Get a taste for what makes this city dynamic – cultural diversity, world-renowned feasts and festivals, beaches and boating, great architecture, cobblestone streets, and home to the New Bedford Whaling National Historic Park. Learn about a past filled with stories from whaling, the textile industry, a working waterfront, and the Underground Railroad.

Once home to great American artists Albert Bierstadt, William Bradford, and Albert Pinkham Ryder, the city continues its love of the arts and is ranked the #7 most artistic city in the United States (based on the number of artists per capita) by Richard Florida, the author of the “Rise of the Creative Class”.

Come see our working waterfront, America’s #1 fishing port. Our authentic New England Seaport supports a unique blend of commercial and recreational boats!

Travel down a cobblestone path. See history come to life. It's all here in New Bedford. Get ready to explore!

DAY 1

STOP #1

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park
33 William Street
508-996-4095
www.nps.gov/nebe

New Bedford has a fascinating history, filled with stories of whalemen going to sea, escaped slaves seeking freedom, and connections to the sea that span for centuries. Inside the NBWNHP Visitor Center you can browse the park’s exhibits, bookstore, interactive kiosks, and view the orientation film. In addition, NBWNHP provides free guided tours that start from the national park visitor center. Groups of 10 or more should complete a group reservations request form with the park service.
STOP #2
New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center
38 Bethel Street
508-993-8894
The New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center is dedicated to preserving and presenting the story of the fishing industry past, present, and future through exhibits, programs, and archives.

STOP #3
Seamen’s Bethel & Mariners Home
18/15 Johnny Cake Hill
508-992-3295
Built in 1832 and once housing a school, seaman’s register, library and reading room, the non-denominational Seamen’s Bethel still serves the seafaring community of New Bedford while also providing a historical venue for special events.

Lunch Options:

Freestones City Grill
41 William Street
508-993-7477
www.freestonescitygrill.com
This locally-favored restaurant offers healthy choices, as well as great diverse selection of seafood and American cuisine.

On Own:
Destination Soups
149 Union Street
Hot and cold soups, salads, sandwiches, and vegetarian options.

BRICK Pizzeria Napoletana
163 Union Street
Authentic neapolitan wood-fired brick oven sourdough pizza in 90 seconds!

Shopping:

The Bedford Merchant
28 William Street
508-997-9194
www.bedfordmerchant.com
Step into an olde fashioned shopping experience!

Moby Dick Specialties
27 William Street
508-996-1114
www.mobydickretail.com
Your source for nautical themed gifts for the whole family.
STOP #4
New Bedford Art Museum
608 Pleasant Street
508-961-3072
www.newbedfordart.org
Located in historic New Bedford’s Seaport Cultural District, New Bedford Art Museum/ArtWorks! offers changing exhibitions of contemporary and traditional art from across the region and around the world.

STOP #5
Fort Taber–Fort Rodman Military Museum
South Rodney French Boulevard
www.forttaber.org/museum-history
Here you can see artifacts from every major American War, the evolution of Clark’s Point to Fort Rodman, as well as photos and stories of local men and women that have served our nation over each conflict. Seasonal living history programs encompassing King Phillip’s War in the 17th century to World War II occur inside of Fort Rodman.

Dinner Options:
Inner Bay Cafe
1339 Cove Road
508-984-0489
www.portuguesedishes.com/inner-bay-cafe----grille.html
Brining you the distinctive cuisine of Portugal in a casual atmosphere with a full bar including imported Portuguese liqueurs.

Me & Ed’s Restaurant
30 Brock Avenue
508-993-9922
https://www.facebook.com/Me-Eds-Family-Restaurant-And-Catering-166754339262/
Traditional Italian-American eatery serving pizza, fried seafood, pasta, subs, steaks and more. Catering also available.

Evening Entertainment:
Zeiterion Performing Arts Center
684 Purchase Street
508-994-2900
www.zeiterion.org
1920’s Georgian Revival style adaptation theater hosting a variety of world class performances each year including jazz, dance, musicals, comedy, blues, and family programs.

The Blue Lane
Rodney French Boulevard
508-979-1745
http://destinationnewbedford.org/listing/the-blue-lane/
Walkway atop the City’s hurricane barrier looking out upon Buzzards Bay, Fort Taber, Butler Flats Lighthouse, West Island, and Fort Phoenix.
DAY 2

STOP #1
Nathan and Polly Johnson House
21 Seventh Street
508-979-8828
www.nbhistoricalsociety.org
Contact: Lee Blake 774-929-3035
Nathan and Polly Johnson were free blacks living in New Bedford during the 1850’s. They were advent abolitionists and used their home as a staging point for the Underground Railroad. In fact, this is the first place that the great Frederick Douglas and his family stayed after escaping slavery in 1838.

STOP #2
New Bedford Whaling Museum
18 Johnny Cake Hill
508-997-0046
www.whalingmuseum.org
Contact: Gayle Hargreaves
Devoted to the global story of whales, whaling, and the cultural history of the region, the museum’s 20 galleries of maritime art and science exhibits include five whale skeletons and the world’s largest ship model, Lagoda, which visitors may climb aboard. The Museum’s collections number in excess of 750,000 items, including the world’s largest collections of scrimshaw, whaling logbooks, and journals.

Lunch Options:
The Black Whale
106 Pier 3/Fisherman’s Wharf
508-990-7100
www.theblackwhale.com
Specializing in the freshest seafood from boat to restaurant plus a sushi bar.

On Own:
DNB Burgers
768 Purchase Street
Craft burgers and hand cut fries.

Tia Maria’s European Cafe
42 N Water Street
Made to order with local and organic ingredients whenever possible.

Shopping:
NB Whaling Museum Store
18 Johnny Cake Hill
508-997-0046
www.store.whalingmuseum.org
Unique items including apparel, books, jewelry, DVDs, posters, archival prints reproduced from collections, and ship models.

The Landing Gift Shop & Chandlery
98 Front Street
508-642-9211
www.thelanding98.com
USA Made Gifts, Screen Printing, Fishing Supplies, Fine Art, Jewelry, and more!
STOP #3
Harbor Tour - Whaling City Expeditions
City Pier 3, 228 MacArthur Drive
508-984-4979
www.whalingcityexpeditions.com
Experienced captains take visitors on a relaxing, narrated 60-minute cruise around historic New Bedford Harbor: Palmer’s Island Lighthouse, Fort Phoenix, the largest Hurricane Barrier on the East Coast, No. 1 Fishing Fleet in U.S., Schooner Ernestina, Joshua Slocum Memorial, and lots of Whaling History!

STOP #4
New Bedford Seaport Art Walk
City Pier 3/Fisherman’s Wharf
508-979-1745
www.destinationnewbedford.org/seaport-art-walk
The New Bedford working waterfront is transformed with original sculpture created by local artists. Ten to twenty sculptures are temporarily installed along MacArthur Blvd, the City and State piers, and in the city’s Seaport Cultural District.

Dinner Options:

Merrill’s on the Waterfront
36 Homer’s Wharf
508-997-7010
https://www.merrillswaterfront.com
Merrill’s is a truly unique harbor-front restaurant that provides each of its guests a front row seat into the country’s most valuable fishing port.

Rose Alley
94 Front Street
508-858-5123
www.drinkrosealley.com
Casual pub specializing in the best all Angus burgers, chicken wings and tenders, offering 26 flavors of zesty dry rubs and savory sauces. (Private Room capacity 30)