



# Rhode Island

## WHERE LAND AND SEA ARE INTERTWINED

The smallest state inspires big passion for local, sustainable seafood, a blending of history and innovation and 400 miles of coastal adventures.

Puritan minister and theologian Roger Williams landed in what would become Rhode Island after he was banished from Massachusetts for his belief in the separation of church and state – opinions that officials deemed ‘new and dangerous.’ Williams and his wife fled to the tip of Narragansett Bay where they befriended Native Americans and purchased a portion of their land, which they declared a place of religious freedom. Relationships with area tribes became more complicated as colonists continued arriving with big plans and individualistic ambition, eager to claim the fertile soil and ocean access. While conflict between neighboring colonies and tribes sowed chaos across Rhode Island for much of the 17th



century, the colony’s commitment to religious freedom opened up the waterways to a steady flow of newcomers and commerce.

Today, Rhode Island holds on to that underdog energy, which stands in stark contrast to the wealth that arrived in the Gilded Age, as extravagant

mansions were built along Newport’s Atlantic shore.

Between the shiny resort exteriors and a proud, ocean-worn heart is a willingness to try new things, to innovate and welcome fresh ideas.

Rhode Island’s capital is bursting with creative energy and every inch of the state seems intimately tied to the ocean. There is a strong sense of place here, perhaps because you’re never far from the inspiring beauty and power of the sea.

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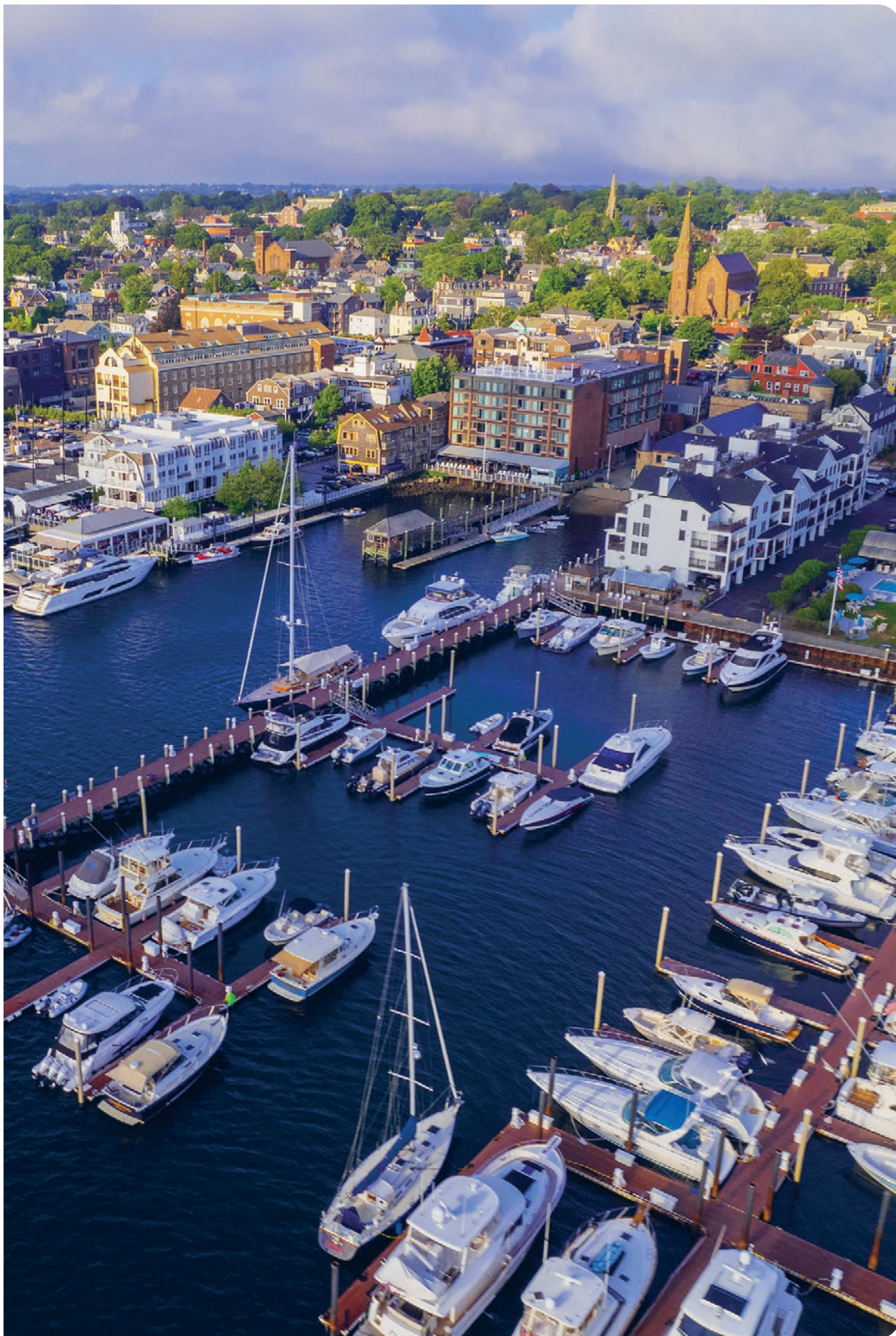
## THE MAIN AREAS

### PROVIDENCE

Arts, academics and foodie culture. **p214**

### NEWPORT

Ocean views and Gilded Age sparkle. **p223**



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Left: Providence (p214); above: Newport harbor (p223)



# Find Your Way

You can drive from any corner of Rhode Island to the opposite in under an hour. But give yourself plenty of time – those 1034 sq miles are dense with things to see and do.

THE GUIDE

RHODE ISLAND

0 20 km  
0 10 miles

## Providence, p214

The 'Creative Capital' is home to RISD, a prestigious art school, and Ivy League Brown University. Rivers converge in a walkable downtown.

## Newport, p223

Almost entirely surrounded by water, Newport boasts picturesque beaches and a rocky edge dotted with mansions. Downtown is lively and historic.



### CAR

It's helpful to have four wheels in Rhode Island, where major highways connect most destinations. Check out at least one of the state's nine designated scenic roadways.



### FERRY

From June to October, you can board the Seastreak ferry to travel between Providence, Bristol and Newport. It's a slower but fun way to see three significant destinations. A ferry will also get you to Block Island.



Newport Vineyards (p232)

# Plan Your Time

Rhode Island is n't a large state, but it has plenty for travelers to do. Factor in extra time for navigating around inlets and across Narragansett Bay.

## Two Days, Two Towns

● Take in Providence from the **River Walk**. Visit the **RISD Museum**, then **Plant City** (p220). Try clam cakes at **Dune Brothers** (p220) followed by a cocktail at **The Eddy** (p219). The next day, head to Newport, stopping at **Norman Bird Sanctuary** (p227), then lunch at Newport Vineyards, followed by the Cliff Walk, a tour and dinner at **Clarke Cooke House** (p226).

## A Week from City to Coast

● After Newport, treat yourself to a night at **Ocean House** (p235), where you'll enjoy a private beach. Head to **Matunuck Oyster Bar** (p233) one morning for an oyster farm tour and brunch. Beach hop from Watch Hill to **Misquamicut** (p232), and spend an evening strolling downtown Westerly.

## SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

### SPRING

Daffodils bloom in Newport County for Daffodil Days. Enjoy the wildflowers at Norman Bird Sanctuary.

### SUMMER

The cities are buzzing with outdoor dining and festivals including Pride, PVD Fest and Newport Jazz Festival.

### AUTUMN

Lingering warmth and lighter crowds make fall a great time to visit. The colorful foliage peaks in mid-October.

### WINTER

Watch seals in cold Newport Harbor or check out Lumina, light installations in Providence.

# Providence



FOODIE HAVEN | RIVERSIDE WALKS | HISTORIC CAMPUSES



## GETTING AROUND

Rhode Island's TF Green International Airport is about 30 minutes outside of Providence by car. If you're willing to put in some mileage on foot, you don't need a car to explore. But if you do bring one, street parking is plentiful in most neighborhoods – and not prohibitively expensive downtown. Providence is a lovely city to wander around on foot or bike, with an abundance of beautiful, historic homes to admire. But the east side gets hilly, with the steepest streets between the river and Brown University.

## TOP TIP

While spring is beautiful in Providence, mid-May is a good time to avoid, as college graduations clog the city with traffic. It's an exciting time for students, but a frustrating time to navigate the city. If you do come, avoid College Hill.

Providence is the only major US city whose entire downtown is on the National Register of Historic Places. But it's definitely not living in the past. Instead, the 'creative capital' buzzes with modern, progressive energy. Three major universities draw academics, artists and culinary prestige to its downtown and surrounding neighborhoods, while visitors flock here for sprawling summertime events, an inspiring food scene and walkable neighborhoods.

Providence didn't always have a reputation as a tourist destination. In 1983, the *Wall Street Journal* called it, 'little more than a smudge beside the fast lane to Cape Cod,' deriding its infamously corrupt politics. In the late 1990s, money poured in to reinvent the city; its highway-covered rivers were reimaged with a focus on public spaces and communal access. With bumps along the way, those efforts feel successful – thanks to people who love the city with all of its beauty, flaws and creative solutions.

