

Discover the gems throughout America's Most Patriotic Town!

BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND



For More Information

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With a rich history that spans three centuries, Bristol, Rhode Island is one of New England's hidden gems. Bristol has celebrated its independence since 1785 with a parade that rivals any other, the oldest continuous Fourth of July Celebration in the nation! The parade route is lined with historic homes that are meticulously kept and our flag waves proudly throughout the town. The main street is adorned with a red, white and blue center stripe year-round; a testament to the place where patriotism is palpable.

Begin your day at Linden Place, the circa 1810 home built for George DeWolf, a seafarer, slave trader and military general. Docents introduce your group to family members Pomeroy Colt, founder of United States Rubber, now Uniroyal; his mother Theodora DeWolf "Madam" Colt, who ran Bristol society as if she was Queen Victoria; and legendary actress Ethel Barrymore, who married into this most prominent of American families. Following the Linden Place tour, guests are welcome to stroll the sculpture-filled gardens.

Tour the Herreshoff Marine Museum and the America's Cup Hall of Fame, with over 60 significant boats and artifacts. Herreshoff Manufacturing Company pioneered some of the most outstanding vessels in modern maritime history. The first US Navy torpedo boats, the largest America's Cup boat ever built, and the oldest private yacht in the US, were all designed and built here on Bristol Harbor.

Enjoy some free time to peruse the many locally owned specialty shops that showcase unique antiques, whimsical gifts, colorful home accessories and stylish clothing and jewelry. Strolling through Bristol's compact seaside locale is a pleasant excursion whether you are browsing or buying.

Next, savor local flavor during lunch at DeWolf Tavern, a renovated 1818 warehouse built by Bristol-based maritime merchants James and William DeWolf for their "Triangle Trade" shipping business. The restaurant serves contemporary American cuisine in the historically restored stone warehouse located on Thames Street Landing in the heart of downtown Bristol.

After lunch, your group will tour Blithewold Mansion, Gardens & Arboretum. The Van Wickle family, who made their fortune in the Pennsylvania coal industry, built this stunning 45-room English-style manor mansion on 33 acres with sweeping views of Narragansett Bay at the turn of the century. But the exquisite gardens are what set Blithewold apart. The gardener will show the group rare specimens and talk about the garden collection and special exhibits in the home. Finally, the group will enjoy lemonade and cookies on the veranda overlooking Narragansett Bay.

OPTIONAL ADD-ONS

 Coggshall Farm, a living history farm set on 48 acres depicting life on a coastal tenant farm during the Federal Period