



Cruise the Seacoast

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Between Seabrook, Hampton and Rye harbors there are plenty of ways for you to explore the high seas or visit the hidden corners of the Seacoast region on a tour of your choosing. For your convenience, we have rounded up some of the best ways to cruise the Seacoast as it was meant to be done – on the water.

WHALE WATCHING

Without a doubt, whale watching is one of the best ways to spend a day at sea in search of those mighty mammals that dwell in the dark deep ocean. A major reason that whales return to New Hampshire's Seacoast year after year is because of the fertile feeding grounds along Jafferies Ledge, an enormous shallow underwater region just off the coastline.

Local whale watching



boats offer an ideal platform to view whales from, with plenty of rail space and a second level to view these giant yet elusive animals. For those who might get tired of the fresh salty air, these fine vessels offer an interior cabin to sit down in for a spell. Food, snacks and beverages are also offered on all these vessels

A naturalist is usually on hand to identify the Humpback, Finback, Minke and

other whale species that you will see during your cruise.

Out of Rye Harbor, the Granite State Whale Watch lays claim to the title of "New Hampshire's only full time whale watch" as they offer two whale watch cruises a day, departing at 8:30 a.m. in the morning, and at 1:30 p.m. in the afternoon. To make reservations, please call 603) 964-5545, or toll free at 1-800-964-5545, or visit

them online at www.granitestatewhalewatch.com.

Rye Harbor's other whale watching boat, Atlantic Queen II offers a single afternoon whale watch cruise, which departs daily at 1:00 p.m. To make reservations or find out more information, please call them at (603) 964-5220, 1-800-whalenh, or visit them online at www.atlanticwhalewatch.com.

In Hampton Harbor, one of the boats in Al Gauron's Fleet sets sail to watch for whales seven days a week at 1:30 p.m. from the State Pier near the bridge. To make reservations or find out more information, please call them at (603) 926-2469, 1-800-905-7820, or visit them at www.algauron.com.

FISHING

They say that the best tasting fish is the one that you catch yourself. Cod, haddock, pollock, mackerel and bluefish are among the many fish in the sea



CRUISING — One of Al Gauron's boats approaches Star Island at the Isles of Shoals before returning to view the Hampton Beach Fireworks on Wednesday night.

— Beach News Photo by John Hirtle • www.ElseWhenStudio.com

you might catch on one of these fishing cruises. You can find out yourself by taking a deep sea fishing cruise and hook your own catch of the day. Bait is included, and rods and reels can be rented in case you left yours at home. In addition, the crew can fillet your catch at sea, so it's ready to cook as soon as you step off the boat.

In addition to the great fishing, there's always a chance to see whales on some of the longer deep sea fishing cruises.



Al Gauron's Fleet at the State Pier in Hampton Harbor offers a large variety of daily deep sea fishing cruises. Their

two hour, half-day, and all day cruises leave from the state pier in Hampton Harbor daily during the summer season. On Mondays, a special 12 hour marathon fishing cruise takes you even further out on the high seas. To make reservations or find out more information, please call them at (603) 926-2469, 1-800-905-7820, or visit them at www.algauron.com.

The Smith & Gilmore Deep Sea Fishing offers a variety daily fishing trips from the State Pier in Hampton Harbor. Their cruises can last two hours, half a day, three fourths of a day, and all day, along with a 12 hour 'Marathon Monday' fishing cruise. For more information, or to make reservations, please call 1-877-272-4005 or (603) 926-3503, or visit them on line at www.smithandgilmore.com.

Rye Harbor's 'big blue boat', the Atlantic Queen II sets sail for a half day of fishing at 8:00 a.m. every morning throughout the summer. To make reservations or find out more information, please call them at (603) 964-5220, 1-800-whalenh, or visit them online at www.atlanticwhalewatch.com.

FIREWORKS & ISLAND CRUISES.

It is no secret that Hampton Beach offers fantastic fireworks every Wednesday night during the summer season. What is less well known perhaps is that you can view the fireworks at sea – and see one of the overlooked features of the Seacoast area, the Isles of Shoals.

CRUISE Continued on 9A

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