## Paddle Downtown

### Rent kayaks on the river

You'll likely spend time alongside the Providence River while exploring downtown, but slipping onto the water's surface gives you a whole new view of the city. **Providence Kayak Co.** offers 45- and 75-minute kayak rentals, including single and tandem, which is the perfect amount of time to paddle up and down the main stretch of the downtown river, slide under the bridges and wave hello to pedestrians above you. It's a peaceful, unique way to get a better understanding of the downtown cityscape and to admire some stunning architecture. Rentals sell out quickly in the summer months, so make a reservation if you can. Providence Kayak Co. is located inside **The Landing Cafe** where you'll find coffee and ice cream – a great way to refuel after some time on the water.



BEPPE CASTRO/SHUTTERSTOCK ©



WaterFire

## Dancing Flames

### Marvel at WaterFire

All three rivers running through downtown Providence glow and flicker gold on WaterFire nights when over 100 bonfires are lit on the surface of the waterways. These floating flames are part of a mesmerizing art installation by Brown graduate Barnaby Evans. The first installation took place in 1994 in an effort to reinvigorate Providence as a destination. Today, it's hard to imagine the cultural and aesthetic charm of the state's capital was ever in question, but WaterFire played a significant role in attracting visitors, alongside the river relocation plan which made it physically possible for people to enjoy the Providence waterfront.

The bonfires are lit by torchbearers in gondolas. Musical performances take place in parks along the banks, while thousands of visitors descend downtown to take it all in – close to a million people enjoy WaterFire each summer. You'll want to get there early to find parking and claim a spot along the water. Lightings typically take place around sunset, and the fires burn until midnight. WaterFire takes place from May through November, on roughly two Saturday evenings each month. Check [waterfire.org](http://waterfire.org) for confirmed dates.



### REVEALING A RIVER

The Providence River forms at the confluence of the Woonasquatucket and Moshassuck Rivers in downtown Providence. On a sunny day, the Riverwalk is busy with walkers, joggers and workers enjoying lunch with a watery view. But just a few decades ago, those views were largely nonexistent – the riverfronts were lined and crossed by traffic-clogged highways and bridges. The River Relocation Project, which began in 1986, was a massive undertaking to reclaim the rivers and create public spaces downtown. Over a decade of work resulted in a riverfront designed for people instead of cars, with multiple neighborhoods now tied together by pedestrian bridges and walkways.



### EATING IN PROVIDENCE: OYSTER BARS

#### Providence Oyster Bar:

With locations in Federal Hill and East Greenwich and popular \$1 happy-hour oysters and clams. *Hours vary* \$\$

#### Mill's Tavern:

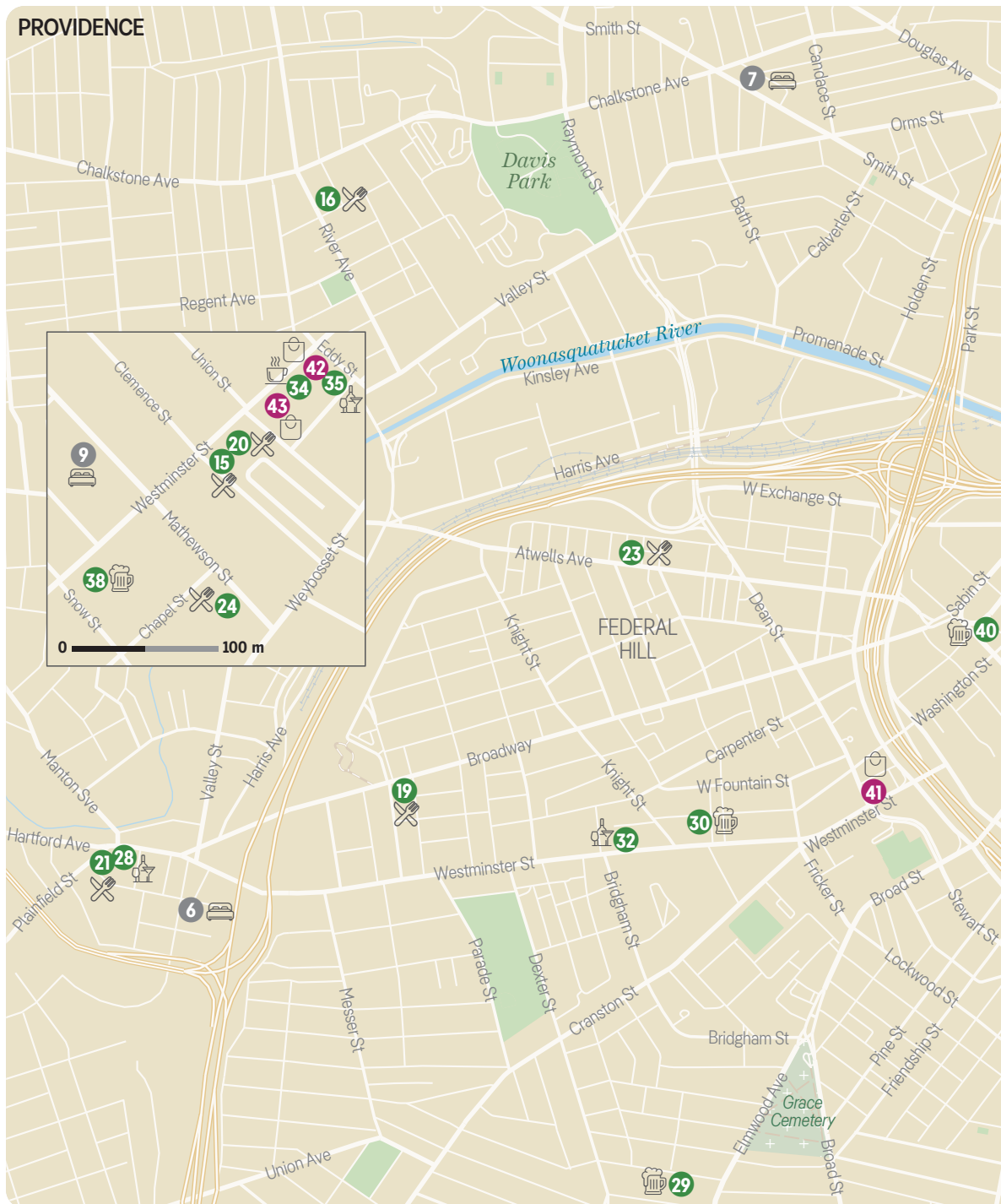
Classic spot for upscale dining in a century-old building. Oysters half-price at the bar from 5-6.30pm. *Hours vary* \$\$\$

#### Pizzico Oyster Bar:

Tuscan-inspired menu includes an excellent wine selection and half-off raw bar from 4-6pm. *Hours vary* \$\$

#### Gift Horse:

A raw bar with playful vibes. Oysters sourced from Rhode Island. Horseshoe bar makes for a social environment. *4pm-midnight Thurs-Mon* \$\$

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- 1 Providence Athenaeum

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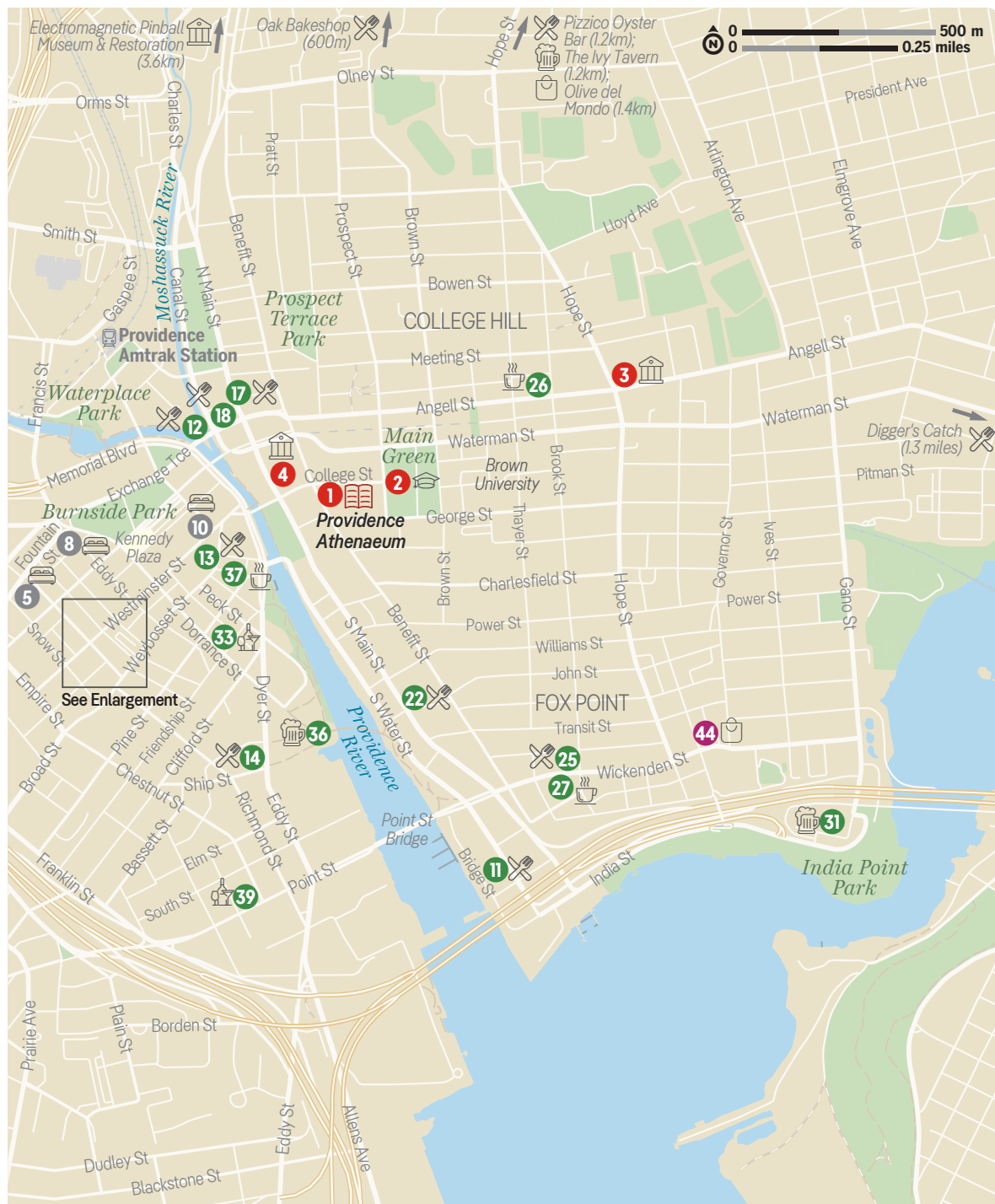
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## GASPEE DAYS

