

Classic New England

Fondly considered to be the historic home of yachting in North America, New England is associated with the Newport Yacht Regatta, the America's Cup and glamorous figures like John F Kennedy and JD Rockefeller, who spent their summers sailing in the Hamptons. From the history and hospitality ashore to the beauty and heritage of its coastline, New England is like a giant dot-to-dot map of cultural highlights with something for everyone: gorgeous scenery, charm in abundance and great sporting diversity.

BY MIRIAM CAIN



Oceanfront dining at The Chanler
on Newport's Cliff Walk

State Road restaurant, in the dry town of West Tisbury, has a flourishing vegetable garden that provides ingredients for its specialty dish: Island Farm to Table Plate. *Reservations, +1 508 693 85 82.*

Lobster is the most popular dish on the island. Every Friday during the summer, Grace Church in Vineyard Haven sells fresh lobster rolls. Sit with the locals or by the docks and enjoy your picnic overlooking the harbor.

The Bite in Menemsha is a small beach shack (minus the beach) that serves the island's best clams, oysters, squid, shrimp and scallops. For those looking for something other than seafood, the Black Dog Tavern in Vineyard Haven is a humble shack on the harbor that serves a great burger.

Circuit Avenue in Oak Bluffs is the place to head for any nightlife. The Offshore Ale Company is the first and only pub hereabouts that brews its own beer and has eight on tap. Edgartown has more wine bars and quieter pubs, but the rest of the island is dry.

Where to board

The Vineyard Haven Marina offers deep water dockage for superyachts up to 61m. *Contact: Marina Manager, Liz Wild, +1 508 693 0720.*

Recommended

If you happen to be on the island for the annual Possible Dreams charity auction you're in for a treat. It is a real island tradition and you may come away with some once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

Nantucket

Nantucket Island is one of the furthestmost islands from the coastline, but worth the trip for its choice of fantastic fare, cobblestone quaint towns and beautiful, vast expanses of sandy beaches. As the whaling capital of the world, Nantucket was once a bustling international port. Crude oil put an end to the island's livelihood and today tourism is the main source of revenue.

Stringent regulations have preserved the 19th century character of the island and today time has not so much stood still here as vanished. Almost half of the island is conservation land, and the island's rules also maintain the style of property allowed on the island. Nantucket has been nicknamed "the little grey lady" for its uniform grand clapboard mansions fronted with grey-shingle that dot the landscape. The island's only town, Nantucket Town, also has a village atmosphere. Here the whalers' grand houses are as they were in the 19th century, set amid a gamut of enticing boutiques.

What to do

Roam this crescent-shaped island by bicycle (there are plenty of hire shops if you don't have one onboard), taking in its beaches, stately 18th and 19th century homes and acres of beautifully preserved conservation land. There are also over 60 art galleries to visit on the island and most are located in Nantucket Town or down in the harbor's wharf shacks.

Boutiques fill the cobblestone streets of Nantucket Town. There are no ugly signs or modern facades – the only

chain store is Ralph Lauren and he was only allowed to set up shop after designing a line exclusive to the island.

The Whaling Museum in Nantucket Town will capture your imagination for hours. The first whale was caught in 1668 and by 1840, at its boom, there were 70 whale ships. Here you will find the skeleton of a huge finback whale that was stranded on the island during the 1960s, and a huge collection of scrimshaw and other whaling memorabilia, including captain's diaries and shipping logs.

Swim in the still waters of Nantucket Sound to the north, or brave the mighty Atlantic along the island's south shore, and cycle to Madaket Beach on the western coast where you will experience an incredible sunset.

Marvel at the tiny rose-covered cottages at Siasconset (often called Sconset) where it is textbook New England pretty – the tiny village has changed very little since the 19th century. You could also take a four-wheel drive out to Great Point Lighthouse and around to the other side of the island – at the tip of the coast the Atlantic currents hit the Nantucket Sound and hundreds of seals bathe in the warm, foamy eddies.

