



THE TRAVEL

## 9 Things To Do In Newport: Complete Guide To The Timeless Charm Of The Seaside City

Rich history, delectable seafood, and both historic and non-historic things to do will fill up every traveler's Newport, Rhode Island itinerary.

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Beach along Newport Rhode Island

Newport is one of [the most beautiful places in all Rhode Island](#) to visit. Located in Narragansett Bay, this city is situated on Aquidneck Island. Visitors will enjoy the warm sunshine and the beautiful coastal walkways of this city, which is known for its 18th-century architecture, its long maritime history, its art scene, and its many eclectic boutiques.

Founded all the way back in 1639, this city was originally created by followers of the Puritan religious reformer, Anne Hutchinson. In the 18th century, the city became an important center for maritime trade. Many of the 18th-century buildings remain in the city, which travelers to this area should definitely keep a sharp eye out for! The city was also the site of the famed Battle of Rhode Island in the Revolutionary War.

To this day, Newport remains a center for the US Navy, with the United States Naval War College and the Naval Undersea Warfare Center located there. Not only is the history of this area naval, but it's also presidential, as well. Both John F. Kennedy and Dwight D. Eisenhower enjoyed summers there during their administrations.

Visitors here can enjoy learning about the area's long history, while also enjoying the gastronomic and artistic perks of the 21st century.

## Top Things To Do In Newport, Rhode Island



Newport Rhode Island Aerial View on a sunny day

With its almost 400-year history, Newport has accumulated plenty of cool things to do. Travelers will be able to explore the many beaches, the gorgeous historical locations, and the natural environment of this coastal island city.

### 15 Newport Cliff Walk



Newport Cliff Walk view, Rhode Island on a cloudy day with the ocean

Walking the Newport Cliff Walk is a great thing to do for tourists who want to catch a stunning view of the ocean. Visitors will get to see some of Newport's local wildlife, including wildflowers, birds, and possibly aquatic life. With the length of this trail only 3.5 miles, visitors can enjoy the trail at their own pace.

- **Hours:** All day, every day
- **Address:** 117 Memorial Blvd, Newport, RI 02840
- **Admission:** Free
- **What to do here:** Walk the recreational trail, enjoy local wildlife, see gorgeous views of the ocean
- **Length:** 3.5 miles

#### Tip

This recreational trail also has public bathrooms that are open in warm seasons during daylight hours!

## 14 Explore The Newport Historic District



Thames Street, Newport, Rhode Island on a sunny day with green trees

The Historic District of Newport is probably the best place in the United States to see 18th-century buildings. Due to these numerous 18th-century buildings, the entire 250-acre area has been designated as a National Historical Landmark.

Visitors will feel like they've stepped back in time as they walk down the street. This location has even been used as a film set for Steven Spielberg's 1997 movie, *Amistad*, which is set in the 19th century.

- **Hours:** 24 hours, all day
- **Address:** Eisenhower Park, 32 Touro St, Newport, RI 02840
- **Admission:** Free
- **What to do here:** See the beautiful colonial buildings of Newport, learn about 18th-century history, stop at the many boutiques in this area

## 13 Redwood Library And Athenaeum



Redwood Library and Athenaeum at Newport, Rhode Island with green trees

The [Redwood Library and Athenaeum](#) is one of Newport's most stunning attractions. With a collection of over 200,000 items, this library is one of the best places in Newport for tourists to stop at on a rainy day.

Visitors will fall in love with the Neoclassical architecture of the building, which was completed in 1750. Not only does this library also boast a collection of amazing historical artifacts, but they also feature different community events—like piano concerts, literary readings, and seminars—throughout the year.

- **Hours:** Tuesday-Saturday 10am-4pm, Sunday 1pm-5pm, closed Monday
- **Address:** 50 Bellevue Avenue Newport, Rhode Island 02840
- **Admission:** Free
- **What to do here:** peruse the library, read good books, enjoy community events, learn about history, see historical artifacts



## 12 Visit The Breakers Mansion



*The Breakers Mansion, Newport, Rhode Island with a large green lawn*

The Breakers Mansion is one of the most famous mansions in Newport. Visitors to this mansion will be stunned by the rich décor, the Renaissance Revival architectural style, and the stunning gardens at The Breakers.

