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Crossing the border into Massachusetts, [Rob Stringer](#) feels like he has come home. That might sound pretty surprising for a fellow who was raised on a cattle ranch in Nebraska. But Massachusetts has always had a strong pull for this cross country road traveler. July 4th not only marks the founding of the United States, it's the day that *Rob Stringer* made his entrance into the world. With no one around to poke fun at him, Rob Stringer indulges in a somewhat off key but no less heartfelt rendition of George M. Cohan's *I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy*.

Still *Rob Stringer* knows that his visit to The Bay State will be bittersweet without Sarah, his wife of 41 years, who he lost to cancer in 2010. Traveling the length and breadth of Massachusetts was a journey they had talked about for many years. In honor of Sarah, **Rob Stringer** is planning to spend a lot of time exploring the state. He has scheduled a special stop at Plymouth where the Pilgrims landed in 1620. Even if it's not Thanksgiving, Rob Stringer is determined to have a full course dinner there to give thanks for this wonderful opportunity to get to know the real America on his cross-country journey

Back to our country's beginnings

With Boston as his first stop, Rob Stringer has set aside several days to immerse himself in the country's history. After all this is the place where "the shot was fired that was heard round the world" and the Revolutionary War began.

Rob Stringer is going to spend one full day to follow the three-mile red brick path called the Freedom Trail, which takes visitors from the Boston Commons in the heart of the city to Bunker Hill Monument in

Charleston. Along the way, you find all the historic sites that played a key part in the Revolution, including the Old South Meeting House, the Boston Massacre site, the home of Paul Revere and the Old North Church. *Rob Stringer* also knows that no visit to Boston can be complete without sailing Boston Harbor to see where the colonists heroically dumped tea from England to assert their independence.

Pillars of advanced education

History may be a big part of the state's legacy but advanced education is what keeps Massachusetts in the forefront of industry, healthcare and technology globally. Some of the country's finest institutions of higher learning can be found here, including Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. **Rob Stringer** is thinking of renting a bike and riding through the college town of Cambridge where both universities reside to relive his own college days.

Hockey pucks and pubs

Massachusetts offers the full range of professional sports teams and there are no fans more passionate than the ones cheering on the Boston Bruins, Red Sox or New England Patriots. *Rob Stringer* is getting tickets for one of the professional sports events and then will join the post game crowd at one of the local pubs, which are about as close to an English pub you can find stateside.

From the shore to the slopes

Massachusetts leaves nothing to be desired if you love the outdoors. Here's a state where you'll find over 192 miles of coastline for fishing, boating, swimming, sailing or just walking along the shore. By contrast the western part of the state takes you into beautiful Berkshire Mountains for hiking and winter skiing, all of which **Rob Stringer** plans to enjoy as he traverses the state from east to west.

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