

— 324 Editors' Picks for Where to Go & What to Do —

# BEST OF NEW ENGLAND

**BEST BARGAINS**

35 Don't-Miss  
Summer Savers

**WHERE TO GO**

120 Best Fairs,  
Festivals & Events

**BEST DINING**

90 Local Foodie  
Destinations

# YANKEE

NEW ENGLAND'S MAGAZINE FOR 80 YEARS

2015

TRAVEL GUIDE TO  
NEW ENGLAND

SPECIAL ISSUE



## NATIONAL TREASURES

*Our Favorite New England  
National Parks, Landmarks & Sites*

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» **BEST HIDDEN LOBSTER SHACK**  
McLOON'S LOBSTER  
Thomaston, Maine

MAY/JUNE 2015  
U.S./CANADA \$5.99



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## RHODE ISLAND



**BEST MANSION FOR KIDS:**  
**THE BREAKERS, Newport**  
*(listing opposite, top left)*

## ATTRACTIONS

### BEST DISTILLERY

**SONS OF LIBERTY SPIRITS CO.,**  
**South Kingstown**

Southern makers have the whiskey market cornered, but don't underestimate Yankee ingenuity. Whiskey begins as beer, and Sons of Liberty's founder realized that seasonal and craft brews could yield unique spirits. Try "Pumpkin Spice"—it's made with locally harvested pumpkins and was named "best-flavored" at 2014's World Whiskies Awards. Tours offered. 1425 Kingstown Road. 401-284-4006; [solspirits.com](http://solspirits.com)

### BEST ENCHANTING BOAT RIDE

**LA GONDOLA, Providence**

It's an authentic Venetian gondola ride without the plane ticket. As serenading boatmen steer these graceful river craft, many an endearment has been whispered. Bring your own bottle of bubbly to sip as the city's sights light up at night.

WaterFire evenings—the ultimate in romance—are booked far in advance. From \$89 for two. 1 Citizens Plaza. 401-421-8877; [gondolari.com](http://gondolari.com)

### BEST OVERLOOKED MUSEUM

**MUSEUM OF WORK & CULTURE,**  
**Woonsocket**

Step into the lives of the French Canadian and other immigrants who poured into the Blackstone River Valley as the textile industry boomed. Walk-through, multimedia, and hands-on exhibits show how people—not just machines—powered America's Industrial Revolution. 42 South Main St. 401-769-9675; [rihs.org/museums/museum-of-work-and-culture/](http://rihs.org/museums/museum-of-work-and-culture/)

### BEST ON-SITE ARTISANS

**DOWNTOWN DESIGNS, Newport**

Rhode Island was the first state to exempt citizens' creative works from sales tax. But your joy in purchasing one-of-a-kind beaded jewelry, paintings, photography, pottery, and upcycled artwork from this weekdays-only gallery won't

stem from tax savings. You'd never guess—until you meet the artisans—that they've overcome disabilities to craft their livelihoods. 7 Dr. Marcus F. Wheatland Blvd. 401-845-9661; [downtowndesignsnewport.com](http://downtowndesignsnewport.com)

### » HISTORIC HIGHLIGHT

**BEST OPEN-AIR MUSEUM**  
**SWAN POINT CEMETERY,**  
**Providence (1846)**

It's where the tormented mind of Providence's own horror master, H.P. Lovecraft, lies at rest, and where Edgar Allen Poe's beloved rejected his marriage proposal: a 200-acre plot on the Seekonk River's banks populated by angels with bowed heads. And yet, this 169-year-old garden cemetery is a lush park for the living, where every turn on a walk, drive, or bike ride unveils moving art and epitaphs. 585 Blackstone Blvd. 401-272-1314; [swanpointcemetery.com](http://swanpointcemetery.com)

### BEST MANSION FOR KIDS THE BREAKERS, *Newport*

"I don't like to brag, but I'm the biggest one," says the voice on the family audio tour at the Vanderbilts' 70-room "cottage" on mansion row. Yes, the Breakers is speaking to you. And the same children who rolled their eyes about touring an old house are instantly enthralled. By the time you reach the kitchen, they'll be sad to relinquish their headphones. 44 *Ochre Point Ave.* 401-847-1000; [newportmansions.org/explore/the-breakers](http://newportmansions.org/explore/the-breakers)

## LODGING

### BEST PET-FRIENDLY INN THE DARIUS INN, *Block Island*

Dogs travel free on the Block Island Ferry, and island beaches are open to leashed puppies. But where will you stay? Easy! Vibrant, casual, energetic, fun—all describe can-do sisters Christy and Becca Zendt and the centrally located, shabby-chic beach house they run, where five first-floor suites are pet-friendly. Rates: from \$95. 62 *Dodge St.* 401-465-6357; [dariusblockisland.com](http://dariusblockisland.com)