The first armed act of the American Revolution took place in 1772 in Narragansett Bay. The *Gaspee* was a British ship sent to monitor trade off the coast of Rhode Island. The captain had an overzealous approach, often confiscating cargo and detaining vessels. On June 9, a group led by John Brown (who founded Brown University) baited the *Gaspee* into shallow waters. They grounded the ship, then burnt it to the waterline. Since 1965, Gaspee Days have been held throughout the spring and summer with multiple events to commemorate that bold rebuke of British oversight, including a parade and a reenactment of the burning. Check the Gaspee Days website ([gaspee.com](http://gaspee.com)) for event details each year.



NAGEL PHOTOGRAPHY/SHUTTERSTOCK ©

Providence Athenaeum

## A Literary Hideout

### Step into the historic athenaeum

About halfway up a steep hill on Benefit Street, you'll find a quiet but exciting refuge of reading; the **Providence Athenaeum**, housed in a Greek Revivalist building built in 1838. The interior, filled with densely lined shelves, is drenched in sun on clear days. Despite its prestige and history, the athenaeum is a warm and welcoming space. Visitors can make a small donation (the recommended amount is \$5) to enter, then scan a QR code at the visitor's desk for a virtual guide or simply follow their curiosity through the stacks and find something unexpected to page through. On the lofted 2nd floor, you'll find little wooden desks between the shelves. These are reserved for members who pay \$165/year. (If you're a remote worker, you might find yourself dreaming of staying in Providence awhile,



## EATING IN PROVIDENCE: OUR PICKS

### Charuma Tea Bar:

Authentic Taiwanese tea shop with delicious street food snacks. The popcorn chicken is delectable. *11.30am-6.30pm* \$

### PVD Noodle Bar: Asian

noodle bar with sake flights. Watch your dishes being prepared. *Noon-3pm & 5pm-midnight Thu-Mon* \$\$

### Dune Brothers Seafood:

Food cart serving sustainable seafood. Try the chowder and clam cakes. *11am-7pm Wed-Sat, to 5pm Sun* \$\$

### Bellini:

Fine dining in a warm atmosphere, Bellini's is worth the splurge. It's Italian, and has a focus on flavor. *Hours vary* \$\$\$

### Los Andes:

Peruvian and Bolivian food served in this always-packed spot with a leafy patio. Don't miss the ceviche. *Hours vary* \$\$

### Nicks on Broadway:

Upscale diner experience with an extensive menu. Book ahead, especially for brunch. *10am-8pm Wed-Sat, to 4pm Sun* \$

### Al Forno:

Classic restaurant serving up Italian dishes in a sophisticated atmosphere since 1980. *5-10pm Tue-Fri, 4-10pm Sat* \$\$

### New Rivers:

American Bistro with a seasonal menu and a reputation for excellent food and wines. *4.30-9.30pm Wed-Sat* \$\$\$

just to work at these comfy desks, surrounded by books.) You also must be a member to take books home, but visitors are welcome to browse and bring books downstairs to the reading room where there are tables and chairs and an impressive collection of magazines and newspapers to look at, too.

Along with being a literary haven and a historic space for thinking and reading, the Providence Athenaeum contains an art collection with rotating exhibits and a rare books collection. Visitors can view items in the rare books and special collections by appointment.

Keep in mind that there is no elevator in the historic building. If stairs are not an option, there is still plenty to see on the ground floor. Plan for an hour or two if you want to hang out and read – or swing by for a quick stop while touring the Brown campus.

## Light Up for Pride

### A rollicking festival and parade

Providence's annual PrideFest is one of the state's biggest and most festive events of the year. Fostering LGBTIQ+ inclusivity year-round, it's no surprise that Providence hosts New England's largest celebration of queer identity and liberation – and the only illuminated night parade in the region. Dates and times vary each year, but, PrideFest kicks off mid-morning in District Park where over 100,000 people come to enjoy street vendors, music and lively celebration. Well-known acts hit the main stage throughout the day, and there's a kid-friendly section in the park for families. Get there early to find parking (avoid parking too close to the parade route), then spend the day eating, dancing, browsing artisan goods, and partying with Providence locals and visitors from all over the country.

As nightfall nears, find a spot to watch the illuminated parade, which is really more of a roving party of sparkling floats and glowing participants wearing all kinds of costumes and lights. If you're here for the nightlife, you can join a block party or hit the bars after the parade. Celebrating the festival and parade makes for a long day – especially if you're drinking. So take it slow, wear comfortable shoes and let your pride sparkle!

### STILL HERE MURAL

Across the river from College Hill stands a striking mural of Narragansett tribe member Lynsea Montanari holding a photograph of the late Princess Red Wing (of the Narragansett/Niantic and Pokanoket tribes), who led the fight for the federal government to recognize the Narragansett Nation. It was painted by Baltimore artist, Andrew Pisacane (@Gaiastreetart), in partnership with the Tomaquag Museum and Avenue Concept.

The piece is meant to bring awareness to the erasure of Native American history and the continuing existence of indigenous people in Providence. It's become an iconic, though temporary, element of the Providence skyline – a reminder that indigenous people have always been here and continue to be.



### DRINKING IN PROVIDENCE: OUR PICKS

**The Eddy:** Intimate cocktail bar, somewhere between local watering hole and a date night spot. *4pm-1am Sun-Thu, to 2am Fri & Sat* \$\$

**Red Door:** A dim, brick interior and artfully crafted cocktails. Happy hours include mezze plates and calamari. *Hours vary* \$\$

**The Malted Barley:** Serving a satisfying combo of pretzels with dipping sauces and craft beers. *Noon-11pm Sun-Thu, to 1am Fri & Sat* \$

**The Ivy Tavern:** A cozy dive in the Hope neighborhood with a favorite burger in town. *11.30am-9pm Mon-Fri, to 10pm Sat, to 8pm Sun* \$

**Tiny Bar:** An itty bitty building houses big flavor in the form of cocktails. *4-10pm Mon-Wed, to 11pm Thu, to midnight Fri & Sat* \$\$

**The Guild PVD Beer Garden:** A favorite for river views on sunny days, this beer garden has picnic tables and great beer. *Hours vary* \$

**Ogie's Trailer Park:** A quirky bar with a lively patio and comfort food. *4pm-1am Mon-Thu, 3pm-2am Fri, noon-2am Sat, noon-1am Sun* \$

**Justine's:** A speakeasy hidden in a lingerie store in Olneyville, Justine's pays homage to Prohibition. *7pm-1am Thu, to 2am Fri & Sat* \$\$





### BEST LOCAL SHOPS

#### Three Wheel Studio:

Shop owner Dwo Wen grew up in Taiwan and combines Asian sensibilities with western training. His ceramics are for sale among those of other artists.

#### Modern Love:

Delightful curation of clothing, jewelry, cards and kitchen accessories. Much of their stock is local and handmade.

#### Symposium Books:

Independent bookstore selling a mix of new and used along with vinyl, cards and totes.

**Frog & Toad:** Two locations stocked with a mix of locally made gifts, from home goods to unique Rhode Island swag.

#### Olive del Mondo:

A family-run shop packed with flavor, this vinegar shop and plant-based market sells many local products.

