ULTIMATE NEWPORT DAY TRIP

What to see and do on your visit to the “City by the Sea”

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Welcome to the “City by the Sea”!

Newport, Rhode Island is one of the most beautiful and historic cities in the nation. If you're looking for a fun, scenic or romantic day trip, look no further!

OK, I admit it, I'm a little biased, having grown up here. But you must agree that any city with the nicknames: “America's 1st Resort”, “Sailing Capital of the World” and “City by the Sea” has got to be worth a visit!

Many people have heard of Newport's rich sailing history, the Newport Mansions, Cliff Walk, beaches and shopping. But what most people don't know is that Newport is also home to:

- America's oldest tavern (White Horse Tavern)
- The highest concentration of colonial architecture in the nation
- International Tennis Hall of Fame
- The oldest synagogue in the nation (Touro Synagogue)
- U.S. Naval War College
- The oldest lending library in America (Redwood Library)
- One of the largest coastal fortifications in the U.S. (Fort Adams)

As you can see, there's so much to see and do here it would take you weeks to explore everything the city has to offer! If you're able, I would definitely recommend spending a couple of weeks or even an entire summer in Newport.

But for now, let's focus on packing as much as possible into one day.....So what are you waiting for? It's time for your Ultimate Newport Day Trip! Hop in the car and let's get started!
**Driving Directions**

**Distance to Newport Rhode Island from:**
- Providence, RI - 34 miles
- Boston, MA - 71 miles
- Hartford, CT - 102 miles
- New York, NY - 180 miles

The easiest way to obtain directions from your location is to use your vehicle's navigation system or my favorite, Google Maps: [http://maps.google.com/](http://maps.google.com/)

You can follow these also:

**From Boston and points North**

1. Take I-95 south to Route 24 South.
2. At Fall River, MA follow Route 24 South (Fall River/Newport signs) to Route 114 South.
3. Follow 114 South through towns of Portsmouth and Middletown into Newport. Once you cross into Newport, you'll find yourself on **Broadway**, heading South.

**From New York and points South**

1. Follow I-95 North to exit 3A in Rhode Island.
2. Connect with Route 138 East; follow and connect with Route 1 North.
3. Take Jamestown/Newport Bridge exit on right. Jamestown Bridge leads to the **Newport Bridge** ($4.00 toll).

If you're lucky enough to arrive during the day, you'll have a fantastic view of Newport as you cross over the bridge.
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Newport Bridge and Goat Island Lighthouse

If you're heading toward downtown Newport, you'll take the "Scenic Newport" exit on the right, and take a right at the first stop sign.

You'll see Long Wharf Seafood across the street to the left. You can't miss the yellow building and the lobster! Aardvark Antiques is on the right. That'll put you on JT O'Connell Highway, heading South.

From Northern Rhode Island (and T.F. Green Airport)

1. Take I-95 South to Route 4 South.
2. At exit 9, Route 4 merges into Route 1 South.
3. Take Jamestown/Newport Bridge exit on right. Jamestown Bridge leads to Newport Bridge ($4.00 toll).

Once you come over the bridge, take the first exit on your right, “Scenic Newport”.

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Maps

Check out our Getting Around page for some general information and some of our smaller Google maps:


The following maps are not only extremely cool, but most of the CitiMaps are printable also, so you can take them with you as you explore the city. ResortMaps is simply the coolest map ever! You'll see what I mean once you open it.

CitiMaps - Printable Newport Rhode Island maps

ResortMaps - The coolest Newport map ever

Parking

It can be a little tricky finding a parking spot in Newport during the summer season. If you're coming during the off-season, you shouldn't have any trouble.

If you're in the downtown area, unless you're lucky enough to find a free or metered spot on the street, there are a few lots you can pay to park in:

Gateway Center – 23 America's Cup Avenue - Next to the Marriott and across the street from Cardines Field.

Mary Street Lot – Mary Street - Located between Mary and Church Streets, just steps from historic Thames Street.

Long Wharf Lot - West Marlborough Street - Next to the Newport Fire Department and Long Wharf Mall.
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**Lodging**

If you plan on spending the night in Newport before beginning your Ultimate Newport Day Trip, it doesn't get any better than The Chanler at Cliff Walk!

