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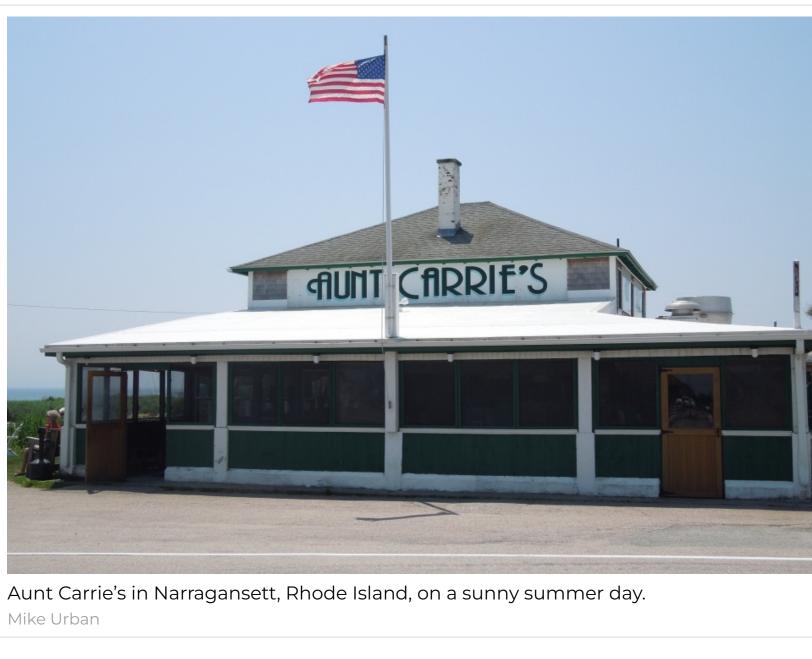
NARRAGANSETT In Praise of Aunt Carrie's in Narragansett, Rhode Island Best known as the birthplace of the clam cake, Aunt Carrie's seafood shack in Narragansett, Rhode Island, offers the quintessential seaside

FOLIAGE

summer experience. Mike Urban · July 1, 2022 · Read Comments (7)

4.09 avg. rating (**81**% score) - **11** votes Aunt Carrie's, a beloved seafood shack on the western shore of Rhode Island's

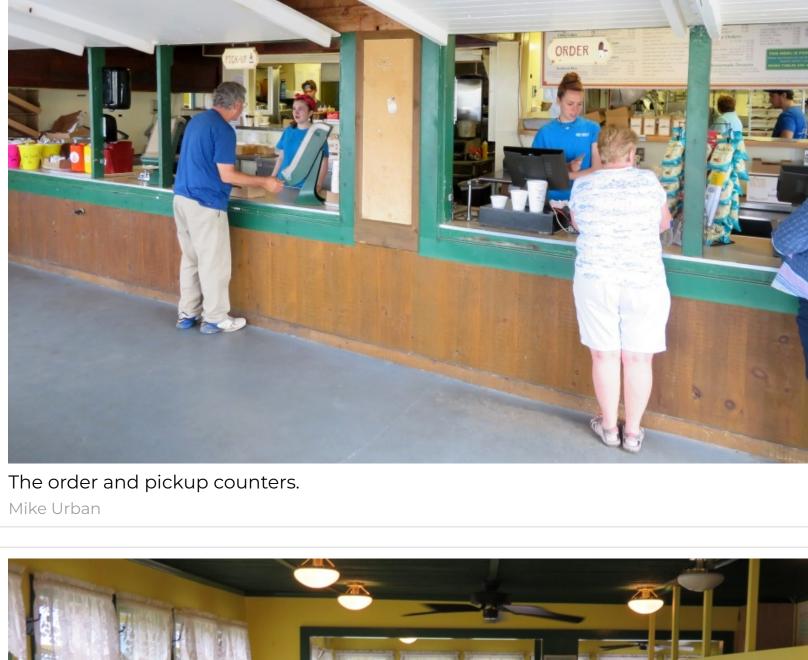
Narragansett Bay, has a long history of serving up heaping portions of fresh seafood and, more recently, wonderful baked goods such as breads, pies, and biscuits. But it's probably best known as the birthplace of the clam cake—that deep-fried ball of dough chock-full of minced clams that's become a classic Rhode Island treat.