## Plant-Based Feasting

### Eat, drink and shop vegan

You don't have to be vegan to enjoy a few hours of feasting at Providence's one-of-a-kind **Plant City Food Hall and Marketplace**, located just off the Providence River Walk. Upon entering Plant City, you might be a little overwhelmed at first. The food hall includes several sit-down restaurants; multiple counters for to-go food, coffee, and desserts; and a marketplace where you can stock up on plant-based items for your fridge. But the many choices are part of the point. Plant City's founder and visionary, Kim Anderson, wanted to show people with all kinds of preferences and dietary restrictions how plant-based eating can positively impact people and the environment. A sign by the entrance is adjusted regularly to share what Plant City has saved in replacing meat-based meals. As of May 2023, that includes over 33 million sq ft of forest, a billion gallons of water and one million animal lives. The enthusiasm for plant-based eating here is contagious, but it's also a simply lovely place to eat. If you want to sit down in one of the multiple dining rooms or outside on the patio, you'll have your pick between burgers, Mexican or Italian. The spaces aren't divided by restaurant, but your table will be asked to choose one menu to order from. If you're looking for to-go food, there's sushi and sandwiches that are perfect to enjoy at picnic tables along the river. After a meal, grab coffee or a dessert, or visit the speakeasy bar across the parking lot for a plant-based cocktail.

## Little Rhody Delicacies

### Clam cakes, stuffies and johnnycakes

Spend just a few hours in Providence and you'll hear about some kind of unfamiliar food. That's because Rhode Island has a bunch of delectable dishes that are unique to the state (by name, at least), and locals really hope you'll try them all. These include quahogs (clams), clam cakes (clams fried in a doughy ball of cornmeal), coffee milk (coffee-flavored syrup stirred into milk), johnnycakes (unleavened cornmeal pancakes), hot wieners (like a hot dog but smaller, slathered in meat sauce and mustard), stuffies (stuffed quahogs) and Rhode Island clam chowder (with a base of clear, briny broth). You can find many of these downtown, but a car is helpful to reach the best versions in and around Providence. **Dune Bros**, a downtown favorite, serves sustainably sourced clam cakes you can plop into a cup of chowder and enjoy on the river. **Olneyville NY System** is where you'll want to try hot wieners and coffee



### EATING IN PROVIDENCE: WHERE TO DINE ALFRESCO

On summer Saturdays, restaurants on Federal Hill set up outside, along with entertainment. 5am-midnight Sat \$\$

**The East End:** A robust menu of cheese boards, burgers and calamari is served on a patio. 4-10pm Sun-Wed, to midnight Thu, to 1am Fri & Sat \$\$

**Oberlin:** Seasonal small plates and handmade pasta are served on a heated patio. 5-10.30pm Thu-Mon plus 10am-2.30pm Sat & Sun \$\$

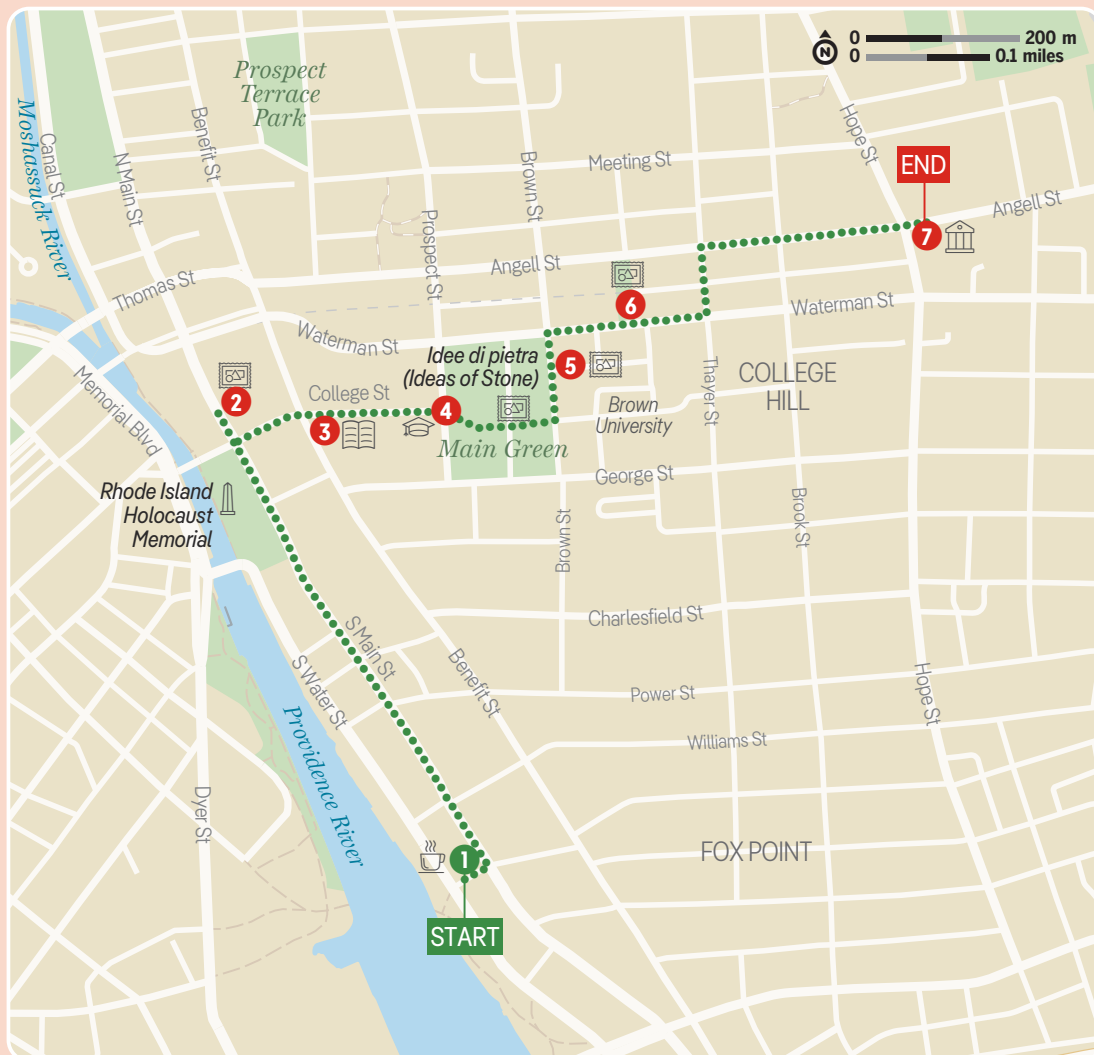
**Cafe Nuovo:** Chic global cuisine on the river where you can watch the gondolas take off. 4-9pm, closed Sun \$\$\$

## EXPLORE BROWN & PUBLIC ART

Start at **1 Plant City** for coffee and snacks. Outside, head north on Main Street to Rhode Island Memorial Park and take a moment on the steps of the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial. One block further, you'll see the **2 RISD Museum** (p213) on your right. Just before the museum, take College Street uphill one block to the **3 Providence Athenaeum** (p218), a Greek revival building housing a stunning collection of books. If you don't mind the climb, continue uphill till you reach Prospect Street and the entrance to the Main Green of **4 Brown University**. Check out the tree that's actually stone, with a rock tucked into its bare branches. *Idee di pietra* (Ideas of Stone) is a sculpture by Italian artist Giuseppe Penone; the use of common materials, like the stone taken from the Orco River near Penone's hometown, was a response to the commercializa-

tion of art. Cross the green – where (on nice days) students will be sprawled out with their books – on the path heading north (a left from the path on which you entered), past the **5 bronze bear** (*Bronze Bruno*, the school's mascot) to hit Waterman Street.

Turn right and walk two blocks to a traffic light where there will be a green clearing across the street with silver figures holding hands in a circle. The stainless steel **6 Circle Dance** by American artist Tom Friedman is inspired by Matisse's painting *La Danse*. Continuing on Waterman Street, take a left on Thayer to the main drag of College Hill, where you'll find cheap eats and coffee options to refuel. From Thayer, head east on Angell Street for two blocks to the **7 Lip-pitt House Museum**, where you can tour the pristine conservation of Victorian architecture and the opulent lifestyle it housed.





## THE RESTAURANT RENAISSANCE



**Britt Simons**, bar manager at The Eddy, on the Providence food scene.

@britt\_simons

Providence has experienced something of a renaissance in recent years. While many of the ‘special occasion’ restaurants have closed, approachable and casual spots have become ubiquitous. These allow a guest to progressively dine by hitting multiple spots in a single night.

There is a wonderful mix of high-low, and that makes decision-making for gatherings feel effortless. Because of the ever-present student body thanks to Brown, JWU, PC and RISD, the clientele remains youthful and lively, inspiring our darling city to eternally evolve and grow. That said, some spots will remain as institutions; my own most frequented are Chengdu Taste, Hot Club and Captain Seaweeds.



EGROV/SHUTTERSTOCK ©

Rhode Island School of Design

milk. Pick up some stuffies at **Digger’s Catch** in East Providence and bring them out for a picnic. You’ll see these Little Rhody delicacies all over the state, but Providence is a foodie city, so it’s a great place to check several off your list.

## Experience Design & Creativity

### Visit the RISD Museum

Providence is nicknamed the ‘Creative Capital’ for its eclectic community of thinkers and makers. The **Rhode Island School of Design** is a big part of why so many creative minds come here and leave their mark on the city. RISD was founded in 1877 by a group of women – before women had the right to vote – with a focus on progressive thinking and curiosity. But you don’t have to be a student to learn about art here. You can visit the **RISD museum**, located between the river and Brown University. The stunning collections range from ancient Greek and Egyptian to the 21st century, with over 100,000 items on display. If you love art, plan to spend a few hours here. Regular admission is \$20, but it’s free on Sundays and Thursday evenings; you’ll want to reserve tickets in advance on those free days. Before or after your museum visit, take a walk around the RISD campus and along the river.