**The Chanler at Cliff Walk**
117 Memorial Boulevard
Newport, RI 02840
401-847-1300

This property was formerly owned by Civil War-era **New York Congressman John Winthrop Chanler**. Originally known as “Cliff Lawn”, it has undergone many changes throughout the years, finally reopening in 2003 in its current format.

This boutique hotel overlooks the Atlantic Ocean and breathtaking Newport Cliff Walk, and is **home to the award-winning Spiced Pear restaurant**. There are few locations on the island that can offer this combination of spectacular ocean views, fabulous food and luxurious accommodations.

For other alternatives, check out our **Where To Stay** page:

**GOOD MORNING!**

OK. Now that you've had a good night's sleep, it's time to get out there and enjoy Newport. **So what should you do first?**

How about finding the:

**Best spot to enjoy a sunrise:**

Newport Cliff Walk  
117 Memorial Boulevard

Fortunately for you (if you spent the night at The Chanler), you're just steps away from one of the best spots on the island to enjoy the sunrise, the world famous Newport Cliff Walk.

This **3.5 mile National Recreation Trail** takes you along Newport's rocky coastline, past many of the opulent Newport mansions and Salve Regina University.

You can walk a small portion of the trail, **take in the view and the sunrise** for a bit and then head back and get some coffee and a great breakfast.
After your refreshing sunrise stroll along the Cliff Walk, you may want to grab some coffee or tea before breakfast.

**NATIVE ADVICE:**

If you decide that you'd like to walk the entire Cliff Walk, be aware that it'll take you a couple of hours. You should also be in somewhat decent shape, as the last half is extremely rocky and will give you a good workout.

There are multiple entry/exit points along the way if you're not up for the entire trek. **I strongly recommend wearing some type of hiking shoes or sneakers** if you're going to traverse the last half of the trail (past The Breakers and Ruggles Avenue).

Best morning coffee spot:

People's Cafe  
282 Thames Street  
401-619-1022

Once home to People's Credit Union, this location is now home to Newport's newest (at the time of this report) cafe. You can still see the huge vault when you walk in. **What they keep in there now is a mystery!**
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This comfy cafe is located right downtown on Thames Street, next to the Newport Blues Cafe. The coffee is great and they serve some mouthwatering food as well.

On any other day, I'd recommend eating breakfast here with your coffee. But since you're only in town for the day, let's head up the hill to Franklin Spa!

For other alternatives, check out our Coffee Shops page:


Breakfast

Franklin Spa
229 Spring Street
401-847-3540

Now that you've experienced a beautiful Newport sunrise and gotten your caffeine fix, you must be hungry. Although there are many great spots I could send you, Franklin Spa is the spot for an amazing breakfast.

Located at the corner of Spring and Franklin Streets, Franklin Spa is, simply put, the best breakfast spot on Aquidneck Island. It won't win any awards for its décor or ambiance, but the food is delicious, reasonably priced and the service is always great.

Here's a sample of some of the most enticing items on their menu:
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- 2 eggs, toast and homefries
- Chocolate chip pancakes
- Turkey and Swiss Cheese Egg White Omelette
- Blueberry stuffed French toast
- Brenton Reef Benedict with Lobster and Spinach

Oh, and they accept cash only, so be sure you have some on you or you'll be washing dishes after your meal! There are some ATM machines a block away on Thames Street if you need one.

**AM Activity**

The Breakers Mansion
44 Ochre Point Avenue
401-847-1000

For your morning activity, I recommend seeing Rhode Island's #1 tourist attraction, The Breakers mansion. Once the “summer cottage” of Cornelius Vanderbilt II, this mansion is now maintained by the Preservation Society of Newport County and hosts over 300,000 visitors annually.

Vanderbilt had this palace built in just two years (1893-1895), at the staggering cost of $7 million, equivalent to over $150 million today! This 13 acre estate overlooks the Atlantic Ocean and Newport Cliff Walk, and derived its name from the waves that continuously crash into the cliffs below.

The Breakers was designed by esteemed architect Richard Morris Hunt, decorated in both French and Italian fashions and contains 70 rooms (33 of which
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were for the servants)! If you're going to visit Newport, seeing this opulent palace is an absolute must!

The house is **open daily for tours year-round**, with the exception of Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Tours start on the half hour, and you have the option of following a tour guide or going at your own pace with the audio tour. **I recommend the audio tour** because it allows you to listen to detailed personal accounts of some of the home's past residents and servants.

