

## DESTINATION NEWPORT

The Newport Visitors Center, 21 Long Wharf Mall, Newport, Rhode Island, 401-845-9130

There are public restrooms at the Visitor Center and an ATM. Center is open daily 9am-5pm with extended summer hours. Services offered at the Visitors Center include complimentary maps and attraction brochures, tour and event tickets, a full-scale souvenir boutique with destination and nautical themed jewelry, totes, and more as well as information on transportation throughout the city as well as to airports and train stations.

For those not wanting to drive the 60+/- miles you might like to consider the Providence-Newport Ferry which leaves from the Providence Ferry Terminal at 25 India Street in Providence, RI and sails to 39 America's Cup Ave in Newport. For more information, [seastreak.com](http://seastreak.com).

The island city of Newport preserves Colonial industry and gilded-age splendor as no other place in the country does. The golden age of Newport ran from roughly 1720 to the 1770s, when products like cheese, clocks, and furniture, as well as livestock and the slave trade, put the city on a par with Charleston, South Carolina; the two cities trailed only Boston as centers of New World maritime commerce. In the mid-1700s, Newport was home to the best shipbuilders in North America. Their small, swift, and reliable slave ships were the stars of the triangle trade (rum to Africa for slaves; slaves to the West Indies for molasses; molasses and slaves back to America, where the molasses was made into rum). This unsavory scheme guaranteed investors a 20% return on their money and earned Newport the dubious distinction of being the largest slave-trading port in the North. In 1774, progressive Rhode Island became the first colony to outlaw trading in slaves. In the 19th century, Newport became a summer playground for the wealthy. These riches were not made in Rhode Island but imported by the titans of the gilded age and translated into the fabulous "cottages" overlooking the Atlantic. Newport's mansions served as proving grounds for the country's best young architects. Richard Upjohn, Richard Morris Hunt, and firms like McKim, Mead & White have left a legacy of remarkable homes, many now open to the public. Recreational sailing, a huge industry in Newport today, reflects the attributes of two eras: the conspicuous consumption of the late 19th century and the nautical expertise of the Colonial era. Tanned young sailors often fill Newport bars and restaurants, where they talk of wind, waves, and expensive yachts. For those not arriving by water, a sailboat tour of the harbor is a great way to get your feet wet. In order to best enjoy your visit to Newport, we recommend starting your visit at the Visitor Information Center, conveniently located in the center of historic Newport within walking distance of shopping, attractions and restaurants. Information specialists are available for your destination planning needs with free maps and brochures on local events, attractions, lodging, shopping and dining. Tickets are available to purchase at the information center for most major attractions and events. Park your car at any of the available public parking areas (fee). Please keep in mind, parking lots are expensive, especially at the waterfront. The metered parking along Thames

Street is closely monitored by police, and fines may be steep. If you prefer to leave the driving to someone else, there are many ways to explore Newport that do not require the use of your vehicle.

Consider these options:

- Take a narrated motor coach tour of Ocean Drive and Bellevue Avenue
- Take a scenic harbor tour cruise on your choice of many beautiful sail or motorboats available along the waterfront.
- Take a walking tour of the historic districts of Newport.
- Take a scenic train ride along the banks of Aquidneck Island.
- Walk whenever you can, Newport has many secret treasure to find!

Complimentary maps are distributed at the Visitor's Center.

#### **FROM AMERICA'S CUP AVENUE SOUTH TO:**

**Touro Synagogue:** The oldest surviving synagogue in the US – dedicated in 1763. The building is simple on the outside, but the interior is quite elaborate, and may have served as an inspiration to Thomas Jefferson in the building of Monticello. One of the oldest Torahs in North America is on display. Turn left at the first traffic light on America's Cup Avenue onto Marlborough Street, which runs between the baseball park and the fire station. Take a right at the first stop sign onto Thames Street, then a left at the traffic light onto Touro Street. On your left will be Eisenhower Park and movie theaters on the right. The Synagogue is located on the left after following Touro Street through the next traffic light.

**International Tennis Hall of Fame:** The photographs, memorabilia and multimedia exhibits at the Hall of Fame provide a definitive and fascinating chronicle of the game's greatest moments and characters. Follow directions for Touro Synagogue. Touro Street ends at the first traffic light after the Synagogue. Bearing right at the light begins Bellevue Avenue, which leads past the Newport Art Museum on the left and the Old Stone Mill on the right. Proceed through the next traffic light (intersection of Memorial Boulevard and Bellevue Avenue) and the Tennis Hall of Fame is on the left with the Bellevue Shopping Center on the right.

**Newport Mansions:** Follow directions for the Tennis Hall of Fame, which is located on Bellevue Avenue. Almost all of the mansions are found on this avenue. The Breakers Mansion can be reached by taking a left off of Bellevue Avenue onto Ruggles Avenue, the fifth street after the traffic light at the intersection of Bellevue Avenue and Narragansett Avenue. Continuing on Bellevue Avenue leads to scenic Ocean Drive.

**Alternate route to mansions:** Follow America's Cup Avenue to the center of town where Bowen's and Bannister's Wharf are on the right-hand side. At the traffic light immediately after the statue of a wave found on the right is the intersection of America's Cup Avenue, Memorial

Boulevard and Thames Street. Continue straight up the hill and America's Cup Avenue becomes Memorial Boulevard. Saint Mary's Church is on the right and the traffic light at the top of the hill is the intersection with Bellevue Avenue. Turn right onto Bellevue Avenue and the mansions begin after the Tennis Hall of Fame, which is on the left. Bellevue Avenue leads to the scenic Ocean Drive.

