



Welcome to New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park

Experience a Park in Partnership—Downtown, Waterfront, and Neighborhood. New Bedford was the mid 19th century's preeminent whaling port and, for a time, "the richest city in the world." Stroll down cobblestone streets, visit the world's largest whaling museum, tour a whaling merchant's home and whaleman's chapel, and explore the docks of America's number one fishing port. Walk in the footsteps of Herman Melville and Frederick Douglass and learn about a remarkable era.

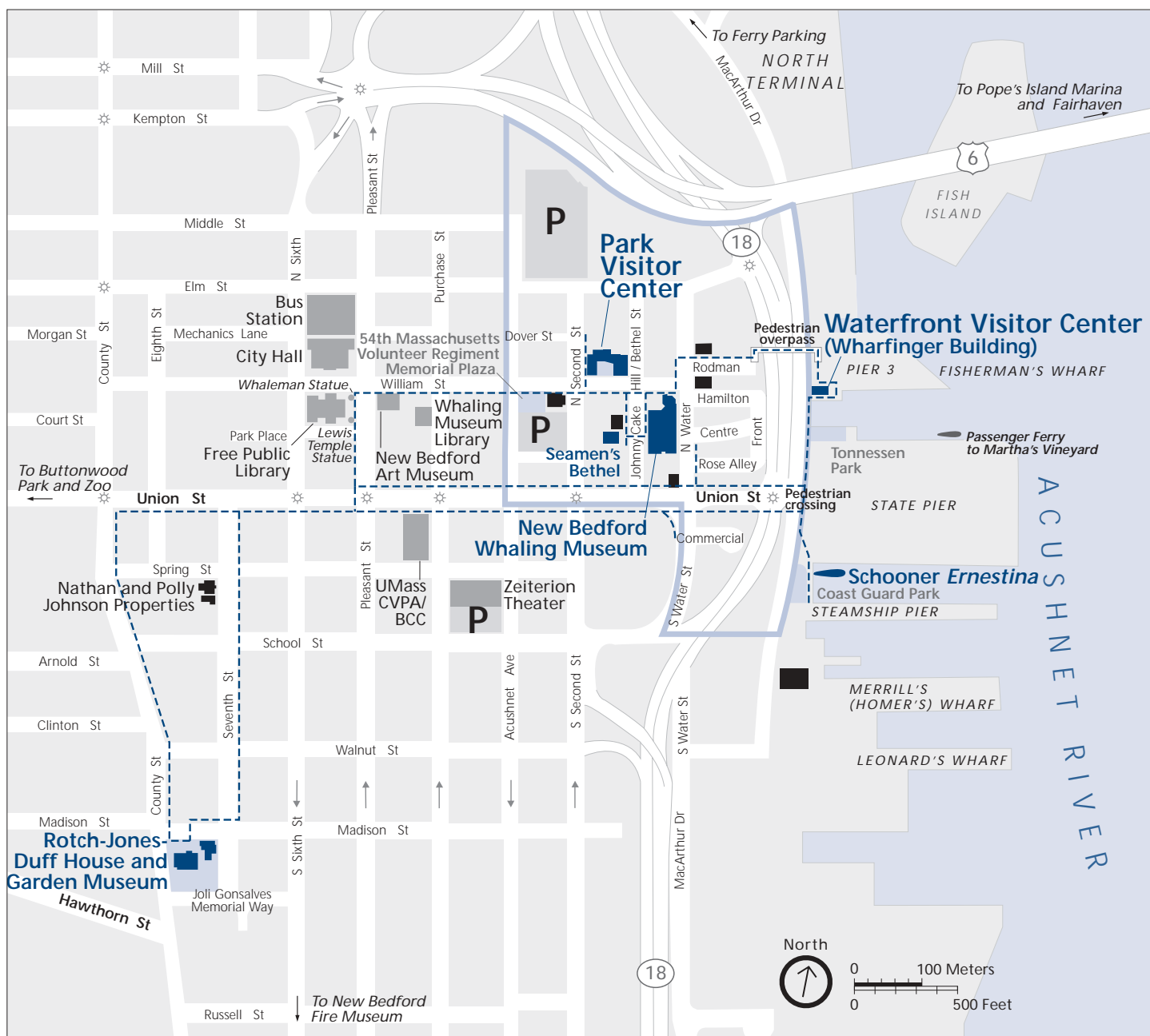


National Park Visitor Center and Corson Maritime Learning Center



Seamen's Bethel and Mariner's Home

Park Map and Nautical Mile Walking Tour



Waterfront Visitor Center



New Bedford Whaling Museum



Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum



Schooner Ernestina

- Historical park site not open to public
- Historical park boundary
- Historical park site
- Point of interest
- Traffic light
- Nautical Mile Self-guided walking tour

Sites and Hours of Operation



National Park Visitor Center

The New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park Visitor Center and Corson Maritime Learning Center is a good place to begin your visit. Exhibits, programs, and park staff orient you to the homes of whaling's elite, business districts that supported the whaling industry, the chapel featured in Melville's *Moby-Dick*, and the world's largest whaling museum.



Hours

Open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., 7 days a week, year round. Open 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. the second Thursday of every month for AHA! night and 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. every Thursday between July 10 and August 28. FREE
33 William Street
(508) 996-4095
www.nps.gov/nebe



New Bedford Whaling Museum

The New Bedford Whaling Museum holds the world's largest global whaling and maritime history collections, including a replica half-scale whaling ship, several rare whale skeletons, whaling implements, log-books, and art.



Hours

Open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., 7 days a week, year round. Open until 9:00 p.m. on Thursdays in the summer. Entrance fee. Jacobs Gallery, store, and orientation film are free.
18 Johnny Cake Hill
(508) 997-0046
www.whalingmuseum.org



Seamen's Bethel

