2 NEW TROLL SCULPTURES BY THOMAS DAMBO

ATLANTIS RISING INTERNATIONAL SAND SCULPTURE COMPETITION 10 PLACES TO DINE BY THE SEA 10 WAYS TO GET ON THE WATER

5 UNIQUE STAYS 5 SCENIC HIKES 6 THINGS TO DO WITH KIDS





### President's Note

### FLOAT MAGAZINE - ISSUE 04

Dear Visitors,

There's a certain feeling that washes over you the minute you enter South County. It's like your entire body lets out a deep sigh and breathes in a sense of peacefulness. That's how calming South County can be. It might be the fresh air in our nature trails or the sea breeze from our 100 miles of coastline or maybe it's just the fact that there's no traffic and plenty of space wherever you go.

This year South County is home to two new troll sculptures by Danish recycle artist, Thomas Dambo. Head to Ninigret Park in Charlestown to see these wonders for yourself. Did you know that Charlestown boasts the darkest stretch of night sky between Boston and New York City? Frosty Drew Observatory offers stargazing every Friday night and there's nothing more peaceful than a sky full of stars to wish upon. South County is full of lush forests and wildlife preserves to explore and be one with nature. Our 5 Scenic Hikes article will let you know the most picturesque trails to trek and if you're looking for Instagrammable photo opportunities along the way, check out 15 Places to Take Stunning Pictures in South County, Rhode Island. 100 miles of coastline and 20 public beaches make getting on the water so easy. Read 10 Ways to Get on the Water and get ideas for how to enjoy the beaches - from surfing to shark diving! Speaking of the ocean, what better way to enjoy seafood than with a view of the sea. Top 10 Restaurants for Seaside Dining in South County will give you the best locations for waterfront dining. You'll also find articles on unique places to stay such as tree houses and tiny homes, as well as different places to dine such as hobbit houses and secret gardens, things to do with the kids and what's new from the last time you visited. The Atlantis RIsing International Sand Sculpture Competition moves to Ninigret Park this year and the theme is Halloween! Come see artists from all over the world competing for a cash prize. The event takes place over Columbus Day weekend and is full of fun for the whole family - live music, sand sculpture lessons, food trucks and so many photo opportunities - are just some of the things you'll experience!

Come relax in South County this year! Summer is a popular time to come, but the fall is our favorite season. You can still enjoy a swim late into September and even early October and if you're looking for a little extra serenity, fall is when you'll find it..

We hope to see you soon!

Shire D. biston

Louise D. Bishop

President, South County Tourism Council





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### elcome to

What is South County? It's the southernmost region of the state of Rhode Island. South County is known for its beaches. You could say South County is the reasson why Rhode Island is known as "the Ocean State." We're known for our unspoiled nature and are a haven for those who enjoy the outdoors. Hike or bike miles of trails through lush forests and wildlife preserves that spill into a 100 miles of coastline lined with 20 public beaches. Paddle through peaceful inlet waterways that lead to secluded sandbars. Catch a glimpse of migrating birds as they make their way north or south depending on the season. If you love nature, South County is the place to be.

We are comprised of eleven towns, each one unique and each with something to offer. In the north Coventry is steeped in history. Its most famous citizen, General Nathanael Greene, at the age of 33 served as the youngest second-in-command to General George Washington during the Revolutionary War. Tour his homestead that was restored and refurbished in the period style. Walk, bike or roller blade on the paved path along the Coventry Greenway or the Trestle Trail from Coventry to Connecticut.

West Greenwich is the headquarters of URI's Whispering Pines Conference Center and it's considered a Southern Rhode Island sportsman's paradise where 80% of the area consists of woodlands. Stepping Stone Ranch is a retreat for families who love horseback riding, hayrides, camping or hiking. Rock climbing is a challenge in the Wickaboxet Area's Rattlesnake Ledge, and Big River spawns big fish waiting to be caught.

East Greenwich is known as Southern Rhode Island's dining destination due to its wide variety of outstanding restaurants ranging from waterfront dining to eclectic Main Street establishments. Main Street is also home to the Varnum Memorial Armory, where you will find uniforms and armaments from the Revolution through Vietnam. Main Street is renowned as Rhode Island's bridal capital, lined with exquisite shops featuring elegant apparel and gifts from precious antiques to stunning wedding gowns. Visit the Odeum Theatre, Varnum House Museum and the New England Wireless and Steam Museum for a piece of South County history.

North Kingstown is notably one of the most popular places to visit in South County because of its location, natural harbor, and great shopping, . The historic village of Wickford, one of the "10 Best Main Streets in the U.S.A," is lined with shops offering unique merchandise and waterfront dining. Leading up to Halloween, Wickford's Wicked Week is a spooky treat with different events and ghoulish decorations. At holiday time, the luminaria and holiday decorations make it Hallmark movie material.

Exeter is classified as one of the few remaining rural communities in Rhode Island. Outdoor adventure abounds in the natural beauty of the Arcadia Management Area, a state-owned 14,000 acre park. Thirty miles of hiking and walking trails, campsites, freshwater beaches and ponds for fishing, boating and kayaking, guarantee an invigorating experience, especially during Fall, when the beautiful, New England foliage emerges. Yawgoo Valley Ski Area and Waterpark will keep the kids busy no matter the season. And don't forget to visit the state's only museum dedicated to the indigenous people and culture, the Tomaquag Museum.

First inhabited by the Native American Narragansett Indian Tribe, Charlestown residents and visitors now call this coastal community "the best kept secret in Rhode Island." Miles of secluded, unspoiled, sandy beaches offer visitors a chance to enjoy many outdoor activities or just some relaxation under the sun. Stop by the Fantastic Umbrella Factory for a walk through a bamboo forest as well as beautiful greenhouses and shops full of products made by local artisans.

South Kingstown is home to two of South County's scenic beaches, tranquil farmlands, and historic landmarks. Downtown Wakefield is situated on the revitalized Saugatucket River, an architectural sight to behold. Unique shops and restaurants line Main St. featuring exquisite antiques, garden supplies, apparel, gifts, crafts, and more!