Built for the famous Vanderbilt family in the 1890s, the mansion is one of the best places to tour in Newport. Visitors here can see the stunning interiors and can peruse the rare tree collection that the sprawling garden boasts.

After seeing this mansion, visitors will know why they called the 1890s “The Gilded Age!”

- **Hours:** 10am-4pm daily
- **Address:** 44 Ochre Point Ave Newport, RI 02840
- **Admission:** \$29.00, Children \$10.00
- **What to do here:** See the many rooms of the mansion, enjoy the historic artwork inside, walk through the beautiful gardens, see the rare tree collection, learn about life during the Gilded Age

## 11 Explore Fort Adams



*Fort Adams interior, Newport, Rhode Island with bright windows*

Military history buffs cannot leave Newport without spending at least one afternoon at Fort Adams. This 200-year-old fort is a great place to learn about US military history, with a collection of historical artifacts that includes seven original cannons from the 19th century.

The fortress is located in the beautiful Fort Adams State Park, which overlooks the ocean.

- **Hours:** 8am-4pm Daily, tours are only available on weekends at 11am, 1pm, and 3pm
- **Address:** Fort Adams Trust 90 Fort Adams Drive, Fort Adams State Park, Newport, RI 02840
- **Admission:** Guided tour: Adult \$20, Youths aged 6-17 \$10, children 5 and under are free; Self-guided tour: Adult \$10, Youth \$5, children free
- **What to do here:** See the 19th century naval fortress, see seven 19th century cannons, learn about US military history, enjoy the ocean views of the Fort Adams State Park



## 10 Easton's Beach



*Ocean view at Newport, Rhode Island on a sunny day*

As one of [New England's top beaches](#), [Easton's Beach](#) is a hidden gem of Newport. Visitors here can enjoy the sunshine, the sparkling blue water, and the salty smell of the ocean wind.

Children can enjoy the snack bar and carousel.

- **Hours:** Monday-Friday 9am-9pm, Weekends 8am-9pm
- **Address:** Easton's Beach 175 Memorial Blvd. Newport, RI 02840
- **Admission:** Free
- **What to do here:** enjoy the ocean, snack bar, carousel

## 9 Save The Bay Aquarium



*Save The Bay Aquarium in Newport, Rhode Island on a cloudy day*

Travelers to Newport with children will have a blast at the [Save the Bay Aquarium](#). Located right next to Easton's Beach, this is the perfect place for families to spend the day.

This aquarium has plenty of exhibits, including three touch tanks and exhibits on rescue animals.

- **Hours:** Friday-Sunday 10am-4pm
- **Address:** 175 Memorial Blvd. Newport, R.I. 02840
- **Admission:** Adults and Children over 3 \$9, seniors and college students \$8
- **What to do here:** Learn about the oceanic life of the Northeast Atlantic, interact with touch tanks, see rescue animals

## 8 Take A Tour At Touro Synagogue



Touro Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island with a blue sky and green trees

For those interested in history, taking a tour of the [Touro Synagogue](#) is a great way to spend the day. As the oldest synagogue in the United States, this is a great place to learn about Jewish history in the US.

Historically, Rhode Island was one of the safest places for Jewish immigrants to settle in the United States. Built in 1763, the synagogue has a beautiful colonial architecture for visitors to enjoy. They can also learn about local history, as well!

- **Hours:** 12am-12am daily
- **Address:** 85 Touro Street Newport, RI 02840
- **Admission:** Adults \$12, seniors \$10, students \$8, military \$8, children 12 and under are free
- **What to do here:** Learn about Jewish history, enjoy beautiful colonial architecture, learn about local history

## 7 Newport Art Museum



Newport Art Museum, Newport, Rhode Island with a white sky

For those who are interested in breaking into the art scene of Newport, the [Newport Art Museum](#) is a great place to start. With 2,900 works of art, this museum features art from all across American History.

The museum has a special focus on 18th-century American art. The museum also has a robust 20th-century art collection, as well as a contemporary art exhibit.