### DRINKING IN PROVIDENCE: BEST COFFEE SHOPS

**Coffee Exchange:** Old school coffee house with on-site roasting and lots of space to hang out.  
7am–6pm Mon–Friday,  
8am–6pm Sat & Sun \$

**Small Point Cafe:** Grab a latte, a snack and a diner table seat or reading chair at this homey spot. Hours vary \$

**Oak Bakeshop:** A ‘Jewishish’ bakery serving can’t-miss knish and scones in the Hope neighborhood.  
7am–2pm Tue–Fri, to 3pm Sat & Sunn \$\$

**Ceremony:** This sleek cafe serves inventive, Asian-inspired beverages and classic espresso drinks. Hours vary \$\$

# Newport

MARINAS | WILDLIFE WATCHING | STATELY HOMES



The ocean breeze carries you back in time, down Newport's cobblestone streets, to a shimmering mix of history and opulence. Located on the southern tip of Aquidneck Island, Newport is bordered by Narragansett Bay to the northwest and the Atlantic Ocean at its rocky southern edge. The Gilded Age brought the ultra-rich here where they built 'summer cottages' along the stunning shoreline, and wealth still sparkles in the sun at chic hotels and across the manicured lawns of stately homes. Newport's marinas are often graced by sleek sailboats and yachts, and colonial-era architecture is meticulously preserved. It's also a town of hard-working, down-to-earth people who are passionately connected to the maritime industry and coastal landscape. In the summer months, tourists fill the walkable downtown looking for seafood and ocean views.

## Pedal the Rails

### A unique vehicle and route

In the 1850s, maintenance workers on railroads used handcars with a see-saw-like arm they'd crank to move along the tracks. Today, visitors to **Rail Explorers** can enjoy a similar concept – but the Rail Explorer is pedal-powered, hands-free and much more fun. Utilizing old railway tracks and their unique four-wheeled vehicle, Rail Explorers offers a special way to view the scenery along Narragansett Bay, just north of Newport. Book a bike in advance and it will have your name on it when you arrive. You'll choose between a two- or four-seater and a 3-mile, one-way trip or a 6-mile, round-trip ride.

After a brief safety tour, hop on your vehicle and take off with a group of riders, several guides and a tour map. The guides are there to keep everyone together, but you'll enjoy plenty of space and solitude between riders while watching boats slip by on the bay. It's a great bit of exercise after a day of eating your way through Newport, but it's also easy enough for all

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### GETTING AROUND

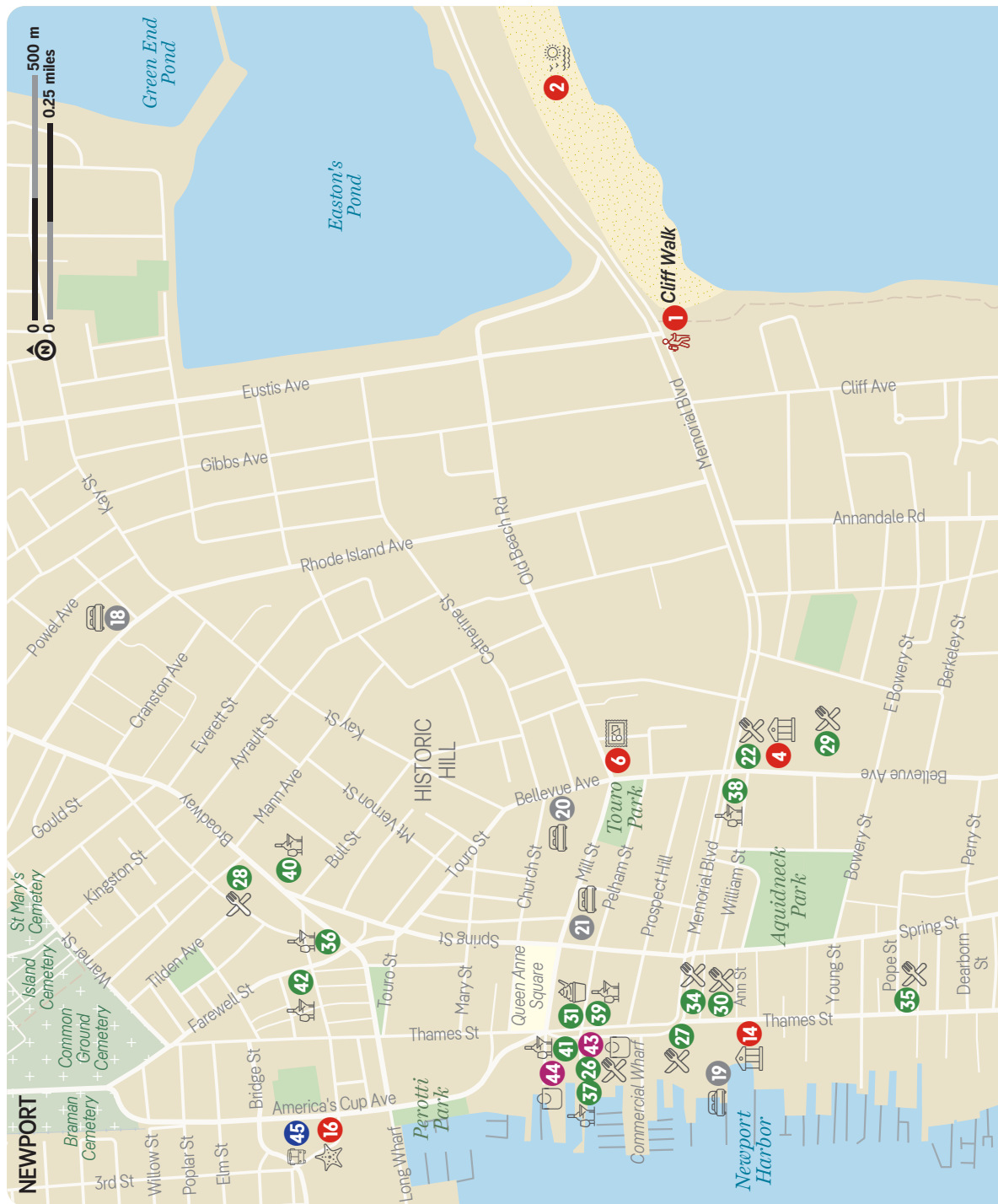
Newport is about 40 minutes from TF Green Airport by car. If you're driving, know that parking in downtown Newport can be very crowded. The city is great for walking and biking, with mostly flat streets – some of them cobblestone, so you'll want sturdy shoes – and a compact downtown. Popular attractions can be reached by the city's trolley, which offers a free hop-on-hop-off service from May through October, departing from the **Newport Transportation Center**.

### TOP TIPS

Parking in downtown Newport can be a nightmare, especially on weekends in the summer. Try parking in surrounding neighborhoods, far enough from downtown that they don't require residential parking permits.

The City of Newport's website ([cityofnewport.com](http://cityofnewport.com)) has a comprehensive guide to parking in the area.



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## AN ALTERNATIVE TO DINING OUT

**Mary Joy Lu**, co-founder of Rail Explorers (@Railexplorersusa) recommends skipping the crowded restaurants after a ride along the Newport and Narragansett Bay Railroad on one of their unique rail bikes, and doing this instead:

Visit a nice little deli for an alfresco experience on the beach or at a park. It's a great way to get away from the crowds. There's **Aquidneck Meat Market** and **Bottega Bocconi**, both in Middletown. I like to go to **Anthony's Seafood** and get 10 pounds of mussels and then pick up bread for everyone. We bring a blanket to First or Second beach and find a nice spot on the rocks to eat, drink, and watch the sunset.



*cont. from p223*

experience levels and ages. Their brunch excursion is especially popular – you'll stop halfway at a picnic spot and enjoy local pastries, coffee and a mimosa or a Bloody Mary. On the evening lantern ride, you can bring a dinner picnic to enjoy at a pre-set bonfire – a beautiful way to enjoy a cool evening in Newport.

## Say Hello to Seals

### Winter seal-watching tours

Winter isn't a popular time for humans to be out on the icy water, but harbor seals love the chill – over 400 of them hang out in Narragansett Bay from November to April. If you want to see them, then you'll need to bundle up and join the largest environmental nonprofit in New England, Save the Bay, for a seal tour ([savebay.org/family-fun/seals](http://savebay.org/family-fun/seals)). You'll board a boat in Newport to cruise out to the creature's favorite spots, learning about these adorable, semi-aquatic mammals along the way. Harbor seals are the official marine animal of Rhode Island, and their arrival each winter is a sign that the bay is healthy and thriving, with enough fish for the seals to stay full and happy. Save the Bay counts the number of animals that arrive from Maine and Canada each year to better understand the health of the local ecosystem. After the hour-long tour,



## EATING IN NEWPORT: BEST SWEET TREATS

**Kilwin's Chocolates and Ice Cream:** Serving ice cream since 1947, Kilwin's specializes in fresh ingredients and delicious flavors. *Hours vary* \$

**Kaffeology:** Come for the main attraction – the Bam Bam milkshake contains fruity pebble ice cream, cotton candy – and half a Pop Tart. *8am-5pm* \$

**Clarke Cooke House:** A Snowball in Hell is an artful combination of chocolate roulade, ice cream and coconut in a goblet. *Hours vary* \$\$\$

**Le Bec Sucré:** French bakery in Middletown, serving beautiful pastries, including pain au chocolat, and fruit ones. *7am-11 Wed-Sat, to 10.30 Sun* \$\$





Harbor seals, Newport

you can visit **Save the Bay's Hamilton Family Aquarium** for a deeper look at the underwater world of Narragansett Bay and the Atlantic, and learn more about efforts to protect these precious waters.