Recognized as the home of some of the finest beaches in the Northeast, Narragansett provides the perfect place to enjoy a peaceful or fun-filled vacation. While traveling on scenic Ocean Rd, you will get a glimpse of a spectacular architectural structure, the Towers of Narragansett. This well-known landmark evokes scenes from Narragansett's Victorian past. The bustling Port of Galilee, the second largest commercial fishing port in New England, guarantees the freshest fish on the East Coast. Galilee is also the main port for the Block Island ferries and Rhode Island's only whale watching excursion on board the Gail Frances.

Hopkinton is a quaint, historic town where golfers from near and far can flock to beautiful, green golf courses including Fenner Hill, Lindhbrook and Wood River Golf Club. For outdoor enthusiasts interested in boating, fishing, canoeing and kayaking, Hopkinton provides the perfect place along the unspoiled banks of the Wood-Pawcatuck River. It is surely the outdoor place-to-be! Long and Ell Ponds are the only designated National Natural Landmarks in Rhode Island.

The open, green spaces in Richmond are ideal for great golf and attracting visitors all year round. Golfers can take advantage of the warm spring and fall days to tee off at one of Richmond's many courses. Enjoy the picturesque surroundings of a beautiful countryside in any season, but especially at the height of growing season. It's also home to the Preserve Sporting Club and Residences – a spectacular sporting paradise where you can stay in a tiny home, cabin or the lodge, dine in a hobbit house or their Double Barrel Steak Kitchen, learn to shoot, play golf or relax at the spa.

South County's town of Westerly, is so named for its position at the south-western tip of the Rhode Island, and includes Watch Hill and Misquamicut, two highly popular summer resort communities that fringe the Atlantic Ocean. Charming downtown Westerly, with its wonderful Victorian architecture and beautifully landscaped Wilcox Park, helped to earn the designation "one of the twelve most distinctive destinations in the country." Tranquil Watch Hill boasts lovely beaches and a waterfront village, making it a perfect stop for outdoor dining, leisurely walks and antiquing.

### uth Jounty



There are new places to stay such as the newly refurbished, historic (and rumored to be haunted) General Stanton Inn, the Ocean House Cottage Collection (say, these don't look like mere cottages to us). There are fresh places to dine such as Celeste, The Kitchen at the Surf Shack Narragansett and the Sly Fox Den Too featuring James Beard Award Winner Chef Sherry Pocknett. And don't miss the latest experiences and events such as the Atlantis RIsing International Sand Sculpture Competition and Thomas Dambo Trolls (pictured here) and more.

### See what's new in South County since the last time you visited!



Erik Rock, troll sculpture in Ninigret Park by Danish recycle artist, Thomas Dambo.

### Food & Drink

Bird in Hand Blackstone Coventry Cakelicious Celeste Double Barrel Steak at The Preserve Flat River Tavern Galleria Dolce The Fishery (seafood market) IDK Hospitality The Kitchen at Surf Shack 'Gansett Lake Taco Maiz Nana's Westerly New Wave Kitchen North Koffee Ohana Backyard Barbecue

Old Man Joe's Purslane Eatery River Bar (coming soon) Queen of Cups Salt Marsh Pub & Raw Bar Scotti's Salumeria Seven Stars Bakery (East Greenwich Location) Shayu Sport & Leisure The Tavern at General Stanton Inn Tasteful Terminesi's Cafe Tower Hill Brewing Company Twisted Pizza (Richmond location)



Atlantis RIsing International Sand Sculpture Competition

### Accommodations

The Cottages at Ocean House Hilltop Lodge at The Preserve Shepherd's Run Surf Shack Bed & Breakfast

### Shops

For Art's Sake Indigo Elephant Martin House Books Nauti Girl Boat Decor Shell Boutique Special T Shop Sunstruck Gift Boutique The Traveling Gypsy Vikani

### Wedding & Event Venues

The General Stanton inn Shepherd's Run WinterHawk Vineyards



### Things to Do

Atlantis RIsing International Sand Sculpture Competition

- Day's Work Charters
- Honey Gallery
- Sail Trim Again
- Thomas Dambo Trolls





## The Fastest Trip from the Mainland to Block Island!



From Pt. Judith to Block Island it's only 1 hour on our Traditional ferry and 30 minutes on our Hi-Speed ferry. Turn an ordinary weekend into an unforgettable one!

### **ENJOY THE RIDE**

Sit back and relax-your ferry ride is yours to enjoy however you want! Whether you're going away for a night, a week, or any amount of time in between. And feel free to bring your dog, bike, or cooler.

### **EASY TO GET THERE**

Whether from the port in Pt Judith or catching the Newport High Speed from Perrotti Park, getting to Block Island is quick and easy!

Sail Away... Departures from Pt. Judith and Newport at **BLOCK**ISLAND**FERRY.COM** 

Advertorial



### LIKE NO OTHER

There's no place like Block Island. Whether it's miles and miles of free beaches, scenic light houses, delectable lobster rolls, or beautiful sunsets, you'll enjoy the best of what New England has to offer.

### **BLOCK ISLAND FERRY MERCH**

From shirts to hats, wine tumblers to towels, we have all kinds of goodies for our travelers! Check out our online store at **BlockIslandFerry.com/Shop**.





### 1. Sleep in the trees

This treehouse in Richmond offers a tranquil and unique experience. Sip your morning coffee on the wraparound deck while enjoying the peaceful, wooded surroundings. Hawks, owls and more might fly by the screened-in windows and woodland creatures might be glimpsed walking below. A fire pit, pool access, outdoor seating and more will complete your experience. Book this via AirBnB by looking up Treehouse in Richmond, RI.

### 2. Why camp when you can glamp?

Glamp Frogmore offers two rustic retreats on 35 acres of private property adjacent to the Maxwell Mays Audubon Wildlife Refuge in Coventry, RI. The Pines sleeps up to six people and The Ferns sleeps up to four. Unplug completely while still being close to civilization. Enjoy hiking in the wildlife refuge, s'mores by your firepit as you stargaze or go for a paddle in the pond with the rowboat provided. Book your stay at glampfrogmore.com.

### 3. Lavender fields forever

Stay in a luxuriously rustic farm suite on a lavender farm. In season your view will be lavender fields as far as the eye can see. Meet the farm animals including Diego the donkey, Humphrey the camel and more. You can also book a lavender-inspired dinner with Chef Lauren as part of your stay. The dinner is an optional add-on. Book your stay at lavenderwavesfarm.com.