### BEST RETREAT HOUSE PARADISE FARMHOUSE AT NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY, *Middletown*

A thoughtful renovation and update, in keeping with its National Register of Historic Places status, has transformed a centuries-old structure into a bright, airy, six-bedroom refuge on the grounds of Newport County's largest wildlife sanctuary. Reserve the farmhouse for a private eco-escape or retreat of your own design, or find rooms available by the night in conjunction with birding programs hosted at this 325-acre site. 583 *Third Beach Road.* 401-846-2577; [normanbirdsantuary.org/farmhouse](http://normanbirdsantuary.org/farmhouse)

### BEST CAPITAL DIGS THE DEAN, *Providence*

Think European hostel meets minimalist, mid-century American home inside an art professor's apartment, and you'll intuit the vibe at Providence's sleek new boutique hotel. Yes, you can snooze in bunk beds if you choose. Karaoke in The Boombox is also optional. The staff's genuine desire to assist makes this the ideal crashpad for city newcomers. Rates: from \$99. 122 *Fountain St.* 401-455-3326; [thedeanhotel.com](http://thedeanhotel.com)

### BEST BEACH VALUE THE ANCHOR MOTEL, *Narragansett*

A family beach vacation is within your budget. This clean, comfy motel is just steps across the street from Rhode Island's most popular sand-box, Scarborough State Beach. All 15 rooms boast ocean views. Kids 10 and under stay free; parking's free; beach admission's free. Coffee and doughnuts? Also free for guests in the B & B rooms. Rates: from \$99. 825 *Ocean Road.* 401-792-8550; [theanchormotel.com](http://theanchormotel.com)

# SPOTLIGHT: NARRAGANSETT BAY

## ATTRACTIONS

### BEST PETTING ZOO BIOMES MARINE BIOLOGY CENTER, *North Kingstown*

If it inhabits Narragansett Bay, chances are you can observe it and maybe even touch it at this private marine-education center. Devoted staff and volunteers have assembled the most diverse collection of New England marine life you can see anywhere, and open tanks invite you to pet stingrays, skates, sea urchins, horse-shoe crabs, sharks, and a tortoise. 6640 *Post Road.* 401-885-4690; [biomescenter.com](http://biomescenter.com)

### BEST RAIL TRAIL EAST BAY BIKE PATH, *Providence to Bristol*

Sights, sounds, and scents of the bay accompany your walk or ride along any or all of this 14.5-mile shoreside path from Providence's India Point Park to Independence Park in Bristol. Possible stops include photo ops, a Crescent Park Carousel ride, wildlife watching at Audubon's Environmental Education Center, and Del's frozen lemonade at Colt State Park. [dot.ri.gov/community/bikeri/eastbay.php](http://dot.ri.gov/community/bikeri/eastbay.php)

### BEST EQUESTRIAN ADVENTURES C & L STABLES, *Warwick*

Horseback riding on the beach is affordable for the whole family at this busy barn, operating year-round within Goddard Memorial State Park. Pony rides for young horse lovers and hour-long bridle-trail rides are options, but the peak experience—even for beginners—is a 90-minute or two-hour bayside beach ride with an enthusiastic professional guide. 1095 *Ives Road.* 401-886-5246; [candlstableinfo](http://candlstableinfo)

## LODGING

### BEST FAMILY HIDEAWAY WYNDHAM BAY VOYAGE INN, *Jamestown*

From the outdoor pool, you can gaze at sailboats sliding across Narragansett Bay and feel much farther than 5 miles from the hubbub of Newport. A convenient retreat for families, this all-suite property offers modern comforts while retaining its original Victorian feel. Rates: from \$180. 150 *Conanicut Ave.* 401-423-2100; [wyndhambayvoyageinn.com](http://wyndhambayvoyageinn.com)

### BEST BAY-VIEW INN 3 ROYAL WATERFRONT SUITES, *Warwick*

Effervescent innkeeper (and avid baker) Dancish Hazard has made over her home on

Narragansett Bay as a couples' haven with a trio of spacious, yet intimate bedchambers. A decadent, customized morning meal is served en suite, but guests almost never eat breakfast in bed when they can savor bay views from their private porches. Rates: from \$139. 3 *Royal Ave.* 401-323-3290; [3royal.com](http://3royal.com)

