

within a mile of each other on Route 133, where "you can spend a dollar on a post card or \$55,000 on a painting."

Endless hours spent scouring antiques shops can make even the heartiest New Englander work up an appetite, and luckily, Essex has its share of restaurants along the same one-mile stretch.

"We're starting to think of ourselves as New England's restaurant capital as well," says Coviello, pointing to eateries where diners can get everything from pasta and pizza to Chinese food and Massachusetts' classic seafood. Among the most famous of these restaurants is Woodman's of Essex, birthplace of the fried clam, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2014. In fact, Maureen Woodman, the iconic eatery's director of catering sales, says the summertime smell of fried clams coming from restaurants like Woodman's and J. T. Farnham's is one of her favorite things about the town.

"I like every restaurant in town," she says. "For a small street we have the best food."

Woodman also says she loves the town's natural beauty, and its centerpiece is the lovely Essex River, which changes constantly throughout the year.

"It's the most beautiful thing at high tide," she says. "Look at how many people just come and paint it."

Coviello agrees, saying, "I have a boat on the river.... I'm prone to sit on the boat and just go out and float." And like the residents of Ipswich, both Woodman and Coviello love the small-town intimacy of Essex. "When you live in a big city you're just one cog in the wheel," Coviello says. "But in a small town like Essex an individual can have an impact on what's happening." n|s



Must-Do List Items for your Ipswich and Essex Itinerary

1640 Hart House

on the town

Not only does 1640 Hart House serve excellent food in a cozy, historic house, but it's also got a world-renowned claim to fame; one of its original rooms is now on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. 51 Linebrook Rd., Ipswich, 978-356-1640, 1640harthouse.com

Ithaki

is the gold standard BONS award winner for Mediterranean food on the North Shore. 25 Hammatt St., Ipswich, 978-

25 Hammatt St., Ipswich, 978-356-0099, ithakicuisine.com

The Crane Estate

transports visitors back to early 20th-century grandeur.

290 Argilla Rd., Ipswich, 978-345-4351, thetrustees.org

Crane Beach

Soak up the sun, sand, and surf at the pristine and family-friendly Crane Beach. 310 Argilla Rd., Ipswich, 978-356-4354, thetrustees.org

Russell Orchards Farm Store & Winery

boasts pick-your-own fruit crops, a large farm store, activities for kids, and a wide variety of delicious locally made wines. 143 Argilla Rd., Ipswich, 978-356-5366, russellorchards.com

Choate Bridge Pub

is a downtown local

favorite serving up brews, burgers, pizza, and more in a friendly, casual environment. 3 South Main St., Ipswich, 978-356-2931, choatebridgepub.com

Whipple House

Visit the Whipple House museum to get a look life in 1677 America. 53 South Main St., Ipswich, 978-356-2811, ipswichmuseum.org



Clockwise from top left. The White Elephant Shop; The Farm Bar & Grille; J. T. Farnham's: and Andrew Spindler Antiques & Design

SALT Kitchen & Dum Bar

Elevated comfort food and spirits have quickly made SALT a North Shore foodie favorite. I Market St., Ipswich.

978-365-0002.

saltkitchenandrumbar.com

The Clam Box

With its clam boxshaped building and ever-present line out the door, The Clam Box is an Ipswich icon. 246 High St., Ipswich, 978-356-9707, ipswichma.com/ rlambox

Cogswell's Grant

is a restored 1728 farmhouse and home to one of the country's most important folk art collections.

60 Spring St., Essex, 978-768-3632, historicnewengland.org

Essex Shipbuilding Museum

showcases the town's reputation as shipbuilding capital, building more two-masted wooden fishing schooners than anywhere in the world. 55 Main St., Essex,

978-768-7541, essexshipbuildingmuseum.org



Main Street Antiques

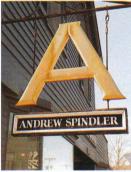
is one of the town's largest antiques shops, specializing in furniture. 44 Main St., Essex, 978-768-7039

Andrew Spindler Antiques & Design

is the place to go for high-end, exquisitely selected art and antiques. 163 Main St., Essex, 978-768-6045, spindlerantiques.com

The White **Elephant Shop**

At The White Elephant Shop you'll find an eclectic array of antiques



and collectibles. 32 Main St., Essex, 978-768-6901, whiteelephantshop.com

Woodman's of Essex

is the birthplace of the fried clam and an Essex



institution for more than 100 years.

121 Main St., Essex, 978-768-6057, woodmans.com

J. T. Farnham's

is another iconic seafood shack with diehard fried clam-loving devotees.

88 Eastern Ave., Essex, 978-768-6643

Blue Marlin Grille

Come here for fresh salads, seafood, steak, sandwiches, and more. 65 Eastern Ave., Essex, 978-768-7400, bluemarlingrille.com

Periwinkles Restaurant and Bar

offers riverfront dining and a fine art gallery. 74 Main St., Essex, 978-768-6320 periwinklesrestaurant.com

The Farm Bar & Grille

supplies horseshoes

and volleyball outside, and burgers inside. 233 Western Ave., Essex, 978-768-0000. farmbargrille.com

Chebacco Lake

Enjoy swimming, boating, fishing, and the outdoors at Chebacco Lake.

chebaccolake.org

Essex River Cruises & Charters

Tour the tidal estuary on a parrated cruise with Essex River Cruises & Charters.

35 Dodge St., 978-768-6981, essexcruises.com

Essex River Basin Adventures

The BONS awardwinning Essex River Basin Adventures offers guided kayak tours, lessons, and more.

1 Main St., Essex, 768-3722, erba.com



