

BUSINESS INSIDER

The best US island hotels that don't require a passport

Jennifer Ceaser Apr 21, 2020, 4:50 PM



- Sometimes, you just want to slip away to a remote island. But long flight times and expensive prices don't make it easy to jet off to the Maldives or Bora Bora.
- Fortunately, there are plenty of stunning islands right here at home in the US. We rounded up the best US island hotels from coast to coast, including luxe retreats, family-friendly resorts, historic inns, and affordable hotels for budget holiday-seekers.
- Our top properties are well-rated and meticulously researched; they are easy to access from the mainland, offer close proximity to beaches and nature, include desirable vacation amenities, and range in price from \$90 to \$269 to start.

There's nothing quite like slipping away to a secluded, stunning island oasis. In many cases, however, that requires lengthy flights and expensive transfers and hotels.

Fortunately, there's no need to pack your passport — or even book a plane ticket in some cases — to have a real island vacation.

Plenty of fantastic island getaways are available close to home, from the summer colonies of New England to the beachy enclaves off the southern Atlantic coast, and the mountain wilds of California's Catalina Island. Some are an easy bridge crossing by car, while others require a scenic ferry ride, which only adds to the allure.

Of course, you'll want to hit the beach, and some of the best ones are found on US islands like Nantucket's sea grass-lined shores, or the creamy white-sand beaches of South Carolina's Kiawah Island. Similarly, Maine boasts miles of dramatic rocky coastline in the Casco Bay islands, and the Outer Banks' Ocracoke Island offers pristine, protected national seashore, plus the chance to spot wild ponies.

We've chosen our favorite island hotels in the US based on factors such as personal travel experiences, and hotels that are easy to access from the mainland, so you can spend more time relaxing. The best island hotels offer close proximity to beaches and nature, include desirable vacation amenities, feature fascinating architecture and history, and range in price from \$90 to \$269 to start. Plus, they're beloved by fellow travelers and well-rated and reviewed on sites such as [Trip Advisor](#), [Hotels.com](#), and [Booking.com](#).

Block Island Beach House - Block Island, Rhode Island



Read McKendree/Lark Hotels

Book Block Island Beach House starting at \$269 per night

Just 12 miles off the Rhode Island coast, tiny Block Island packs in classic Americana charm. Stroll quaint streets in historic New Shoreham town, or visit 17 miles of pristine beaches protected by lighthouses and towering bluffs.

One of the island's landmark hotels is the former Block Island Surf Hotel, which dates back to 1873. It was reborn last year as Block Island Beach House.

The grand Victorian building has gotten a spiffy upgrade with a fresh design scheme that blends historic details — original tin ceilings and wood floors — with retro-style furnishings and fun, vintage accents. Among its three dining options are The Surf, whose waterfront porch offers stellar sunset views, and the casual Beach Bar, a great spot for outdoor cocktails.

Rooms are all on the smaller side and come in a variety of layouts and decor. Some are minimalist, with whitewashed wood-paneled walls, black spindle headboards, and a 60s-era surfboard propped up in the corner. Others, like the Vintage rooms, are seriously eclectic with brightly patterned walls, oriental rugs, and original artwork. Village-facing entry-level King rooms are quite snug, measuring just 110 to 150 square feet; for around \$10 more, the Vintage King Deluxe rooms offer a bit more space.

Consider upgrading to an oceanfront room, especially one with a balcony, for the best views. The property is open seasonally, from mid-May to October.

Trip Advisor Ranking: 6 out of 7 hotels in New Shoreham

Booking.com Rating: 8.9 out of 10

Pros: As the island's only beachfront hotel, guests have direct access to Crescent Beach, and the ferry is just a block away.

Cons: Rooms, especially the entry-level King rooms, are quite petite. Additionally, the over-the-top design in the Vintage rooms isn't to everyone's taste.