### 4. Stay like an influencer

South County House is a 1500 square foot home that sits on nearly an acre of land, 3/4 of a mile from the beach, bordering a forest preserve and across the street from a small family farm. It has been featured in Vogue, Architectural Digest, Travel+Leisure and more. A hammock, fireplace, bathtub outdoor shower and deck, bikes, soft-top surfboards, vintage stereo systems with a curated record collection as well as Tivoli bluetooth speakers and radios are all availbale. Book South County House on airbnb.com.

### 5. Why not shack up?

This cozy little shack, known as the Shuck Shack is right on Ninigret Pond named for the abundance of oysters available in the pond. Bring your own boat or kayak to fully experience the salt pond and paddle out to one of the nearby beaches. Don't have a boat? You can rent one from a number of nearby marinas. Oysters can be delivered to your door courtesy of the owners, just place your order and don't forget to pick up wine to enjoy with them! Book the Shuck Shack on airbnb.com.

For more places to stay scan the QR Code:







t's amazing how just by getting out of the city, the sky opens up and you can see so many more stars. Stargazing is a favorite pastime in all of South County, but the town of Charlestown lends itself to the best stargazing around. That's because Charlestown boasts the darkest stretch of night sky between Boston and New York City.

Tucked into the 227 acre Ninigret Park which was the site of the former Naval Auxliary Air Academy is the Frosty Drew Observatory,. named for Edwin F. "Frosty" Drew, a Brown University graduate, who began his career as a writer. He soon became actively involved in major efforts to preserve and protect the natural environmental heritage of RI. He particularly worked to sustain Ninigret Park in

Charlestown, where the Frosty Drew Nature Center is located, and was instrumental in preventing the construction of a nuclear power plant in the town.

Frosty Drew Observatory welcomes visitors most every Friday night. Hours change according to seasons and weather so it's best to consult their website prior to visiting. Sometimes they open for special astronomical events as they happen, such as eclipses, comets and meteors.

Visitors can expect a magical and romantic experience of stargazing under the darkest stretch of night sky within 225 miles.

FROSTY DREW OBSERVATORY

Charlestown, RI boasts the darkest stretch of night sky between Boston and New York City.

Photo: Fredson Delgado

abound.

County. Keep in mind that the ocean wind farms or Block Island. never sleeps and fishing charters, boat charters and activities such as So read on and discover how you'll para-sailing on ice and ice fishing are explore the sea in South County, happening here in the winter and are Rhode Island. quite the experience.

10 ways to Get on the Water in South County, Rhode island

Photo: Dave Sarazen

blue

SOUTH COUNTY, RHODE ISLAND But, most of you will come in the hugs the southernmost coast of the summer and there are so many ways state. With a 100 miles of coastline to explore the water. Kids will enjoy and 20 public beaches, opportunities learning to dig for clams and catch to get out on the water and explore crabs in our salt ponds. Paddling out to a sandbar for a private picnic is ideal for those looking for a little Here are ten easy ways for you to make romance. Advernture seekers can dive the most of your vacation no matter with sharks while leisure cruisers can what time of year you visit South set sail for a tour of our light houses,

Find your perfect beach whether you're looking for big waves, a quiet cove or a long stretch of sand.

### 2. Paddle On

Canoe, kayak or paddle board whether out in the open or ocean or on a calm salt pond or rippling river. There are many places to rent canoes, kayaks or paddle boards.

### 3. Hang Ten

Always wanted to learn how to surf? Take lessons! Warm Winds Surf Shop (you'll see their van at Narragansett Town Beach) offers surfing lessons for those looking to ride the waves.

### 4. Live Your Yacht Rock Dreams

Whether you choose a little speed boat, a family sized pontoon or a fancy yacht, you can live out your dreams of boating, by just chartering a boat fror the day. Drive it yourself or rent one with a captain and sit back and enjoy.

### 5. Get Hooked!

The port of Galilee offers many opportunities to catch your own fish. Whether baiting squid by night or hooking bass by day, set

out to catch your own and then ask one of the nearby restaurants, like George's of Galilee to cook it up for you.

### 6. Island Hopping

Take a ride over to Block Island on the Ferry. It leaves daily from the port of Galilee. Go for the day or a spend a night or two on the island.

### 7. Go Cruising

See light houses, wind farms, whales or seals depending on the season. Several different types of cruises are available all year long. Narragansett Bay Cruises will take you to by 10 different lighthouses in Narragansett Bay. Frances Fleet find you whales in July and August, while Fish 'n Tales Adventures and Save the Bay will bring you seal watching from November to April. Wind farm tours are available via the Block Island Ferry or via private

charter with one of the fishing

Learn to sail no matter what age you are. Lessons for kids and adults

are available at Greenwich Bay

We don't think there's anything

boats.

8. Set Sail

Sailing Association.

9. Jet Set

more fun than jetting across the water on jet skis. The Purple Ape in Westerly and INZ Jest Ski Rental in Narragansett will make your jet ski dreams come true. The Purple Ape also has hydro bikes for those looking for a less intense thrill.

### 10. Shark Bait

For those extreme thrill seekers, boy do we have a treat for you! Go shark diving and get up close and personal with these creatures of the deep. Twilight and night diving are available for experienced shark divers and daytime trips are available a couple of times a month for those daring enough to try this. Marine photographers will be thrilled with the photo opps available on such a trip.

> "Most sharks are only curious about divers and will leave them alone ... Of the 375 species worldwide, only about 30 have been identified as attacking a human." [source: National Shark Research Consortium, Shark Attacks]



### 1. 20 Public Beaches



### ATLANTIS RISING

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### )

outh County's international sand sculpture competition, Atlantis RIsing, moves to Ninigret Park over Columbus Day weekend. Over four days, artists from around the world will compete to win cash prizes and bragging rights by sculpting works of art out of sand.

Come see what they will create this year and bring the whole family! There will be food trucks, local artisan vendors, live music, sand sculpture lessons and other entertainment for the kids. The theme this year is "Halloween" so come in costume and be prepared to be amazed!

