLEET

Don't have a bike of your own?
You can rent one right along
this mostly flat, well-paved,
27.5-mile trail that runs
through forests and charm-
ing town centers and around
kettle ponds and cranberry
bogs (with options to detour to
the national seashore farther
east). For the perfect morn-
ing or afternoon ride, start in
the recently built Yarmouth
section, crossing a bridge over
the Bass River, and head back
once you get through Nicker-
son State Park in Brewster.

SHINING SEA BIKEWAY, NORTH FALMOUTH TO WOODS HOLE

True to its name—an ode to
former Falmouth resident
Katharine Lee Bates's "Amer-
ica the Beautiful"—the Shin-
ing Sea Bikeway is all about
soaking up water views on
two wheels. Feel the gentle
coastal breeze against your
face as you zip by a stunning
salt marsh, a lighthouse, and
Vineyard Sound beaches per-
fect for splashing around after
a hot ride.

TRAIL OF TEARS, WEST BARNSTABLE

This one's for the daredev-
ils. Originally designed as a
motorcycle loop, 21 miles of
single-track in the West Barn-
stable Conservation Area send
mountain bikers on a twist-
filled ride through a dense
canopy of American beech, red
oak, and white pine trees. With
routes for beginners to more-
advanced thrill seekers, the trail
network features plenty of hills
and terrain that ranges from
sand to pine needles and roots.

REFUEL

Whether you're looking for a
gooey cinnamon-pecan bun
before you hit the trails or a
delightful picnic lunch to bring
along with you, you'll find it
at **PAIN D'AVIGNON** in Hyannis,
which is offering its freshly
baked breakfast pastries, sand-
wiches, and salads to go.

BEST PLACE TO... EAT CLAMS WITH YOUR TOES IN THE SAND

Even day-trippers can partake
in **CHATHAM BARS INN**'s signa-
ture beach clambakes, which
are scheduled to kick off this
year by the end of June. Tuck
into lobster, corn, potatoes,

The **FIRST PLACE** *I Want to Go...*



JORDAN KNIGHT
NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK
BAND MEMBER

"I'd like to go back to
WOODSTOCK, VER-
MONT. We went there
before and it's like you're
going back in time. They don't
allow franchises or new mod-
ern chain stores to come in;
they just keep it really quaint.
It's a beautiful town."

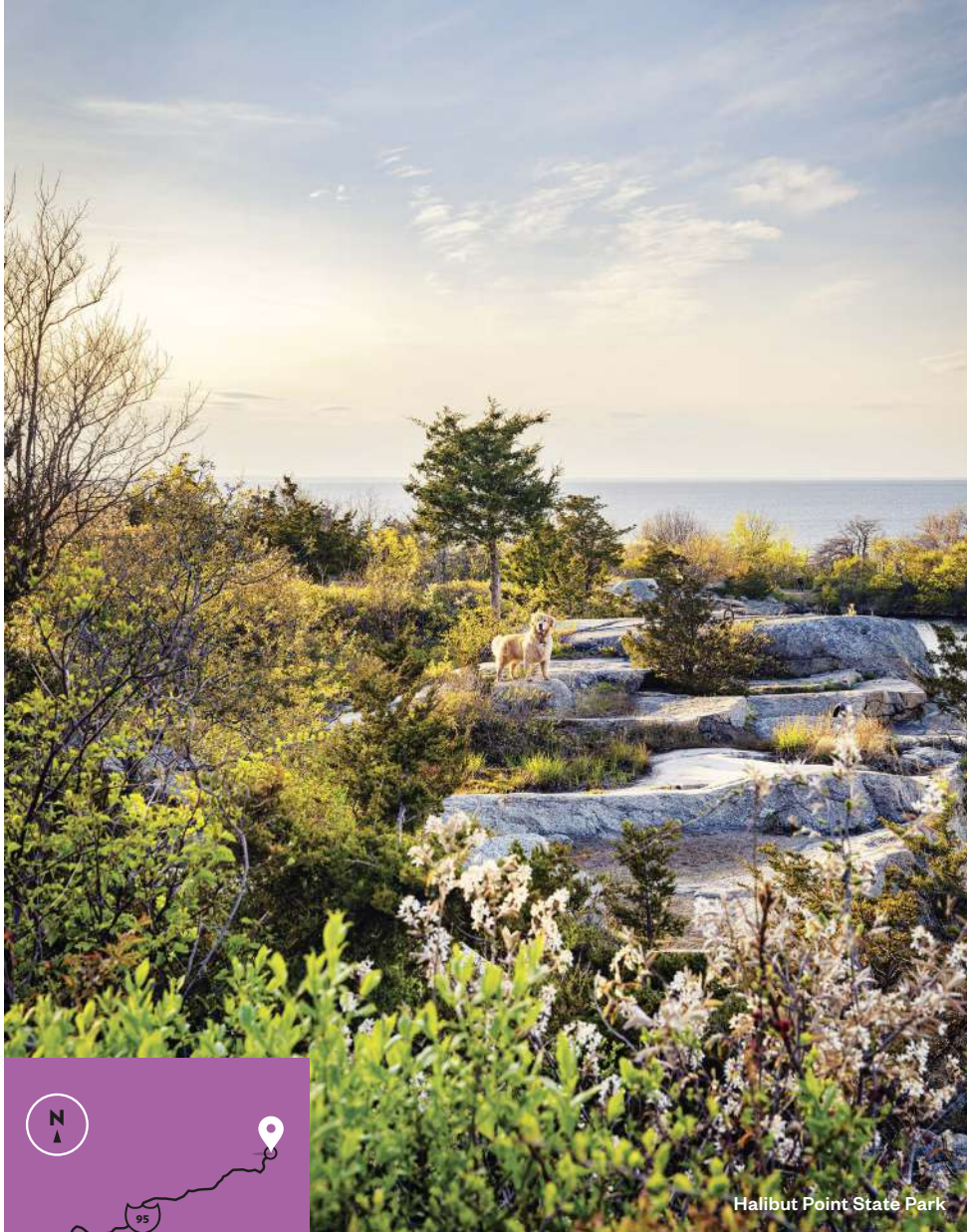
and clams—all at a safe social
distance, of course—as the sun
fades into the horizon.