**Alternate route to mansions:** Continue south on America's Cup Avenue in the right-hand lane towards downtown. At the traffic light at the intersection of America's Cup Avenue, Thames Street and Memorial Boulevard, turn right onto Thames Street just after the statue of the wave on the right. Continue on Thames Street to the first stop sign at the intersection with Narragansett Avenue. Turn left onto Narragansett Avenue and follow to the traffic light at the intersection with Bellevue Avenue. The Tennis Hall of Fame is a left onto Bellevue Avenue and the mansions are to the left and right. Taking a right and following Bellevue Avenue leads to Ocean Drive.

**The Cliff Walk:** The 3 ½ mile Cliff Walk began as a footpath in the late 1700's. Today you will find spectacular views of the ocean and backyard glimpses of many of Newport's mansions. Continue south on America's Cup Avenue toward downtown. Stay in the left-hand lane and continue through the intersection of America's Cup Avenue and Thames Street where the road becomes Memorial Boulevard (just after the statue of the wave). Travel up Memorial Boulevard through two traffic lights and across Bellevue Avenue. The entrance to the Cliff Walk is on the right just behind the Cliff Walk Manor. Easton's Beach (First Beach) is on the right after the entrance to the Cliff Walk.

**Ocean Drive:** This scenic drive, also known as Ten Mile Drive, (or just "The Drive" to locals) encompasses most of the southern coastline of Aquidneck Island. This area used to be farmland, but today is one of the most popular Newport attractions. In the right-hand lane, follow America's Cup Avenue toward downtown to the traffic light at the intersection of America's Cup Avenue and Thames Street (just after the statue of the wave on the right). Turn right onto Thames Street and then bear right onto Wellington Avenue (just across from a Shell gas station on the left-hand side). Continue on to Ocean Drive by taking a right at both of the next two stop signs. Ocean Drive runs past Fort Adams State Park, Hammersmith Farm, Brinton Point State Park, Gooseberry, Hazard, and Bailey's Beaches, and ends on Bellevue Avenue, which leads to the mansions, The Tennis Hall of Fame and the downtown area.

**Alternate route to Ocean Drive:** See: Directions to and Alternate Routes for Mansions. Perhaps the most attractive characteristic of Newport is the ability that the destination has to appeal to a variety of traveling styles. Newport is home to miles of scenic coastline ideal for exhilarating sailing excursions, relaxing beach time, and rejuvenating walks.

For those whose heart lies in architecture, design, and history Newport offers tours of opulent mansions, interesting museums, and a number of walking tours that reveal the history and

charm of the city. For a mouth-watering getaway, visitors can enjoy a tour and tasting at the three local vineyards followed by a memorable dining experience at a waterfront restaurant.

For visitors looking to take a bit of Newport style home with them, the city's quaint wharves and cobblestone streets are a mix of unique shops and galleries.

## **RECOMMENDED BEACHES**

Easton's Beach (First Beach)

75 Memorial Blvd., Newport, RI 02840

Phone: 401-845-5810 or 401-845-5813

Season: Memorial Day - Labor Day. Lifeguard on duty.

Facilities: Restrooms, showers, concession stand, aquarium, playground, shade pavilion, carousel, skate park, chair & umbrella rentals and an elevator and beach wheelchairs

Second Beach / Sachuset Town Beach

315 Sachuset Point Rd., Middletown, RI 02842

Phone: 401-842-6522

Season: Memorial Day - Labor Day. Lifeguard on duty

Facilities: Restrooms, shower facilities, snack-bar, grills, shade, and picnic area

## **SHOPPING**

Whether looking for a unique home décor piece to remember a Newport getaway, the perfect accessory to complement a special outfit, that hard-to-find gift, or exceptional antiques, Newport is home to boutique shops and unique stores offering something to appeal to every shopper's style!

The city-by-the sea's historic waterfront downtown named Bowen's Wharf is filled with cobblestone shopping wharves lined with antique stores, art galleries, resort clothing shops, and specialty shops. For great shopping, the helpful attendants at the Visitor Center recommend Thames Street or the Brick Market Place.

## **RESTAURANTS**

Fresh lobster and steaming bowls of clam chowder are found all along the New England coast, and Newport seafood restaurants do it best! Our culinary variety doesn't stop there! If casual dining and a great pub-style menu is what you're craving Newport County offers a wide selection. For a special night out, Newport offers upscale fine dining, palate pleasing wine lists, and incredible views to match the dining experience. Whether you have an affinity for great Irish fare, fine French cuisine, or mouth-watering Italian - Newport is home to a variety of ethnic options as well as the freshest seafood. With so many great restaurants, bistros and cafés, you may just find yourself eating your way across the city-by-the-sea! Restaurants recommended by the friendly locals we met while visiting Newport...

- Brick Alley Pub & Restaurant, 140 Thames Street, Newport, 401-849-6334 (family friendly) "More than one person recommended this location to me when I asked friends where I should go during my visit to Newport" <http://brickalley.com/>
- The Black Pearl, 1 Bannister's Wharf, Newport, 401-846-5264 "If you are walking around Newport looking for the perfect place for a lunch in the sun with a good view - come here!" <https://www.blackpearlnewport.com/>
- The Red Parrot, 348 Thames Street, Newport, 401-847-3800 (family friendly) "Good food, huge menu and great drinks." <http://www.redparrotrestaurant.com/>
- Castle Hill Inn, 590 Ocean Drive in Newport, 1-888-466-1355 reservations accepted... "THE VIEW IS TO DIE FOR!!! Seriously this might be the most special place in this little, wonderful state! Food is pretty yummy and the drinks are refreshing and crisp....BUT THE VIEW!!!!!" <http://www.castlehillinn.com/>