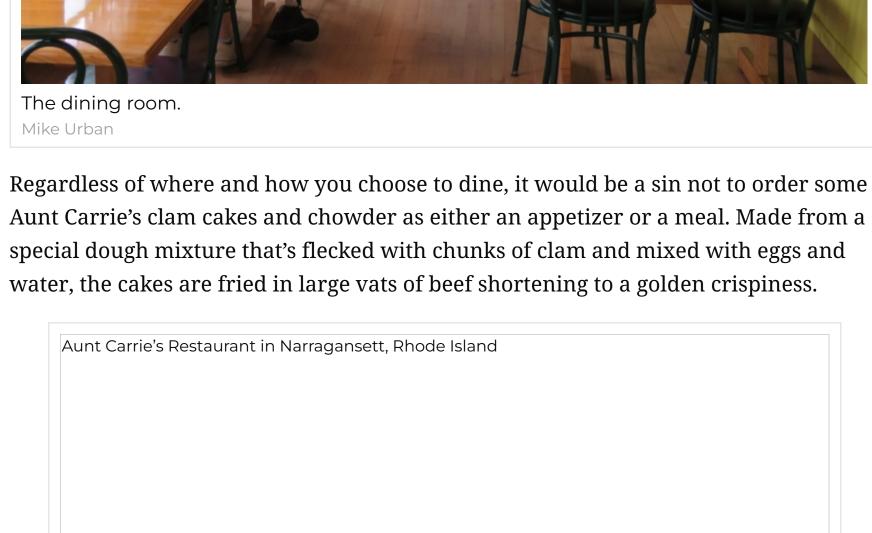


In Praise of Aunt Carrie's Aunt Carrie's offers two dining choices: a sit-down dining room with waitstaff, and an

order-at-the-counter, dine-in-the rough experience. Enter through the screen doors,

and you'll find yourself face-to-face with spacious order and pickup windows staffed by friendly kids on summer break from school. A tempting menu hangs from the ceiling just behind the counter, and loaves of fresh-baked bread beckon from racks inside the kitchen. Order here for picnic table dining, or proceed to the door leading to the dining room, which wraps around the side and back of the building.





Chowder at Aunt Carrie's comes in three varieties. There's the classic clear-broth

Rhode Island style; a tomato-based red chowder; and the traditional milky-white

version. All come loaded with fresh clams, perfectly cooked chunks of potato, and

Dollops of clam cake batter cooking in the voluminous fryer.

The end result? Perfectly fried cakes of clam and dough that are crunchy on the

outside and soft and steaming on the inside. Aunt Carrie's clam cakes come in orders

of a dozen or half dozen; another option is to pair three cakes with a cup of chowder

Mike Urban

for a snack or light lunch.

Aunt Carrie's Restaurant in Narragansett, Rhode Island

Aunt Carrie's Restaurant in Narragansett, Rhode Island

A trio of the famous Aunt Carrie's clam cakes.

Mike Urban

seasonings.

Mike Urban

bread.)

From left to right: clear-broth, tomato-based, and traditional clam chowders.

As with most New England seafood shacks, the lobster roll is one of the most popular

menu items at Aunt Carrie's. Here, it's a cold roll featuring chilled lobster meat mixed

with a bit of mayo atop a bed of lettuce. There's also a warm version, with drawn

butter on the side. Both are served on grilled and buttered top-split buns. (If you're

feeling adventurous, ask for your roll to be made with slices of fresh-baked sandwich

Aunt Carrie's Restaurant in Narragansett, Rhode Island

Aunt Carrie's cold lobster roll. Mike Urban The Rhode Island shore dinner is also very popular. It's served in the dining room and includes chowder, clam cakes, steamers, fish and chips, a whole lobster, and

homemade dessert. There are scaled-down versions of the shore dinner, too, each

One version of the Rhode Island shore dinner.

