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The tricks and travails of vacationing in New England this summer

Looking for a local getaway? Better start your research now.

By [Christopher Muther](#) Globe Staff, Updated June 4, 2020, 12:00 p.m.



Some of you may not be ready to emerge from the panic room, pillow fort, or root cellar where you sought refuge as the world turned into a Connie Willis novel this spring. I hear you loud and clear. So far 2020 hasn't exactly been a stroll through the [Daisy Hill Puppy Farm](#).

But for those ready to emerge and plan a getaway, a word of warning: Putting together a New England vacation this summer will require patience, phone calls, and a bit of Jessica Fletcher-style sleuthing.

In the same way that every state in the country came up with its own plan for closing to slow the spread of COVID-19, they're now opening in the same shambolic manner. That means some New England states are inviting visitors (Rhode Island), while others are clearly not (Maine). And then there's Massachusetts, with rules and restrictions that are about as clear as swamp.

Other states around country are also at various stages of opening to travelers, but because most surveys (including [one we conducted last month](#)) found that people are looking to vacation locally this summer, we're going to focus on New England states. Also, please remember that dates and rules are subject to change depending on the track of the virus.

"It's been something that we're keeping tabs on every day," said Rob Blood, the founder and chief executive officer of Lark Hotels, a boutique chain that has properties in every New England state but Connecticut. "But it's a real challenge. The end zone keeps moving. We're planning and planning openings, and then we learn something new and we have to push it back in again."

RHODE ISLAND

Unless you're coming from a state where a stay-at-home order is in effect, out-of-state residents can stay in Rhode Island hotels, although many hotels have yet to open for the season. Ocean House in Watch Hill opens June 16, but you can currently reserve at establishments such as Gurney's Newport or Hotel Viking. Beaches and parks have reopened with limited capacity, although beach showers will remain closed. The Roger Williams Park Zoo has also reopened. Restaurants, cafés, bars, and have reopened with dining rooms at 50-percent seating capacity.