

Massachusetts

Calendar of Events: May-December 2012

MAY

May 8-13, 2012: Brimfield Antiques and Collectibles Shows, Brimfield, MA

Over 4000 dealers present their treasures at the largest outdoor antique show in the world - and one of the oldest. <http://www.brimfield.com/>

May 13, 2012: Annual Cape Cod Maritime Days

This 19th annual celebration will include lighthouse and walking tours, nautical art exhibits, and maritime lectures including boat-building exhibits.

<http://www.ecapechamber.com/MaritimeDays/>

May 25-27, 2012 40th Annual Festival of the Arts, Marshfield Hills Village, MA

This celebration is sponsored by the North River Arts Society. Featured events include Juried Art & Sculpture Exhibit, Art Sale-in-the-Barn, Juried Photography Exhibit, Artisan's Sale, Feature Barn, Silent Auction, Food Tent, Children's Activities, and Young Artists' Exhibit.

www.northriverarts.org

May 26-28, 2012: 39th Annual Figawi Regatta, Hyannis, MA

This nationally and internationally recognized annual race weekend marks the start of the Cape Cod and Nantucket summer season. With over 240 boats in the race, this event has become one of the premier boating events in the northeast. www.figawi.com

JUNE

June 7- July 22, 2012: The 30th Rockport Chamber Music Festival, Rockport, MA

This year welcomes new audiences and performers to a new festival home. This annual festival has continued to grow in attendance and reputation. Attendance has increased so much so that a new Shalin Liu Performance Center had to be built. The festival is directed under the leadership of world renowned Pianist, David Deveau, <http://www.rcmf.org/rcmf-home.html>

June 13, 2012: Riverfest, Shelburne Falls, MA

This festival celebrates the Deerfield River. Attracting people from all over New England, visitors can enjoy entertainment, educational displays and demonstrations, arts, crafts, and food vendors. Visitors can also try some quiet-water rafting, join a guided hike on one of the watershed's scenic trails, and ride an 1896 trolley car (all weekend long).

<http://www.deerfieldriver.org/RiverFest.htm>

June 15-17, 2012 57th Annual Arts Festival, Cohasset, MA

This arts festival is one of New England's premier festivals. Located at the South Shore Art Center, this festival features over 100 juried craft and fine artist booths, artist demonstrations, a juried art exhibition, Members' and Young Artists exhibitions, food and entertainment.

www.ssac.org

June 20-24, 2012: Nantucket Film Festival, Nantucket, MA

Film lovers can come together with screenwriters, filmmakers, and actors to experience the creativity of around 20 feature films and 20-25 short films. The event includes guest speakers, screenplay readings, and awards ceremonies. <http://www.nantucketfilmfestival.org/>

June 21-24, 2012: Annual Provincetown Portuguese Festival and Blessing of the Fleet, Provincetown, MA

<http://www.provincetownportuguesefestival.com/schedule2011.html>

June 28- July 4, 2012: 31th Boston Harborfest, Boston, MA (2011 TOP 100 EVENTS)

This week-long festival hosts over 200 events including historical reenactments, walking tours, harbor cruises, and free concerts. This year's festival will also include the 29th Boston Chowderfest, which was named one of America's Top 100 Festivals for the 20th year in a row.

<http://www.bostonharborfest.com/>

JULY

July 6-8, 2012: 11th Annual Berkshires Arts Festival, the Berkshires, MA

This Berkshire tradition offers families fun and interactive ways to experience theatre, dance, music, and art. <http://www.berkshiresartsfestival.com/>

July 6-8, 2012: Greater New Bedford Summerfest, New Bedford, MA

This two day event is an internationally recognized folk music and arts festival. Hosted by the town of New Bedford and The Standard-Times, the festival displays six stages throughout the National Park ranging from 1,200 seats to smaller and more intimate stages.

