

The Boston Globe

Best Times: The best things to do in Rhode Island right now

A curated look at things to do in Rhode Island from now to Dec. 10

By **Lauren Daley** Updated December 2, 2021, 6:00 a.m.



The Great Hall of The Breakers in Newport, R.I., December 2021. JOHN W. CORBETT

Remember back in the 1990s, when we asked: “What’s the 411?” (Kids: it traces back to landlines. Wikipedia it.) Well, Rhody, I got the 401, if you will. Best Times will offer up the best of the best of what’s going on this week in the Ocean State each week.

As this is the first column, let me explain. Best Times won’t simply be an automated list of everything going on in the state. That would be insane, a pain for you to sort through, and of hugely varying degrees of fun. No, friends, Best Times is a heady curation, the cream of the week’s crop — the Awful Awful of happenings — from live music to family fun.

SKATE BY THE SEA

Ice skating on an island? By the ocean? With hot chocolate? Yes, yes, and yes, please. [Gurney's Newport](#), a luxe resort on Goat Island, is open to the public for ice skating — and you will want to Instagram *all of it*.

#WinterVibes Adults \$12, kids 12-and-under: \$7, 65+, \$7. Skates are available to rent, \$10. 1 Goat Island, Newport. 401-849-2600. Details [here](#).

SANTA IN NEWPORT

You might plan for holiday shopping in Newport Dec. 4 to catch the 51st annual [Wharf Tree Lighting](#) at Bowens Wharf. The fun kicks off at 4:30 p.m. with local musicians taking stage and leading in carols, according to their website, and the “enormous tree” is lit at 6 p.m. Weather permitting, Santa and the Missus will arrive by boat.

#BecauseOceanState. Free. 401-849-2243. Details [here](#).

WATERFIRE

I'm not going to insult your Rhode Island-ness by describing all the details of a holiday Waterfire. Be there Dec. 4, friends. Music starts at 3:30 p.m.; basin-lighting at 4:15 p.m. Santa will be arriving by boat — the old guy's apparently quite the sailor — at Santa's Village to hear your wishes at 5:15 p.m. Note: families score \$2 off skating at the [Providence Rink](#) with coupons at the [BankNewport City Center](#). Details [here](#).

HOLIDAY WALKING TOURS

Stroll Ye Old Newport by lantern light, and hear tales of Christmas yore with a Newport Historical Society [Holiday Lantern Tour](#). (Dec 4, 10, 11. \$20 per adult; \$15 for members, kids 5-12, \$8.) Note that they also give many [themed tours throughout the year](#) — and if you haven't been on one since your field-trip days, you might find they're much more eye-opening now.