Built in 1832 and once housing a school, seamen's register, library, and reading room, the non-denominational Seamen's Bethel still serves the seafaring community of New Bedford. This historical site provides a venue for joyous occasions such as weddings and baptisms as well as a somber setting for funeral and memorial services.



Hours

Open 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday Memorial Day through Columbus Day except during private services. FREE
15 Johnny Cake Hill
(508) 992-3295



Waterfront Visitor Center

On New Bedford's waterfront you can walk about an active commercial fishing port. The exhibits in the city of New Bedford's Wharfinger Building (Waterfront Visitor Center) engage you in present-day commercial fishing, while outdoor displays at the water's edge offer glimpses into New Bedford's maritime past.



Hours

Open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, year round. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Memorial Day through Labor Day. FREE
52 Fisherman's Wharf-Pier 3
(508) 979-1745
www.ci.new-bedford.ma.us

Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum



A short walk from downtown leads to neighborhoods where both grand and modest homes were built during the whaling and textile eras. You will find the Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum, which offers a chance to enter a 19th century whaling mansion built by the fortunes of whaling.



Hours

Open 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Entrance fee.
396 County Street
(508) 997-1401
www.rjdmuseum.org



Schooner *Ernestina* (when in port)

Built in Essex Massachusetts in 1894, the *Ernestina ex Effie M. Morrissey* is a National Historic Landmark and official vessel of Massachusetts. She fished the Grand Banks, explored the Arctic, and carried passengers and cargo between the Cape

Verde islands and southeastern New England. Her history is a remarkable legacy that spans continents, ethnic groups, and generations. *Ernestina* will be away for the summer to have work done on her hull and deck.

Hours

State Pier, New Bedford
(508) 992-4900
www.ernestina.org

Summer Calendar of Events

June

Thursday, June 12

AHA! Night

5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. AHA! Night *New Bedford Cultures* - for information about this evening's programming visit www.ahanewbedford.org

[National Park and Downtown New Bedford \(free\)](#)

7:00 p.m. Marlene Lopes, Associate Professor of the James P. Adams Library collections of Cape Verdean culture at Rhode Island College, presents an illustrated lecture on Cape Verdean Americans. Light refreshments to follow.

[Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum \(free\)](#)

Thursday, June 12 - Sunday, June 15
Needlework and the Sea Symposium

Held in conjunction with the exhibition *Needlework - Art, Craft, and Industry in a Port City*. Enjoy two mornings of lectures on topics ranging from New Bedford's sampler girls to the city's sailmakers. The symposium features a schedule of papers, walking tours of the park, visits to local historical sites, and stitching workshops. For registration information visit

www.whalingmuseum.org or call (508) 997-0046 extension 101

[New Bedford Whaling Museum \(must register to attend\)](#)

Monday, June 16 - Wednesday, June 18
Whaling Heritage Symposium

This three-day symposium (June 16-17 at Mystic Seaport and June 18 at the New Bedford Whaling Museum) focuses on selected themes and will feature cultural practitioners, authors, archaeologists, historians, curators, marine resource managers and others. For more information visit:

www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov/maritime/whaling

[New Bedford Whaling Museum \(must register to attend\)](#)

Saturday, June 21

The Village and the Fishing Net

1:00 p.m. A special performance by the Children's Dance ensemble of New Bedford featuring students from the Betsey B. Winslow Elementary School and directed by Joan Thomas-Mello

[New Bedford Whaling Museum \(free\)](#)

July

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 4-6
New Bedford Summerfest

Friday, 7:00 p.m. kick off concert [Downtown \(fee\)](#)

Saturday and Sunday 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. [Downtown \(fee\)](#)

An international folk music and arts festival held throughout the park. For more information visit www.newbedfordsummerfest.com



Saturday, July 5

Cape Verdean Recognition Day Parade

As part of Cape Verdean Recognition Week, the park will celebrate by marching in the 36th annual Cape Verdean Recognition Day Parade. Parade begins at 11:00 a.m. at Buttonwood Park and ends at the Cape Verdean Veterans Hall (561 Purchase Street).



Thursday, July 10

Thursday Evenings in the Park, AHA!, Living History Program

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Living History Program

[Various locations throughout the park - stop by the park visitor center for locations. \(free\)](#)

5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. AHA! Night *Summer Sounds*-for information about this evening's programming visit

www.ahanewbedford.org (free)

6:00 p.m. *Chocolate on New Bedford Whaling Ships* lecture by Christopher P. Kelly

[New Bedford Whaling Museum Research Library \(free\)](#)

6:30 p.m. Johnson Girls - Sea Chanteys

[National Park Visitor Center Garden \(free\)](#)



The Johnson Girls

Friday, July 11

Living History Program

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. [Various locations throughout the park - stop by the park visitor center for locations. \(free\)](#)

Saturday, July 12

Maritime Heritage Days

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. [National Park Visitor Center Garden \(free\)](#)
Ron Raiseles - Cooperage

Wednesday, July 16

New Bedford and the Rotch Family

7:00 p.m. *Lighting the Way, the Life and Legacy of William Rotch Jr.* by Marc Songini

[Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum \(free\)](#)

Thursday, July 17

Thursday Evenings in the Park, Living History Program

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Living History Program

[Various locations throughout the park - stop by the park visitor center for locations. \(free\)](#)

6:00 p.m. DVD presentation: *Last of the Whaling Outfitters*
[Corson Maritime Learning Center theater](#)

6:30 p.m. di Bostoner Klezmer - Jewish Klezmer

[National Park Visitor Center Garden \(free\)](#)

7:30 p.m. Exhibit opening & curator's tour of *Sea and Sky: Atmospheric Explorations* by William Bradford and Other Marine Artists
[New Bedford Whaling Museum \(free with museum admission\)](#)

Friday, July 18

Living History Program

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. [Various locations throughout the park - stop by the park visitor center for locations. \(free\)](#)

Saturday, July 19

Maritime Heritage Days

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Living History Program

[Various locations throughout the park - stop by the park visitor center for locations. \(free\)](#)

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. [National Park Visitor Center Garden \(free\)](#)
Karen Chace - Storyteller (2 half hour shows, 12:00 and 1:00)

Thursday, July 24

Thursday Evenings in the Park, Living History Program

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Living History Program

[Various locations throughout the park - stop by the park visitor center for locations. \(free\)](#)

6:30 p.m. Joao Cerilu - Pilon Batuku - Cape Verdean music

[National Park Visitor Center Garden \(free\)](#)

7:30 p.m. Candida Rose Trio - Kabu Jazz

[New Bedford Whaling Museum Plaza \(free\)](#)

Thursday Evenings in the Park

On Thursday evenings throughout July and August, beginning July 10, the park will offer a wide variety of free events including musical performances in a beautiful garden setting.