<http://www.newbedfordsummerfest.com/>

July 11, 2012: Annual Falmouth Arts & Crafts Festival, Falmouth, MA

This annual event celebrates traditional arts and crafts. Attracting more than 40,000 people last year, this event is considered one of the most popular one-day shows in Cape Cod.

www.falmouthvillageassociation.org

July 14th, 2012 at 7:00pm: Annual Sail Plymouth Festival, Plymouth, MA

This three day event located in "America's Hometown" includes a parade of boats, a WWII Patrol Torpedo boat, tall ships, and daily boat tours while remembering the historic landing of the Mayflower. <http://www.sailplymouthma.com/>

July 14-17, 2012: 14th Annual Roxbury International Film Festival, Roxbury, MA

Largest film festival in New England that Celebrates People of Color. Past guests have included: Billie Dee Williams, Ruby Dee, Robert Townsend, Michael Beach, Hill Harper, Daphne Maxwell Reid, and Victoria Rowell. Workshops, panel discussions and amazing films from all over the globe. RIFF – local ties, global reach. <http://www.roxburyfilmfestival.org>

July 27-29, 2012: The Lowell Folk Festival, Lowell, MA

This three day festival is the largest free folk festival in the United States. The festival includes delicious cuisines, children’s activities, and live bands throughout the downtown ending with an evening parade on the final day. <http://www.lowellfolkfestival.org/>

AUGUST

August 7-11, 2012: 10th Annual Martha’s Vineyard African American Film Festival, Oak Bluffs, MA

This four day event honors and supports aspiring African American filmmakers and their achievements with screenings of shorts and feature-length films as well actor's workshops, celebrity question-and-answer sessions, panel discussions, wine tastings, and a Black Art Expo. Event sponsors include HBO and Universal and the festival is being touted as the hottest African-American film festival in the country. <http://www.mvaaff.com/>

August 11-13, 2012: 8th Annual Provincetown Jazz Festival, Provincetown, MA

The three-day Jazz Festival is held in Provincetown, which is the Oldest Continuous Arts Colony in the United States. A portion of the proceeds are donated to worthy causes on Cape Cod. www.provincetownjazzfestival.org



August 12, 2012: The 27th Annual Pops by the Sea Concert, Hyannis, MA (2011 TOP 100 EVENTS)

Experience America’s most loved and recognized orchestra led by conductor Keith Lockhart and celebrity guest conductor Angie Dickinson. This event is the only time of the year that the Boston Pops play on Cape Cod. <http://www.artsfoundation.org/pops-by-the-sea>

August 19-24 & 26-31, 2012: Boston Restaurant Week, Boston, MA

With over 180 of the region’s best eateries to choose from, there are plenty of options to enjoy a memorable and affordable lunch or dinner out! You can choose from any featured restaurants’ three-course prix fixe lunches for \$20.08 and three-course dinners for \$33.08 – excluding beverage, tax and gratuity. <http://www.bostonusa.com/restaurant-week>

SEPTEMBER

September 1-7, 2012: Fishermen's Cup Challenge, Provincetown, MA

This year's 10th Annual Great Provincetown Schooner Regatta & Yacht Race will include the revival of the historic Fisherman's Cup from Gloucester to Provincetown extending the regatta's schedule of events into five full days of nautical competition in Provincetown Harbor and lively entertainment on shore. <http://www.provincetownschoonerrace.com/>



September 14-30, 2012: The Big E, West Springfield, MA (2011 TOP 100 EVENTS)

Celebrate the fall season at The Big E, the largest fair in the northeast. For 17 days during New England's most colorful season, enjoy free top-name entertainment, major exhibits, The Big E Super Circus, rides, shopping, crafts, parades, and foods from around the world. www.thebige.com/



September 21-23, 2012: 43rd Annual Bourne Scallop Festival, Bourne, MA (2011 TOP 100 EVENTS)

This annual Cape Cod festival attracts more than 50,000 visitors and includes games, rides, entertainment, and a home expo show. www.bournescallopfest.com/

September 24-30, 2012: Fall Nantucket Restaurant Week – Nantucket, MA

Enjoy special pricing and unique menus during the Annual Nantucket Restaurant Week. Visitors can experience exceptional food, wine and Nantucket hospitality in many of the island's great restaurants. Three course dinners are offered at \$25 and \$45.

www.nantucketrestaurantweek.com

September 28 – October 18, 2012: Topsfield Fair, Topsfield, MA

Established in 1818, America's oldest continuously running agricultural fair opens with the famed New England Giant Pumpkin weigh-off. In 2007, the 1,689-pound heavyweight champion earned a place in the Guinness Book of World Records, this year contestants will compete to earn that title. www.topsfieldfair.org/

September 29, 2012: Berklee BeanTown Jazz Festival, Boston, MA

This festival continues to grow, last year featuring 20 bands and 130 musicians on 10 stages throughout Boston. This year, music lovers will be treated to a variety of talent.