Tickets will be available online at SouthCountyRI.com or at the gate.





A South County wedding can be anything you dream. From beachy vibes to fairytale castles complete with soaring towers, there's an aesthetic for every couple. Have a traditional wedding at a luxury seaside resort. Prefer a venue with sweeping New England lighthouse views or a location with ocean side vistas? Maybe you'd rather opt for a rustic woodland affair – South County has it all. Did we mention we believe love is love and all are welcome here?

Keep in mind that beach weddings require permits. Before planning, visit the events tab on RIParks. com and follow the instructions for hosting an event. In order to help you plan your event, we have lists of vendors such as caterers, photographers, florists and more on our website, SouthCountyRI. com under weddings. A list of venues available for ceremonies, receptions and rehearsal dinners are also available there.

If you have questions, feel free to reach out to us at info@southcountyri.com or 401-789-4422 and we'll be happy to help you however we can to make your dream day a reality.

From beachy vibes to fairytale castles complete with soaring towers...





Photo: Susan Sancomb

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### **Top 10** Restaurants for **Seaside Dining** in South County

Listed below in **alphabetical** order are the Top 10 restaurants for seaside dining in South County according to our visitors:

1. **Chair 5** in the Break Hotel in Narragansett – get ocean views from the rooftop deck.

2. **Coast** at Ocean House - gaze out at the ocean from this luxury hotel's fine dining restaurant.

3. **Coast Guard House** in Narragansett - breathtaking views of Narragansett Town Beach.

4. George's of Galilee - sit inside or outside, even right on the beach at this longtime favorite.

5. Finn's Harborside in East Greenwich - sit outside on the deck with views of Greenwich Cove Marina.

6. Maria's Seaside Cafe in Westerly - Hotel Maria's restaurant sits across from Misquamicut Beach.

7. **Matunuck Oyster Bar** in South Kingstown- technically on a salt pond, but definitely a lovely view and a visitor (and local) favorite.

8. Paddy's Beach Club in Westerly - dine with your toes in the sand right on Misquamicut Beach.

9. **Sea Craft** in Narragansett - the restaurant inside the new hotel The Shore House offers views of the ocean from inside and lawn seating across the street from the sea.

10. **Wickford on the Water** in North Kingstown – serving breakfast, lunch and dinner with a waterfront view of Wickford Harbor.

For more places to dine in South County, scan the QR Code:

Photo: @brookegerman





# 6 Things to do with Kids

### 1. Yawgoo Valley Ski Area and Waterpark

In the winter this is the only ski area in the whole state and a perfect place for kids to learn to ski, snowboard or for the whole family to go snow tubing. In the summer, kids can enjoy the pool and waterslides while the adults can sip on adult beverages such as delicious mudslides at the tiki bar.

### 2. Biomes Marine Biology Center

Biomes is the only private marine education facility in New England. Their hands on aquarium teaches children and adults about the marine animals of Narragansett Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. It's a great activity for a rainy day.

### 3. Adventureland Family Fun Park

From mini golf to go karts, bumper boats and more, this family fun destination has something for all ages.

### 4. The Fantastic Umbrella Factory

It's not really an umbrella factory. What is it then? It's an artisan marketplace with a collection of shops selling artisanal creations. There are gardens everywhere, including a bamboo forest for selfies for the 'gram and a collection of animals for the kids to feed and pet such as emus, ducks and chickens.

### 5. Living Sharks Museum

This is the first shark history museum in the country. A collection of artifacts from all over the world tell the story of the shark. The collections aim to educate from an unbiased perspective featuring exhibits of shark history, science and conservation. Admission is free.

### 6. South County Museum

The South County Museum has preserved the rural history of Southern Rhode Island for nearly 90 years. Eight acres house a number of buildings including a print shop, blacksmith shop, carpentry shop, exhibit hall and carriage barn. On the fourth of July every year, the official Rhode Island Red hens hatch their chicks and it's a fun experience for kids of all ages.



### **5** Unique Dining Experiences

### 1. Bloom, The Sipping Terrace at Ocean House

This enchanting experience features Sipsmith gin cocktails and a magical outdoor setting, worlds away from the crowds. With bayside breezes and garden party touches, Bloom is ideal for afternoon or sunset cocktails and even private events beginning this June.

### 2. The Secret Garden at Ocean House

New for the summer 2022 season, Ocean House's iconic pop-up champagne bar returns with breakfast service. Available to both day visitors and overnight guests, the new breakfast menu can be paired with Veuve Clicquot mimosas and is available at bistro tables and sofa seating. Between 12-9 pm, the Secret Garden transforms into an adults-only hideaway, with upbeat music, a selection of crepes, full bar menu, Veuve Clicquot cocktails, and Instagram moments galore.

### 3. The Maker's Mark Hobbit House at The Preserve

Nestled into hillside boulders, our two Hobbit House getaways are surrounded by lush landscapes with tree trunks incorporated into the architecture. No matter which Hobbit House you dine in, you'll feel like you've entered a magical place where a well-worn path leads you to an intricate round wooden door that swings open to reveal an intimate interior with stone floors and artfully stacked stone walls. The flicker of candlelight and charming decorative details complete this transporting experience. Whether dining for lunch or dinner, each course is thoughtfully prepared using Le Creuset, the original enameled cast iron cookware that remains an iconic tabletop style statement. Gather around a custom-designed Maker's Mark wood table—repurposed from former whisky barrels—for dinner and pairings, then unwind around the fire pit under the stars.

### 4. The Nordic

This is the ultimate buffet! Set in the woods, by a lovely lake, you can eat til you're feeling nappy and then go lay in a hammock and relax. Enjoy unlimited lobster, crab, prime rib, filet mignon, shrimp, oysters, appetizers, salads, fresh fruits, gourmet dessert bar and Haagan Dazs ice cream bar. Delicious food, a full bar and amazing service in a beautiful lakeside, wooded setting await.

### 4. The Olympia Tea Room

"Famous not Fancy" is their motto. This former soda shop from 1916 serves up delicious food with a unique ambiance. Husband and wife owners Jack and Marcia Felber have kept some of the original fixtures such as the bar/soda counter and added their own flair with pink walls decorated with Marcia's original art work. The restaurant offers an award-winning wine list paired with incredible views of the harbor and spectacular sunsets.