The Thursday evening concerts will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will last approximately one hour. Performances will take place in the park visitor center garden. Limited seating is available and people are invited to bring lawn chairs. In case of rain, concerts will be moved to the Corson Maritime Learning Center, adjacent to the park visitor center. Following each concert, the New Bedford Whaling Museum will offer either a musical performance, lecture, or special tour beginning at 7:30 p.m. Please see the New Bedford Whaling Museum's summer calendar for more information including admission fees.



di Bostoner Klezmer



Joao Cerilu of Pilon Batuku

Friday, July 25
Living History Program

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Various locations throughout the park - stop by the park visitor center for locations. (free)

Saturday, July 26
Maritime Heritage Days

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. National Park Visitor Center Garden (free)
Liz LeValley - Scrimshaw

Monday, July 28 through
Saturday, August 2
Free Admission to the Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum

Visit the Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum free of charge between July 28 and August 2 to celebrate the opening of the new exhibit *Lighting the Way: The Life and Legacy of William Rotch Jr.* [Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum](#)

Thursday, July 31
Thursday Evenings in the Park,
Living History Program

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Living History Program
Various locations throughout the park - stop by the park visitor center for locations. (free)
6:30 p.m. Jim McGrath - Maritime music
[National Park Visitor Center Garden \(free\)](#)
7:30 p.m. Melville Birthday lecture: *The Most Important Fish in the Sea* by H. Bruce Franklin
[New Bedford Whaling Museum Theater \(free\)](#)

August

Friday, August 1
Living History Program

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Various locations throughout the park - stop by the park visitor center for locations. (free)

Saturday, August 2
Maritime Heritage Days

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. National Park Visitor Center Garden (free)
Dean Rantz - Blacksmithing

Thursday, August 7
Thursday Evenings in the Park,
Living History Program

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Living History Program
Various locations throughout the park - stop by the park visitor center for locations. (free)
6:30 p.m. Black Brook Singers - Wampanoag music
[National Park Visitor Center Garden \(free\)](#)
7:30 p.m. Curator's tour of *Needlework - Art, Craft, and Industry in a Port City* with Madelyn Shaw
[New Bedford Whaling Museum \(free with museum admission\)](#)

Friday, August 8
Living History Program

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Various locations throughout the park - stop by the park visitor center for locations. (free)

Saturday, August 9
Maritime Heritage Days
Living History Program

10:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. Living History Program - Various locations throughout the park - stop by the park visitor center for locations. (free)
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. National Park Visitor Center Garden (free)
Willi Bank - Knot Tying

Thursday, August 14
Thursday Evenings in the Park, AHA!,
Living History Program

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Living History Program
Various locations throughout the park - stop by the park visitor center for locations. (free)
5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. AHA! Night *Kids Rule* - for information about this evening's programming visit [www.ahanewbedford.org](#)
6:00 p.m. Lecture - *The Garden Club of Buzzards Bay and its Blossoming History* with Johanna Hood
[New Bedford Whaling Museum Research Library \(free\)](#)
6:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. and 7:30 - 8:15 p.m. The Toe Jam Puppet Band offers a brand of children's entertainment featuring original songs, shadow puppetry, and storytelling that adults will enjoy too. [National Park Visitor Center Garden \(free\)](#)

Living History Program

Listen in on a conversation between two New Bedford women from the 1850s as they discuss the issues of the day and life in the bustling whaling port.

Every Thursday evening and Friday afternoon between July 10 and August 14, and Saturday, July 19 and Saturday, August 9. See listings on calendar for times.

