



## A Walking Guide to Innsmouth



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**Innsmouth, founded in 1643 and located off the coast of Essex County, Massachusetts, has a rich and colorful history. Come discover some of its landmarks.**

## Notable Places

**Bank of Innsmouth:** A venerable institution over one hundred years old, it is housed inside a beautiful Beaux Arts style building with massive Corinthian columns and distinctive dolphin motifs adorning the floor. Repeated efforts to properly modernize it have been hampered by a dead spot in cell phone and other electronic reception situated near the vault.

**The Carlyle:** Built in the 1980s, this apartment complex is one of the most elegant lodgings in Innsmouth. It is 12 stories tall, towering above downtown Innsmouth, but there are rumours about a thirteenth floor which can only be accessed through a secret code.

**Cerulean Skies:** The largest and most important high-tech company in the area. Headed by Alex Visser, it is a highly profitable corporation.

**Congregational Church:** Building situated on New Church Green near the former Order of

Dagon Hall. Both buildings now belong to the Innsmouth Institute of Technology, as well as the parking lot in between them, where the old Baptist Church once stood. They are now used to house classrooms, with computer labs in the basement.

**Devil's Reef:** A partly-submerged reef situated a mile and a half off Innsmouth Harbour to the east. Visible from shore even at high tide. Beyond it, the continental shelf falls off sharply into an abyss. Legends of sunken treasure surround it, as well as rumors of an exotic ecology. Swimming races were regularly held going out to the reef until the Great Depression.

**Dyer College:** The college was issued its first charter by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1939. Originally a woman's only college, it became co-ed in 1989.

**First National Grocery Store:** Built in the 1800s. On the other side of the semi-circular town square from the Manuxet River. Now a Stop n' Shop, it is situated next to the bus depot.



**The Gables:** An antique store.

**Gilman House:** Yellow-painted building with a high cupola situated on the town square. Once a hotel of ill-repute, Gilman House has now been converted to a dorm for Dyer College. Students there tell stories of human sacrifice from the time when the place was an inn. There are rumors of Ouija-board seances gone horribly, slasher-film wrong.

**The Hub:** The name to a block of restored, 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings harbouring several tech companies.

**Innsmouth Harbour:** Noted for its extremely good fishing until the 1920s. The waterfront was

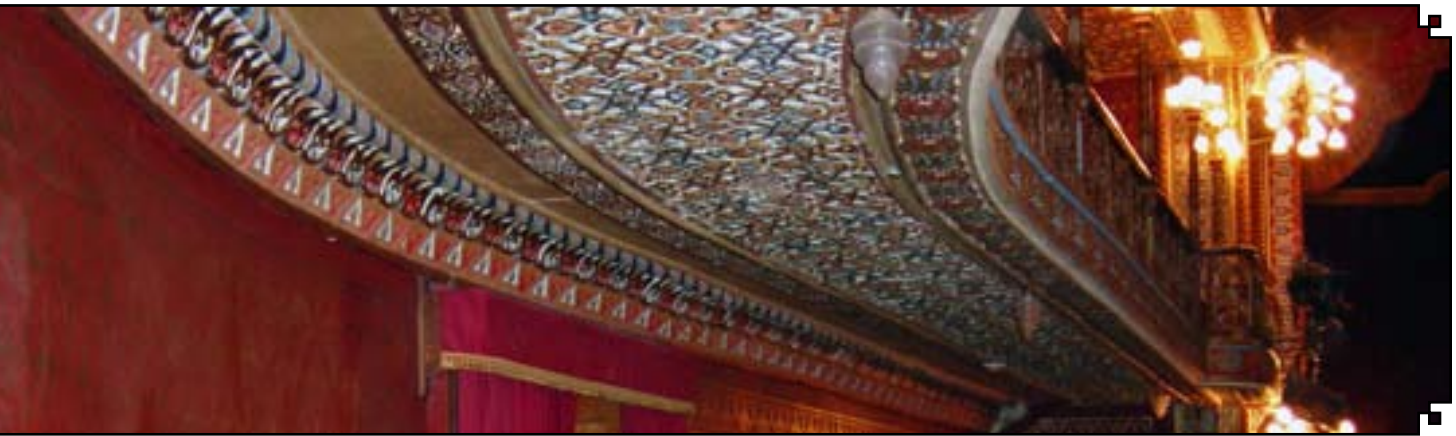
bombed by revenue men in 1927 to stop alleged bootlegging operations. Recently renovated.

