

AFAR

These Are the 15 Best Hotel Getaways in New England

New England is brimming with historic grande dames, design-minded boutique hotels, wellness retreats, and glamping getaways.



The Mayflower Inn & Spa features bold decor by designer Celerie Kemble. Courtesy of Mayflower Inn & Spa

Few parts of the United States have as long-running a connection to hotels and leisure travel as New England. In fact, there are some [historic taverns and inns](#) in this region—comprising Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine—that predate the Declaration of Independence. During the Victorian era, the area really hit its stride as a magnet for summering industrialists (and their workers) who hoped to escape the rigors and heat of the big city for a few months of relaxation on the coast. Grand seaside resorts popped up everywhere along these shores; many remain unchanged, while others have been transformed with bold designs and luxurious new amenities.

As part of Afar's [Hotels We Love](#) series, we've chosen the top getaways outside of major cities that speak to the area's history and culture: wellness resorts in the Berkshires, grande dame hotels along the Rhode Island coast, glamping getaways on the rugged Maine shore, adventure-minded inns hidden in the Vermont mountains, beach resorts on tony [Cape Cod](#). These 15 hotels, many a quick drive from New York, Boston, or Montreal, show off the best of New England—where, depending on the season, you might find yourself eating lobster rolls poolside, leaf-peeping from your window, or warming up by the fireplace after a day on the slopes.

Newport Harbor Island Resort



The newly redesigned rooms at the Newport Harbor Island Resort feature locally made art and decor items. Courtesy of Newport Harbor Island Resort

- **Location:** Newport, Rhode Island
- **Why we love it:** Refreshed guest rooms decorated with notable local crafts and art pieces
- **[Book now](#)**

Newport may be known for its Gilded Age glamour, but you're getting a different side of the Rhode Island resort town at the [Newport Harbor Island Resort](#), a less fussy coastal hideaway that reopened this spring after a \$50 million transformation. Located on Goat Island on the site of a former torpedo factory, the reimagined hotel has 257 rooms and 18 suites; all feature clean lines and a calming palette of sandy beiges and Atlantic blues, with design pieces by local artists and New England weavers' guilds.

Public spaces nod toward sustainability in works like a whale carved from salvaged driftwood and [Sarah Swift's wavelike installation](#), woven together from upcycled raw fibers, plastic bags, straws, and netting. As lovely as the new interiors are, you'll want to spend much of your time outdoors, whether that means slurping down raw oysters at the Pineapple Club, sipping sunset cocktails around the outdoor firepits, or strolling to the 1842 lighthouse at the northern tip of Goat Island. *From \$459*

Ocean House



The Victorian-style Ocean House has a croquet lawn so precisely manicured that it's leveled by laser. Photo by Allard One/Shutterstock

- **Location:** Watch Hill, Rhode Island
- **Why we love it:** Reconstructed Victorian elegance (plus: croquet on the manicured lawn)

- [Book now](#)

A quintessential Victorian seaside retreat, the original Rhode Island [Ocean House](#) opened in 1868 and later served as the filming location for the Douglas Fairbanks silent film *American Aristocracy*. By the early 21st century, the property—known for its striking yellow facade—was in a sorry state and had to be demolished. But it was too iconic to simply go the way of the dodo. It was quickly reconstructed at a cost of \$146 million, complete with its 247 windows intact and more than 5,000 pieces of salvaged antiques and furnishings.

Sitting atop a bluff overlooking Block Island Sound and Montauk beyond, the hotel comprises 49 guest rooms and 20 suites, which include early New England artwork, Matouk linens, and goose-down pillows. While in these far western reaches of Rhode Island, about an hour by car from Providence or Newport, you can sail on the French-built yacht *Dandy*, golf, fish, surf, or sunbathe, but the can't-miss activity is six-wicket croquet on the impeccably manicured lawn, where guests are asked to wear traditional croquet attire (white collared shirts and white or khaki shorts or pants) for their complimentary lessons. *From \$470*