

# betches

## 7 Easy Trips For When You Need To GTFO Of NYC

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There's a certain feeling that comes with the arrival of summer. As an adult living in New York, summer may not have brought three months of total freedom from work and responsibilities, but it did bring Summer Fridays, day-drinking on rooftops, and most importantly, weekend trips away from the craziness of the hot, humid city. But, as we head into our fifth month of the coronavirus pandemic, it's clear that summer 2020 won't and shouldn't be what it once was. Most rooftops and pools are still closed, working from home means that every day could be a Summer Friday, and travel seems to be all but canceled. But while an escape to Europe or even a flight to California might not be in any New Yorker's future, there are still plenty of nearby destinations that make for the perfect weekend (or mid-week, since there's no real difference these days anyway) getaway.

### Newport, Rhode Island

If you've ever dreamed of living in the wistful world of Grace Kelly, Frank Sinatra, and Bing Crosby, you're probably already familiar with Newport, Rhode Island, the coastal town where the three stars' 1956 film *High Society* takes place. Opening with a scenic flyover of Newport and its Gilded Age mansions, the majestic architecture and seaside not only set the tone for the high-class love triangle plot to unfold but also makes Newport itself a deeply alluring character. More than six decades later, the New England town remains as glamorous as it was when *High Society*'s star-studded cast graced its historic homes and properties, and it continues to be an obvious destination for New Yorkers looking to escape. Once the summer home of the Rockefellers, Vanderbilts, Astors, and even Edith Wharton, Newport is chock full of history, but it also boasts some of the east coast's most inviting hotels and resorts, unparalleled fresh seafood, and gorgeous beaches. And just over three hours from New York, it's easy to see why it's such a popular getaway for urbanites to stretch their legs and enjoy the coast.



**Where to Stay:** Named one of the 15 best hotels in the Northeast by *Travel + Leisure*, Castle Hill Inn has been a star of the region for more than a century, and it was in fact where Grace Kelly stayed while shooting *High Society*. Nestled on a 40-acre peninsula overlooking Narragansett Bay, the hotel strikes a balance between old-world elegance and modern hospitality, and guests can stay in one of seven rooms in the original 19th-century mansion, or in one of 26 private waterfront accommodations. The hotel's stunning grounds include a private beach, the Castle Hill Inn Lighthouse, and the Grace Kelly Beach and Gardens, and the natural distance and seclusion ensures that guests can still enjoy them all in the COVID era.

Another great option, and a little less well known, is The Wayfinder, a new boutique hotel created by a group of local Rhode Island artists, bartenders, chefs, designers, and entrepreneurs. If you want an authentic feel of Newport, this is the spot. Spend the day relaxing at the pool or walk just a few minutes into town, plus the hotel is dog friendly so don't worry about finding a sitter. Located in Newport's North End, the hotel is running a grand opening special with 20% off your stay and two complementary specialty cocktails from on-site restaurant Nomi Park for travel through August 30th. And realizing the uncertainty of the world right now, you can cancel your stay without penalty up to 24 hours before you're supposed to check in.



For a waterfront option with a more contemporary feel, check out Gurney's Newport Resort & Marina. The sister hotel of the ultra-trendy Gurney's Montauk, the Newport resort overlooks the town's colorful marina and features ample outdoor space that makes social distancing easy. The hotel is coated in beachy minimalism, and between Scarpetta, The Pineapple Club, and The Lounge and Fire Pit, you won't even have to leave the property to enjoy first-class dining.

**How to Get There:** Although Newport is, like the Catskills, easiest to visit by car, the New England town is accessible via public transportation. Climb aboard the Amtrak Northeast Regional Train to West Kingston, Rhode Island, and then take the RIPTA Bus 64 to Newport Gateway Center (about an hour away) in downtown Newport. There are also buses available from New York to Newport through Adventure Northeast Transportation Service and Peter Pan Bus Lines.