- **Hours:** Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 12pm-5pm, closed on Mondays
- **Address:** 76 Bellevue Avenue Newport, RI 02840
- **Admission:** Adults \$15, Seniors \$10, Children 17 and under are free, college students and military \$8
- **What to do here:** see art from American history, enjoy local contemporary art, enjoy rotating exhibits

## 6 The Best Time To Go To Newport



Goat Island, Newport, Rhode Island with a blue ocean and a cloudless sky

Located on the Northeast Coast of the United States, Newport has a humid continental climate. This means that this area is prone to warm summers, but cold winters. Newport's weather is highly impacted by its location next to the Atlantic Ocean, which has a cooling effect on the area.

Summertime has to be the best time to go to Newport. Located on an island, this area is often less hot than other areas in the region. The Atlantic Ocean keeps summer temperatures from getting as hot as other East Coast cities, like New York or Boston. Summer temperatures are typically in the 70s.

Newport is also a great destination in springtime for those who enjoy the natural environment. Springtime temperatures are usually in the 40s and 50s.

Due to Newport being on the Atlantic, the winter months can get quite chilly, with average lows in the 20s during January and February. However, despite the low temperatures and the snow, winter in Rhode Island is very charming, with lots of things to do during the winter.

### Tip

The best months to go to Newport are June and July.

- **Months:** June and July
- **Temperatures:** mid-upper 70s

## 5 Best Ways To Get Around Newport



### Walking

Newport, Rhode Island, is one of the most walkable cities in the United States! With many historical sites to see, this is a great place to walk. Visitors who walk around Newport should keep a lookout for the many unique local shops on Thames Street!

### Bicycling

Newport is a great place for cyclists! Not only is the city bike-friendly, but it has a long history of cycling. In the late 19th century, Newport was the place where the first American bicycling organization was founded.

- Renting a bike typically costs around \$50 per day.



## Public Transportation

Since finding parking in the city can be difficult, a great option for travelers is public transportation.

- Fares are usually \$2 per ride.

### Tip

Public Transportation in Rhode Island no longer takes paper currency. They require visitors to have either the app or exact change.

## Rideshares

Taking a rideshare or an Uber is a great way to get around the city for those who want to enjoy walking around most of the time, but want a ride on a rainy day.

- A typical trip across the city usually costs \$16-22, depending on time and location.

## Rent a Car

Renting a car is a great idea for those who are traveling with children or who are traveling on business.

- Renting a car usually costs around \$23-\$50 per day.

## 4 Where To Eat In Newport



### **Breakfast:** [Picnic Bakery + Café](#)

After waking up in beautiful Newport, travelers looking to eat breakfast should try the Picnic Bakery + Café. This upscale bakery has lots of delectable pastries, from classic croissants to Danishes to bagels. They also have egg options, frittatas, sandwiches, and salads.

- **Price:** \$
- **Address:** 28 Bellevue Avenue Newport, RI 02840
- **Hours:** 8am-5pm daily

### **Lunch:** [The Red Parrot](#)

For lunch, visitors to Newport should definitely check out The Red Parrot. This casual family restaurant serves lots of seafood options, like mussel soup, lobster nachos, calamari, and surf & turf burgers. The building itself was built in 1898 and is on the National Register of Historical Places, so visitors will thoroughly enjoy dining there.

- **Price:** \$\$
- **Address:** 348 Thames Street Newport, RI 02840
- **Hours:** Sunday-Thursday 11:30am-9:30pm, Friday-Saturday 11:30am-10:30pm

### **Dinner:** [White Horse Tavern](#)

This historic restaurant is the perfect place to have dinner in Newport. First opened in 1673, this is the oldest tavern building in the United States. Not only is it the oldest tavern building, but it is the oldest operating restaurant in the country!

Their menu includes East Coast classics, like lobster ravioli, crab cakes, and pan-seared scallops, along with other gourmet dishes, like beef Wellington, steaks, and duck confit.

- **Price:** \$\$\$
- **Address:** 26 Marlborough St Newport, RI 02840
- **Hours:** Monday-Thursday 5pm-9pm, Friday-Sunday 4pm-9pm

#### Tip

This restaurant will likely require a reservation, so schedule one online or call ahead!

### **Drinks:** [Tavern on Broadway](#)

For travelers looking for after-dinner drinks, the perfect place to go is to the Tavern on Broadway. This restaurant serves food, as well, but is locally known for their draft beer and cocktails.

