Immigrant Ports of Entry and Exit:
United States, British Isles, and Europe

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

The major ports that from which immigrants to the New World departed 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 the port that was geographically closest to them. Once you have identified the port of exit, also check the emigration records from that site. Depending upon the date of immigration, you may find additional information of exit port documents.

Belgium: Antwerp

Denmark: Copenhagen

England: Liverpool, Southampton

Estonia: Tallinn

Finland: Helsinki

France: Cherbourg, Le Harve, Marseilles

Germany: Bremen and Hamburg

Gibraltar: (British Zone)

Greece: Patras, Piraeus

Ireland: Cobh, Dublin, Galway, Queenstown

Italy: Genoa, Naples, Palermo, Trieste

Netherlands: Rotterdam

Northern Ireland: Belfast, Derry, Londonderry

Norway: Bergen, Oslo, and Stavanger

Poland: Gdansk, Gdynia, and Memel/Klaipeda

Portugal: Lisbon

Russia: Libau/Liepaja, Memel/Klaipeda, Riga, St.Petersburg/Leningrad

Spain: Barcelona

Sweden: Goteborg

Turkey: Constantinople/Istanbul

Yugoslavia: Fiume, Rijeka

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 of the surviving passenger arrival records.

Alabama: Mobile

California: Los Angeles, San Francisco

Connecticut: Bridgeport, Fairfield, Hartford, Middletown, New Haven, New London, Saybrook

Delaware: Wilmington

District of Columbia: Georgetown

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

Louisiana: New Orleans

Maine: Bangor, Bath, Belfast, Falmouth/Portland, Frenchman's Bay, Havre de Grace, Hingham, Kennebunk, Passamaquoddy, Penobscot, Portland/Falmouth, Waldoboro, Wiscasset, Yarmouth

Maryland: Annapolis, Baltimore

Massachusetts: Barnstable, Beverly/Salem, Boston, Dighton, Edgartown, Fall River, Gloucester, Marblehead, Nantucket, New Bedford, Newburyport, Plymouth, Provincetown, Salem/Beverly

Mississippi: Gulfport, Pascagoula

New Hampshire: Portsmouth

New Jersey: Bridgetown, Cape May, Little Egg Harbor, Newark, Perth Amboy

New York: New York, Oswegatchie, Rochester, Sag Harbor

North Carolina: Beaufort, Edenton, New Burn, Plymouth, Washington

Ohio: Sandusky

Pennsylvania: Philadelphia

Rhode Island: Bristol/Warren, Newport, Providence, Warren/Bristol

South Carolina: Charleston, Georgetown, Port Royal

Texas: Galveston

Vermont: St. Albans

Virginia: Alexandria, East River, Hampton, Norfolk/Portsmouth, Petersburg, Portsmouth/Norfolk, Richmond