

# Cruise Corner

## Scenic New England and Canada by Sea



Royal Caribbean

Consider taking an excursion on a sailboat to take in the beautiful scenery of the rocky shoreline of Nova Scotia.

Whether it's escaping the summer's heat and humidity or taking in the fantastic fall foliage, there is no better vacation than a cruise to the cooler climes of Canada to restore and refresh you. While white sands and palm trees are a hallmark of Caribbean cruises, New England and Canada offer an exciting alternative, particularly for veteran cruisers who may have the "been there, done that" view of the Caribbean and are seeking a new flavor. So appealing is this, that all of the major cruise lines now have cruises to New England and Canada. Fortunately, some of them depart from Baltimore.

There are many great ports of call on these cruises. Boston offers more historical sites of American history and maritime history than virtually any other city in North America. It's often difficult to choose from the many opportunities and excursions available to you while visiting Boston. One of our favorites is the Freedom Trail: a great walking tour that puts you smack in the middle of American history. Along the Freedom Trail, you'll see the headstones of the famous and the infamous dating back 300 years. Historic Back Bay, the North End, and the Boston Common with its beautiful Public Gardens are all must-see parts of the city.

In Back Bay, you can still see many elements of days gone by. The butcher shop with fresh rabbit hanging in the window; the old treadle-driven pasta-making machine making fresh noodles; and the famous swan boats are all delightful parts of the city's life as is the shopping on Newberry Street. Great pains have been taken to preserve the architectural integrity of the numerous buildings from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. And, there is more modern history as well. Stop by the Bull and Finch, the famous landmark of the *Cheers* television series. While the bar looks a little different than in the show, the façade is easily recognizable and surprisingly the food is both tasty and affordable. The atmosphere is fun, too, an added bonus missing from similar tourist attractions. Unfortunately, we did not spot Norm, Cliff, Coach, Sam, or Diane. As fascinating as Boston is, consider an excursion and spend the day in Gloucester, the famous fishing village from "The Perfect Storm," or Rockport with its tony art galleries, shops, and scenic harbor. Bring the camera!

Further up the coast are Maine's seaports. Bar Harbor, with an unparalleled beauty which attracted the social elite like the Astors, Vanderbilts, and Carnegies in times past, is surrounded by Acadia National Park and continues to captivate visitors today with its monumental granite cliffs, deep blue water, and rocky coastline. Another port of call in Maine is Portland. Be sure to visit the Old Port Exchange, an area loaded with historical buildings housing pubs, restaurants, and specialty shops. Portland has more breweries per capita than any other city in the country, and each of the seven offer tours allowing a taste of a wide variety of brews including ales, stouts, pilsners, and specialty microbrews.

Perhaps the most exciting of the ports is Nova Scotia and the Bay of Fundy. The 40-foot tidal changes in the Bay of Fundy are among the wonders of the world. Imagine tidal changes so extreme they could make a four-story building



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