- **Price:** \$\$
- **Address:** 16 Broadway, Newport, RI
- **Hours:** Monday 12pm-1am, Tuesday-Saturday 12pm-1am, Sunday 10am-1am

## 3 Where To Stay In Newport



Newport has plenty of accommodation options to choose from for any budget.

### **Budget Locations**

#### [Founder's Brook Motel and Suites](#)

- **Address:** [314 Boyd Lane, Portsmouth, RI 02871](#)
- **Price:** \$77 per night
- **Amenities:** Garden, picnic area, refrigerator in rooms

#### Red Roof Inn & Suites

- **Address:** [1359 West Main Road, Middletown, RI 02842](#)
- **Price:** \$111 per night
- **Amenities:** Indoor pool, free parking, terrace and patio

### Mid-Tier Price Locations

#### Hammetts Hotel

- **Address:** [4 Commercial Wharf, Newport, RI 02840](#)
- **Price:** \$200 per night
- **Amenities:** restaurant, fitness center, valet parking, meeting facilities

#### The Newport Harbor Hotel & Marina

- **Address:** [49 America's Cup Ave, Newport, RI 02840](#)
- **Price:** \$139 per night
- **Amenities:** Indoor pool, restaurant, bar, business center

### Luxury Hotels

#### Castle Hill Inn

- **Address:** [590 Ocean Drive, Newport, RI 02840](#)
- **Price:** \$615 per night
- **Amenities:** Named one of the [best hotels in the entire Northeast](#), spa and wellness center, valet parking, free parking, private beach, restaurant, bar, private garden

#### The Vanderbilt

- **Address:** [41 Mary Street, Newport, RI 02840](#)
- **Price:** \$690 per night
- **Amenities:** Indoor pool, spa, fitness center, restaurant, bar, valet parking, Gilded Age ambiance

### Bed and Breakfasts

#### Serenity Inn Newport

- **Address:** [93 Pelham Street, Newport, RI 02840](#)
- **Price:** \$147 per night
- **Amenities:** Hot tub, fireplace, complimentary breakfast, balcony

#### Hydrangea House Inn

- **Address:** [93 Pelham Street, Newport, RI 02840](#)
- **Price:** \$229 per night
- **Amenities:** Free parking, breakfast, cute ambiance, 3-minute walk from the Newport Art Museum



## 2 Tips To Know When Visiting Newport



*Sailboat at the sunset in Newport, Rhode Island, with a beautiful orange sky*

Newport is also one of the best locations in the Northeast for sailing! Visitors to the area should be aware of the many sailing events in the area, like the Newport International Boat Show in September. Locals often call the city the "Sailing Capital of the World."

Visitors should also be aware of the Newport Folk and Jazz Festival, which is held at the end of each July.

## 1 How To Spend The Perfect Day In Newport, Rhode Island



*Monument in Newport, Rhode Island, at Sunset*

The perfect day in Newport begins with pastries at Picnic Bakery + Café for a chocolate croissant. Afterward, travelers can stop at The Breakers mansion to step into Gilded Age Newport. Spending time in the beautiful gardens and exquisite rooms will enthrall everyone who enters.

For lunch, travelers should stop at one of Newport's many seafood restaurants for a plate of crab cakes or a bowl of lobster bisque. There are many locations near or on the water for travelers to enjoy.

Afterward, visitors should stop at the Redwood Library and Athenaeum for a concert and to peruse the exhibits.

For dinner, travelers can go to the White Horse Tavern for a gourmet meal. Travelers should try their pan-seared scallops!

To finish off the night, travelers can grab a cocktail at the Tavern on Broadway. Finally, travelers should take an evening walk along the water at one of Newport's many parks so that they can listen to the crashing waves as the sun sets.

## FAQ

### **Q: What is Newport famous for?**

Newport is famous for so many different things, from its long and rich 18th-century history to its oceanfront views to its many different architectural wonders. It's no wonder this area is considered one of the [most beautiful cities in Rhode Island!](#)

### **Q: Does it snow in Newport?**

Like the rest of Rhode Island, Newport does get snow. [This state has lots of interesting things to do in the winter months](#) for travelers interested in visiting at this time.

### **Q: Where did John F. Kennedy live in Newport?**

During the summertime, John F. Kennedy and his family lived at Hammersmith Farm in Newport.

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