

The Boston Globe

By car, train, plane, and ferry: 4 long weekend winter getaways

By **Kim Foley MacKinnon** Globe correspondent, Updated December 5, 2019, 6:00 a.m.



Sometimes you need a break from the norm, but don't have time for a full-blown vacation. A long weekend getaway can be the perfect answer. We've come up with four excursions for every type of traveler, from those who like to hop in the car for a short road trip to those who prefer to take a quick flight for an escape further afield.



Victorian style hotels and people on bicycles are common sights on Block Island, known for its laid-back style. DIANE BAIR FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE/FILE

Destination: Block Island, R.I.

How to get there: About 1 hour, 30 minutes by car, then about 1 hour by ferry

The Mood: This laidback island 12 miles off the coast of Rhode Island offers a real chance to unplug and enjoy small-town island charms, with lots of natural beauty and peace and quiet. While winter weather means you won't be swimming, you can still kick back and enjoy the tiny island — it's just 3 miles by 7 miles in size — via bike or on foot, with ease. Visit one of the island's lighthouses, walk along the 17 miles of beaches, or bird watch at one of the island's many protected spaces. Old Harbor is the main hub for dining and shopping, such as it is, as well as charming Victorian hotels, which beckon most visitors.