### 15 Places to take stunning pictures in South County, Rhode Island

### 1. Narragansett Town Beach

Shoot photos of surfers riding killer waves or seals lounging on rocks.

### 2. The Towers

This magnificent Narragansett landmark arches over Ocean Road like a fairytale castle. It is the perfect backdrop for selfies and portraits.

### **3.Point Judith** Lighthouse

This beacon for sailors from another time makes for stunning surfer pics,

selfies and beautifully frames the moon.

### 4. Black Point

The ruins of an old stone carriage house and the cliffs on this seaside hike lend themselves to beautiful photos.

### 5. Narragensett Indian Monument

Take a selfie with this 23 foot sulpture carved from a single Douglas Fir by Peter Toth. It is one of 74 in the country honoring the American Indian.

### 6. Shannock Falls

These smaill but pretty horseshoe falls in Richmond are beautiful in every season.

### 7. Stepstone Falls

These low falls in West Greenwich were named as the #1 falls by the Weather Channel. The Falls River cascades over gray ledges to form a pictureque landscape.

### 8. Kinney Azalea Gardens

These six enchanting acres of over

1000 species of azaleas and rhododendrons in South Kingstown peak in mid-May through June.

### 9. Napatree Point

This sandy trail to the ocean favored by hikers and bird watchers in Westerly is the best place for sunset photos.

### 10. Watch Hill Carousel

This is the oldest continously operational flying horse carousel in the country. Photograph the kids as they reach for the brass ring!

### 11. Port of Galilee

There is no better place to capture the fishing boats, fishermen and lobstermen than this working fishing village in Narragansett.

### 12. Wickford Village and Harbor

This historic village in North Kingstown with its quaint shops and harbor is always picturesque but in October it's spooktacular.

### 13. The Fantastic **Umbrella Factory**

This unique spot in Charlestown is not an umbrella factory at all, but a farm with a petting zoo, cafe, a bamboo forest and lots of shops selling goods

by local artisans. Get a selfie in the bamboo forest.

### 14. The Farmer's Daughter

This South Kingstown farm is stunning all year long, but at it's best in late summer when the dahlias are in bloom and in the fall when the pumkins arrive.

### **15. Frosty Drew** Observatory

Nothing beats the night sky photography at this Charlestown spot.

### A Day in Watch Hill

The village of Watch Hill in Westerly, Rhode Island served as a lookout point during the French and Indian War and was an alluring escape for Gilded Age tycoons. It attracted classic Hollywood icons such as Jean Harlow and Clark Gable, even Albert Einstein. Today, pop star Taylor Swift has a vacation home here.

But Watch Hill is much more than a sanctuary for the rich and famous. Though its elite privacy appeals to many of its residents, too, its reputation has grown nationally given the community's pristine nature, quaintness and stunning scenery.

This sandy peninsula overlooks the ocean and on a clear day you can see both Long Island and Fishers Island. The cove it forms is known as "Little Narragansett Bay" and it shelers miles of white sand beaches. Its historic resort, The Ocean House, which opened in 1868, still operates today as a magnet for those living, or wanting to live, the high life.

Watch Hill is a beautiful, luxurious day or weekend trip for beachcombing, shopping and dining. When arriving in town, pick up a delicious cold brew coffee from Sift and then head for the beach. Walk toward the historic Flying Horse Carousel – a National Historic Landmark and the oldest operating flying horse carousel in the country. At the carousel, turn left, walk up the hill and there's a sign for entrance to the public beach complete with a sandy path lined on either side by beach roses. The water is clear and calm enough for swimming but with enough waves to keep things interesting.





After enjoying a playful swim and catnap, walk out to Watch Hill Light. The lighthouse was used to warn residents of a naval attack - not to guide ships at sea. The museum is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 1-3 p.m. from July until the week after Labor Day.

Lunch is at the historic Olympia Tea Room - "famous, not fancy" for over 100 years. Taylor Swift has been spotted dining here. The decor is a quirky and enchanting mix of old and new. Black and white floor tiles and the original dark woodwork of the booths and tables are accentuated by pink walls and a beautiful bar that was once the soda fountain. Sit at the bar for cocktails and nibble on local mussels in a perfect garlicky broth and lobster salad on a croissant with French fries.

There's plenty of shopping on Bay Street. Whether you're looking for souvenirs, designer fashions or original art by local artists - you'll find it all here. Don't forget local art is tax free in Rhode Island. After touring the shops, climb the hill for cocktails and dessert at the Ocean House. This luxury resort is a must see. You can sit on a rocking chair on the veranda or in the spacious lobby whether you're a guest or not. Have a drink on the veranda then head down the outside stairs, past the croquet field on the right, almost to the back to Below Deck where gelato and mini donuts are just the thing to cap off the day. Sit outside and let the salt air wash over you. A more economic option is St. Clare's Annex where you can get an ice cream cone from the window or enjoy a casual lunch.

Before departing for good, return to the carousel and take a right behind the row of shops, along the water and up over the dunes to Napatree Point - a wildlife refuge favored by bird watchers, beachcombers and photographers. As the sun starts to set, the natural beauty and serenity of Watch Hill will glow fiery pink and sorbet orange. There couldn't be a more perfect ending to such a beautiful day.



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Photo: Abby Capalbo

### Scenic Hikes

South County is full of lush forests and wildlife preserves to hike and bike or go bird watching. Trails range from easy to difficult and are listed in no particular order. Some will bring you deep into the woods, while others will take you out to sea.

Here are five of the most scenic:

### 1. Black Point Trail

This scenic, fairly easy trail in Narragansett will lead you past the ruins of an old stone carriage house and out onto Scarborough State Beach.

### 2. Whale Rock Trail

This easy trail also in Narragansett is a quick walk through the woods and continues onto a beach where you can see the remains of an old lighthouse.

### 3. John H. Chafee Nature Preserve

There are various loops at this North Kingstown preserve where many go to see seals in the fall and spring.





### 4. Long Pond Trail

This is a more challenging trail in Hopkinton and is known not only for its beauty, but also from the film "Moonrise Kingdom."

