

# 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.

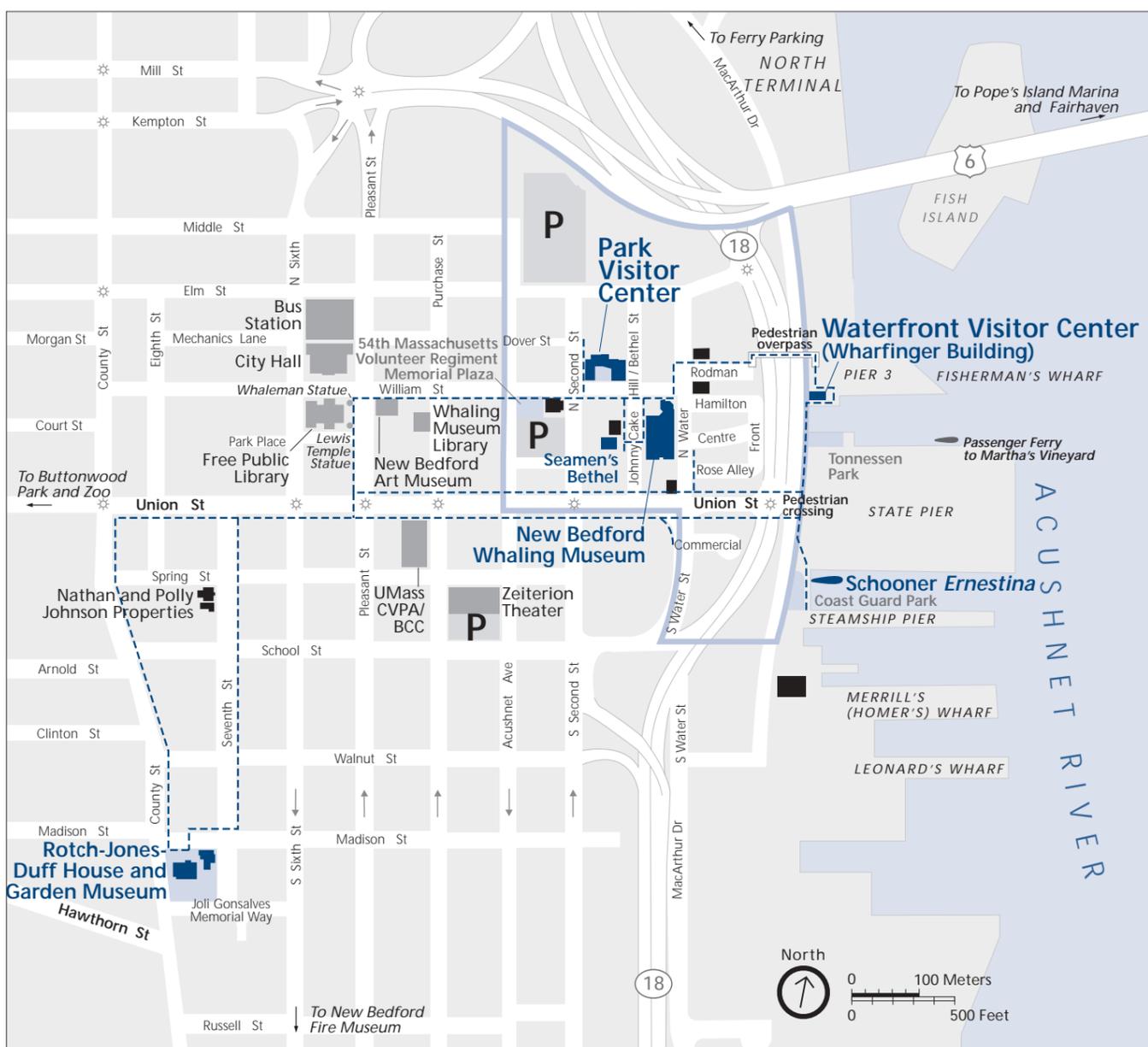


National Park Visitor Center and Corson Maritime Learning Center



Seamen's Bethel and Mariner's Home

## Park Map and Nautical Mile Walking Tour



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



Waterfront Visitor Center



New Bedford Whaling Museum



Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum



Schooner Ernestina

# 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.rjdmuseum.org)



## Schooner *Ernestina*

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.

