



Winter Staycations

Try these nearby winter adventures for close-to-home fun

Craving a warm and sunny beach right about now? You're not alone: as delightful as Newport can be most of the year, the place many of us want to be in the dead of winter is Not Here. But when flying away to a tropical island just isn't in the cards, it's still possible to pull off a midwinter getaway that doesn't involve the risk of driving through a snow storm. For a "staycation" on (or just off) Aquidneck Island, here are five destinations close to home to consider:

Last but not least: Newport

The City-by-the-Sea doesn't lose its charms when the summer crowds depart. Winter in Newport is a great time to finally visit those mansions everyone has been talking about, minus all the tourists. [The Breakers](#) and [Marble House](#) stay open for tours throughout the season. Consider getting a three-in-one [Newport Sporting Ticket](#), which includes the new [Sailing Museum](#), which is closed in January but opens from Thursday-Sunday in February and March. Check out the world-class [Audrain Automobile Museum](#), which is showing its latest exhibit, "Early Landmarks in Automotive Engineering," through March 5; and the historic [International Tennis Hall of Fame](#). The Sporting Ticket gives you access to all three museums for the price of two for just \$39.

[The Newport Harbor Island Resort](#) (formerly Gurney's) is continuing the winter tradition of ice skating on the shore of Narragansett Bay, accompanied by hot chocolate and seasonal cocktails (reserve in advance to drink and dine in one of the cozy nearby igloos). Check out a newcomer like [Hammetts Hotel](#), which offers 20 percent off regular room prices with its "Rhode Island Insider Rate," or combine a winter stroll on the Cliff Walk with a stay at the elegant [Chanler](#), which trims 15 percent from its off-season rates when you book three or four nights. And for a cozy stay at a bed-and-breakfast (ideal for snowy mornings), consider the [Hilltop Inn](#), which offers a winter rate lottery – random nights and rooms will be \$99 throughout the winter.



The Chanler in Newport