Unfortunately, **no strollers or photo-taking are allowed inside** the mansion. You may take as many photos as you wish outside though.

Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance on their website:

http://www.newportmansions.org

For other alternatives, check out our **Attractions** or **Things To Do** pages:


Like I said above, there are few places that can compete with The Chanler at Cliff Walk's views and fine food. Castle Hill Inn & Resort is one of them.

Once the summer home of Harvard marine biologist Alexander Agassiz, this amazing property is now a world-class private resort and home to one of Newport's finest restaurants.

Castle Hill is located out around the Ocean Drive, just past Fort Adams, OceanCliff and the U.S. Coast Guard Station. It's situated on a forty-acre peninsula, offering breathtaking views of Narragansett Bay, the Newport Bridge and neighboring Jamestown.
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Oh, and the food isn't bad either! If it's a nice day, sit outside on the patio and take in the view and the cool ocean breeze as you enjoy your meal.

Here's a sample of some of the best items on the lunch menu:

- New England Clam Chowder
- Berkshire Pork
- George's Bank Cod or Scallops
- Scottish Salmon

And for dessert:

- Ice Cream & Sorbet
- Semifreddo (Milk chocolate mousse, devil's food cake, ganache and mint anglaise!)

Trust me, you'll be in no rush to grab the check and leave after your meal. If you're like me, you may want to sit here for hours and enjoy the view!

***Dress Code - Castle Hill's dress code is business casual. Men may feel best in a jacket.

For other alternatives, check out our Where To Eat page:


PM Activities

For the afternoon, I've got a couple of the most popular Newport activities for you: Downtown shopping and a Newport Harbor cruise!
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After lunch, you may want to **burn off some of the calories** you just packed on. One of the best ways to do that is to walk around downtown and do some shopping!

Newport is home to **countless unique shops**. Whether you're looking for clothing, souvenirs, local artwork or just about anything else, you're sure to find it somewhere downtown. I'd recommend parking in any of the lots mentioned above (or a street or metered spot if you can find one) and just **stroll down Thames Street**, heading south.

**Downtown Shopping**

Some of the most popular spots and their best shops:

- **Long Wharf Mall** (Only in Rhode Island, Joseph A. Bank Clothiers, Yankee Candle and Goodies by the Sea)
- **Brick Market Place** (Ireland Calls, Tourist Trap, Pleasant Surprise, The Body Shop and Sole Desire)
- **Bowen's Wharf** (Michael Hayes, The Schrimshander, Kimberly Pucci, The Sail Loft and Terra Zapato)
- **Bannister's Wharf** (The Newport Mansions Store, Mandarine Boutique, Art on the Wharf and Newport Breeze)
- **Thames Street** (Thames Street Glass, Accidental Artist, Muse, Music Box and Aardvark Antiques)

**Newport Harbor Cruise**

After you've tired yourself out walking around and shopping till you drop, **it's time to relax** and enjoy a nice cruise around Newport Harbor and Narragansett Bay. Wherever you ended up shopping, head back toward the **Bowen's/Bannister's Wharf area** to board your boat.
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Here are a few of the tour operators that'll take you out on your scenic and relaxing tour:

- **Amazing Grace** – Located at Oldport Marine on America's Cup Avenue - 401-847-9109
- **Newport Cruise Company** - 2 Bowen's Ferry Landing - 401-849-3575
- **Classic Cruises of Newport** - Bannister's Wharf - 401-847-0298

Some of the beautiful and historic sites you'll see while you're out on the water:

- **Newport Yacht Club**
- Newport Bridge
- Rose Island Lighthouse
- **New York Yacht Club** (seen below - home to the America's Cup trophy for decades)

![New York Yacht Club](image)

- **Fort Adams**
- Museum of Yachting
- Hammersmith Farm (hosted the wedding reception of Jacqueline Bouvier and John F. Kennedy)
- **Castle Hill Lighthouse**

Best spot to enjoy a sunset:

Ocean Drive

If you have time before dinner, take a ride out around the Ten Mile Ocean Drive and enjoy the beautiful sunset. Park in the Brenton Point State Park lot (just past Castle Hill Inn & Resort), and then walk across the street and sit on one of the benches. Or you can walk down onto the rocks and take the sunset in while the waves crash at your feet.