BETH FITZPATRICK/SHUTTERSTOCK ©

## Bird Habitat Hikes

### A sanctuary for all

Just outside of Newport is a sanctuary for birds and the humans who come to see them. **Norman Bird Sanctuary** is 300 acres of diverse habitat where conservation efforts include the restoration of grasslands and the annual installation of 300 nest boxes for tree swallows and Eastern bluebirds. Non-native plants have been removed and replaced by native fruit-bearing shrubs to support the New England cottontail, a threatened species of rabbit that's been reintroduced to Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Maine in recent years. Visitors to Norman Bird Sanctuary can enjoy the quiet, wooded property on a 1-mile hike to Hanging Rock for ocean views or bring your binoculars for bird-watching from the cliffs of Nelson Pond Trail. The sanctuary hosts regular activities to facilitate education and connection to the area, from outdoor yoga classes to free nature walks. Check their calendar for upcoming programs before you visit.



## EATING IN NEWPORT: SCRUMPTIOUS BREAKFASTS

**Corner Cafe:** A nice spot for all-day breakfast. House specials like the Jimmy Pesto Especial are worth the wait. *Hours vary* \$\$

**Cru Cafe:** The locally sourced menu rotates seasonally at this trendy cafe. Breakfast served all day. BYOB. 8am-3pm \$\$

**Annie's:** The best breakfast deal is right on Bellevue Ave. The diner menu includes budget basics and decadent options. 7am-3pm \$

**Coffee Grinder:** For a light breakfast, enjoy Italian espresso and a pastry with a view of Newport Harbor. 7am-6pm Sun-Thu, to 7pm Fri & Sat \$



## BEST NEWPORT TOURS

**Newport History Tours:** Themed walking tours starting at the Museum of Newport History include African American history and 'legends and lore.'

**Newport Helicopter Tours:** See the mansions from above or marvel at the coastline at night by helicopter. Tours are between 12 and 40 minutes.

**Evening Voyage with Gansett Cruises:** Drinks and stuffies are served as you cruise by Fort Adams, Castle Hill Lighthouse, and Goat Island.

**Newport Travel Trolley Tour:** From Newport's colonial past to Ocean Drive's Gilded Age wealth, you'll learn a lot about Newport from luxurious trolleys.

**Old Towne Ghost Walk:** Hear about ghost ships and cemetery crypts on a leisurely, lantern-led walk through Newport's darker side.



## NEWPORT'S BELOVED FESTIVALS

### Newport Folk Festival:

Started in 1959, this summer event takes place on a peninsula in Fort Adams State Park. Recent headliners include Brandi Carlile and Jon Batiste.

### Newport Jazz Festival:

A multiday music fest including jazz and genre-defying artists, both well-known and up-and-coming.

### Newport Oyster Festival:

For one weekend in May, oyster growers and vendors gather at Bowen's Wharf for visitors to sample the local variety.

### Bowen's Wharf Seafood Festival:

In October, historic Bowen's Wharf hosts a smorgasbord of local seafood along with live music.

**Newport Pride:** The annual June pride festival includes a bike parade, live performances and an inclusive, loving atmosphere.



QUIGGY14/SHUTTERSTOCK ©

Bannister's Wharf

## Stroll the Historic Wharf

### Seafood, shopping and sailboats

At the ocean end of Pelham Street is a lively marina lined with shopping, dining and boat slips. **Bannister's Wharf** has been a hub of activity since it was established in 1742. As a deepwater marina, it's been home to some of the world's most impressive yachts. It's also a bustling tourist attraction with the authenticity of a working marina, and is home to the iconic **Clarke Cooke House** (p226), which includes the Candy Store where you'll find summer sushi and the Boom Boom Room, a popular basement dance club. Stroll the pier and enjoy shopping, an ocean-view cocktail and dinner on a warm summer evening.

## Sleep on an Island

### Among the birds and stars

Just a mile from the busy streets of Newport lies **Rose Island**, in the east passage of lower Narragansett Bay. The 18-acre island is a peaceful wildlife refuge, home to a nesting habitat



## EATING IN NEWPORT: SEAFOOD FAVORITES

**Flo's Clam Shack:** Since 1936, this casual spot has served fried seafood from two locations – Middletown and Portsmouth. 11am-9pm \$

**Scales & Shells:** Serving exclusively seafood, this eatery sources locally. Snag a seat on the balcony for views of Thames Street. Hours vary \$\$

**Clarke Cooke House (p226):** Refined dishes served with elegance, on Bannister's Wharf. 1.30pm-midnight Mon-Sat, 11am-midnight Sun \$\$\$

**The Red Parrot:** Lobster is the star of this menu, served on three levels with family-friendly vibes. 11.30am-9.30pm Sun-Thu, to 10.30pm Fri & Sat. \$\$



### THE FIRST GAS LAMP

The very first gas lamp to illuminate a city street was in 1803 (or 1805 – it's debated) on Thames street in Newport. David Melville was a pewterer who designed the lamp to light the front entrance of his home. He obtained a patent for his unique invention, but before he could secure funding, a different style of gas lamp was designed in Baltimore, and that one received recognition as the first. The lamp is still hanging at 1 Pelham Street, off Thames Street, just above the main thoroughfare of shops in downtown Newport.

for American oystercatchers, glossy ibis, snowy egrets, Canadian geese, seagulls – and the **Rose Island Lighthouse**, perched on the island's highest point.

The best way to visit Rose Island – to escape the crowds and experience the seclusion as it would have been for a lighthouse keeper in the 19th century – is to stay overnight. The island has four rooms available to rent, three of which are in the lighthouse and one in the barracks building. Overnight guests are provided transportation via the Rose boat from Fort Adams, included in the rate of their stay. The accommodations fall comfortably between camping on the beach and staying at a cozy bed and breakfast. You're so close to the elements: the water just outside of your window, the star-speckled black sky on clear nights and the cool morning fog. The amenities are comfortable but basic, including a solar-powered shower that isn't reliably warm. The lack of wi-fi is a great reason to ignore emails and let yourself sink into the surroundings. Bookings are made available for the year in December of the year prior. Set a calendar reminder – they book up fast.

## Hike Past Ocean & History

### Traverse the stunning cliff walk

You're never far from the ocean in Rhode Island, but the **Cliff Walk** is one of the loveliest ways to be right next to it, enjoying the caw of gulls and the crash of waves on rocks. Start your walk at one of seven entrances, depending on how much of the 3.5-mile path you want to cover. Along the way, you'll enjoy the ocean to one side and views of the iconic Newport mansions to the other. This National Recreation Trail in a National Historic District is a unique tour of both wildlife and architecture. Springtime walks, although possibly cold, are especially beautiful with wildflowers in bloom. The northern portion of the walk is very easy with flat, level trails. The southern portion becomes rocky and you'll want steady shoes to traverse the sometimes slippery surfaces.



### DRINKING IN NEWPORT: OUR PICKS

**White Horse Tavern:** The oldest pub in the country opened in 1671 and continues to welcome guests. *5-9pm Wed-Thurs, 4-9pm Fri-Tues*

**Pour Judgement:** You'll feel like a local in this narrow, classic dive bar with friendly service and good food. *Noon-1am*

**Wally's Wieners:** Specializes in an unexpected pairing – hot dogs and espresso martinis. *8am-11pm Sun-Thurs, to 1am Fri & Sat*

**Black Pearl:** Nestled among the docks of Bannister's Wharf, The Black Pearl's patio is the perfect place to people-watch. *11am-9pm*

**Wharf Southern Kitchen and Whiskey Bar:** Whiskey is paired with a selection of craft beer. *Noon-9pm Mon-Thu, to 10pm Fri-Sun*

**Bar 12:** This speakeasy specializes in creative craft cocktails and wine. Half-priced food from 5pm-10pm on Thursdays. *Hours vary*

**Dueling Piano Bar at Top of Pelham:** The sign for this rollicking piano bar is right above the country's first gas lamp. *Hours vary*

