



Walking in Massachusetts

Crane Neck at Crane Beach in Ipswich

Special tips for this location: For this walk you must plan ahead. Visitors are required to reserve a timed entry pass in advance for daily admission in the Summer Season, and on weekends during the Extended Seasons. Advanced passes are not required in the Off Season (Nov-Mar), however they are encouraged to guarantee access. Ipswich residents with a Crane Beach sticker don't need a reservation and are required to park in the Town of Ipswich Lot. To check out [rates](#). To get a [day pass](#). The address is 310 Argilla Road Ipswich and hours are 8AM-Sunset daily with the gate closing 20 minutes before Sunset. To get to the hike, drive into visitor parking and head to the right of the beach steps. Look for the sign with a map on it.

Highlights of this space include: The walk is a unique experience through rolling dunes and a maritime forest. Don't miss the many acres of beachfront, visiting the [Castle Hill on the Crane Estate](#) and its seasonal events on the lawn. Crane Beach is also a nesting site for piping plovers and is nationally recognized for successfully creating a shorebird protection program.

Hike idea: There are up to 5.5 miles of beach hiking. Please note that the hiking is on varied pressed to soft sand and can be considered moderately difficult. One idea is to walk the outside green and red loop. If you still have good energy, have enough water and your map- wander more! Enjoy this area called Castle Neck.

Dogs are allowed between Oct 1- Mar 31st - free for members (\$5.00 fee for nonmembers). Rules for your dog will be shared upon entry. Lace up your sneakers or hiking boots, grab mosquito and tick spray, sunscreen, a hat, dress in layers, bring a copy of the map, have your trail app ready, bring a snack and LOTS of water- ENJOY!

For more detailed information, [click here](#). For a trail map with blazed loops, [click here](#).

“Leave the roads; take the trails.”

– Pythagoras