***Alternate sunset spot:*** If you don't have a car and you're on foot, walk over to Battery Park on Washington Street (in between Battery and Pine Streets). It's about 8 blocks northwest of the Visitors Center on America's Cup Avenue.

This spot allows you to watch the sunset with Narragansett Bay and the Newport Bridge as a backdrop.
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This is also a **great location for a casual wedding ceremony**, if you happen to be looking for one. One of my good friends tied the knot here during the fall season awhile back. The sun was out that day, there was a nice ocean breeze and **their dog was even able to attend!**

**Dinner**

**White Horse Tavern**
26 Marlborough Street
401-849-3600

Hmmm.....where should I send you for dinner? How about a place voted both "Most Romantic Restaurant" and "Best Place to Impress a Visitor"?

The historic **White Horse Tavern** (1673), originally constructed before 1673 as the residence of Francis Brinley, is **America's oldest tavern**. It served as the yearly gathering place of the members of the Colonial Legislature, as well as the criminal court and city council.

Today, it remains one of Newport's finest restaurants, known around the world for its **ambiance and impeccable service**. The food is always amazing, especially now that my old school friend, Rich Silvia, is the Executive Chef!
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As I'm typing, I'm imagining myself sitting at the private bar, enjoying some **White Horse Clam Chowder**, followed by the Butter Poached New England Lobster and concluding with the White Horse Triple Silk for dessert. **It doesn't get any better than this!**

***Note:*** The dress is business casual here as well, but the place isn't as stuffy as it was years ago. The management and staff have done a great job of making the place much more casual and comfortable.

For other alternatives, check out our [Where to Eat](http://www.newport-discovery-guide.com/newport-rhode-island-restaurants.html) page:

**Evening Activities**

Newport Playhouse & Cabaret Restaurant  
102 Connell Highway  
401-848-PLAY (7529)

After a stressful day of stunning ocean views, opulent mansions and world-class food, I think you need to **lighten up have a little fun** after dinner! One of the best spots to do so is the Newport Playhouse & Cabaret Restaurant.

This family operated business has been a favorite among locals and tourists alike since 1983. Enjoy a great buffet (if your meal at White Horse Tavern didn't quite fill you up) wonderful play and fun-filled cabaret.

Full liquor service is available table-side or at their comfortable bar. You'll enjoy fine performances by professional actors in a play worthy of Broadway itself!
If you're still **feeling good after a few cocktails** and the show, take a taxi up the hill (or walk – it's only ½ a mile) to Newport Grand and try your luck at the slots or see a show!

In addition to the **live entertainment** (live bands, comedy shows, etc.) this sports club offers video slots, simulcasting of sporting events and off-track wagering.

**Other Activities**

**If time allows** at any point in the day, you should definitely try to see some or all of the following:

- [Ten Mile Ocean Drive](#)
- [Washington Square](#)
- [The Point](#)
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And don't forget to check out our Attractions and Things To Do pages for other ideas:


Final Words

I hope you've enjoyed your Ultimate Newport Day Trip!

I'm sure now that you've experienced some of the “City by the Sea”'s best activities, attractions, restaurants and breathtaking coastal scenery, you might be considering spending some more time here in the future.

If so, keep your eyes open for our next book, Ultimate Newport Tour, which will show you everything you missed on this trip, including:

- Ten Mile Ocean Drive
- Historic Washington Square
- “The Avenue” (Bellevue Avenue)
- The Point Section (highest concentration of 17th and 18th century homes in the nation)
- Historic Thames Street
- Bowen’s and Bannister’s Wharves
- Touro Synagogue
- Revitalized Broadway
- Newport Art Museum
- Redwood Library
- Naval War College Museum
- Cardines Field
- Fort Adams
- International Tennis Hall of Fame

and much, much more!

I'll notify you as soon as the book becomes available. In the meantime, continue to follow us on our website and Facebook for updates:
I love to receive feedback from visitors, so if you'd like to share your thoughts, experiences and even photos with me, feel free to do so on the Facebook fan page or our Newport RI Travel page:

http://www.facebook.com/newportdiscoveryguide


Share this with your family and friends!

If you know anyone else who might be interested in visiting or learning more about Newport, feel free to send them to the website so they can download this FREE report for themselves.

Thank you...

...for taking the time to read all the way to the end. I hope you, your family and friends enjoy the “City by the Sea” as much as I do, and hope to see you here soon!

Paul West
Newport-Discovery-Guide.com