Aunt Carrie's Restaurant in Narragansett, Rhode Island

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Aunt Carrie's kitchen.

with plenty of options to make any diner happy.

Aunt Carrie's Restaurant in Narragansett, Rhode Island

One of the best and most distinctive things about Aunt Carrie's is its prodigious baking operation. Huge ovens turn out dozens of loaves of cinnamon-raisin bread and white bread each day, along with fresh pies, biscuits, and more. Meanwhile, the dessert menu features such standouts as apple pie, blueberry pie, strawberry shortcake, and homemade Indian pudding. All are made from scratch every day in

Indian pudding, a New England classic.

Aunt Carrie's Restaurant in Narragansett, Rhode Island

Aunt Carrie's Ice Cream and Gift Shoppe.

Phillip, are also heavily involved in the daily operations.

Aunt Carrie's Restaurant in Narragansett, Rhode Island

Mike Urban

Mike Urban

Have you ever visited Aunt Carrie's?

In Praise of Moody's Diner in Waldoboro, Maine

This post was first published in 2019 and has been updated.

Bay!

SEE MORE:

Owner Elsie Cooper is a third-generation family member (Aunt Carrie was her late

husband's grandmother). Elsie's two daughters, Laura and Amy, and Amy's husband,

Right across the street is Aunt Carrie's Ice Cream and Gift Shoppe. Check it out for

more than a dozen different homemade ice creams, plus sundaes such as the Little

Rhody, the Dirty Fisherman, and the Block Island Sunrise. The gift shop is packed

with locally crafted jewelry and souvenirs, many with a Rhode Island theme.

Elsie Cooper represents the third generation of family ownership at Aunt Carrie's.

Aunt Carrie's celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2020 with no signs of slowing down.

The future looks bright for this New England classic on the shores of Narragansett

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Comments Sarah R. July 1, 2022 I feel like the update to the article is missing the fact that the Yelp page for this place (when sorted by newest reviews) had not had a good review in YEARS. I have actually never read a Yelp review with PAGES of bad reviews. This is a tourist trap. https://www.yelp.com/biz/aunt-carries-restaurant-narragansett? utm_campaign=www_business_share_popup&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=(direct) Reply Reader L. July 13, 2021

"natural" chowder and clam cakes.

Reply

pandemic.

David K. August 10, 2019

Reply

Andree W. August 1, 2020 Born, Educated in Rhode Island, now in Tn. but wishing ,everyday, to be back where I belong..In addition to Aunt Carries, I also remember "Georges of Galilee" and sometimes quah-hogging with rakes along the way @ low tide!RI chowder, the BEST Reply Veronica S. July 12, 2020

clam cake, which, along with chowder, was the usual fare on summer Fridays.

Living now in Maryland, two of the things I miss most about Rhode Island are the

Narragansett this September 2020 of course stopping at Aunt Carrie's to get our fill of lobster, clam cakes, and fried clams. Sure hope you are all safe during this

year! Looking forward to a great meal and some clam cakes when we visit! Reply Reader L. August 9, 2019 It was a long ride for us but we started last summer's trip to Narrangansett with clamcakes and chowdah at Aunt Carrie's. I grew up on the South Coast of Massachusetts eating clam cakes but they're getting hard to find. Reply

Congratulations, Elsie! We hope to see you during the centennial celebration, next

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Break

I'm a born-and-bred Rhode Islander and until retirement never lived elsewhere, and I have never heard of Carrie's. I thought that no one knew the origin of the

Mohans Reply Paul K. May 31, 2020 Sitting here doing nothing in the middle of the pandemic, it is getting very old, even for us, very senior citizens. I just happen to stumble across this story, my grandparents went to Aunt Carrie's in the 40's and 50's, my parents in the 50's and 60's, and we enjoyed Aunt Carrie's in the 70's onward. We will be rambling through

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