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TRAVEL | STRATEGIES

The best of both worlds

These trip swaps offer the thrills of a bucket-list vacation

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Too far, too pricey, too congested, ridiculously long lines — such downsides can push popular bucket-list vacays to the back burner. But here's how to enjoy the same kind of thrills now vs. someday: Swap the icons for fresher alternatives.

Why delay gratification when you can do it now instead of dream thanks to smart swaps like these?

Instead of Martha's Vineyard, play New England-style on Block Island.

Take a ferry ride 13 miles off the coast of Rhode Island to a happy land teeming with waterside eateries and bars, lighthouses, cliff-edge beaches, and old-fashioned Atlantic Coast inns with wrap-around verandas and rolling lawns perfect for dining and drinking as the sun sets.

Bicycle instead of drive around the tiny isle, distinguished by 350 miles of winding hand-built stone walls and free-access white-sand beaches. These include Mohegan Bluffs, where 12 dozen wood steps zigzag to the beach.

More info: blockislandinfo.com