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Set off for a ridiculously fun friend getaway

By Robin Soslow, For the Express-News | July 6, 2018



Dramatic cliffs edge the beach at Mohegan Bluffs on Block Island, 13 miles off Rhode Island's coast.

Couples, you can keep those romantic deserted islands to yourselves. As a bachelorette, I seek attraction-filled places where I can carouse with friends and mingle with other singles. Here are three trending seaside spots ideal for every beachelor's and beachelorette's beach bucket-list.

Block Island, Rhode Island: One of New England's best-kept secrets is Block Island, where the vibe is maritime New England meets merry-time Key West. To reach this haven 13 miles off Rhode Island's coast, take a ferry from Narragansett Bay. Then roll by bicycle between waterfront dining and drinking decks.

Nearly 350 miles of hand-built stone walls zig-zag the island, which is 6 miles long and 3 miles wide. Free-access white sand beaches pepper the coastline. A singles fave: Mohegan Bluffs, where 141 wooden steps lead down to the ocean. Look for cairns, conical towers of stones stacked by beachgoers, and mist-shrouded wind turbines offshore. Nearby, check out picturesque historic Southeast Lighthouse.

This is an island of contrasts. A graceful sculpture, “Rebecca,” erected 1896 by the Women’s Christian Temperance Union, is steps from Ballards, where patrons party day and night. Gingerbread houses dot roads to weathered-wood lounges such as The Oar that overlook rows of sunbeam- and star-sparkled boats. At Captain Nick’s Rock N’ Roll Bar, harmonize at the piano or boogie on the disco dance floor.

Singles magnets include the sloping seaview lawn of the Atlantic Inn. Savor the Inn’s elegant Restaurant 1879 farm-to-table fare indoors or on the lawn. Or hang with the locals at Kimberly’s.

Where’s the best place for sunsets? Anywhere on this isle.

More info: www.blockislandinfo.com