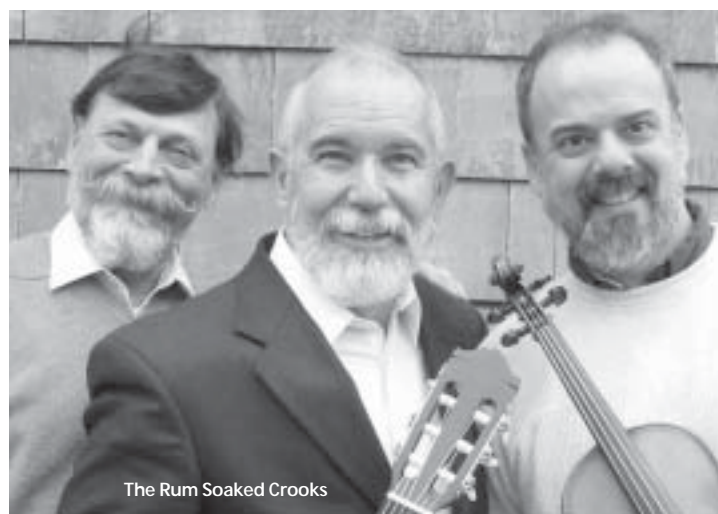


Saturday, August 16
Maritime Heritage Days

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. National Park Visitor Center Garden (free)
Bill Boffa - Sailor's Valentines

Thursday, August 21
Thursday Evenings in the Park

6:30 p.m. Rum Soaked Crooks - Maritime music
[National Park Visitor Center Garden \(free\)](#)
7:30 p.m. Lecture - *TUNA - A Love Story* with Richard Ellis
[Whaling Museum Theater \(free\)](#)



The Rum Soaked Crooks

Saturday, August 23
Maritime Heritage Days

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. National Park Visitor Center Garden (free)
Tor Bendiksen - Net Making

Thursday, August 28
Thursday Evenings in the Park

6:30 p.m. The Beans - Maritime music
[National Park Visitor Center Garden](#)
7:30 p.m. New Bedford Harbor Sea Chantey Chorus performs traditional maritime music [Whaling Museum Plaza \(free\)](#)

September

Thursday, September 11
AHA! Night

5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. AHA! Night *A Night of Walking Tours*. Sponsored, in part, by New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park. For information about this evening's programming visit [www.ahanewbedford.org](#)
[National Park and Downtown New Bedford \(free\)](#)

Saturday and Sunday, September 27-28
Working Waterfront Festival

This free festival is a fun, family-friendly event celebrating the history and culture of New England's commercial fishing industry. The festival features live ethnic and maritime music, children's activities, cooking demonstrations, vessel and harbor tours, fisherman's contests, author readings, film screenings, local seafood, festival bookstore, maritime artisans marketplace & more. For more information visit [www.workingwaterfrontfestival.org](#)
[New Bedford's working piers and waterfront parks \(free\)](#)

Maritime Heritage Days

Every Saturday in July and August, beginning July 12, come to a mini-maritime festival with craft demonstrations and make and take activities for families in the park visitor center garden. These fun, free activities take place from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. In the event of rain, activities will be moved into the Corson Maritime Learning Center.



AHA! Nights



AHA! (Art, History, Architecture) is New Bedford's free downtown cultural night. Held the second Thursday of every month from 5:00 - 9:00 p.m., AHA! events are put on by a collaborative team of more than 50 partners including museums, galleries, arts organization, merchants, restaurants and the park. For information about themes and programming visit [www.ahanewbedford.org](#)



Working Waterfront Festival

Daily Programs and Activities

What's New in the Park?

The newly rehabilitated Corson Maritime Learning Center opened its doors on May 16, 2008. The visitor experience is greatly enhanced by the addition of a multi-purpose educational space, 55-seat theater, new exhibit and seminar space, and staff offices. Come explore new exhibits that highlight themes such as the commerce of whaling and the preservation of New Bedford's waterfront historic district.

Right: A large map showing ports-of-call of New Bedford whaleships adorns one of the walls in the newly constructed link connecting the Corson Maritime Learning Center to the visitor center.