### Hours

Open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., 7 days a week in July and August.  
State Pier, New Bedford  
(508) 992-4900  
[www.ernestina.org](http://www.ernestina.org)

# Daily Programs and Activities

## New This Summer!

### Map Talks in the Corson Maritime Learning Center

In pursuit of whales, New Bedford's fleet traveled the world's oceans and brought large numbers of Americans into contact with other cultures.

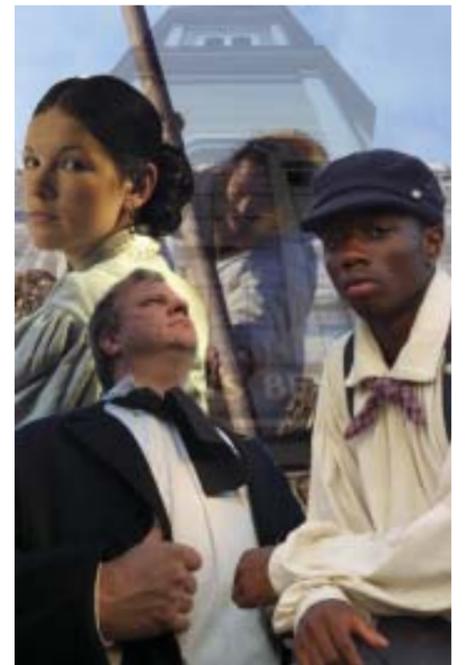
Join a park ranger or volunteer in the Corson Maritime Learning Center link, to learn about the global reach of the whaling industry and the diverse cultures that contributed to New Bedford's role as the 19th century whaling capital of the world. Daily at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. in July and August, beginning July 8.



## 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 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 6. 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 11, special theme tours will be offered. See the brown box (above right) for theme tour schedule.

### Theme Tours

Saturday 10:30 a.m. *Fugitive Slave Traffic in a Whaling Port*

Saturday 12:30 p.m. *From Whales to Bales*

Saturday 2:30 p.m. *Whaling, What's the Risk?*

Sunday 10:30 a.m. *Whaling, What's the Risk?*

Sunday 12:30 p.m. *From Whales to Bales*

Sunday 2:30 p.m. *Fugitive Slave Traffic in a Whaling Port*



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 6 - August 17 on Mondays from 10:00 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.

### Connecting Cultures

July 8 - August 19 on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the New Bedford Whaling Museum. Learn how the whaling industry connected New Bedford with the regions of Hawaii and Alaska. Children will be able to dress up in traditional Hawaiian and Alaskan clothing and examine cultural objects and map out a whaling voyage.

### A Sailor's Life for Me

July 9 to August 20 on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the New Bedford Whaling Museum. Arrive in the morning and learn about the daily life of a sailor on a whaleship. Learn how sailors dressed, what they ate, what types of jobs they did and how they spent their leisure time.



### Science Tuesdays

On July 28, August 4, and August 18 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. join New Bedford Whaling Museum staff members as they explore themes such as plankton, crustaceans, and bivalve biology. Free with admission to the whaling museum.

Tuesday, July 28 - *In Pursuit of Plankton*  
Tuesday, August 4 - *Cracking Open Crustaceans*  
Tuesday, August 18 - *Bivalve Biology*

### Learn About Whales

July 10 - August 21 on Fridays from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the New Bedford Whaling Museum. Spend the morning learning fascinating facts about whales. Discover how whales eat, communicate, and interact with their environment. Free with museum admission.

# Summer Calendar of Events

## July

Wednesday, July 1

### Past and Present: Grand Banks

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Schooner *Ernestina*

Take a closer look at what life was like on *Ernestina*. Compare each era of *Ernestina*'s long history to life today in this new series.

### Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 3-5 New Bedford Summerfest

Friday, 6:30 p.m. kick off concert [Downtown \(fee\)](#)

Saturday and Sunday 11:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. [Downtown \(fee\)](#)

An international folk music and arts festival held throughout the park. For more information visit [www.newbedfordsummerfest.com](http://www.newbedfordsummerfest.com)

Sunday, 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 9

### 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](http://www.ahanewbedford.org) (free)

6:30 p.m. Toe Jam Puppet Band

[Whaling Museum Plaza](#)

7:30 p.m. Dance with El Arte Flamenco

[Whaling Museum Plaza](#)

Saturday, July 11

### Maritime Heritage Days, Living History

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

Barbara Merry - Marlinspike Artistry

Sunday, July 12

### Living History

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. [Various locations throughout the park - stop by the park visitor center for locations. \(free\)](#)

Wednesday, July 15

### Past and Present: Brigus

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Schooner *Ernestina*

Take a closer look at what life was like on *Ernestina*. Compare each era of *Ernestina*'s long history to life today in this new series.

Thursday, July 16

### Thursday Evenings in the Park, Living History

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. and 7:30 p.m. [From Pursuit to Preservation Curator's](#)

Tour - [New Bedford Whaling Museum](#)

6:30 p.m. Gloucester Hornpipe and Clog Society

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

Wednesday, July 17

### Fishing from a Dory

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Schooner *Ernestina*

Try your hand at long-line fishing in an authentic 19th-century dory, all from the comfort of dry land. Using fish replicas, try to pull aboard cod or haddock.

Saturday, July 18

### 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 \(free\)](#)

Ann Lima, Nantucket baskets

Sunday, July 20

### Living History

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. [Various locations throughout the park - stop by the park visitor center for locations. \(free\)](#)

Tuesday, July 21

### Gyotaku: Japanese Fish Printing

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Schooner *Ernestina*

Gyotaku is the ancient Japanese art of fish printing. Choose a color and make your own prints using plastic fish replicas.

Wednesday, July 22

### Past and Present: Arctic Exploration

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Schooner *Ernestina*

Take a closer look at what life was like on *Ernestina*. Compare each era of *Ernestina*'s long history to life today in this new series.

## 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 Saturday and Sunday mornings between July 9 and August 30 See listings on calendar for times.



Thursday, July 23

### Thursday Evenings in the Park, Living History

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. Terra Natal - Cape Verdean Music

[National Park Visitor Center Garden \(free\)](#) Wednesday, July 17

Saturday, July 25

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

Phil Szenher - Sea Chests

Sunday, July 26

### Living History

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 p.m. [Various locations throughout the park - stop by the park visitor center for locations. \(free\)](#)

Wednesday, July 29

### Past and Present: In the Navy

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Schooner *Ernestina*

Take a closer look at what life was like on *Ernestina*.

Compare each era of *Ernestina*'s long history to life today in this new series.

Thursday, July 30

### Why Knot? Thursday Evenings in the Park, Living History

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Why Knot?

Schooner *Ernestina* - Learn how to tie different kinds of knots. Make a bracelet to take home!

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. Ana Vinagre Ensemble - Portuguese Fado

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

7:30 p.m. Melville Birthday lecture

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

### Gallery Tours

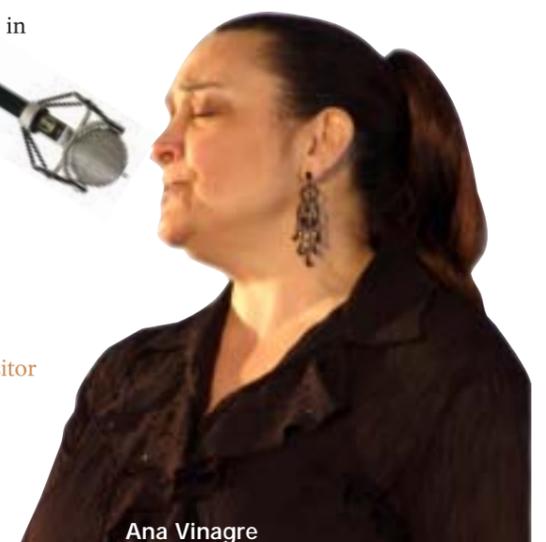
Every Thursday from July 9-August 27 at 2:00 p.m. Join a Whaling Museum docent for an in-depth tour of one of the Museum's galleries. Tours are free with paid admission.

### Highlights Tours

Every Friday from July 10-August 28 at 2:00 p.m. Join a Whaling Museum docent for an overview tour of the Museum's collection. Tours are free with paid admission.