<http://www.beantownjazz.org/>

September 30, 2012: 57th Annual Berkshire Fall Foliage Parade, North Adams, MA

One of America's best foliage locales, the Berkshires of Western Massachusetts celebrates from late September to early October; this ongoing festival encompasses a wealth of activities for the whole family! And the leaf peeping is magnificent. <http://www.fallfoliageparade.com/>

OCTOBER

October 6-7, 2012: Massachusetts Cranberry Harvest Festival, Wareham, MA

The Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association festival includes cranberry harvesting tours, live entertainment, agricultural exhibits, and crafts. www.cranberries.org/festival/festival.html

October 6-8, 2012: 34rd Columbus Day Weekend Annual Seaside Festival, Yarmouth, MA

Arts and Crafts, Rides and Games, Food and Entertainment can be found at this annual festival.

<http://www.yarmouthseasidefestival.com/>

October 2012: 32nd Annual Haunted Happenings, Salem, MA

A month-long festival in the bewitching seaport of Salem includes a series of spooky events that involve haunted houses, storytelling tours and a Grand Parade.

<http://www.hauntedhappenings.org/>

October 13-14, 2011: Wellfleet Oysterfest, Wellfleet, MA

The oyster gets a befitting celebration at this weekend festival in Wellfleet, events include oyster-eating, kids activities, arts, music, cruises, historical talks on shell fishing, a road race, and a golf tournament. <http://www.wellfleetoysterfest.org/>

Dates TBA: Sturbridge Autumn Festival, Sturbridge, MA

This festival in the old tyme towne includes craft displays, music, food, a scarecrow contest, and other family-friendly events. http://www.sturbridge.org/harvest_festival

NOVEMBER

November 17, 2012: The Plymouth's Thanksgiving Day Parade & Food Festival, Plymouth, MA

The festivities include historical reenactments, patriotic concerts, vintage cars, and a food festival with the area's best chowders, soups and desserts. The unique Thanksgiving Day Parade offers spectacularly creative floats, individually crafted by local craftsmen. <http://usathanksgiving.com>



November 22, 2012: 18th Annual Bright Nights at Forest Park/Spirit of Springfield, Springfield, MA (2011 TOP 100 EVENTS)

One of New England's best Holiday lighting experiences with more than 600,000 lights along a 3 mile route. <http://www.spiritofspringfield.org/>

November 23-25, 2012: Worcester Center for Crafts' Annual Thanksgiving Festival of Crafts, Worcester, MA

For almost three decades, local craftspeople have hawked their wares at this festival. Held Thanksgiving weekend, the show will feature the work of 50-juried craftspeople from throughout the Northeast and will include New England made glass, woodwork, furniture and other crafts that you better not get for any teenagers on your list.

<http://www.worcester.edu/WCC/default.aspx>

November 30-December 2nd, 2012: The Christmas Stroll Weekend, Nantucket, MA

Part of the Island's month-long "Nantucket Noël" celebration, this community event attracts visitors from around the world—including Santa and Mrs. Claus who arrive on the island via a Coast Guard vessel and ride up Main Street in a horse-drawn carriage accompanied by the Town Crier. Carolers in Victorian costumes, student choirs and other musicians stroll through town performing while visitors can enjoy Nantucket's unique shops and restaurants.

<http://www.nantucketchamber.org/visitor/events.html>

DECEMBER

TBD: The 69th Annual Boston Common Tree Lighting, Boston, MA

Boston's Mayor officiates at this cherished tradition, which includes the lighting of the city's official Christmas tree – a gift from Nova Scotia – and the trees of the Common and Public Garden as well as performances by local and national entertainers. Also of course, children can meet Santa. Let the shopping begin! <http://www.cityofboston.gov/arts/treelightings.asp>

November 30- December 22, 2012: 23rd Annual Stockbridge Main Street at Christmas, Stockbridge, MA

The Western Massachusetts town that was featured in the Norman Rockwell painting "Main Street at Christmas" observes this distinction by reenacting the scene every year. See the Web site for a schedule of activities. <http://www.stockbridgechamber.org/christmas.html>

For a complete list of events in Massachusetts please visit <http://www.massvacation.com/find/events/> for more information on group tour events contact Dagny Ashley, Group Tour Manager dagny.ashley@state.ma.us

