

Directions

Plum Cove

Directions: Plum Cove is located along Route 127, on the northeast coast of Cape Ann. Plum Cove is across from the baseball field. Parking is very restricted along the street.

Parking: Okay till 11am after that resident only.

Description: Sandy easy entry, shallow cove, reef outside cove on right. Great place to try out new gear or as a check out dive after a long winter.

Depth: 10' - 20'

Exposure: Northwest

Feature: Nice dive, entry is very easy. Kids love the tide pools.

Folly Cove

Directions: Folly Cove is found on the most northern point of Rockport, right along Route 127. Its six miles north of Grant Circle, the rotary where Routes 128 & 127 meet. There is a sign marked "Folly Cove Landing".

Parking: Very limited resident only. Halibut Pt. is only a short walk away.

Description: One of the most popular shore dives in the area. Rocky entry, sheer wall on left, lots of overhangs. Excellent dive.

Depth: 15' - 60'

Exposure: North East

Feature: Everything you could want in a New England dive. Dive at high tide & calm sea. Great spot for a night dive.

Wall Dive

Halibut Point

Directions: Follow Route 127 north from downtown Rockport. You will pass Pidgeon Cove on your right. A short distance further up, you will come to Gott Avenue on your right. Follow Gott Avenue to the end. You may park in a private lot or purchase a state parking sticker and use the state park lot.

Parking: For a fee, season passes available at a discount.

Description: Rocky entry. Giant sloping granite slabs descend down to 60'. Good visibility due to granite shoreline.

Depth: 15' - 60'

Exposure: All but West

Feature: It requires a 1/4 mile hike through the woods on a well-marked trail with all your gear. The park is a beautiful place for picnics.

Hoop Pole Cove

Directions: Starting from Cape Ann Divers, take a right at top of lot onto Rt. 127 N, follow 127 for approx. 5.0 miles, take a right onto Haven Ave. follow to the end. Take a left; there are 3 access points to the cove along public ways to the Atlantic path.

Parking: 1 block up on Haven or Ocean.

Description: Rocky entry, Great cove with huge rounded boulders, stripers in summer.

Depth: 15' - 35'

Feature: Long walk from parking, = less people. Good lobstering due to plenty of cracks and crevices.

Cathedral Rocks

Directions: Cathedral Rocks are located off of Route 127, just north of Pidgeon Cove in Rockport. At the Ralph Waldo Emerson Inn (Phillips Avenue), turn right onto Cathedral Avenue and go to end.

Parking: Very limited on the right.

Description: This is an advanced shore dive. Rocky steep climb to water. Dramatic drop off with boulders.

Depth: 15' - 70'

Exposure: East

Feature: Deepest shore dive on Cape Ann. Best conditions: high tide and calm seas, exit at low tide is difficult due to slippery rocks.

Back Beach

Directions: Follow Route 128 to the end. Take Route 127 north into Rockport. Follow several miles. You'll come to a three-way fork. Take a left staying on 127. Go about 1/4 to 1/2 mile, watch for Beach Street on your right, it's a hard right, almost backwards. Go right onto Beach Street. The beach is on your left.

Parking: Metered spaces

Description: Facing water, left side of has great jetty, middle is sandy, Far right is rocky. Lots of baby flounder in summer.

Depth: 10' - 35'

Feature: Bathrooms, plenty of parking, restaurants nearby. Popular training area. Due to proximity of houses to parking please keep noise to whisper.

Front Beach

Directions: Follow same directions to Back Beach, go straight on Beach St. water on left, over hill next beach on left is Front Beach.

Parking: Metered spaces avail.

Description: Easy sandy entry Rocky on left, sandy out straight and in the middle.

Depth: 10' - 30'

Exposure: East & North East

Feature: Bathrooms, kids love this beach, snack bar right across the street. Shopping around the corner. A dive from left of side of Front to right side of Back, is great.

Old Garden Beach

Directions: Follow Route 128 to the end and turn left on Route 127 north to Rockport center. Once in Rockport center, turn right on Route 127a, heading back toward Gloucester. Turn left about 100 yards down on Norwood Avenue. Follow Norwood Avenue for several blocks to where the road will turn right for one block. The dive site will be on your left.

Parking: Lot is resident only, unload here and park a few blocks up.

Description: Sandy entry, rocky on right & left sandy in middle. Really pretty dive, Lots of kelp & boulders.

Depth: 15' - 35'

Exposure: North East

Feature: Very, very nice dive.