## 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.



Ana Vinagre

# August

## Sunday, August 1 - November 1 In One Generation: Paul Cuffe, Founding Father of a New Democracy

During Regular Operating Hours

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

In collaboration with the Westport Historical Society and the Paul Cuffe 250th Anniversary Committee, the RJD presents a temporary exhibit highlighting this amazing man as entrepreneur, whaler, social advocate, Quaker and close associate of the William Rotch Family. Contact the RJD for details.

## Saturday, August 1 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. - 2:00 p.m. [National Park Visitor Center Garden](#) (free)  
Willi Bank - Knot Tying

## Sunday, August 2 Living History

9:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Various locations throughout the park - stop by the park visitor center for locations. (free)

## Tuesday, August 4

### Gyotaku: Japanese Fish Printing

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Schooner *Ernestina*

Gyotaku is the ancient Japanese art of fish printing. Choose a color and make your own prints using plastic fish replicas.

## Wednesday, August 5

### Past and Present: Before GPS

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Schooner *Ernestina*

Take a closer look at what life was like on *Ernestina*. Compare each era of *Ernestina's* long history to life today in this new series.

## Thursday, August 6

### Thursday Evenings in the Park, Living History

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. Candida Rose and Kabu Jazz

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

## Saturday, August 8 Maritime Heritage Days

### Living History

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. - 2:00 p.m. [National Park Visitor Center Garden](#) (free)

Willi Bank - Knot Tying

## Sunday, August 9 Living History

9:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Various locations throughout the park - stop by the park visitor center for locations. (free)

## Wednesday, August 12 Past and Present: Cape Verde

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Schooner *Ernestina*

Take a closer look at what life was like on *Ernestina*. Compare each era of *Ernestina's* long history to life today in this new series.



Semanya McCord

## Thursday, August 13

### Why Knot? Thursday Evenings in the Park, AHA!, Living History

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Why Knot?

Schooner *Ernestina* - Learn how to tie different kinds of knots. Make a bracelet to take home!

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 *NB Cultures*-for information about this evening's programming visit [www.ahanewbedford.org](#)

7:00 p.m. Semanya McCord - African American and Jazz

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

## Saturday, August 16 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. - 2:00 p.m. [National Park Visitor Center Garden](#) (free)

Bill Boffa - Sailor's Valentines

## Tuesday, August 18

### Why Knot?

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Schooner *Ernestina*

Learn how to tie different kinds of knots. Make a bracelet to take home!

## Wednesday, August 19

### Past and Present: Homecoming

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Schooner *Ernestina*

Take a closer look at what life was like on *Ernestina*. Compare each era of *Ernestina's* long history to life today in this new series.

## Thursday, August 20

### Thursday Evenings in the Park, Living History

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)

## Saturday, August 23 Maritime Heritage Days

10:00 a.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)

Tor Bendiksen - Net Making

## Tuesday, August 25

### Gyotaku: Japanese Fish Printing

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Schooner *Ernestina*

Gyotaku is the ancient Japanese art of fish printing. Choose a color and make your own prints using plastic fish replicas.

## Thursday, August 28

### Thursday Evenings in the Park, Living History

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)

## Wednesday, August 19

### Past and Present: Past, Present & Future

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Schooner *Ernestina*

Take a closer look at what life was like on *Ernestina*. Compare each era of *Ernestina's* long history to life today in this new series.

## Thursday Evenings in the Park

On Thursday evenings throughout July and August, beginning July 9, 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 and 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.



## 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](#)



## 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)



Working Waterfront Festival

## Saturday, October 3. Exploring Paul Cuffe: The Man and His Legacy



An examination of Paul Cuffe, African American/ Native American, abolitionist, and Westport, MA entrepreneur. The hosts for this conference are the New Bedford Historical Society, New Bedford Whaling National Park, the Old Dartmouth Historical Society, and the Westport Historical Society.  
[New Bedford Whaling Museum](#)

# 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.



The **Ocean Explorium** offers an exciting new world of ocean and science discovery through its living exhibits, innovative children's activity center and 3-D Science on a Sphere® exhibit. The Ocean Explorium is located in the New Bedford Institution for Savings building, a prominent architectural landmark in downtown New Bedford.