

# Immigrant Ports of Entry and Exit

## United States, British Isles and Europe

This guide lists the major ports that immigrants to the New World departed from in Europe and the British Isles. Ships leaving these ports made regular runs to and from the United States and Canada. In most cases, immigrants left on a ship from a port that was geographically closest to them.

The port of entry list names the U.S. ports that were the most common destinations and for which the National Archives has some or all of the surviving passenger arrival records.

## Part One: Ports of Exit from Europe and the British Isles

This study guide lists the major ports that immigrants to the New World departed from in Europe and the British Isles. Ships leaving these ports made regular runs to and from the United States and Canada. In most cases, they left on a ship from a port that was geographically closest to them.

- 1) Belgium: Antwerp
- 2) Denmark: Copenhagen
- 3) England: Liverpool, Southampton
- 4) Estonia: Tallin
- 5) Finland: Helsinki
- 6) France: Cherbourg, Le Harve, Marseilles
- 7) Germany: Bremen and Hamburg
- 8) Gibraltar: (British Zone)
- 9) Greece: Patras, Piraeus
- 10) Ireland: Cobh, Dublin, Galway, Queenstown
- 11) Italy: Genoa, Naples, Palermo, Trieste
- 12) Netherlands: Rotterdam
- 13) Northern Ireland: Belfast, Derry, Londonderry
- 14) Norway: Bergen, Oslo, and Stavanger
- 15) Poland: Gdansk, Gdynia, and Memel/Klaipeda
- 16) Portugal: Lisbon
- 17) Russia: Libau/Liepaja, Memel/Klaipeda, Riga, St. Petersburg/Leningrad
- 18) Spain: Barcelona
- 19) Sweden: Goteborg
- 20) Turkey: Constantinople/Istanbul
- 21) Yugoslavia: Fiume, Rijeka

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## Part Two: Ports of Entry Into the United States

Many beginning genealogists make the incorrect assumption that immigration to the United States begins and ends with Ellis Island or Castle Garden in New York City. There were ports of entry up and down the East coast, Gulf of Mexico, Canada, and all points along the Canadian border, and a few on the West Coast. The list below names the U.S. ports that were the most common destinations and for which the National Archives has some or all the surviving passenger arrival records.

- 1) Alabama: Mobile
- 2) California: Los Angeles, San Francisco
- 3) Connecticut: Bridgeport, Fairfield, Hartford, Middletown, New Haven, New London, Saybrook
- 4) Delaware: Wilmington
- 5) District of Columbia: Georgetown
- 6) Florida: Apalachicola, Boca Grande, Carrabelle, Fernandia, Jacksonville, Key West, Knights Key, Mayport, Miami, Millville, Panama City, Pensacola, Port Everglades, Port Inglis, Port St. Joe, St. Andrews, St Augustine, St. Johns, St. Petersburg, Tampa, West Palm Beach  
Georgia: Brunswick, Darien, Savannah
- 7) Louisiana: New Orleans
- 8) Maine: Bangor, Bath, Belfast, Falmouth/Portland, Frenchman's Bay, Havre de Grace, Hingham, Kennebunk, Passamaquoddy, Penobscot, Portland/Falmouth, Waldoboro, Wiscasset, Yarmouth
- 9) Maryland: Annapolis, Baltimore
- 10) Massachusetts: Barnstable, Beverly/Salem, Boston, Dighton, Edgartown, Fall River, Gloucester, Marblehead, Nantucket, New Bedford, Newburyport, Plymouth, Provincetown, Salem/Beverly
- 11) Mississippi: Gulfport, Pascagoula
- 12) New Hampshire: Portsmouth
- 13) New Jersey: Bridgetown, Cape May, Little Egg Harbor, Newark, Perth Amboy
- 14) New York: New York, Oswegatchie, Rochester, Sag Harbor
- 15) North Carolina: Beaufort, Edenton, New Burn, Plymouth, Washington
- 16) Ohio: Sandusky
- 17) Pennsylvania: Philadelphia
- 18) Rhode Island: Bristol/Warren, Newport, Providence, Warren/Bristol
- 19) South Carolina: Charleston, Georgetown, Port Royal
- 20) Texas: Galveston
- 21) Vermont: St. Albans
- 22) Virginia: Alexandria, East River, Hampton, Norfolk/Portsmouth, Petersburg, Portsmouth/Norfolk, Richmond
- 23) Washington: Seattle