### 5. Napa Tree Point

There is no better place to watch the sun set than this coastal trail in Westerly. This intermediate/easy trail brings you by the beach, up and down the dunes and allows for beautiful ocean views and is also a great place for bird watching.

For more outdoor recreation scan the QR Code:



Summer in South County means there are many fairs and festivals that provide fun for the whole family. Whether you're a foodie who wants to sample the local seafood, a music lover who wants to dance, or an art collector, there's a festival or fair for you.

Here are five fairs and festivals you can't miss:

### 1. Charlestown Seafood Festival

Named a "Top 100 Event in North America" and listed as one of 10 Best Summer Seafood Festivals in the Northeast, this festival of seafood, music and more is held the first weekend in August at Ninigret Park in Charlestown, RI.

### 2. Narragansett Tribe August Pow Wowl n

August of every year, the Narragansetts open their Pow Wow up to the public. Come experience indigenous culture, food, and more.

### 3. Rhythm & Roots Festival

This music festival closes out the summer in South County every year over Labor Day weekend. Campindg, dancing, food and all kinds are vendors make this an experience for the whole family.



### 4. The Washington County Fair

This agricultural fair in August provides something for the whole family. See livestock, taste locally grown products, play games or go on rides. It's a great way to experience the real, local South County.

### 5. Wickford Art Festival

Photo: Katherine Gendreau

Every July since 1962 art enthusiasts travel near and far to discover some of the best fine art by renowned artists from Rhode Island, New England and across the nation while strolling through the classic seaside village of Wickford.

For more events scan the QR Code:





Photo: Seth Jacobson Photography

Stanten II



### ummer

### The warmest swim

had in New England was well past Labor Day, on the last day of September in South County, Rhode Island. As a born and bred New Englander from north of Boston, I'd been swimming in the chilly Atlantic waters since birth – from coastal Maine to Cape Cod. Growing up I never understood why the Rhode Island license plates declared it as "the ocean state." Until, in my late 30s, my husband-to-be brought me on a tour of Little Rhody and I spontaneously jumped into the water at Captain Roger Wheeler State Beach in Narragansett. "It's so warm!" I exclaimed. "I can't believe tomorrow is October 1st and the water is so warm." After a coastal drive around South County, I understood why Rhode Island is known as "the ocean state."

Photo @bellepoppydigital

Longer in South County

Faye Brown

unders



horse carousel in the country down in the village of Watch Hill. While you're there, hike Napa Tree Point and watch the sunset.

Miles of hiking and biking trails weave their way through lush forests and wildlife preserves. In the spring and fall you might glimpse rare, migrating birds stopping for a rest on their way north or south. All year long you can still see owls, eagles and other osprey. South County has so much natural beauty to take in. Hikes range from easy

Twenty public beaches line the hundred mile coastline in South County, Rhode Island. Tucked in between these public beaches are many more secret, more private beaches only the locals really know and those visitors who return year after year and have discovered continuously operated flying

them, either by chance or by sheer determination to find them. Look around and you'll find people exploring the water any way they can - paddling, whether by kayak, canoe or stand-up paddle board. Paddle out to a sand bar and you have your own private oasis perfect for a romantic picnic. Catch some live music down at the Ocean Mist in Matunuck or take the kids to the oldest

Miles of hiking and biking trails weave their way through lush forests and wildlife preserves...



to difficult, woodsy to coastal. You can easily explore a new trail every day you're here.

It's New England so don't expect perfect weather every day, but even on the not so sunny days, there's plenty to do. Brush up on history and tour one of our museums, like the birthplace of Gilbert Stuart whose portrait of George Washington graces our dollar bill or visit the Tomaquag Museum and learn about indigenous culture from descendants of the



native Narragansett tribe. In Narragansett tour the Towers which are all that remains of the Narragansett Pier Casino and Resort from the late 19th century. The stunning building arches across Ocean Road and is now a popular wedding venue. During a storm, when the waves are high is the best time to watch surfers on Narragansett Town Beach. Dine on fresh, local seafood directly fro as often as you can. At the You can al famous Matunuck Oyster Bar, charter for the oysters are harvested right your own from the pond outside and the digging for vegetables are all organically many salt por grown on a farm nearby. The the satisfa Coast Guard House offers your own din breathtaking ocean views and fresh seafood as does George's Summer def of Galilee. While in Galilee, visit in South Co the docks and pick up some I'd say the b lobsters fresh off the boat September.

During a storm, when the sea is rough, is the best time to watch surfers ride the waves on Narragansett Town Beach

Photo Kristin Martino

directly from the lobstermen. You can also book a fishing charter for the day and catch your own fresh fish or try digging for clams at one of our many salt ponds. Nothing beats the satisfaction of catching your own dinner.

Summer definitely lingers longer in South County, Rhode Island. I'd say the best month to visit is September.





resh seafood is abundant in South County, Rhode Island. You'll find you can order local favorites such as lobster, clams, calamari, scallops and cod at almost every restaurant. Did you know that more pounds of squid are brought to shore in Rhode Island than any other seafood and that Rhode Island accounts for 54% of all squid landings in the northesast? That's how calamari became the state's official appetizer.

This all happens in the bustling port of Galilee in Narragansett. Here you can buy fresh lobster right on the docks from local lobstermen. Crabs are also readily available, as are other fish.

Fishing charters leave Galilee daily if you prefer to catch your own - and once you catch you're first fish we promise you'll be hooked - pardon the pun. Full day, half day, off-shore and night fishing charters are available from several different companies including Frances Fleet, C-Devil Sport Fishing, Snappa and more. Night fishing is when you reel in striped bass, bluefish and there are special trips for squid. Off shore fishing is for big game fish such as different kinds of tuna - albacore, yellowfin, bluefin, mahi-mahi and more. You can also hook sharks, mako, thresher, hammerhead - all promise a good fight. Mako and thresher are also good for eating. Your catch can be cooked for you at George's of Galilee by request.

Clams are abundant in South County's salt ponds. Clamming is a fun and easy activity the whole family can participate in. If you're a visitor, start on the RI DEM website and get your recreational shellfishing licencse. Salt ponds are tucked away in every part of South County - use a rake and a bucket or dig with your feet the way the locals do. It's easy and fun and at the end of the day you'll have enough for a whole meal.

