

10 Indisputable Reasons Why Everyone Should Love Massachusetts

Small but mighty, Massachusetts is one amazing state (ahem: *commonwealth*). Need help proving it to your skeptical cousins from the other side of the country? Here are 10 reasons why they should tip their hats to the Bay State.

1. The American Revolution: Without hotheads like Sam Adams and John Hancock leading the way, the United States might never have struggled for its independence from England. You're welcome, America.



2. A+ Educational Institutions: Massachusetts is home to 114 colleges and universities, including Harvard, the country's oldest. Massachusetts' public schools are also consistently ranked tops in the nation.



3. Beautiful Beaches: You can't swim year round, but summer in New England can't be beat. From Salisbury to Provincetown, Nantucket to Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts' beaches are some of the best in the country.



4. Mountain Majesty: The beautiful Berkshires are just a couple hours from the beach when you're ready for a change of scenery. Leaf peeping? We perfected it.



5. Passionate Sports Fans: Love 'em or hate 'em, *no one* cheers on the hometown team like Massachusetts fans. (We also win a lot, too.)



6. Halloween Hijinks: Salem, one-time site of the infamous Salem Witch Trials, turns Halloween into a month-long celebration where self-proclaimed witches and warlocks take back the city.



7. Winter Wonderland: Massachusetts survived the snowiest winter on record in 2015. We laugh in the face of snow days and hit the slopes instead.



8. Fluffernutters: Marshmallow Fluff was invented in Somerville and is still made in Lynn. Replace the jelly in your peanut butter sandwich to make a fluffernutter, and you'll never go back to PB&J.



9. Dunkin' Donuts: You *could* start your day without a cup of coffee from Dunk's, but why would you want to? This Quincy-based doughnut shop has been supplying caffeine to addicts since 1950.



10. Hoop Dreams: James Naismith invented basketball at a Massachusetts YMCA in 1891. The Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield honors his game (and lots of Celtics players, to boot).

