

图书基本信息

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内容概要

Six states, a city called Boston, and home of the original Yankees - that's New England. It can claim to be the first clearly-defined region of the United States, without which there might not be a United States. Tucked away in the northeast corner of the land, closest to the country that gave it its name, England, it was from New England that the earliest revolutionary talk came and where the first shot was fired in the American Revolution. To look at some of these perfect pastoral landscapes today, New England hardly has the look of revolutionary fervor, although the area still has a reputation for political individuality. That applies to some states more than others, of the six that make up New England: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. The region's largest center is Boston, always a maverick among American cities. It probably has more nicknames than any other city in the States, known among other things as The City on the Hill, The Athens of America, The Cradle of Liberty or just plain old Beantown, thanks to its history of baked bean production. It's also known as Puritan City, as its founders were Puritans, and throughout these pages the Puritan/English influence can clearly be seen. Place names like Plymouth and Truro - and even Boston itself - hark back to the land the Pilgrim fathers left in order to come to the New World and seek religious peace. In so many ways New England is little changed since those days of the European settlers. The landscape was carved out 10,000 years ago when the last of the retreating glaciers left North America and Canada, leaving behind in New England a jagged coastline, rugged mountains, lakes and hills. Mankind has encroached in the last few hundred years, but the area's 70,000 square miles, and population of fewer than 14 million people, still leaves plenty of breathing space. Mount Washington in New Hampshire's White Mountains is, at 6,288 ft, New England's highest point, and has the dubious distinction of being the windiest place on earth, where the fastest winds have been recorded. The White Mountains cover about one-quarter of the state of New Hampshire, and part of Maine. The Appalachian Mountains also run through New England, taking with them the nation's longest waymarked footpath, the Appalachian Trail, which starts (or ends) in New England. Its beauty as it passes through regions like the Beantown State Forest is captured in these pages. New England's beauty is not just in forests and mountain ranges, though, it can be seen in a single fall leaf. The area is renowned for having the most stunning displays of fall colors, whether it be in one of its state forests or in a small Boston park. But it is colorful in other ways too, from the crimson cranberries of the Massachusetts bogs to the golden maple syrup and the vivid orange pumpkins found all over. Food is an important feature here, especially seafood. Due to the ravages of those ancient glaciers, Maine has been left with about 5,000 miles more coastline than California. In those inlets and harbors, Maine lobsters and oysters grow in abundance, and while the fishing industry may have grown much more commercial, to feed the appetites of millions of Americans, there are still 11 regular fishing communities to be found, where family boats with a small crew go out to haul in the bounty of the sea. Lighthouses warn of the dangers and lobster pots hint at the rewards of this maritime life, and it's a heritage which lingers long. Boston's harbors are a link with the past, and the condos where boats line up outside show that the maritime memories remain. Indeed New England is a land where memories do remain, as the states are filled with buildings that keep the past alive. Some are museums, some are places of worship, and some continue to be family homes, often occupied by the same families that have lived in them for several generations. In Boston the John Hancock Tower, New England's tallest building, reflects in its windows a 19th-century church. The city's 18th-century Faneuil Hall now rubs shoulders with 21st-century bars and clubs. Harvard University, founded in 1836 and the oldest higher learning institution in the USA, still produces the nation's top scholars and presidents, artists and lawyers. Its old buildings, caught in the light of these pages, still inspire those who aspire to achieve. Throughout the beautiful and rich agricultural lands of New England, there are plenty who think they already have the best that life has to offer, simply by living in one of these six states, in this corner of the USA.

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