**Innsmouth Institute of Technology:** Located on Federal street, it offers full-time and part-time studies. Funded in 1955, it has three hubs located in historical buildings close to downtown Innsmouth.

**Innsmouth Public Library:** Home to the Marsh Archive of Antiquarian Studies, which includes a secret section devoted to the Esoteric Order of Dagon, and a large collection of South Pacific religious art.

**Manuxet River:** This runs through the center of the town (west-east) and into the Atlantic Ocean. The old iron bridge that crosses the river





and comes into the town square is the town's only access to the outside world. Repeated attempts to drain marshes to the east of town have so far proven unsuccessful. The bridge crosses a gorge bounded by two sets of falls. Black raspberry bushes make walking along the river difficult. Most of the fishing industry was situated on the river. Many of these buildings were rumored to have tunnels, through which residents traveled back and forth unseen, before they were torn down.

**Marsh Refinery Company:** The most important business in the area up to the 1920s. The Marsh refinery was a gold refinery located on the lower falls of the Manuxet. It is now a microbrewery.

**New Church Green:** Home to the former Order of Dagon Hall.

**New Town Square:** In the 1920s, it was the hub of activity for the town. It housed buildings in fair conditions and a dozen shops, including the First National Grocery Store, a restaurant, a drug store, and a wholesale fish-dealer's office, as well as the office of the town's only industry at

the time - the Marsh Refining Company. Today it is known for its antique shops and cafes. The offices of the Innsmouth Tourism Bureau are located here.

**Old Lighthouse:** Innsmouth's old lighthouse has a long history. It served ships for many decades, then fell into ruin in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It was restored to its former glory in 1945, only to be abandoned a few years later. Its walls are now covered with graffiti, strange gang symbols adorning the once pristine structure. Seasonal celebrations, complete with bonfires, used to take place around the lighthouse.

**Paine Street Cinemas:** Built in 1920, it fell into decay and was even used as by bootleggers during Prohibition. It has been renovated in recent years and now showcases numerous independent and foreign films. Curiously, though revenue officials invaded the town and burned down most of the waterfront to stop alleged bootlegging activities in 1927, the Cinema survived. It is one of the few such buildings to do so.



**Pickam Art Gallery:** On the second floor it maintains the permanent collection of Bostonian painter Richard Upton Pickman. It is funded by dot-com millionaire and philanthroper Alex Visser.

**The Pledge:** A mansion turned nightclub, it once belonged to would-be poet and local aristocrat Samuel Devereux, most famous for committing suicide at the nearby pub The Siren. The Pledge has its own entry in the *Big Book of Supernatural Americana*, due to an unusual number and variety of hauntings on the site. Most of the sightings seem to involve spirits with tentacles instead of limbs and fish-like features.

**The Siren:** A local pub. It was a popular spot for locals during the 1940s, but is now frequented by the college crowd at Dyer. There are several local legends associated with The Siren. Notable is the image of a shrieking woman who appears as a possible Banshee or other type of forerunner to storms and other natural disasters that cause fatalities.

**Tasty Encounters:** A jolly, brightly coloured diner decorated with pictures of the Loch Ness Monster, UFOs, Big Foot and the like. It is owned by Zack Hunt, a UFO and paranormal enthusiast who swears strange things are often afoot around Innsmouth. It's a favourite late-night spot for Dyer College students.

**The Tome:** A rare and used bookstore. If you look carefully you might find copies of some interesting manuscripts.



## Notable Dates

☛ Founded in 1643, Innessmouth was a seat of great marine prosperity in the early nineteenth century

☛ Later, it became a minor factory centre.

☛ After the Second World War, Innessmouth experienced a revival which lasted until the 1960s.

☛ During the 1960s and 1970s, newly created strip malls drew most shoppers away from downtown Innessmouth, causing most of its buildings to decay and many of its shops to close.

☛ In the 1980s, the town developed some of its heritage buildings into hubs for tech companies.

☛ Renovation and restorations of the downtown area began during the late 1980s.

☛ Recently, Innessmouth has tried to increase tourism of the area by highlighting its historical buildings and beaches.

☛ It is now a tourist, residential and manufacturing community.

☛ Has a population of approximately 40,000 people.



Brought to you by:



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