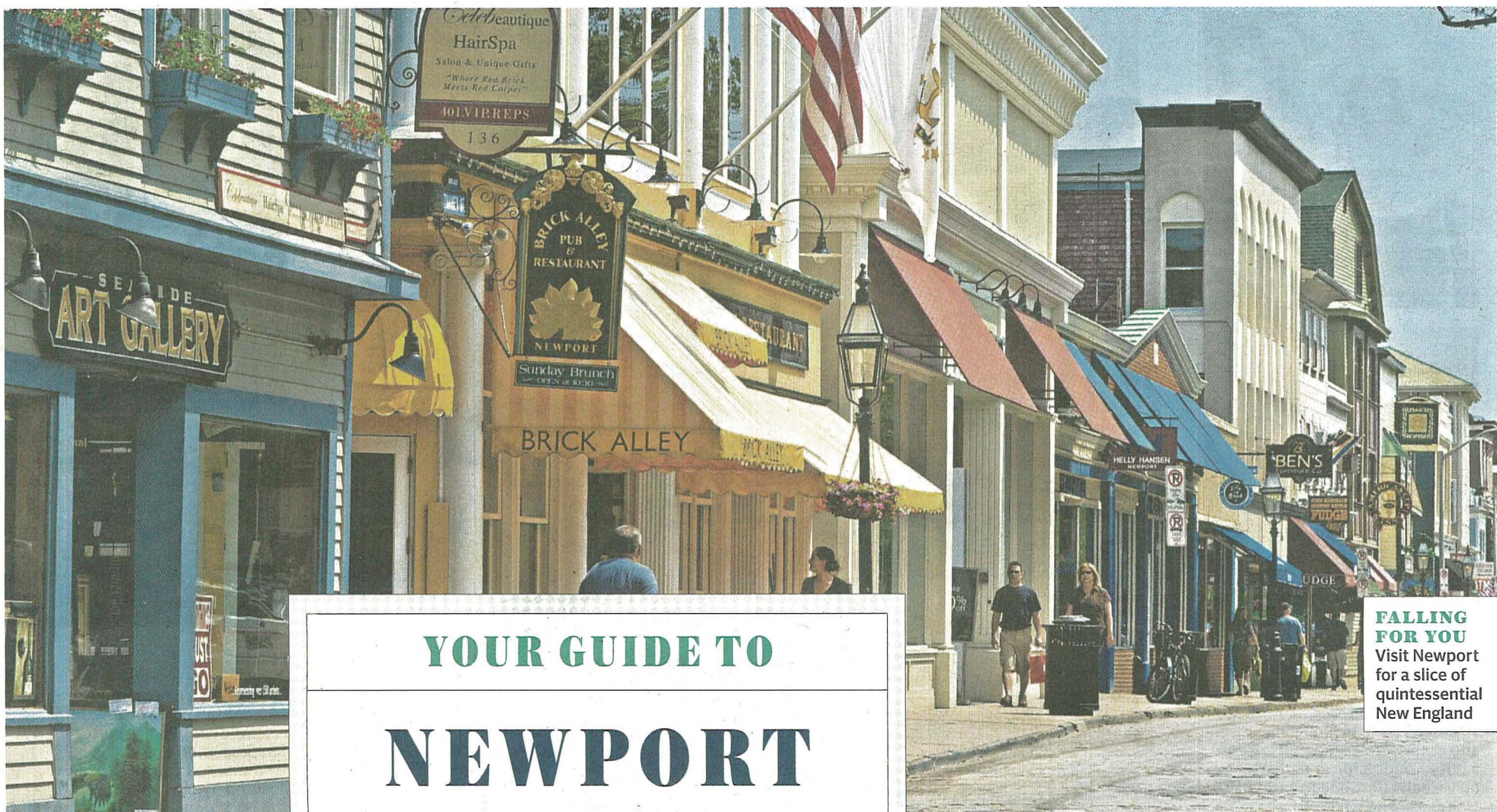


ASHORE



FALLING FOR YOU
Visit Newport for a slice of quintessential New England

YOUR GUIDE TO NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND

Autumn, when New England's dazzling foliage is the big draw, is the most popular time for cruise visitors to Newport, says Kathy Arnold

A yacht-filled marina, opulent mansions built for summer socialising, lobster straight from the briny: that is Newport, Rhode Island. Of all the historic ports on the US coast, nowhere matches this small city on Narragansett Bay. Add upmarket boutiques, cheerful cafés and a handy trolley/bus that links major sights, and you have the perfect cruise destination.

