Public Transit Services

From the *Massachusetts Coast Guide to Boston & the North Shore* published by the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) in 2005

Many of the sites listed in the *Massachusetts Coast Guide to Boston and the North Shore* can be reached by public transportation, reducing parking hassles, smog, and traffic congestion on coastal roadways. Below is information on available public ground and water transportation on the North Shore and in Greater Boston Harbor.

Ground Transportation

Subway, commuter rail, and bus service is available throughout the region. Here is a list of the major ground transportation providers, with their websites and phone numbers to obtain additional information about schedules, fares, etc.



Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority - The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) provides subway, bus, and commuter rail service to 175 cities and towns. The MBTA's Newburyport/Rockport commuter rail line serves the coastal communities of Chelsea, Lynn, Swampscott, Salem, Beverly, Manchester, Gloucester, Rockport, Ipswich, Rowley, and Newburyport. The Plymouth/Kingston line serves the Greater Boston Harbor communities of Braintree, Quincy, and Weymouth, as well as other coastal communities on the South Shore. Commuter rail stations are indicated on Coast Guide maps to help you identify public transportation options. For additional route, schedule, and fare information, see the MBTA website at www.mbta.com or call (617) 222-3200, 1-800-392-6100 (toll free outside of Massachusetts), or TTY (617) 222-5146 (hearing impaired). The MBTA allows bicycles on trains and buses, with certain restrictions. Information on the MBTA bike policy is available on the web or by phone.

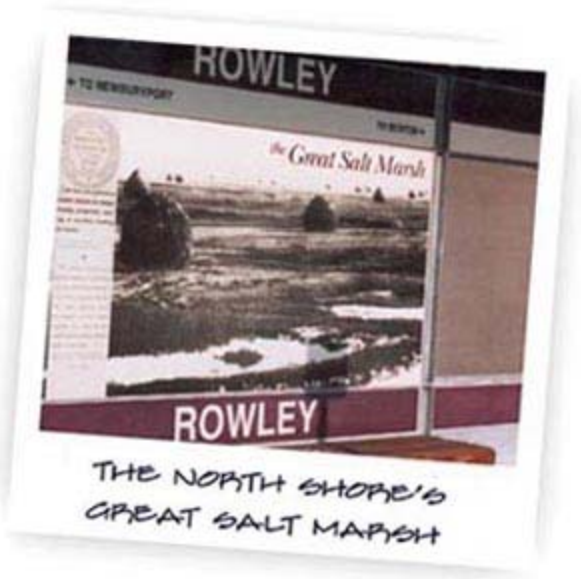
Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority - The Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA) provides bus service to the northeast part of Massachusetts, including the coastal communities of Amesbury and Newburyport, with summer service to Salisbury and Hampton Beaches. For information on bus routes, schedules, and fares see the MVRTA website at www.mvrta.com or call (978) 469-6878.

Cape Ann Transportation Authority - The Cape Ann Transportation Authority (CATA) provides bus service for Gloucester and Rockport. For information, go to www.canntran.com or call (978) 283-7916.

Water Transportation

What better way to reach *Coast Guide* sites than by water? The following water transportation services are available to the North Shore and Greater Boston Harbor.

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority - Along with subway, bus, and train service, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) has several commuter boat routes in the Boston area. The MBTA website has an extensive listing of water transportation services for Boston, Charlestown, Hingham, Quincy, and other coastal communities. Major ferry terminals are indicated on Coast Guide maps. For more information, see www.mbta.com or call (617) 222-3200, 1-800-392-6100 (toll free outside of Massachusetts), or TTY (617) 222-5146 (hearing impaired).



Boston Harbor Cruises - Boston Harbor Cruises (BHC) operates several commuter boat lines for the MBTA. In the summer and fall, BHC also runs Boston Harbor sightseeing cruises. For schedules and fees, see the BHC website at www.bostonharborcruises.com or call (617) 227-4321 or 1-877-SEE-WHALE.

Harbor Express - Harbor Express also provides MBTA commuter boat service. For information, see www.bostonsbestcruises.com/harbor-express or call (617) 222-6999.

Massachusetts Bay Lines - Massachusetts Bay Lines, Inc. provides a variety of harbor and sightseeing cruises. See www.massbaylines.com or call (617) 542-8000 for information.

City Water Taxi - City Water Taxi has more than a dozen stops on the Boston waterfront. For schedules, rates, and additional information, see www.citywatertaxi.com or call (617) 422-0392.



Photos: Arden Miller