

The Best Weekend Getaways to Take from Boston Now

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It's the least wonderful time of the year. The temps are still cold, the roads are still covered in salt and slush, and the next long weekend is far, far away (not everyone gets Patriots' Day off, you know). They don't call it mud season for nothing. Which means one thing: road trip. Shoulder-season travel is one of the clandestine pleasures of New England, what with the lack of traffic, the hotel deals, and the delightful dearth of clueless tourists. And while getaway options are fewer and farther between in spring, there are still plenty of vacay pleasures to be sussed out. Here's a roundup of some of the best weekend getaways to take this season.



The Breakers mansion, open for the season | [LEE SNIDER PHOTO IMAGES/Shutterstock](#)

Newport, Rhode Island

How far is it: 90 minutes from Boston

We can't guarantee that the Cliff Walk will be free of snow, but we can promise you won't be shuffling behind throngs of tourists. And the 10-mile drive (full of explorable favorites like The Breakers and Rough Point mansions) is a lot more pleasant when you're not starting and stopping for two hours.

Where to stay: The party starts at Gurney's, a glam hotel on its own little island with Newport's only outdoor pool and primo sunset views (and two pet goats!). Or dip into your savings for a splurge at Castle Hill Inn -- even though the lawn doesn't officially open until Memorial Day, you can still grab an adirondack and watch the sailboats go by.

What to do: Hit up the jazz brunch at One Bellevue inside Hotel Viking, or take a schooner cruise of the harbor -- sails start at the end of April. Fulfill a bucket list item and take some surfing lessons in nearby Narragansett with Warm Wind -- thanks to the magic of wetsuits, you can hit the surf year-round. And prepare for festivals aplenty: the Newport Daffodil Days Festival April 13-21, the Craft Beer Festival April 26-27, and the Waterfront Oyster Festival May 17-19.



[WaterFire Providence](#)

Providence, Rhode Island

How far is it: 60 minutes from Boston (car or bus)

It's strange how little love our Southern city neighbor receives. But the City on the Hill is a year-round gem, with its ever-growing cocktail and dining scene, its music venues, and its walkability.

Where to stay: The Dean Hotel is still the gold standard for boutique charmers, what with its cushy cocktail bar and the city's only karaoke lounge.

What to do: More eating! Recent openings include The Vig, The River Social and Sarto (Italian is a must in Providence); we're also here for RiffRaff, a new bar and bookstore in the Olneyville area. It also wouldn't be a culinary destination without a food fest -- the annual Eat Drink RI Festival (April 24-27) includes a Sommelier Punchdown and a Rhody Women's Feast to spotlight the state's most talented female chefs. For those more about art than food, Revelfest (April 17) is a multimedia '80s delight, and WaterFire starts back up in May. And be one of the first visitors to Rhode Island Distillers -- it just opened this March. If it's greenery you seek, take a trip to the Botanical Center, which gives you 12,000 square feet of greenery rain or shine.