REASONS TO PULL OVER ALONG THE WAY

For a slower but more scenic
ride from west to east, follow
Route 6A (Old King's Highway),
which winds along the bay
from Bourne to Orleans and
passes by historical homes and
churches as well as charming
antiques shops. On your ride,
you can detour to the **HERITAGE
MUSEUMS & GARDENS** in Sand-
wich to stroll through the flow-
ering 100 acres (be sure to buy
tickets in advance). Also just a
short distance off the road is
the 1,350-foot **SANDWICH BOARD-
WALK**, a.k.a. the "Plank Walk,"
which juts out into Cape Cod
Bay for prime views. If you're
heading farther east, swing by
by the 1700s-built **JONATHAN
YOUNG WINDMILL** in Orleans for
a quick selfie before continuing
on to your next stop.

Cape Cod Rail Trail





HIKE

HALIBUT POINT STATE PARK, ROCKPORT

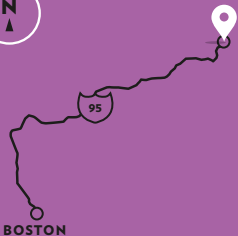
On this one-of-a-kind hike around a former quarry, you'll circle a gaping hole left by the Rockport Granite Company that's been filling with rain-water since it was abandoned in 1929, and now glimmers with a turquoise tint. A gentle walk toward the ocean leads to a towering pile of discarded granite chunks; stand atop them to drink in fantastic views from Crane Beach in Ipswich all the way to Mount Agameticus in southern Maine.

BOXFORD STATE FOREST, BOXFORD

It's easy to hike through the verdant woods of Boxford State Forest and not see another soul. A lack of clear direction adds to the remote feeling—just be sure to print a map from the Department of Conservation and Recreation's website (or pull one up on your phone) before you set out. A 4.25-mile jaunt meanders through thick forests and wetlands showcasing dogwoods, wild roses, marigolds, and ferns, with walls and gurgling streams to complete the very idyllic package.

MAUDSLAY STATE PARK, NEWBURYPORT

A 2.6-mile hike through Maudslay, once a grand riverside estate, offers a tour of the stately grounds as well as the ruins of a torn-down mansion and greenhouse. While winding along former carriage paths with views of the Merrimack River, take in the wafting scent of one of the largest naturally occurring stands of mountain laurel in Massachusetts. A visit in early summer also promises glimpses of bright pink and purple azaleas and rhododendrons.



Halibut Point State Park

NORTH SHORE

APPROXIMATE DRIVE TIME FROM BOSTON: 30 TO 45 MINUTES

Think summer here is all about crowded beaches and greenheads? Think again. There are plenty of quieter moments to be had in the forests and salt marshes from Wenham all the way up to Cape Ann. Some traditions, however, shouldn't be messed with: No matter where you go, you'll still want to make a pit stop for Woodman's legendary fried clams—which somehow taste even better al fresco.

By MADELINE BILIS

NOT READY TO LEAVE THE LIVING ROOM?

