The halls are decked with boughs of holly, the chorus is warmed up and the hot cocoa is ready to be served! The glitter of gold and the sparkle of silver will dazzle you as you tour the magnificent Newport Mansions, resplendent in yuletide finery. Twinkling white lights illuminate the charming historic harbor and wharves, the restored Colonial Era homes of Historic Hill, and the windows of shops along legendary Bellevue Avenue. Some say there is no time quite as magical as the holidays in Newport and Bristol County.

Start with a narrated tour of picturesque Ocean Drive, which encompasses the southern coastline of Newport and considered one of the region's most memorable experiences. Since 1962, Viking Tours has been introducing visitors to the amazing history of our coastal city. The tour will showcase stunning views, historic landmarks and incredible architecture.

Make unforgettable memories at The Elms mansion, the former home of a Philadelphia coal magnate. Thousands of poinsettias, spectacular evergreens, fragrant trees, decorated wreaths, fresh flowers and 19th century style ornaments turn the house and its grounds into a Christmas wonderland. Dining tables set with period silver and china and mannequins dressed in authentic costumes complete the elegant setting. In keeping with the turn of the century tradition, each of the seemingly countless windows are lit with individual white candles, casting a warm glow throughout.

Situated on the grounds of the International Tennis Hall of Fame, La Forge Restaurant has been in family owned and operated for more than 35 years. The restaurant's menu, style and friendly holiday atmosphere overlooking the beautiful tennis courts surrounded by the 1880 Newport Casino are a perfect venue for a group luncheon.

Check some holiday shopping off your list in downtown Newport. Unique shops throughout the city are fully stocked with local treasures, designer names and unique gifts.

Next, off to Bristol for a tour of Blithewold Mansion, Gardens & Arboretum. The Van Wickle family built this stunning 45-room English-style manor mansion on 33 acres with sweeping views of Narragansett Bay in the early 1900s and the home is preserved in the style in which they lived. Every year, the mansion is decorated in a holiday theme like no other. The creativity used throughout the house is an experience not to be missed. After the tour your group will enjoy hot cocoa, tea and cookies in the exquisite formal dining room.

## HOLLY JOLLY Newport Christmas

## Additional Add-Ons

- Overnight accommodations in a Newport hotel
- Dinner and a show at the Newport Playhouse

Visit ChristmasInNewport.org for a full event schedule.

## For More Information

Contact: Tim Walsh <u>TWalsh@DiscoverNewport.org</u> 401.845.9132

