

The National



The Weekender: Westerly, Rhode Island

The quaint beach town—which celebrates its 350th birthday this year—has something for the whole family

Story by Lauren Vespoli • August/September 2019

Between New York City and Boston on the *Northeast Regional*, this quaint beach town—which celebrates its 350th birthday this year—has something for the whole family,

Stay

Weekapaug Inn

While the adults relax on the inn's private, two-mile beach, head to the Boathouse, where crewmembers will set you up with everything you need to go crabbing, kayaking, or paddleboarding; or look for fairies in the Land of Paug, a village of tiny houses hidden on the inn's grounds. Through Labor Day, explorers ages 5 to 10 can join the SandCastles program, where YMCA counselors lead scavenger hunts, crafts, and story hours centered on themes like "pirate's paradise" or "rainforest adventure." From \$490, weekapauginn.com

See

Watch Hill Flying Horse Carousel

Soar through the air on one of the 20 hand-carved horses at this historic carousel, which was built more than 150 years ago and is one of the oldest in the country. Be sure to get a seat on an outside horse so you can reach for the brass ring, which is good for one free ride.

Misquamicut State Beach

You don't need a special pass or permit for this public beach, where the waves are just big enough for boogie boarding. Head east on Atlantic Avenue to reach the rides and arcade at Atlantic Beach Park, waterslides at the Water Wizz of Westerly, and mini-golf and batting cages at Bayview Fun Park. riparks.com



Watch Hill Flying Horse Carousel

Eat

St. Clair Annex

Stop for sandwiches and, more important, ice cream at this retro café, which has been family-owned since 1887. Made fresh every day with cream from a local dairy, St. Clair's ice cream comes in more than 50 flavors, including a rotating list of seasonal specials like strawberry rhubarb cobbler and banana Nutella swirl. stclairannexrestaurant.com

Pizzeria Longo

It wouldn't be a trip to Rhode Island without some Italian food: The state has the highest percentage of Italian-American residents in the country. Pizzeria Longo is known, of course, for its wood-fired pies, cooked on a 6,500-pound grill imported from Italy, but don't miss the famous meatballs. The Longo pizza, topped with mozzarella, ricotta, and sliced meatballs, offers the best of both worlds. pizzerialongo.com



Savoy Bookshop & Café

Shop

Savoy Bookshop & Café

On a rainy day, head to the basement of this local bookstore to browse its large kids and young adult section, and curl up with a book in the cozy log cabin reading nook. Keep your eyes peeled for tiny doors to fairy houses hidden among the stacks, and try leaving a note—answers will often appear the next morning. banksquarebooks.com/westerly-store

Read

Lemonade Mouth

Set at a high school in the fictional Rhode Island town of Opoquonsett, this young adult novel by Mark Peter Hughes tells the story of five outcast freshmen who hit it off in detention and decide to form a band—Lemonade Mouth—that helps bring their cliquey classmates together.



Misquamicut State Beach