



CHALLENGE CONVENTION.  
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## New England Local Guide

\*Disclaimer: Commercial establishments mentioned in this document are for information only and does not imply an endorsement by Clark University.

### Places of interests:

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- [Clark University](#)

Clark's [Graduate School of Geography](#) was established in 1921, and the Clark-owned journal, [Economic Geography](#), continues to be a top ranked journal in both Geography and Economics. The 7<sup>th</sup> GCEG coincides with Clark's Centennial celebration of the journal.

- Worcester, MA

Unlike other mill towns in New England, Worcester was a diversified economy with strengths in machine tool industry, and particularly [abrasives](#). The wire industry took off when infrastructure for telephone and telegraph was developed, including [corset factories](#). Worcester is the site of the [first women's rights convention](#) (1850), also site of [an anarchist ice cream shop](#) (1892).

[Worcester Art Museum](#)

[Worcester Historical Museum](#)

[EcoTarium](#) (science museum)

[Polar Park](#) (baseball stadium)

### Local eateries:

Near campus: Annie's Clark Brunch, Baba Sushi (Chinese & Japanese), Belen Casa de Pan (El Salvadorian café), Life Garden Café (American), Mint (Vietnamese), Nu Kitchen (American), Peppercorns Tavern & Grill (American), Pho Dakao (Vietnamese), Red Pepper (Chinese), Saigon (Vietnamese), Viet Café (Vietnamese)

Downtown: Armsby Abbey (Brewery), Deadhorse Hill (American), Mercantile (American), Ruth Chris Steak House (American), 961 Restaurant (Lebanese)

Shrewsbury Street: Boulevard Diner, One Eleven Chophouse (American), Nuovo (Italian), Root and Press (café), VIA (Italian), Volturno (Italian)

Other areas: El Basha (Middle Eastern), Sole Proprietor (Seafood),



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- [Boston](#), MA (46.7 miles or 57 minute drive; commuter rail access)

[Freedom Trail](#), Boston Common (urban park), Newbury Street (shopping district), North End (Italian district), South End (gentrification), [Museum of Fine Arts](#), [Isabel Stewart Gardner Museum](#), [Boston Tea Party Ship](#), [Museum of Science](#), [Fenway Park](#) (home of the baseball team Red Sox), [MIT Museum](#) (highly recommended!). From Boston, you can reach [Salem](#) (famous for the witch trial), [Newburyport](#), [Gloucester](#), and [Rockport](#) by commuter rail, as well as Concord, Lowell and Providence (see below).

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- [Concord](#), MA (39 miles or 49 minute drive)

An important historical site for the American Revolutionary War and home to American literary giants: Louisa May Alcott's [Orchard House](#) (author of Little Women), [Nathaniel Hawthorne's House](#) (author of House of Seven Gables), [Old Mans](#) (Nathaniel Hawthorne and Ralph Waldo Emerson), [Walden Pond](#), [Minuteman Bikeway](#).

- Lowell MA:

[Boott Cotton Mills Museum](#), Lowell, MA (45 miles or 1 hour drive)

Cotton Textile manufacturing

- Blackstone River Heritage Corridor:

[Blackstone River National Heritage Corridor](#), Lincoln, RI (34 miles or 45 minute drive)

The birthplace of American industrial revolution. Biking/hiking trails

[Museum of Work and Culture](#), Woonsocket, RI (27 miles or 35 minute drive)

Showcasing life of textile manufacturing workers (predominantly French Canadians in Woonsocket)

[Slater Mill](#), Pawtucket, RI (38 miles or 50 min drive)

The first water-powered cotton-mill in the US.

- [Providence](#), RI (40 miles or 52 minute drive)

Known for a successful transformation as a post-industrial city; innovative cuisines, home of Brown University, check out old homes at Federal Hill neighborhood, enjoy the urban view from Michael S. Van Leesten Memorial Bridge, best ice cream by the bridge at [Tissy K's](#).