All you need is the Internet and a little imagination to enjoy these virtual day trips.

By ANGELA ATHENA MATS

ESCAPE TO NANTUCKET

Get a taste of ACK this summer sans ferry ride courtesy of Nantucket VR. The new website lets you take in 360-degree views of pristine beaches and shop boutiques on Main Street, with more features coming soon, including a virtual hike on one of the island's nature trails. nantucketvr.com.

PARTY WITH THE POPS

Want to bring harmony to your house? Watch a virtual "Pops at Home" performance by nearly 80 musicians from their respective abodes, or tune into "Conversations with Keith," a video series of interviews with conductor Keith Lockhart, who celebrates his 25th anniversary with the orchestra this year. bostonpops.org.

TOUR A GILDED MANSION

Take a virtual walk through the halls of some of Newport's famed estates, including the Elms, a grandiose, marble-clad masterpiece. Bonus: You can even grab a souvenir from the gift shop at the end of your tour. newportmansions.org.

HIT THE BEACH

Pull up a beach chair, dip your toes in a kiddie pool, and turn on New Hampshire's Hampton Beach live webcam: Catching the sights and sounds of the waves crashing, seagulls crooning, and cars cruising down Ocean Boulevard will almost make you forget you're in your backyard. hamptonbeach.org/beach-cam.

HEAD TO THE HARBOR

Boston Harbor Now's Harbor at Home virtual platform keeps you connected to the history, nature, and cultural happenings along the waterfront. With new videos added weekly, from yoga classes to the "Berklee Anywhere" concert series, you can consider your summer calendar filled. bostonharbornow.org/harborathome.



Boxford State Forest

BIKE PLUM ISLAND BARRIER BEACH, NEWBURYPORT

Maybe a crowded blankets-touching-blankets beach day isn't in the cards this summer, but this stunning bike trail has all of the seaside perks without any sand in your bathing suit. Cruise 6 miles down the coast of Newburyport along Plum Island's barrier beach for views of the water and deep breaths of salt air.

OLD EASTERN MARSH TRAIL, SALISBURY

Set out on the Old Eastern Marsh Trail to experience a diversity of landscapes—from rocky woods to a breezy riverbank to the wide-open Great Marsh—in just over a mile. (And if you're biking in June, keep an eye out for nesting turtles.) At the end of the ride, you can pick up Newburyport's Clipper City Rail Trail by taking a left toward Route 1 (there's a bike underpass), then crossing the Gillis Bridge onto the new path.

SALEM-BEVERLY CANAL PATH, WENHAM TO TOPSFIELD

Park off Cherry Street in

Wenham to start down this dirt-and-grass trail, which follows the circa-1917 Salem-Beverly Canal, also known as the Grand Wenham Canal, for about 2 miles, putting all things leafy and green on display. Toward the northern part of the route, you can transition onto the Topsfield Linear Common, a path stretching north to Boxford.

REFUEL

WOODMAN'S OF ESSEX has been around for its fair share of global crises, bringing comfort in the form of fried clams—a dish the restaurant claims to have invented—for more than a century. No other seafood shack does it quite like this one, which is why you'll want to drive over, pick up clams and chowder to go, and savor your meal overlooking the causeway.

BEST PLACE TO... FINALLY TAKE UP BIRDWATCHING

Come to PARKER RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE for the gentle coastal walks, stay for the migratory waterfowl, shorebird, and songbird sightings. Beginner and experienced birdwatchers

alike stop by to spot piping plovers and saltmarsh sparrows (don't forget your binoculars!).

REASONS TO PULL OVER ALONG THE WAY

As you make your way out of Boston, take a detour for a condensed Salem sightseeing tour by the **BEWITCHED STATUE**, the **DERBY WHARF LIGHT STATION**, and over to a group of large-scale murals around the Point Neighborhood known as the **PUNTO URBAN ART MUSEUM**. Or savor a quiet moment at Ipswich's **CRANE BEACH**; it's typically packed with bathing beauties, but controlled entry should give you some extra breathing room. On the way home, stop off the highway at **PUTNAM PANTRY** in Danvers for a perfect bite of summer: black-raspberry ice cream and a little (or big) box of handmade chocolates.

The FIRST PLACE

I Want to Go...



LATOIA EDWARDS
NBC10 BOSTON ANCHOR

"When this pandemic is over, I cannot wait to take my family back to **NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND**. I look forward to strolling through the history and luxury inside of Newport's famed mansions. I can almost taste the delicious treats at those charming out-of-the-way cafés. My children love exploring along the Cliff Walk. We all just enjoy breathing in the fresh ocean air."