Where to stay

Wauwinet in the north-eastern corner of the island is where you will find The Wauwinet, a glorious 19th century Nantucket mansion-by-the-sea that has been turned into a hotel. In a blissfully isolated spot, the hotel has its own spa and bikes available for those wishing to venture into town or to nearby Siasconset. *Contact: General Manager, Eric Landt, +1 508 228 8558.*

Nantucket and its harbor have preserved their historic character



The White Elephant in Nantucket Town is an island landmark. Situated with a view of the harbor on the town's outskirts, this 1920s' hotel is the place to be in Nantucket. *Contact: General Manager, Bettina Landt, +1 508 638 3418.* The White Elephant Spa embraces its waterside location with a menu of seaweed wraps and facials. *Contact: Spa Manager, Kelly Flynn, +1 508 638 3418.*

Where to eat

Topper's restaurant at The Wauwinet is Nantucket's premier waterfront dining spot. House specialties include chilled island creek oysters with pearls of hibiscus; mignonette with American caviar; lobster and onion soup with fizzy citrus dust; and truffled lobster salad. *Contact: Restaurant Manager, Jenn Mandell, +1 508 228 8558.*

Brant Point Grill, at the White Elephant, offers spectacular views over Nantucket Harbor from its Harborside Terrace. Chef Fred Bisailon uses a Fire Cone grill, a unique Native American cooking method, to prepare dishes such as planked Atlantic Salmon and rotisserie of prime rib. The waterfront lawn leads down to a private berth so you can step ashore from your tender. *Contact: Restaurant Manager, Jonathan Ruppert, +1 508 638 3418.*

It is an island tradition to stroll down to the Juice Bar for ice-cream in homemade waffle cones.

Where to board

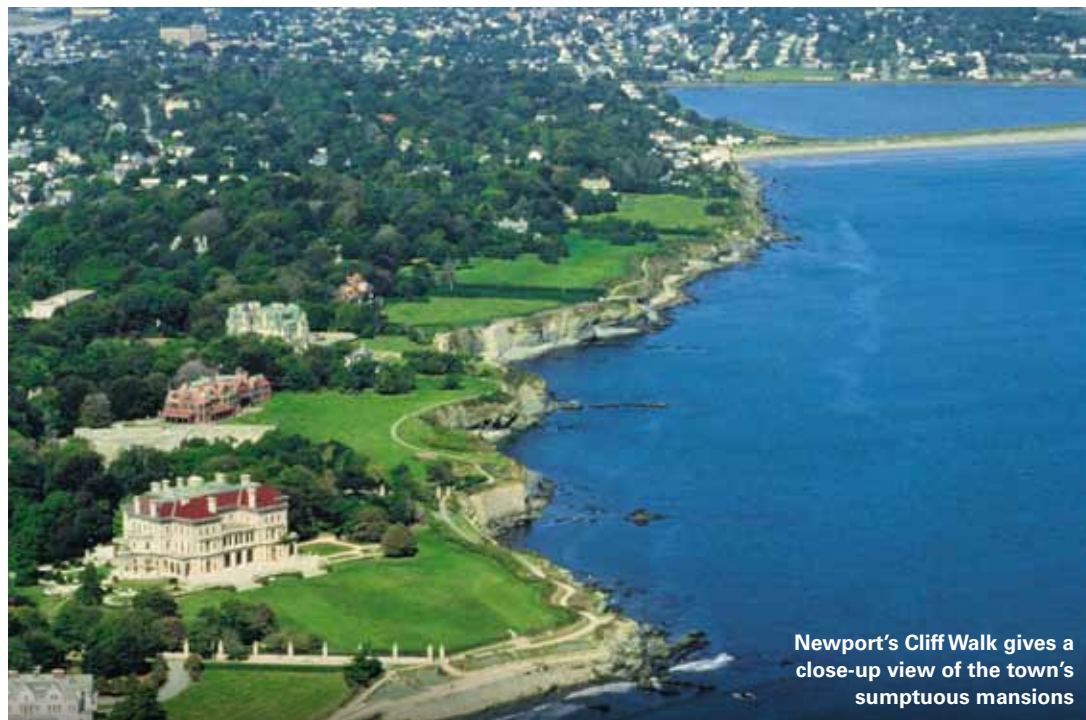
Many of the world's finest superyachts call the Nantucket Boat Basin home in summer months. With berthing for superyachts up to 100m, the world class marina is located a short walk from Nantucket Town. *Contact: Director of Marina Operations, George Bassett, +1 800 626 2628.*

Recommended

During July and August the island's population increases four-fold, but equally special times to visit are April when you will witness the Daffodil Festival, or October for the Nantucket Harvest Weekend.

