Newport, Rhode Island

Population: 24,232

Sunny Days Per Year: 202

It's no wonder the British occupied it during the American Revolution: Who wouldn't want to live here? Set on the southern tip of Aquidneck Island in Narragansett Bay as it edges the Atlantic Ocean, the walkable, cultured New England city of [Newport](#) has always been a place of independent thinking and a hub of commerce. And life here—whether in a circa-1700s saltbox near the lively wharfs (lined with yachts of every size), in colorful Victorians just outside downtown, or in breathtaking estates that keep company with the world-renowned mansions of Bellevue Avenue and Ocean Drive—feels like something out

of a storybook. Sorry, Brits. It's ours now.

Your One Thing: The [Newport Jazz Festival](#) and [Newport Folk Festival](#) are the hottest summer tickets in town. Do them in style by going by boat and dropping anchor off Fort Adams.