You can also fish just about anywhere in region. Drop a line in a pond, river or ocean and relax as you wait for those fish to bite!



More pounds of squid are brought to shore in Rhode Island than any other seafood and Rhode Island accounts for 54% of all squid landings in the northeast.



### Explore Indigenous Culture

The Tomaquag Museum was founded In 1958 by Mary E. Glasko, better known as Princess Red Wing of the Narragansett/ Pokanoket-Wampanoag tribes. It is Rhode Island's first and only Indigenous Museum. With the help of friend and colleague, anthropologist Eva Butler, they opened the Tomaquag Museum in Eva's private home in Tomaguag Valley, a hamlet in Ashaway. Eva Butler provided a broad collection of Indigenous belongings from across America and Princess Red Wing supplied her cultural knowledge to deliver public tours from a first-person perspective.

After the passing of Eva Butler in 1969, Tomaquag Museum relocated to Exeter RI, adjacent to the then renowned Dovecrest Restaurant, serving Indigenous cuisine and owned by Ferris and Eleanor Dove of the Narragansett Tribe.

In 1997, the Board reorganized and began programming for schools and organizations. Lorén Spears became the Executive Director in 2003 and has continued growing the organization.

In 2016 the Tomaquag Museum was awarded the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries for service to the community. Tomaquag is the first and only museum in Rhode Island to have been presented this prestigious award.

Visitors to the museum can learn about indigenous culture. There are several different tours and experiences available for adults and some geared specifically towards youth. The museum is happy to customize an experience specifically for you or your group. Experienc the museum via an interactive program kicked off by a welcoming social dance, go on a game tour that explores Eastern woodland games and their spiritual and cultural significance. Most popular is a guided nature hike through the beautiful Arcadia Management Area to explore indigenous plants and discover their traditional uses by the Narragansett People. Art

workshops will teach you how to make dream catchers, corn husk dolls, beaded jewelery, trinket baskets and more. Your custom tour can also include storytelling, cultural education and film.

Youth tours feature a scavenger hunt through the museum exhibits and can also be customized with any of the options available for adults.

There is no better way to learn about indigenous culture than from the people themselves and to immerse yourself in their history for a few hours. You will come away with a deeper appreciation of the region and the people who inhabited South County long before white settlers came. It's a great educational experience recommended for children as well as adults.

For more museums in South County Scan the QR Code:







A little known restaurant tucked away in the quiet South County town of Charlestown is getting lots of attention since its chef and owner, Sherry Pocknett, won a James Beard award in the category of "Best Chef: Northeast." This makes Pocknett, a member of Mashpee Wampanoag tribe, the first indigenous woman and only one of three Rhode Island chefs to receive this honor.

"Did you know that about 60% of the foods we eat worldwide originated here in the Americas? When the settlers first arrived here there were over 70 varieties of corn, hundreds of types of potatoes and beans, as well as avocados, bananas, and many other foods that Europeans had never seen. Indigenous peoples were some of the most innovative and progressive farmers in the world," Chef Sherry says.

At Sly Fox Den Too, Pocknett serves indigenous, locally sourced and foraged comfort food. The menu changes seasonally, honoring the native tradition of cooking and eating with the seasons. It is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Breakfast favorites include the Sly Fox Benedict made with venison sausage, as well as Chef Sherry's corn cakes and corn grits. For lunch try the "sammiches" or tacos served on Chef Sherry's fry bread. Dinner picks include the venison skewers, the hand-picked lump crabcakes or the "Grown-Up Mac-N-Cheese" which features generous portions of lobster meat and mac and cheese served in a lobster shell.

Definitely visit this unique restaurant and taste the native food prepared the way the indigenous people have done since before the European settlers arrived.





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apital One

The Beard

### Taste Indigenous food by a James

Photo: Gina Campbell

# with South County

### Why Autumn Is the Best Time to Visit South County

Fall in South County, Rhode Island is full of color, cool breezes and fun for the whole family. We think it's the best time to visit. October is often warm enough for a swim, and the summer crowds are long gone. The foliage peaks just a little later than the rest of New England, so there's more time to enjoy the spectacle. All the farms are full of harvest goodies – cider donuts, corn mazes, hot apple cider and hay rides. Here are some of the best fall events in South County:

### Atlantis RIsing International Sand Sculpture Competition See stunning sand scluptures created by internationally acclaimed artists and vote for your favorite! There are activities for kids, live music, plenty of food, and a drone light show that's not to be missed. It all happens on the shores of Misquamicut State Beach in Westerly over Columbus

### Hop Arts Studio Trail

Visit local artists in their home studios and watch them at work, learn about their process, see their creations and, of course, purchase pieces that may be available. This is a wonderful way to explore local art. Enhance the experience by stopping by local cafes, coffee shops and eateries along the trail.

### Wiickford Wicked Week

Wickford Village is one of the most charming seaside villages in New England. The week leading up to Halloween, Wickford goes all out with spooky decorations. The week kicks off with the Witches' Paddle - where paddlers dressed as witches paddle into town on the harbor. It's a sight to behold. There's a spooky sip 'n stroll, cemetery tours with a local historian, face painting, photo opps, food trucks, and entertainment. It all culminates with the annual Horribles Parade featuring the Witches of Wickford performing a dance!

If that doesn't make you want to visit in the fall, maybe you'll aprreciate how most hotels and inns offer special rates and packages during the "shoulder season" as they call it.

There are many things to do and deals to be had if you choose to visit in the fall. The beach is always here and open and waiting, and best of all, it's free to park in the fall and you can even bring your dog. If you have always wanted to take surf lessons, now's the best time.

For more fall events, scan the  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{QR}}$ 

Code:



SCAN ME



Day Weekend.

Photo: Jan Swartz Photography

Hallow

# in South County





Holidays Are Magical in South County

You may think that winter is not the best time to visit South County, but if you haven't experienced the peace of the ocean in winter, you haven't truly experienced peace. There's nothing more beautiful. Aside from peaceful, albeit chilly, walks on the beach, what is there to do? Hallmark Christimas movie fans will delight in how much South County resembles a Hallmark movie set over the holidays.

