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TRAVEL

Explore the Past Through Virtual History Tours

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Staying at home doesn't mean learning opportunities are over; in fact, more worlds have opened up now than ever before, including peeks into the past. For a quarantine activity that's both interesting and mentally enriching, check out eight museums offering virtual [history](#) tours. During this unprecedented period of history, it's especially encouraging to be reminded of how humanity has overcome adversity for millennia.

Whether you dive in yourself or share the tours with your newly schooled-at-home kids, you'll be too busy learning and engaging with the world-shaking events of yesteryear to realize the activity is indeed educational.

Newport's Historic Mansions, Rhode Island



Sitting room at The Elms in Newport, Rhode Island. (Dan Hanscom/Shutterstock)

While you're stuck at home, consider checking out a few historic mansions for some serious home envy. Thanks to the Preservation Society of Newport County, you can take a virtual tour of Newport landmark [The Elms](#), a summer residence of a coal baron and his wife, which began construction in 1898, or opt for a jaw-dropping walk-through of the [Marble House](#), the late-1800s summer house of Mr. and Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt, which contains 500,000 cubic feet of marble.

Another historic Newport mansion, Rosecliff, is currently offering virtual exhibits dedicated to [Tiffany glass](#) and [John James Audubon](#), whose life's work was creating portraits of all the birds in America.