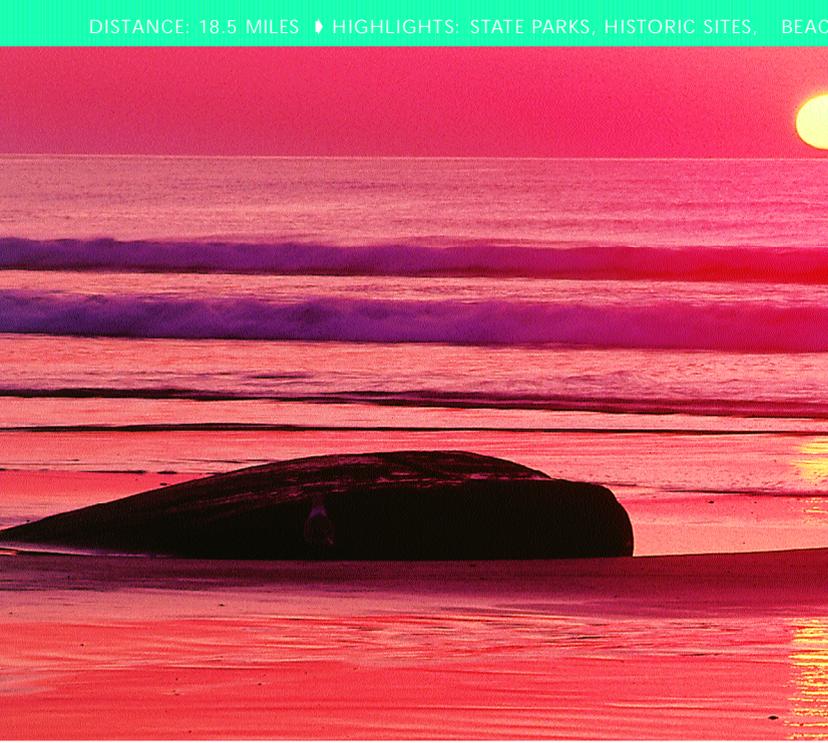




Coastal Byway



Sunrise at Jenness State Beach in Rye. Photo: NHD/TTD/Bob Grant

New Hampshire's coastal towns form a microcosm of forces which shaped the evolution of New England. As elsewhere, geography determined land use on the Seacoast. Here you can visit pre-historic sites from the Woodland Period (2500-400 B.C.) in Rye; or learn of the Native Americans in Winnacunet, now called Hampton. The Hampton area, a coastal plain, offered self-sufficiency through fishing.

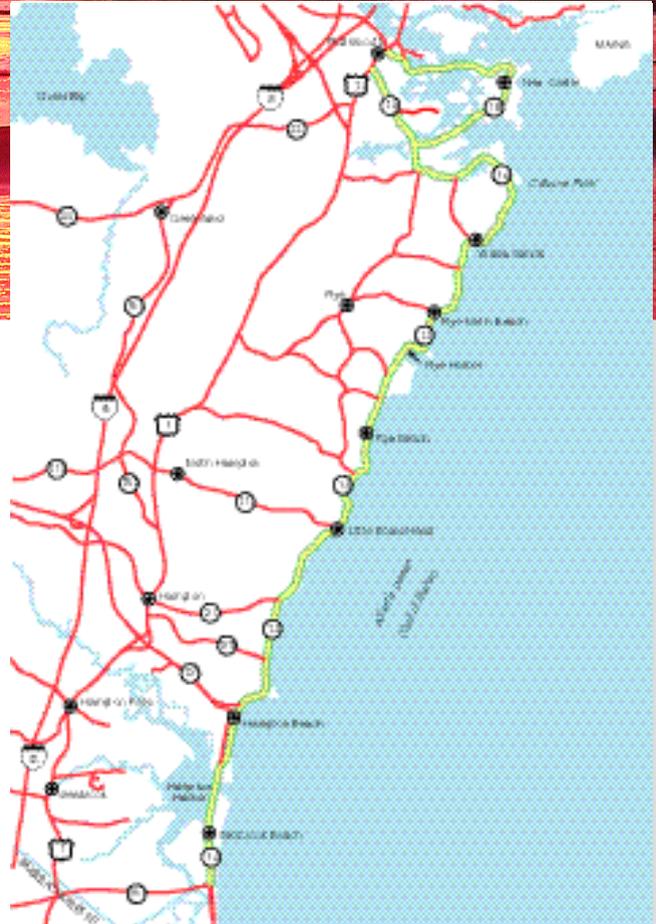
The 18.5 mile Coastal Byway encompasses Route 1A from Portsmouth to Seabrook, passing through the towns of Rye, North Hampton and Hampton Beach (18.5 miles), and Route 1B winding 4.5 miles through Portsmouth, New Castle and Rye. The Coastal Byway offers excellent views of the Atlantic Ocean, its sandy beaches, and showcases dozens of historic properties and scenic areas. This byway is popular with bicyclists, pedestrians and road travelers. Trolleys operating throughout the seacoast area provide alternative access to many of the sites.

PORTSMOUTH AND NEW CASTLE. From the north, start on

Route 1A in historic Portsmouth, passing sites such as the Strawberry Banke Museum and the road to the historic Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion. Portsmouth's architecture reflects its history as one of the nation's greatest port cities in the 18th and early 19th centuries. The route continues south through New Castle to the town of Rye.

For an interesting side trip, take Route 1B, which begins in the historic district of Portsmouth, and continue over the causeway to the island town of New Castle. This narrow route winds around historic properties and a recreational/beach area called Great Island Common. The foremost landmark of the community is the historic Wentworth-By-the-Sea Hotel, which housed both delegations during the signing of the Russo-Japanese Peace Treaty at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in 1905. The US Coast Guard Station along with Fort Constitution and Fort Stark are also located along the byway. Route 1B reconnects with 1A as you enter the town of Rye.

RYE AND NORTH HAMPTON. In Rye, travelers will find Odioune State Park and the Seacoast Science Center along with many scenic turn-offs and state and local beaches.



Odioune is the site of the first documented European settlement in New Hampshire. The Seacoast Science Center provides interpretive exhibits of coastal history and coastal ecology. Other State Parks in this area include Wallis Sands, Rye Harbor and Jenness Beach. Continuing south to the town of North Hampton, travelers will also pass by North Hampton State Beach and Fuller Gardens.

HAMPTON AND SEABROOK. Hampton Beach is the most popular seasonal resort community in the region. During the summer months, visitors flock to this area to enjoy sandy beaches, cultural events and lively entertainment.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: parking fees at state beaches, some parking areas.
CONTACT: Hampton Beach Chamber of Commerce, 603-926-8717 or 800-GET-A-TAN; Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce, 603-436-1118.