Luxury hotels such as **Ocean** House and Weekapaug Inn hold holiday celebrations, tree lightings, tea with Santa for the kids and workshops for the adults. Wickford Village lights up with decorations and luminaria. Local art galleries sell beautiful, one of a kind items for everyone on your shopping list. Westerly also has a holiday stroll and luminaria and a light parade that is extra magical when it snows.

Ringing in the new year in South County is also something special. Go ahead and go all out in formal attire and top-notch champagne at **Ocean House's** annual New Year's Eve gala. Or opt for a more low-key celebration at a beach bonfire. Alternately, you can cozy up in comfy suite by the fire for a romantic New Year's eve with a delicious meal and champagne for two. Whaterver you decide, it will be memorable.

If you'd like to hit the slopes, Yawgoo Valley - Rhode Island's only ski area - is open and offers an easy place for kids to learn to ski or snowboard. Snow tubing is popular with the kids by day and the adults at night!

Don't forget to enjoy some hot chocolate or a boozy winter cocktail. Audery's Coffee Shop and Lounge in South Kingstown owned by Bachelor couple Ashley & Jared offers late night snacks and dessert cocktails, and Sophie's Brewhouse in Exeter also has boozy cocktails for breakfast, brunch or an afternoon pick-me-up.

For more winter events, scan the QR Code:









What makes the perfect night out? The United Theatre and The Cafe at the heart of downtown Westerly, bring arts, culture and culinary excellence together for a perfect evening out no matter the season. The Cafe is a cozy and welcoming restaurant with a romantic ambiance ideal for date night or a lively group gathering. Start off with creative cocktails such as "The Dipper's Sipper" which features "soupy washed bourbon", demerera and bitters. Soupy is short for soppressata - a staple in the Westerly community which is full of Italian Americans, many of whom make their own. Follow up with a shareable cheese/bread/meat board, appetizer or raw bar. Select one of their locally sourced, elevated yet accessable entrees - from burgers, pasta and seafood, to comfort favorites such as meatloaf and more. Don't skip dessert - the sticky toffee pudding is a favorite, or, for a lighter, more boozy option, try "Allison's Pink Squirrel" - their take on this classic cocktail.

Next door, the newly restored United Theatre that was a historic vaudeville house dating back to 1926, now serves as a vibrant hub for the arts. From blockbuster and independent films, to live music, artist and author talks and more, there is something for everyone at this venue. Check their schedule and choose an option that appeals to you. You'll find a state of the art theater, with comfortable seating and an excellent snack bar.

Together, The United Theatre and The Cafe offer a perfect evening out, beginning with a meal at The Cafe followed by a performance or cinema experience at The United Theatre. Both locals and visitors are invited to partake in this rich cultural and culinary partnership.

Shop the South County Beachside Boutique



Bring home some South County style. Shop hats, t-shirts, hoodies, bags and more at the shop link on our website.

All items ship promptly and make great gifts or souvenirs. Unique designs will add a beachy vibe to your wardrobe.







### George's Rhode Island Clam Chowder

"A few things first, most people, when they think of clam chowder, think of New England Clam Chowder, the thick kind." says George's of Galilee owner, Kevin Durfee whose family is thought to have invented the Rhode Island Clear Clam Chowder. "We only recently started offering New England chowder but it is the Rhode Island clam chowder that put us on the map. Our RI clear broth chowder has the consistency of chicken soup. We were one of the first, if not the first place to ever prepare chowder this way. George's has been around since 1948 and made its name on its clam cakes and chowder as well as other signature dishes like fish 'n chips, lobster rolls, fried whole belly clams, stuffies, etc. Our chowder was so popular that it became its own category of chowder, Rhode Island Clam Chowder. We are proud to be part of the history of quirky foods you can only find here in RI. The reason why we prefer our clear broth chowder to the New England kind is that when you start any soup, you start with the basic ingredients, the stock, the liquid, not the thickeners like cream, roux, corn starch and others. We feel these are not only unhealthy but obscure the taste of the main ingredient, fresh quahogs. Our chowder is also technically not a clam chowder but a quahog chowder, one of the only of its kind. What makes a good chowder is not the pork or bacon, the cream, the butter and all the things people throw into a recipe to make anything taste good, but the main ingredient, the clams (or quahogs in our case). You can put salt, butter, cream, and bacon on a piece of cardboard and make it taste good. Anyways, this is the basic recipe."

### Ingredients

- 1/2 gallon minced quahogs
- 5 lbs potatoes
- 1/2 lb chopped Spanish onions
- 1 oz salt
- 2 pieces salt pork
- 1 tsp white pepper
- 1 ½ gallon water

### Instructions

The ingredient list is rather small, but it is how the ingredients go together that is important. Start with an iron skillet and brown the salt pork on the stove for 5 minutes, then add the chopped onions and cook for another 5 minutes until onions become translucent but do not brown. Cut potatoes into ½ inch cubes or any size you like. Add salt pork and onions with all other ingredients into large chowder pot and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium/low and cook for about an hour or until potatoes are soft. You will find that the taste gets better the next day, because the flavors have had more time to infuse into the broth. In a small bowl, combine the clams with their juices, milk, egg and butter.



The Ocean House's Wine Director shares a recipe from the Forbes Triple Five Star hotel's Veuve Clicquot Secret Garden. This is the easiest, yet fanciest Bloody Mary you will ever make and the ingredients are all things you probably have on hand. He started by sabering open the bottle of champagne. It definitely will impress your brunch guests if you saber the champagne open in front of them and mix the cocktail while letting them smell how the simple ingredients combined with the champagne really smells like a Bloody Mary!

### **Recipe:**

5 oz of Veuve Clicquot Rich Rose Champagne 1 wedge of tomato, or several cherry tomotoes 2 celery stalks 1 wedge of lemon Tabasco sauce to taste

### Instructions:

Fill a large champagne glass halfway with ice. Add all the fresh ingredients to the glass - no need to squeeze the lemon. Pour 5 ounces of champagne into the glass and smell - it will smell exactly like a traditional Bloody Mary! Add as much Tabasco sauce as you like and enjoy! Cheers!

Easiest, Fanciest Bloody Mary





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