### BEST HOTEL ALTERNATIVE SLEEP ABOARD, *Providence*

Just upriver from the bay, globetrotting sailor and motorcyclist Neil Malik has discovered a port adventurous enough to call home, and he's amassing a petite fleet of floating accommodations to share the experience of urban marina living. Choose a houseboat, modern MetroShip, or stunning 61-foot Hendel yacht for a memorable overnight stay. Rates: from \$220 for 4. 525 *South Water St.* 617-233-7161; [sleep-aboard.com](http://sleep-aboard.com)

## DINING

### BEST PAIRINGS JAMESTOWN FISH, *Jamestown*

Quadrilingual chef Matthew MacCartney is as meticulous about building his wine and beer lists as he is playful with his always-evolving menu of ingeniously spiced and artfully plated local seafood. And he's practically giddy when connoisseurs of either beverage recognize and order one of the limited-edition beers or rare bottles of wine he's acquired. 14 *Narragansett Ave.* 401-423-3474; [jamestownfishbri.com](http://jamestownfishbri.com)

### BEST SEAFOOD ON THE BAY QUITO'S, *Bristol*

A trio of chowders ... a heaping plate of scampi loaded with shrimp, littlenecks, lobster, mussels, or calamari ... Fresh seafood meets Italian cooking's flair for overabundance at this casual, boisterous, seasonal eatery. Whether you're sittin' on the dock overlooking the bay or inside by the fireplace on cool evenings, you'll be wishin' you never had to leave Rhode Island. Entrées from: \$13. 411 *Thames St.* 401-253-4500; [quitosrestaurant.com](http://quitosrestaurant.com)

### BEST FISH CHOWDER MELVILLE GRILLE, *Portsmouth*

Boat or drive to the marina-side restaurant at East Passage Yachting Center for the staff's Portuguese fish chowder. Chef/owner Scott Cowell loads this decadent, paprika-pink soup with scallops, shrimp, cod, and mild chouriço. It's twice been named seafood-chowder champ at Newport's prestigious Great Chowder Cook-Off. Cup: \$4.95. 1 *Lagoon Road.* 401-683-4400; [melvillegrille.com](http://melvillegrille.com)

## » HISTORIC HIGHLIGHT

**BEST VILLAGE-STYLE STAYS****WATCH HILL INN,  
Watch Hill (1845)**

With all the amenities of its acclaimed sister property, Ocean House, just a short walk away, this lavishly remodeled all-suite, coastal-chic property gives families and small groups a luxurious option for extended stays. With ultra-modern kitchens, in-room laundry, waterview terraces, and designer touches, these 650- to 4,000-square-foot accommodations feel like dream homes. Rates: from \$455. 38-44 Bay St. 401-584-7400; [watchhillinn.com](http://watchhillinn.com)

**DINING****BEST FULL ALL-DAY BREAKFAST  
CORNER CAFÉ, Newport**

Imagine: a breakfast sandwich so enormous you can't hoist it, even though it's cut in half. Or Portuguese sweet-bread so heaped with scrambled eggs, chouriço, red peppers, and feta you may never find it. Locals know that this cramped but cheery Euro-café is *the* place to overfill for under

\$10. Breakfast: from \$4.75. 110 Broadway St. 401-846-0606; [cornercafenewport.com](http://cornercafenewport.com)

**BEST DOUGHNUTS****PAYNE'S DONUTS, Block Island**

Payne's proves that doughnuts don't have to come in a gazillion flavors to be crave-worthy every day. This tiny walk-up window isn't exaggerating its "Home of the Killer Donuts!" claim, even though selection is limited to sugar, cinnamon, and plain. These tender homemade orbs, crisp and warm on the outside, are a beloved a.m. treat. Doughnuts: \$1 each. 1 Ocean Ave. 401-466-5758

**BEST ROOFTOP BAR****ROOFTOP AT THE PROVIDENCE,  
Providence**

A seven-story elevator ride lands you among the chic locals and in-the-know out-of-towners nibbling raw-bar selections and eclectic small plates while sipping cocktails with high-altitude prices. It's the cost of admission to mingle on this posh patio with sparkling nighttime views. Small plates: from \$10. 100 Dorrance St. 401-632-4904; [providenceg.com/venues/rooftop-at-the-providence](http://providenceg.com/venues/rooftop-at-the-providence)

**BEST NEWPORT NEWCOMER  
REVOLVING DOOR, Newport**

A new chef every two to four weeks: No, it's not a restaurant owner's worst nightmare. It's the

concept that ensures that Albert and Sarah Bouchard's latest venture will perpetually be Newport's most buzz-worthy dining experience. Short stints by well-vetted guest chefs challenge barman Jason Kindness to continually invent rum-centric cocktail pairings, too. Entrées: from \$24. 509 Thames St. 401-846-0400; [revolvingdoorri.com](http://revolvingdoorri.com)

