

UNLOCKING THE WORLD

22 of the USA's most underrated destinations

Block Island, Rhode Island



Block Island boasts more than 30 miles of coastal and inland trails.

Maria Hoffman/Adobe Stock

Unlike the other big isles off southern New England, this offshore slice of the Ocean State has gone the extra mile to preserve its natural environment. In fact, the Nature Conservancy declared the petite isle one of a dozen "Last Great Places" in the western hemisphere.

Wildlife refuges and other nature areas protect 40% of [Block Island](#), and residents are renowned for their fierce opposition to anything that might imperil their pristine Atlantic home.

Beaches, biking and trekking 32 miles of coastal and inland trails are the main daytime activities. After dark, the island boasts a surprisingly good food scene and laid-back bars like Captain Nick's, Yellow Kittens and the Poor People's Pub.