The City that Lit the World

The City that Lit the World is the official orientation film for New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park. The 22-minute movie, produced by Northern Light Productions for the National Park Service in collaboration with park partners, introduces visitors to the city's role in the American whaling industry.

The movie is free of charge and shown daily at the top of every hour between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. in July and August (10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. the rest of the year) in the Corson Maritime Learning Center theater. The theater is equipped with an induction loop and assistive listening devices for the hearing impaired, Portuguese translation, and includes a handicap accessible seating area.



Come to the national park visitor center and see *The City that Lit the World* in the Corson Maritime Learning Center's new theater.

National Park Walking Tours



National Park volunteers and rangers offer guided walking tours of the park seven days a week in July and August.

Guided Walking Tours

Free national park tours last approximately one hour and step off from the national park visitor center at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and at 2:30 p.m. July and August beginning July 7. The tours take visitors through the cobblestoned streets of the park and waterfront, while exploring the many stories associated with New Bedford's maritime past and present. In addition to the regular schedule, on weekends in July and August starting July 12, special theme tours will be offered. See the brown box (above right) for theme tour schedule.

Theme Tours

Saturday 10:30 a.m. Underground Railroad
Saturday 12:30 p.m. Whaling Industry
Saturday 2:30 p.m. Working Waterfront

Sunday 10:30 a.m. Whaling Industry
Sunday 12:30 p.m. Working Waterfront
Sunday 2:30 p.m. Underground Railroad



Park visitors enjoy one of the 42 outdoor interpretive panels along the *Nautical Mile* self-guided walking tour.

Self-guided Walking Tours

Several free self-guided walking tour brochures are available for visitors who wish to explore the park at their own pace. The self-guided walking tours include: *New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park Map and Guide*; *The Underground Railroad: New Bedford*; *Herman Melville's New Bedford*; *Nautical Mile (map on front of this publication)*; and *Working Waterfront Dock Walk*. Brochures and maps are available at the national park visitor center and the waterfront visitor center.

For Kids!



Junior Ranger Program

Pick up your free Junior Ranger activity booklet at the park visitor center. As you explore the park, complete the activities presented in the booklet. Once you have finished, return to the visitor center information desk to receive your official Junior Ranger badge and sticker. The Junior Ranger program is appropriate for children ages 5-12. For more information, inquire at the visitor center information desk.

All Hands On

July 9 - August 15 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon at the New Bedford Whaling Museum. Plan your arrival at any time during these hours and explore at your own pace. Docents will be available to answer questions, read stories about whales and whaling, and encourage children to investigate the contents of Discovery Sea Chests. Free with admission to the whaling museum.

Whaling Days

July 8 - August 14 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon at the New Bedford Whaling Museum. Explore, discover, and learn throughout the museum. Fun and engaging activities presented by museum docents will encourage young visitors to think about what life was like in 19th century New Bedford. Free with admission to the whaling museum.

Gallery Tours

Mondays and Thursdays from July 8 to August 14, 1:00 p.m. Museum docents will guide visitors through the museum and present an overview of the New Bedford Whaling story. Tours last about 40 minutes. Free with admission to the whaling museum.

Science Wednesdays

On July 30, August 6, and August 13 at 1:30 p.m. join New Bedford Whaling Museum staff members as they explore themes such as whale stories, whale math and science, and whale biology. Free with admission to the whaling museum. Space is limited, call (508) 997-0046 extension 101 to register.