**BEST FEAST****NORDIC LODGE,  
Charlestown**

It's the buffet to beat all buffets, where even seawater-boiled whole lobsters are all-you-can-eat. Owned by the Persson family for more than 50 years, the formula here is equal parts quantity and quality. The price to feast on 100+ menu items is steep, but it's free to walk or nap off your meal on the picturesque grounds. Adults: \$91. 178 East Pasquisset Trail. 401-783-4525; [nordiclodge.com](http://nordiclodge.com)

**BEST INVENTIVE BAKED GOODS  
NORTH BAKERY, Providence**

A pastry chef without a sweet tooth? Kelly Dull admits that it's the pastry world's artistry that inspired her studies at Johnson & Wales. Here, savory muffins, scones, and hand pies coexist with sugary treats. Salt-dusted chocolate-chip cookies outsell them all. Pastries: from \$1 each. 70 Battey St. 401-421-4062; [northbakery.com](http://northbakery.com)

## BARGAINS

**BEST DINING DEAL**  
**PROVIDENCE RESTAURANT WEEKS,**  
*Providence*

Providence is the rare New England destination where summer is the low season, so restaurants entice diners away from beaches and back into the city during Restaurant Weeks, July 12–25 this year. Nearly 100 venues in the state's northern half participate, offering three-course lunch and dinner menus at value prices. Lunch: \$14.95. Dinner: \$29.95 or \$34.95. [providencerestaurantweeks.com](http://providencerestaurantweeks.com)

**BEST CHEAP NIGHT OUT**  
**MISQUAMICUT DRIVE-IN MOVIE NIGHT,**  
*Westerly*

At the retro price of \$10 per carload, drive-in movies at Wuskenau Town Beach are affordable for your whole crew. Favorite classic movies such as *E.T.*, *Jaws*, *Goonies*, *Saturday Night Fever*, *Jurassic Park*, and *The Wizard of Oz* will be screened on Friday nights from May 15 through June; Thursday nights in July and August, plus Friday, July 3; and Friday nights in September and October. 316 Atlantic Ave. 401-322-1026; [misquamicut.org](http://misquamicut.org)

**BEST NO-FRILLS BREWERY**  
**WHALER'S BREWING COMPANY,**  
*Wakefield*

It's like chilling in the basement with your best buddies—only these three guys are perfecting complex, robust ales and can't wait for your feedback. With their brewery aspirations propelled by a Kickstarter home run, Whaler's owners are creating a destination for beer connoisseurs, while ramping up local distribution. Your \$8 souvenir tulip glass lets you taste everything on tap, including signature Hazelnut Cream Stout and potent 9.5% alcohol American Strong Ale, plus all their latest experiments. 1070 Kingstown Road. 401-284-7785; [whalersbrewing.com](http://whalersbrewing.com)

**BEST PLACE TO KICK UP YOUR HEELS**  
**MISHNOCK BARN, West Greenwich**

Don't know your lindy from your rocking chair? Country-dance instructors Dan and Kelly Albro will have you burning up the floor on Beginners' Nights Monday through Wednesday. It's just \$9 for an adults-only evening out that beats your usual workout—unless your gym has a bar. The foot-stompin' fun heats up on Fridays and Saturdays, and admission's only \$8; a smidge more when there's a live band. No cover charge on Band Nights, the first Thursday of every month. 200 Mishnock Road. 401-397-3505; [mishnockbarn.com](http://mishnockbarn.com)

**» HISTORIC HIGHLIGHT**  
**BEST FREE TOUR**  
**RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE,**  
*Providence (1904)*

On guided weekday tours of this stunning structure, you'll stand beneath the world's fourth-largest self-supported marble dome and see treasures like Rhode Island's original 1663 royal charter and Gilbert Stuart's iconic Washington portrait. Free. 82 Smith St. 401-222-3983; [sos.ri.gov/publicinfo/tours](http://sos.ri.gov/publicinfo/tours)

## CLASSICS

**» HISTORIC HIGHLIGHT**  
**BEST FAMILY FUN**  
**SPRING LAKE ARCADE, Glendale (1931)**

Bring all of your spare change. America's oldest penny arcade really has penny, nickel, and dime machines—mechanical precursors to today's electronic video games, which you can pump with quarters. You'll keep gravitating back to the low-tech yet super-clever challenges devised by the nerds of the 1900s. There's also a lakeside beach right outside. Beach admission: \$5. 52 Old Hillside Drive. 401-568-8288; [springlakearcade.com](http://springlakearcade.com)