

TRAVEL+ LEISURE

I'm an Interior Designer, and These Are My Favorite Antique Markets in New England

Get ready to find something special.

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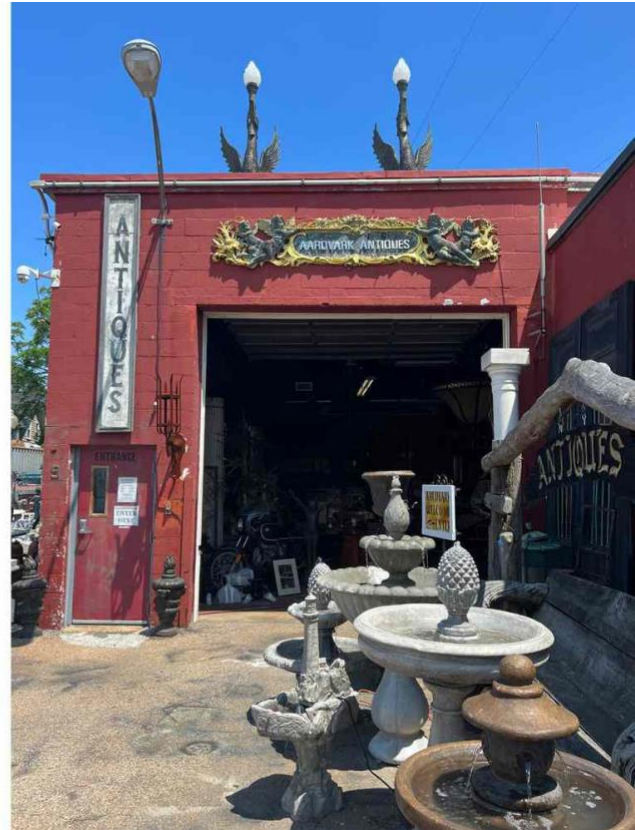


There is something distinctively sweet about growing up in [Rhode Island](#). Here, summer and warm fall days are filled with [heading to the beach](#), hiking a favorite trail, or sipping a cold drink (preferably one with Autocrat in it, but that's a story for a different day). But, when the wind is whipping, or there's simply too much of a chill in the air, we have to seek alternatives. For me, that's always included venturing off to my favorite antique spots for a little treasure hunt.

As an [interior designer](#) (and a self-proclaimed antiquarian), I specialize in helping people not only make their house feel like a home but also to curate their spaces so they're filled with elements that are unique conversation starters, bespoke to their preferred design. Whether it's a small object or a more impactful piece, these are the items that I love searching for.

With this, I've gotten to intimately know some of the absolute best antique shops and fairs across the region. Here are a few of my favorites you should add to your must-see list the next time you visit [New England](#).

The Entire State of Rhode Island



Rhode Island may be the smallest state, but the number of nonchalant antique stores throughout it proves that even the best New England antiques doesn't need to be so grand.

I've grown up staring at the towering sculptures and rarities at [Aardvark Antiques](#) in Newport for as long as I can recall. This sizeable antique store was established in the '60s and is brimming with history that pours out of every corner. I come here for inspiration and treasures, with its vast range of sizable antique furnishings and lighting all the way to its carved Buddha from various time periods. I love walking along the rows of stained-glass panels and vintage rugs, hoping to find a home for them all.

Heading slightly up the coast is [Wickford Antique & Estate Liquidators](#), where you will enter what used to be a Firehouse turned antique heaven. Recently, after browsing the main floor, I found myself curiously walking up the stairs and greeted by one of the largest antique wooden

farm tables I have ever seen, chairs from every decade scattered thoughtfully around it, and art punctuating the walls above.

Up Next is the town of North Kingstown, home to [Re Antiques](#). This antique store is for the buyer on a quest, as layers of antiques and vintage finds are stored from your feet to the ceiling. Asian and African sculptures, vintage lighting, art, furniture, and stacks of books can be found just about everywhere, so take your time and look at them all.

The last stop is the [Rhode Island Antique Mall](#) in Pawtucket. You will spend countless hours roaming the aisles of collectibles, antiquities, and rare finds here. Before coming, I try to map out a plan because it's so big. I usually start on the main floor and then make my way down to the second level, which is packed with more than 30 vendors. I go here specifically for vintage magazines, collectibles, mid-century modern furniture, and porcelain. (I was lucky enough to score my very first piece of Royal Copenhagen here!) The parking is free, so stay for as long as you can.