Wednesday, July 30 - Whale Stories

Wednesday, August 6 - Whale Math & Science

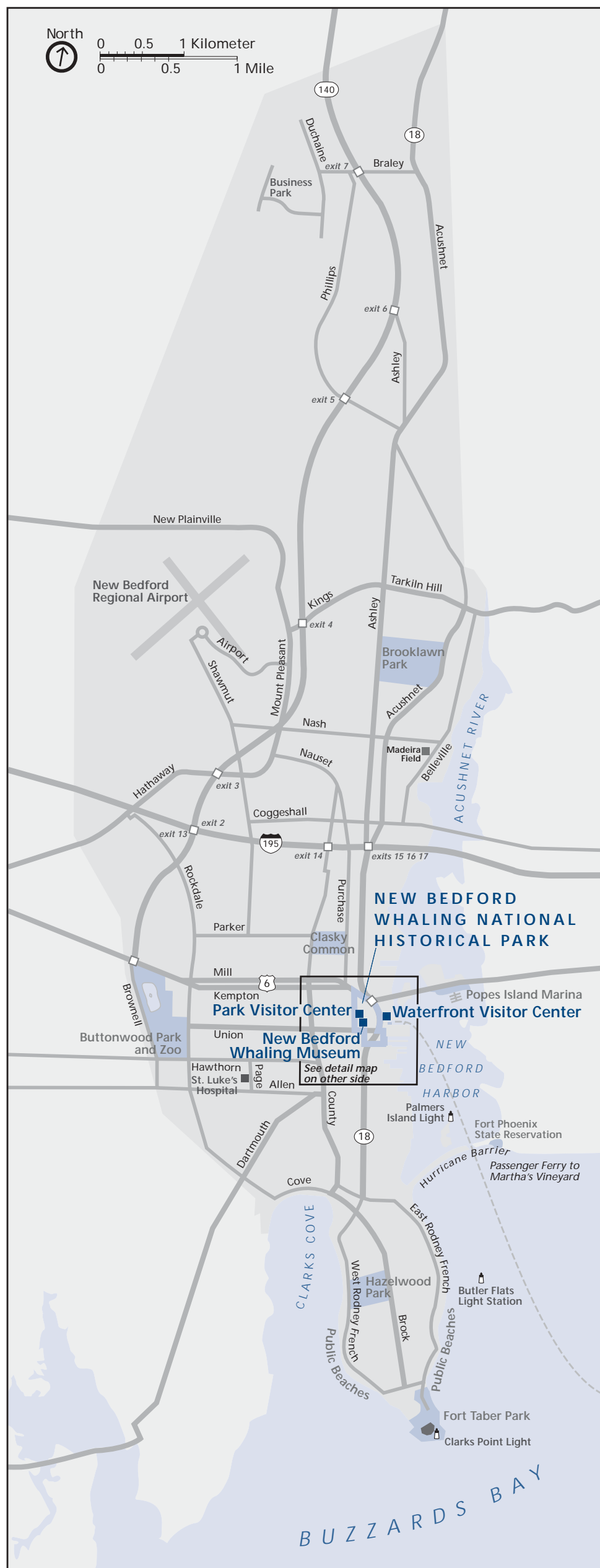
Wednesday, August 13 - Whale Biology



The City of New Bedford

Experience a City of Diversity

New Bedford's active waterfront, cobblestoned streets, stately buildings, and inviting storefronts owe their existence to whales and whalers. Though the age of whaling is long gone, its spirit lives on in New Bedford's people and thriving commercial fishing industry.



Buttonwood Zoo features more than 150 animals. The zoo's *Berkshires to the Sea* exhibition showcases native animals and habitats that span the Berkshire Mountains to Buzzard's Bay, including mountain lions, black bears, bald eagles, river otter, harbor seals, and more.



North and south of the city's downtown are vibrant **neighborhoods** offering a wide range of recreation, shopping, and cultural dining experiences. Annual festivals and parades celebrate the rich heritage of the region.



Fort Taber Park, located on Clarks Point, is an important site in the area's military history, particularly during the Civil War. The park offers playgrounds, a military museum, bike paths, beaches, a refreshment stand, and sweeping views of Buzzards Bay and the Elizabeth Islands.



The Nathan and Polly Johnson House, a National Historic Landmark located at 21 Seventh Street, was the first free home of Frederick Douglass after his escape from slavery. New Bedford was home to some 300-700 escaped slaves between 1840 and 1860. This home is one of many sites associated with the Underground Railroad in New Bedford.



Several **art museums and galleries** highlighting contemporary and historic art created by local, national, and international artists, are within a short walk of the visitor center. Visit *ArtWorks!*, *Gallery X*, the *New Bedford Art Museum*, and *University Art Gallery* to discover the wealth of art in downtown New Bedford.