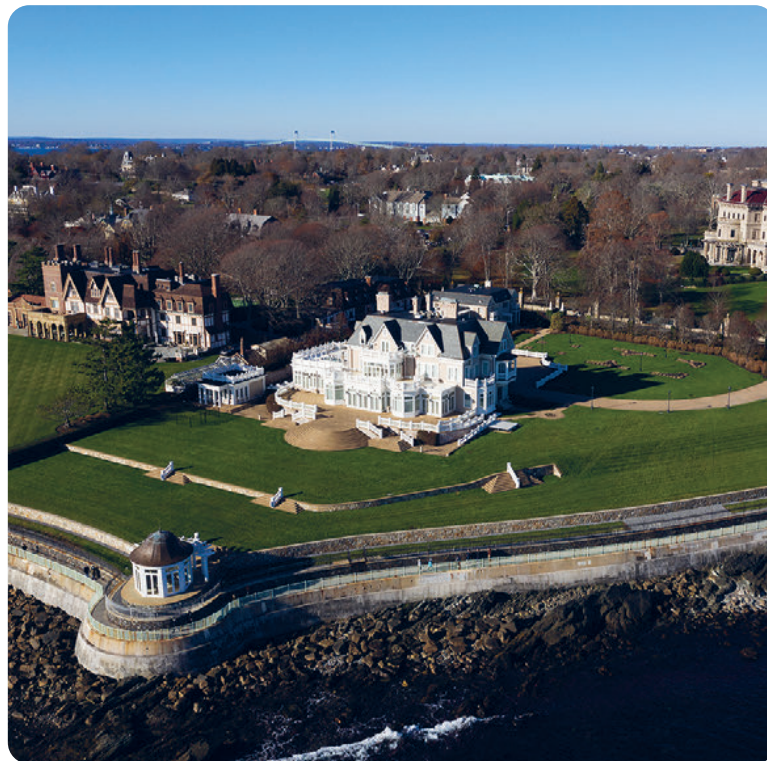
**Cappy's Hillside Cafe:** A charming bar, Cappy's was established on the same day as the Great Hurricane of 1938. *Noon-1am*





## THE MIDDLE PASSAGE

Newport's shiny exterior belies a significant but dark piece of history: the port city was the center of New England's slave trade in the 18th century. Two million perished in the merciless journey across the Atlantic, before arriving in Newport. Those who survived were sold as property. The city has slowly come to acknowledge this history. There's a grassroots organization working towards the creation of a memorial to recognize and commemorate the lives lost in the Middle Passage, and also to honor the ongoing impact and legacy of Black Rhode Islanders. Organizers hope to build this monument in Liberty Square. You can read about their efforts at [NewportMiddlePassage.org](http://NewportMiddlePassage.org).



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The Breakers

## Gilded-Age Extravagance

### Tour the mansions of Newport

In the late 19th century, when robber barons were rolling in untaxed wealth, Newport became the most stylish summer destination. The wealthiest of New York and Philadelphia spent millions to build extravagant mansions on rolling estates (so-called 'summer cottages') with views of the Atlantic Ocean. **The Breakers** was a Vanderbilt family property, built in the Italian Renaissance style. **Rosecliff**, constructed in 1902, features a heart-shaped staircase and Newport's largest ballroom, where scenes from *The Great Gatsby* (1974) were filmed. Each of the mansions has its own unique style and display of wealth.

Today you can tour a handful of these lavish homes for a look inside the Gilded Age. Regular house tours are self-guided, and you can download the Newport Mansions app for an audio tour of each of them. For tickets, you can purchase a single-house tour, duo or trio, either online or in-person at the Breakers, **Marble House**, **the Elms**, **Rosecliff**, or **Green Animals Topiary Garden**. Once you have your ticket, you can visit the properties at any time. Mansions are open at different times on different days, so check the schedule before picking which ones you'll visit. If you're interested in going deeper into the history of the Gilded Age mansions, to learn about the history and specific themes from an expert, book a guided tour, like 'Beneath the Breakers,' where you'll explore the subterranean levels of the house, or the 'Servant Life Tour' to see how the help kept things running in these extravagant homes.



# Beyond Newport

From Watch Hill to Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island packs in the best kinds of coastline.

The Ocean State's coast is a jagged line of beaches, inlets, and marinas. The Atlantic presses against the western edge and Narragansett Bay claws up into the eastern end: that's how 400 miles of coastline are crammed into a state that's less than 40 miles wide. From the ocean to the bay you'll find a mix of busy, white-sand beaches, quieter spots and a variety of charming coastal towns. History is well preserved along Rhode Island's coastline, where 18th-century harbors established the state as a gateway for New England industry.

The coast's culinary scene has been perfecting the preparation of seafood favorites for centuries. You'll want to visit a mix of wind-worn seafood shacks and fine dining establishments – so many serving the freshest, local fare.

## Block Island

TIME FROM NEWPORT: 1 HR 

### A two-wheeled island tour

Hop on the ferry in Newport or Point Judith, travel just 12 miles into the ocean, and you'll arrive at a microcosm of all you could want from a beach vacation. Block Island is lush and dramatic, with green hills, craggy bluffs dropping into the ocean and 17 miles of public beaches wrapped around its edge. It covers just 9 sq miles, much of which feels remote, and yet there's still an abundance of shops, restaurants and hotels.

Keep it simple by leaving your car in Point Judith. Lots are in walking distance to the ferry, charging \$5-15 for the day. After a one-hour (regular) or 30-minute (high speed) ride, you'll arrive at Block Island and be greeted by the nucleus of establishments serving visitors, including bike rental companies. The self-guided bike tour is a popular route that will loop you around Block Island's varied terrain with stops at beaches, lighthouses, and vistas. It's about 7.5 miles of mostly easy riding, but there is some hill climbing. If you prefer to coast, consider renting a moped.

You'll find bike racks at most points of interest. At Mohegan Bluffs, you can climb down (then back up!) 141 steps for dramatic views of the clay cliffs. For some additional stops on the self-guided loop, check out Surf Beach for snorkeling and Mansion Beach for a quiet stroll on white sand.



## Places

**Block Island** p231

**Portsmouth** p232

**Wakefield** p233

**Westerly** p234



## GETTING AROUND

Rhode Island's coastline can be reached by the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) with most routes originating in Providence. You'll probably want a car to travel along the oceanfront, from Watch Hill to Point Judith and up and around the bay. Scenic stretches can also be enjoyed on two wheels or by foot, especially on Block Island where you're better off not bringing a car.



## BEST BEACHES IN RHODE ISLAND

**Misquamicut State Park:** A lively 7-mile stretch of beach in Westerly with paddleboard and jet ski rentals, surf lessons and classic boardwalk amenities.

**Goosewing Beach:** On the Farm Coast, where you'll find more farm acres than tourists – and this quiet spot, popular for picnicking with snacks from local farm stands.

**Easton's Beach in Newport:** Also known as First Beach, you'll find rolling waves for boogie boarding and the start of the Cliff Walk.

**Narragansett Town Beach:** Located in the heart of Narragansett, enjoy the soft sand and waves then peruse the walkable downtown for shopping and seafood.

If you're day-tripping, return your bike at the conclusion of your loop and head to one of the beachside restaurants to re-fuel for the ferry ride home.

## Sunsets at the lighthouse

The **Southeast Lighthouse** is a Gothic, brick structure sitting atop the 200-foot tall red-clay cliffs known as Mohegan Bluffs on the southeast end of Block Island. Built in 1873, it's one of the most recognizable and iconic sites on the island and the tallest lighthouse in New England. Beyond the tower, there's a dramatic drop-off into the ocean. The bluffs are so dramatic that in 1993, the lighthouse had to be moved back from the eroding cliff edge so it wouldn't tumble into the water. You can take a guided tour of the tower for \$15 or check out the museum exhibits for \$10. After admiring the lighthouse, walk down the steep staircase to a narrow beach, backed by the bluffs. It's the perfect spot to watch the sunset.

## Portsmouth

TIME FROM NEWPORT: 15 MINS

### A garden of animals

A green expanse of shrubs and whimsy is home to over 80 topiary animals and figures at the **Green Animals Topiary Garden**, a 7-acre property packed with delightfully clipped and trained perennials and walking paths. The garden really comes to life in the spring and summer when flowers paint the paths between a lion, giraffe, bear and more, for an even lovelier stroll. In the early spring, 37,000 tulips burst into a rainbow of colors.

This is the oldest topiary garden in the United States, thanks to Joseph Carreiro, the gardener who worked on the property from 1905-1945, who started trimming the bushes with his son-in-law. The garden and the Brayton House, the Victorian home of the original owners, are now owned by the Preservation Society of Newport County, which also owns the mansions that are open for tours. Tours of the Green Animals Topiary Garden are available every day from 10am to 5pm.

On a sunny day, this is the perfect place to bring a picnic and relax, surrounded by nature. If you're visiting in May, you



## DRINKING IN RHODE ISLAND: BEST BREWERIES

**Long Live Beerworks:** Serving New England IPAs, stouts and smoothie sours in a former-factory taproom in Providence. *Hours vary* \$\$

**Moniker Brewery:** This former autobody shop in the West End of Providence houses a taproom with a beer garden. *Hours vary* \$\$

**The Guild (p219):** With locations in Providence, Pawtucket and Warren, The Guild offers community spaces and great beer. *Hours vary* \$\$

**Tilted Barn Brewery:** Rhode Island's first farm brewery, serving pints in a century-old barn. *4-8pm Wed, noon-8pm Thu-Sat, Noon-5pm Sun* \$\$

**Newport Vineyards:** A vineyard first, but they brew beer too – in addition to growing the ingredients. *11am-7pm Sun-Tue, to 9pm Wed-Sat* \$\$

**Ragged Island Brewing Company:** A farm brewery in Portsmouth serving small batch recipes. *Noon-9pm* \$\$

**Trinity Brewhouse:** Located in Providence, this is one of the first brewpubs in New England. *Noon to 1am Mon-Thu, to 2am Fri & Sat, noon-midnight Sun* \$\$

**Narragansett Brewery:** The Providence home of Rhode Island's most famous beer serves their classic lager. *Hours vary* \$\$



LEE SNIDER PHOTO IMAGES/SHUTTERSTOCK ©



Green Animals Topiary Garden

might catch their annual plant sale where you can purchase a variety of flowers, vegetables and herbs.