If you are travelling on a big cruise ship, you will be tendered to Perotti Park in downtown Newport (by contrast, small vessels dock on terra firma at 200-year-old Fort Adams). Drop by the Newport Visitor Center for maps and information (discovernewport.org).

IT'S REVOLUTIONARY
This small city was founded in 1639 – and its story is told in the Museum of Newport History. Fine paintings and Newport-crafted furniture reflect the wealth of the 18th-century merchants whose ships filled the deep natural harbour. But what made Rhode Island unusual was its religious tolerance. Settlers included Jews, Baptists and Quakers, as well as English Protestants. Move on up the hill, across Washington Square, to the handsome Old Colony House. Once the hub of government and business, it was here that the Declaration of



Independence, hot off the press, was read out to locals on July 20, 1776. Off to the right is the Touro Synagogue and its Loeb Visitors Center, which recounts how the principle of religious freedom was established in America.

ANYONE FOR TENNIS?
Up the hill is posh Bellevue Avenue, which leads to the Newport Mansions, 11 grand houses built in the late 19th century to rival the stately homes of England. Their wealthy owners partied and played tennis at Newport Casino, now the International Tennis Hall of Fame. Take lunch on the patio at La Forge Casino, where you might see a lawn tennis match as you feast on oysters, clams or lobster. In use

TOP TIP

For a special thrill, enjoy a two-hour sail aboard an America's Cup 12 Metre yacht (12metercharters.com).

since 1881, these grass courts are older than Wimbledon's. The Hall of Fame museum is rammed with film footage and memorabilia, plus a Roger Federer hologram. Where else can you get up close and (virtually) personal to the eight-time Wimbledon champ?

THE HIGH LIFE
At trolley stop 5, outside the Tennis Hall of Fame, hop on the 67 trolley (buy the all-day \$6 ticket), which trundles through this country's most exclusive neighbourhoods. Of those open to the public, the biggest and best known is The Breakers (stop 4; newportmansions.org). Money was no object for railway tycoon



Cornelius Vanderbilt II. What looks like a 16th-century Italian palazzo was built by European craftsmen; the 70 rooms hold treasures from around the world. The two-storey dining room has a painted ceiling; marble statues and acres of gilding and, in a salute to the New World, the Breakers boasted bathtubs with four taps, which provided hot and cold fresh and sea water.

Take the trolley again. At stop 3 is Rosecliff, inspired by the Grand Trianon at Versailles. This extravaganza was designed for entertaining. For film fans, the highlight is the glittering ballroom, where Arnold Schwarzenegger and Tia Carrere danced a steamy tango in the film *True Lies*.

THE KENNEDY CONNECTION
This popular year-round destination



has fun, one-of-a-kind shops. From the synagogue, stroll along Spring Street, where temptations range from antiques and upmarket gifts to J H Breakell & Co (no 132), whose jewellery is hand-crafted in town. At the corner of Memorial Boulevard, the red-sandstone St Mary's Church saw American society's wedding of the year in 1953: the groom was John F Kennedy, the bride was glamorous socialite, Jacqueline Bouvier (pictured left). A plaque on Pew 10 marks where the future President and First Lady worshipped together on visits to her family's Newport estate.



MINE'S A PINT!
Head back to the visitor centre on the trolley, then stroll 400 yards to the White Horse Tavern for a farewell drink. Pouring pints since 1673, America's oldest pub has been a meeting place for politicians and pirates, soldiers and America's Cup sailors. From here, Perotti Park and the tender pier are five minutes' walk away.