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CANADA/NEW ENGLAND CRUISES REACHING NEW WAVE OF POPULARITY

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Consumer requests for Canada/New England cruises are surging to all-time highs, according to Heidi Allison Shane, spokeswoman for CruiseCompete.com, a Web site where consumers compare competing offers for cruise vacations.

She attributes the popularity of cruising the eastern seaboard among CruiseCompete.com users to a number of reasons, including:

- **Whale Watching.** According to the World Wildlife Fund, the coast of Massachusetts is one of the Top 10 whale-watching spots in the world. There also are a number of port excursions that focus on whale watching.
- **On-Board Naturalists.** Many of the cruise ships and excursion companies offer experienced naturalists who provide onboard interpretation on the habits of the whales and other wildlife being encountered at sea. Other educational and learning programs are offered as well.
- **Desirable destinations.** "Gorgeous summer days and beautiful autumn landscapes and foliage make for breathtaking splendor while visiting historic cities of New England and coastal Canada," she says.
- **Food and drink.** Steamed and boiled dishes are the region's specialty. Seafood obviously is a favorite, including a variety of dishes featuring lobster, crab and clams.
- **Unique cultural experiences.** "The old world meets the new in many of the cities and villages included on the itineraries of Canada/ New England cruises. Unique peoples and traditions abound on both sides of the national border, many of which are centered on the sea and living off the hard-scrabble land," says Ms Shane.

by: [David Wilkening](#)