## Wakefield

TIME FROM NEWPORT: 30 MINS 🚗

### Tour an oyster farm

Oysters are curious little things. Many people love to slurp them from their shells with a few drops of Mignonette sauce or lemon juice, but not many people know how the bivalve mollusks end up on their plates. At **Matunuck Oyster Bar**, you can join a morning tour of the oyster farm in Potter Pond, just outside of the acclaimed seafood restaurant. You'll board a small boat and motor out onto the flat water where lines stretch out like crop fields, attached to 9000 mesh bags where oysters are growing.

On board, you'll find out how the demand for shellfish has outpaced natural oysters' growth, and how aquaculture is filling the gap, growing more shellfish in a way that is sustainable for human consumption. You'll learn how oysters take two to three years till they're big enough for market, and how farmers have to regularly monitor these mesh bags in the water, sorting and re-sorting them by size, as they grow. You'll finish the one-hour tour with great appreciation for the work and care that goes into oyster farming.



### RHODE ISLAND MUSEUMS FOR RAINY DAYS

#### Living Sharks

**Museum:** A Westerly museum dedicated to 'shark history and shark future.'

#### Newport Car

**Museum:** A collection of 100+ automobiles presents a fascinating overview of design and innovation.

#### The International Tennis Hall of Fame:

Learn about tennis history at a National Historic Landmark, first opened in 1880.

#### Newport Art

**Museum:** Over 3000 artworks from the 18th century to the present are on display.

#### The Sailing Museum & National Sailing Hall of Fame:

The history of sailing comes to life with interactive exhibits that teach and inspire.

#### Electromagnetic Pinball Museum and

**Restoration:** Play this classic game and learn about the craftsmanship of pinball machines.



### EATING IN RHODE ISLAND: OUR PICKS IN WESTERLY

**Cinder:** Lovely patio facing the Pawcatuck River where you'll enjoy handmade naan and jerk chicken. 11.30am-9pm Mon-Sat, 10am-9pm Sun \$

**The Cooked Goose:** A bustling diner with a tempting bakery case, this is a go-to spot for breakfast and lunch. 7am-3pm \$\$\$

**Olympia Tea Room:** Old-money vibes make this a Watch Hill classic. Seafood and fine wines. 4-10pm Mon-Wed, noon-10pm Thu-Sun \$\$

**St. Clair Annex:** Family-owned ice cream shop serving scoops for more than 135 years. They also have a great Italian grinder. 11am-8pm \$



### THE MOST AWARDED HOTEL

Watch Hill is a coastal neighborhood in the town of Westerly, Rhode Island.

Sitting on the most southwestern point of the state, it is dotted with mansions and infused with a quieter wealth than the grand summer cottages you'll find in Newport. If you want to get a taste of that luxurious lifestyle, check out

**Ocean House**, the first and only US hotel awarded the AAA Five Diamond and Forbes Five-Star distinctions in the state. You could splurge on a room and a private cabana on their exclusive white-sand beach, or make a reservation for dinner at Coast where you'll pay \$145 for an impressive prix-fixe meal, overlooking the ocean.



PERNELLE VOYAGE/SHUTTERSTOCK ©

**Matunuck Oyster Bar (p233)**

A tour ticket also gets you a reservation for brunch; once you're off the boat, it's time to feast in their massive, tented dining room with big windows looking out on the water. Obviously, you'll want to try the Matunuck oysters, whose taste is unique to the pond you were just on. The jumbo shrimp, sushi, stuffies and steamers are all excellent too. You really can't go wrong here.

## Westerly

TIME FROM NEWPORT: 1 HR 🚗

### Kayak the Pawcatuck

The ocean isn't the only body of water worth exploring from the Atlantic edge of Rhode Island. In Westerly, you'll find a friendly little fishing shop with kayak rentals on the Pawcatuck River. **Watch Hill Outfitters** ([watchhilloutfitters.com](http://watchhilloutfitters.com)) welcomes you to pack a picnic lunch and your beverages of choice for a full or half day of kayaking. Use the launch behind the shop, or the folks at Watch Hill can drive you to a launch spot to paddle your way back. Along the way, you can stop to enjoy your meal and say hello to the cows grazing along the river. It's a lovely way to spend some time on calm water, and a peaceful alternative to the beach crowds in the summer.



### EATING ON BLOCK ISLAND: OUR PICKS

#### Persephone's Kitchen:

This little cafe can be your first stop off the ferry for coffee and an egg sandwich or one of their bowls. 7am-3pm \$

**The Oar:** Fresh sushi and lobster rolls are enjoyed alongside corn hole, next to the Great Salt Pond.

11.30am-8.30pm Sun-Thu, to 9pm Fri & Sat \$\$

**Dead Eye Dick's:** Grab an Adirondack chair facing New Harbor for casual and fresh seafood dishes. 11.30am-3pm and 5-9pm \$\$

#### The Barn at Spring

**House:** Part of the historic Spring House Hotel, the Barn sources much of its refined menu from the on-site garden. 5-10pm \$\$\$



# Places We Love to Stay

\$ Budget \$\$ Midrange \$\$\$ Top End

## Providence

MAP p214

**The Dean \$** A design-focused boutique hotel, the Dean features a beer hall, a karaoke bar, and a cocktail den.

**Esperanto \$** A backpacker hostel with private rooms and shared dorms with up to five beds. The staff are friendly and helpful.

**Graduate Providence \$\$** Originally the Biltmore, the property retains its iconic sign. The lobby is regal and rooms are boldly designed.

**Dye House \$\$** Located in the Olneyville neighborhood, this design-centric boutique hotel is housed in a historic manufacturing facility.

**Hotel Providence \$\$** This historic, European-inspired option is a good deal for a touch of elegance and sophistication.

**The Beatrice \$\$\$** Boutique hotel located downtown, in the Exchange building, home to Bellini's, a can't-miss Italian restaurant.

## Newport

MAP p223

**Mill Street Inn \$** Exposed brick and high ceilings harken back to its former mill days. Studio and one-bedroom suites are a great value.

**Atlantic Beach Hotel \$\$** Clean, modern rooms sitting right on Easton's Beach. The rooftop sundeck is a nice place to lounge.

**Beech Tree Inn and Cottage \$\$** Set in a quiet but walkable location, they offer cozy, classy rooms in an 1880s Victorian B&B.

**Hotel Viking \$\$\$** Bold colors and design details make this luxury hotel stand out, giving the Gilded Age a modern twist.

**Forty 1° North \$\$\$** Splurge on a harbor-view room, just off Thames Street. Complimentary bicycles are available to guests.

## Little Compton

**Harmony Home Bed & Breakfast \$\$** A quiet working farm with one guest room and a cottage for rent, Harmony Home offers tranquility and homey comfort.

**Stone House Inn \$\$\$** Soak up the exclusive, off-the-path vibes of Little Compton at one of 16 lavish rooms.

## Charlestown

**A Shore Thing \$\$** This 1830s farmhouse on Charlestown Beach welcomes guests to enjoy a meditation garden and multiple patios.

**The General Stanton Inn Hotel \$\$\$** Opened in 2023 in a building from 1740, the General Stanton Inn features luxurious rooms and an excellent restaurant.

## Narragansett

**The Shore House \$\$\$** Nautical charm and old-school luxury make this a classic. Relax on the rocking chairs on the veranda.

## South Kingstown

**Shepherd's Run \$\$** Beachy-chic rooms are located in the historic manor house and the newly renovated South Wing. On-site winery and spa.

## Block Island

**Sea Breeze Inn \$\$** Once a boarding house for the fishing community, Sea Breeze Inn is now a collection of charming cottages with Atlantic Ocean views.

**The National Hotel \$\$** A stately, Victorian hotel featuring a charming backyard with firepits.

**The Atlantic Inn \$\$\$** Soak up views of the island at this 1879 establishment, perched on a grassy hilltop.

**The 1661 Inn \$\$\$** Antique charm welcomes guests to multiple properties, the main one being the 1661 Inn with crisp, classy rooms.

## Westerly

**Margin Street Inn \$\$** Two historic homes were transformed into this darling B&B with 10 guest rooms on the bank of the Pawcatuck River.

**Weekapaug Inn \$\$\$** Award-winning accommodations on a historic property, the inn features locally sourced and low-waste dining and geothermal heating.

**Ocean House \$\$\$** A stunning yellow estate with the highest credentials for hospitality and comfort, the Ocean House is worth the splurge.

## Richmond

**Preserve Resort & Spa \$\$\$** Dripping with luxury, this is a respite for the rich and famous – or anyone wanting to treat themselves.