- Newport RI:

[Newport](#), RI (73 mile or 1 hour and 26 minute drive)



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Known for stately [Mansions](#) (including Vanderbilt), beaches, site of Newport Folk and Jazz Festivals

Springfield, MA:

[Springfield Armory](#), Springfield, MA (51 miles or 1 hour drive)

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Birthplace of American mass production

**Local and Regional Attractions (distance from Clark):**

[Polar Park](#) (1.5 mile or 7 minute drive)

Home of Worcester Sox, a minor league of famous Boston Red Sox baseball team; could also serve as a reception venue

[New Bedford](#), MA (75 miles or 1 hour and 22 minute drive)

A coastal city known developed with the [whaling](#) and fishing industry, [New Bedford Whaling Museum](#), Portuguese/Azorean cuisine and historic homes

[Plymouth Rock](#), MA (79 miles or 1 hour and 28 minute drive)

Site of the Mayflower ship landing

[Maynard](#), MA (27 miles or 43 minute drive)

Assabet Woolen Mill – former site of Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC), no public entry

Farther away (more than 2 hour drive from Worcester)

Berkshires:

Two hour drive from Worcester features beautiful areas of rural beauty peppered with historical and cultural attractions, such as the town of Stockbridge with [The Mount](#) (home of Pulitzer winning author, Edith Wharton), [Norman Rockwell Museum](#), [Naumkeag](#), hike the [Monument Mountain](#). Also worth visiting are [Hancock Shakers Village](#) in Hancock, and visit [Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art](#) (Mass MOCA) in North Adams



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[Green Mountain National Forest](#), VT (99 miles or 2 hours and 12 minute drive)

Hiking, camping

[Portland](#), ME (140 miles or 2 hours and 11 min drive)

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Microbreweries, beaches, restaurants, bike trails

[Cape Cod National Seashore](#), MA (149 miles or 2 hours and 37 minute drive)

Beaches, Lighthouses, bike trails

[White Mountain National Forest](#), NH (152 miles or 2 hours and 30 minute drive)

Hiking, camping

[New York City](#), NY (178 miles, 3.5-4 hour drive or a 45 minute flight to LaGuardia and JFK airports from Worcester Regional Airport)

[Arcadia National Park](#), ME (313 miles, 5 hour drive).

Hiking, biking, camping

#### Activities:

- Hiking:

[Mount Monadnock](#), NH (55 miles or 1 hour 20 min drive)

The second most climbed mountain in the world after Mount Fuji, Japan

- Walking/Biking:

Walking Trails and Bike paths: New England has a number of rail trails – former rail tracks converted into bike paths ([map](#)). Some of the favorites include:

Urban to Suburban: [Minuteman Trail](#) (Boston to Concord, MA)



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Suburban: [Bruce Freeman Rail Trail](#) (Lowell to West Concord, MA), [Blackstone River Bikeway](#) (Woonsocket to Lincoln, RI)

Rural: [Mass Central Rail Trail](#) (Rutland section, MA), [Nashua River Rail Trail](#) (Ayer, MA to NH), [Ashuwillticook Rail Trail](#) (Adams to Cheshire, MA), [Cape Cod Rail Trail](#) (Cape Cod National Seashore)

Coastal: [Coastal Trails](#) (Newburyport, MA); [East Bay bike path](#) (Providence to Bristol, RI), [Shining Sea Bikeway](#) (Woods Hole, MA).

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- Bike rentals:

Boston has a bike share called [Bluebikes](#). Outside the city, this could be a bit complicated; most locals/regionals bring their own bikes on their car using bike racks. There are some rentals and bike shares close to the trails.

[Concord Bike Share](#)

[Berkshire Outfitters](#); [Village Bike Rentals](#) (North Adams)

[Providence Bicycle](#)

[Riverside Cycle](#) (Newburyport)

- Kayak rentals:

[Charles River \(Boston\)](#)

Concord River: The South Bridge Boat House

Merrimack River: Nashua Paddler LLC

[Berkshire Outfitters](#)

- Microbreweries:

Worcester:

Armsby Abbey, Double Down Brewing Co., Greater Good Imperial Brewing Co., Redemption Rock Brewing Co., Wachusetts Brew Yard

Beyond:

Jack's Abby Craft Lagers, Stone Cow Brewery, Rapscallion Brewery & Taproom, Seven Saws Brewing Co., Treehouse Brewing Co.