Newport

Considered by many to be the heart of New England, and certainly the yachting center for the whole of North America, Newport has been attracting yachting enthusiasts since the 19th century. In 1851 the schooner *America* defeated a British boat in a race around the Isle of Wight. The prize trophy became known as the America's Cup and it remained in the possession of the New York Yacht Club (which had an outpost in Newport) until 1983. Newport continues as a bastion of sailing and attracts superyachts from around the world. Owners come to visit its lively waterfront, ornate mansions, great restaurants and wonderful coastal scenery.



Newport's Cliff Walk gives a close-up view of the town's sumptuous mansions



The recently restored Vanderbilt Grace hotel

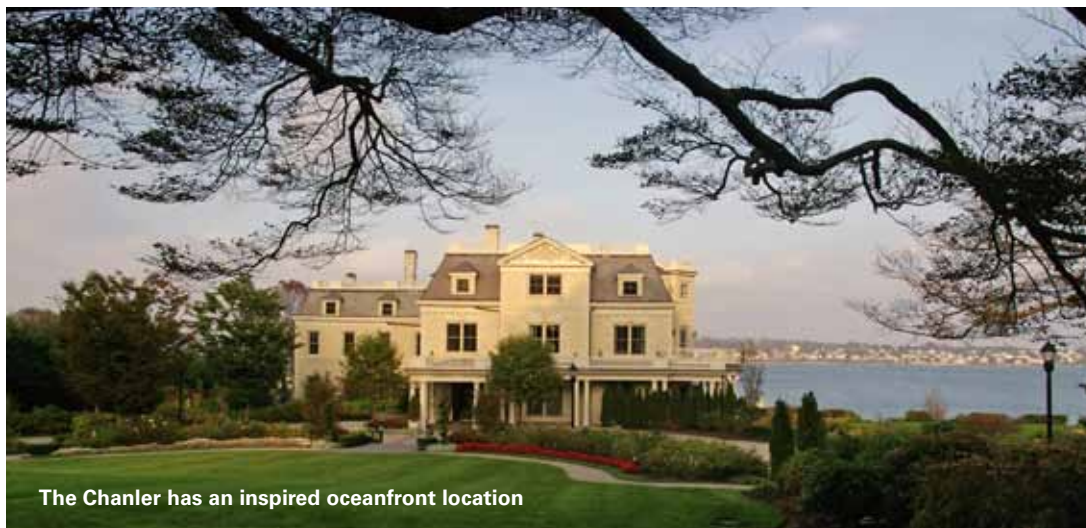
What to do

The Newport Mansions, known as the "cottages," were built by wealthy socialites in the mid-1800s, during the last decades before income tax was introduced. Great families, the likes of the Vanderbilts and the Astors, competed to build larger and more ostentatious mansions than their neighbors. Many resemble Italian palazzos or French palaces and are still privately owned, but a number are open to the public, maintained by the Preservation Society of Newport County. These include: The Breakers, Hunter House, Kingscote, The Elms, Chateau-sur-Mer, Marble House and Rosecliff.

For those really interested in yachting, visit the Museum of Yachting, located in Fort Adams State Park.

There are several beaches for swimming, the best is Easton's Beach, which lies east of Newport Town. For gentle exercise, you can stroll along the Cliff Walk into the southern part of town and past some fantastic views over the back gardens of The Breakers and several other mansions but cycling is the best way to get around this whole area, especially if you want to see the mansions on Bellevue Avenue. Here, you can pause at gateways that provide glimpses of Belcourt Castle and other sprawling homes.

The International Tennis Hall of Fame, held in the former country club on Bellevue Avenue, is well worth a visit. Over the last decade it has been restored to its original splendor. The historic courts are the world's oldest



The Chanler has an inspired oceanfront location



The Spiced Pear restaurant at The Chanler

continuously used competition grass courts and the last remaining venue for professional grass tennis events in North America. Book in advance and you can even tread the grass yourself.