Whale Cove

Directions: Starting from Cape Ann Divers, take right out of lot near Market, take 1st left onto 127A. Go approx. 3.6 miles you'll see Whale Cove Lane, not Rd. take right to end.

Parking: None, unload here and park at High school.

Description: Rocky entry, loose boulders steep climb, good visibility & lobstering.

Depth: 15' - 35'

Exposure: East

Feature: Nobody bothers to dive here due to parking effort, but it's a great dive. Get someone to drop you off.

Loblolly Cove

Directions: Follow Route 128 to the end and takes a left on Route 127a toward Rockport. Once in downtown Rockport, turn right onto Pleasant Street. This is still Route 127a heading back toward Gloucester. About 2 miles from downtown, watch for Penaznce Road on your left. Loblolly Cove will be at the end when you reach the water.

Parking: Resident only, unload here park at Pebble 1/2 mile.

Description: Sandy entry inside cove, point is rocky entry. Cove is shallow w/ lots of life, point is breathtaking with crevices & drop offs.

Depth: 10' - 20'

Exposure: East

Feature: Very Shallow. Cove warms in summer, point is worth the swim.

Pebble Beach

Directions: Follow Route 128 to the end and take a left on Route 127 toward Rockport. After several blocks, turn right on Marina Drive and follow it to Route 127a. Turn left onto Route 127a and follow it for several miles to South Street, Turks Head Motor Inn will be on your right. Turn right onto South Street, then left on Penzance Road. Pebble Beach is directly on your right

Parking: Lots of it! Free!

Description: Sandy entry, facing water pretty rock reef on right end. Good lobstering on reef.

Depth: 10' - 35'

Exposure: South East

Feature: Parking is free, great place to spend to day.

Bass Rocks

Directions: Follow Route 128 to the end and go STRAIGHT through the lights to Bass Avenue. Turn left onto Bass Avenue. Stay on Bass Avenue, which turns into Nautilus Avenue. At the intersection with Atlantic Road, turn left and proceed along the coast. This section of coastline is called Bass Rocks, so park, if you can, and dive.

Parking: Weekdays & Sat. till noon.

Description: Rocky entry, large boulders, sandy out straight. Easiest at high tide.

Depth: 10' - 35'

Exposure: East, Southeast

Feature: Good lobstering, very pretty dive.

Niles Beach

Directions: Starting from Cape Ann Divers, take a left at top of lot onto Rt. 127 S, at lights take left, at next light go straight onto East Main St. go approx. 1.6 miles, Niles on right.

Parking: Resident only in season, off season parking okay.

Description: Sandy beach entry, sandy bottom, rocks on right.

Depth: 10' - 25'

Exposure: West

Feature: Very protected area, almost always calm.

Stage Fort Park

Directions: Take Exit 14 (Route 133) off of Route 128. Go right at the end of the ramp, this is Route 133. Follow Route 133 toward Gloucester. At the intersection of Route 127, turn right and then your first left onto Hough Avenue. Stagefort Park is on your left.

Parking: For a fee in season, free off season.

Description: Sandy beach entry, boulders out straight.

Depth: 10' - 30'

Exposure: South

Feature: Bathrooms, snack bar, volley ball, playground. Harbor seals on rocks Oct. - May.

Norman's Woe

Directions: Take Exit 15 off of Route 128. Turn right onto School Street to Lincoln Street to Route 127. Take a left onto Route 127 to Hesperus Avenue. Go right on Hesperus Avenue and head through the town of Magnolia. One mile past the flagpole in the center of town you will find a parking area on the right.

Parking: Space for a few cars.

Description: Rocky entry, boulders, kelp beds, pretty dive.

Depth: 10' - 35'

Exposure: Southeast

Feature: Long walk from lot (300 yards) = not many people bother = good lobstering. Difficult entry/exit

Magnolia Rocks

Directions: Take Exit 15 off of Route 128. Turn right onto School Street to Lincoln Street to Route 127. Take a left onto Route 127 to Hesperus Avenue. Go right on Hesperus Avenue and head through the town of Magnolia. One block past the flagpole in the center of town, turn right onto Lexington Street. Follow it to the water and the dive site.

Parking: Resident only, park a few blocks up. Both sides of Lexington Street.

Description: Rocky entry, very similar to Bass Rocks.

Depth: 10' - 40'

Exposure: Southeast

Feature: Divers see a lot of marine life in the rocks.