Where to stay

The recently restored Vanderbilt Grace is the place to stay in Newport. The rooms are adorned with some of America's most impressive art works and the décor respects the mansion's heritage. The hotel's dining room serves local seasonal dishes and British favorites, while the Conservatory and the Garden Terrace are already popular spots for the locals. *Contact: General Manager, Matt Parent, +1 401 846 6200.*

Stay in one of the signature rooms at The Chanler hotel, a magnificently restored mansion on the historic Cliff Walk. *Contact: General Manager, Christine Sullivan, +1 401 847 1300.*

Where to eat

It's safe to say the way in which The Clarke Cooke House (aka "The Candy Store") prepares its New England lobster, striped bass, swordfish and tuna is extraordinary – and its clam chowder has been voted one of the best in New England. *Contact: General Manager, Michael Jenkins, +1 401 849 2900.*

Also worthy of note is The Spiced Pear restaurant at The Chanler at Cliff Walk, which has an inspired oceanfront setting and an outdoor terrace that is cooled by the ocean breeze. Dine in the restaurant, or reserve one of its "ultimate romance private dinners" with six courses, wine pairings for each course and your choice of music. *Contact: Restaurant Manager, Christopher Giglietti, +1 401 847 1300.*

On Newport's famous Ocean Drive at the Castle Hill Inn & Resort there are numerous venues in which to dine, including the Ocean Room, Agassiz Room, Newport Room, and Sunset Room overlooking Narragansett Bay. A Sunday brunch with live jazz and sweeping lawns reaching down to the bay makes for an exceptional occasion. Native and seasonal menus feature local fish and fresh produce, and the wine list tempts you with more than 500 choices.

Where to board

As the "City of Yachting," Newport has a number of marinas for superyachts. Newport Shipyard is the oldest working yacht and shipyard in Newport and is located at the northern end of the harbor. The marina can accommodate yachts of up to 95m. *Contact: Marina Manager, Eli Dana, +1 401 846 6002.*

Brown & Howard Yacht Marina is located in the heart of Newport. The marina can accommodate yachts up to 77m. *Contact: Marina Manager, Matt Mitchell, +1 401 846 5100.*

The Forty 1° North is located in the centre of downtown Newport. Recently redesigned, the marina has floating docks for vessels of up to 76m. *Contact: Marina Manager, Alex Keller, +1 401 846 8018.*

Recommended

The 5-7 August 2011 sees the venerable annual Newport Jazz Festival – an event not to be missed.

The Gulf Stream renders the cruising grounds of New England about ten degrees warmer in winter than the mainland and the offshore winds keep them ten degrees cooler in the summer. From April through November the humpback whales and huge finbacks migrate through these waters so you might be lucky to spot one as you cruise the New England coastline.

Yachts for charter

Sovereign, 120'/36.6m, 12 guests, from \$50,000 per week. *Contact: Tim Clark at Ocean Independence, +44 1273 831 010, tim@ocyachts.com, www.oceanindependence.com*

Chevy Toy, 157'/47.9m, ten guests, from \$150,000 per week. *Contact: Katie Wray at International Yacht Collection, +1 954 522 2323, kwray@iyc.com, www.iyc.com*

Namoh, 125'/38.1m, ten guests, from \$95,000 per week. *Contact: Katie Wray at International Yacht Collection, +1 954 522 2323, kwray@iyc.com, www.iyc.com.*

The Highlander, 116'/35.4m, eight guests, from \$50,000 per week. *Contact: Christopher Craven at Edmiston and Company, +377 93 30 54 44, cec@edmistoncompany.com, www.edmistoncompany.com*

Never Enough, 140'/42.7m, ten guests, from \$100,000 per week. *Contact: Agnes Howard at Camper & Nicholsons International, +1 954 524 4250, ah@ftl.cnyachts.com, www.camperandnicholsons.com*

Top Times, 113'1/34.5m, ten guests, from \$70,000 per week. *Contact Agnes Howard at Camper & Nicholsons International, +1 954 524 4250, ah@ftl.cnyachts.com, www.camperandnicholsons.com* ■



The 140'/42.7m *Never Enough*



Onboard the 157'/47.9m *Chevy Toy*



The 113'1/34.5m *Top Times*