



Recommended Anchorages in Narragansett Bay

The Narragansett Bay Reserve encompasses 2,353 acres of land on Prudence, Patience and Hope Islands and 1,591 acres of water adjoining the islands out to a depth of 18 feet. Both Patience and Hope Islands are uninhabited. The Patience Island component of Narragansett Bay Reserve is approximately 200 acres—nearly the entire island. The Hope Island component of the reserve includes the entire 91 acre island, plus surrounding waters.

Prudence Island



Prudence Island is a seven-mile-long island located right in the middle of Narragansett Bay, between Portsmouth on one side and Bristol on the other. The southern part of the island can be reached by ferry from Bristol and sports a lovely [lighthouse](#) within walking distance of the ferry terminal. The ferry runs about 6 times per day, and takes about 25 minutes. You can bring your car over with an advance reservation. There are no traffic lights and no traffic. The entire island is zoned residential so there is no commercial activity other than two general stores and a post office. There are no restaurants, bars, or liquor stores, so you have to bring everything you need with you. The island is sparsely populated because it's relatively inaccessible, and commercial development has been actively discouraged by its residents. Approximately 150 people spend their winters on the island. The population swells to more than 10 times that number during the summer. Get set for Prudence Island's treasures. Almost half of the island is protected forever against any development. The [Northern half of Prudence Island](#), once populated, is now a National Estuarine Sanctuary and part of the Narragansett Bay Preserve. Approximately 60 percent of Prudence Island is included in the reserve's boundaries. This makes **Potter's Cove** on its northeastern side a true refuge for us. <http://www.setauketyc.com/CruiseGuide/potterscove/index.htm> On weekends, it's almost impossible to get in. During the week, it's often deserted with many moorings to choose from. The convention here is that an unoccupied mooring is

acceptable to pick up for the night. Depths are 8-10 feet and outside the moorings there is little room to anchor. There is a small dock for short term shoreside exploration at the southwestern corner of the cove.

Once ashore, you can go for a brisk walk on the trails that had once marked the working boundaries of a farm and a ranch. The ruins of the horse stables are a stately reminder of an era quickly disappearing. It is a lovely walk along fields and forests, but do bring your anti-bug spray. Prudence Island supports one of the densest herds of white tailed deer in the northeast. Lyme disease is therefore a potential concern. Being very close to the entirely wooded Patience Island, deer can swim between these two islands.

Both [Patience](#) and [Hope](#) islands are uninhabited. The public can not visit the islands during the summer, because they are a major rookery for colonial nesting wading birds.

Historic Bristol, RI



Bristol Harbor is but a short hop from Prudence Island, as are most destinations on the Bay. At the very head of the harbor is the ultimate sailing mecca, the [Herreshoff Maritime Museum and America's Cup Museum](#). They are on the grounds of the original location of the Herreshoff company and next door to the ancestral home. They have moorings and dock space that can be arranged in advance and if you join the museum you get a free night's dockage as part of the deal. The museum membership also has reciprocal privileges at many other maritime institutions. The only drawback is that the shower facilities are quite limited, but that's a reasonable trade off if you get into the special air conditioned model room.



This is a spectacular display of all the designs, with half hulls lining the walls, naval architectural drawings filling the chart tables, and small scale working model displays gracing the corners. This is worth the search. Make sure it's open for you, and be sure to get a tour. You need the insights to fully appreciate the grandeur.

Contact the [Herreshoff Museum](#) at 401-253-5000 or VHF channel 68.

The town is a short and lovely stroll away from the harbor. Along the way is a convenience store for provisions (like a mini-mart but labeled a cigar store), and an avenue of stately homes restored to their former grandeur. The center of town offers many choices for restaurants, lots of antique shops, and a historic district. Blythewold Gardens are a short distance away, as is Hall Spars – an amazing carbon fiber specialty factory! Visit the [Bristol visitor's online resource](#) for more information.

Battleship Cove, Fall River, MA offers a unique experience

Continue up to Fall River Massachusetts and historic [Battleship Cove](#). Moor just off with the really big boats or tie up alongside a submarine. This is an amazing destination especially for the children. There's a battleship (The Massachusetts), a submarine, a destroyer, PT boats, a fleet of 420s and Mercurys, sailing lessons, and an amusement park as well as game room. You can also get snacks and light fare in the The carousel is simply beautiful. The Cove has limited dock space, but plenty of moorings.

Munch on a delicious, affordable lunch in the Officers' Wardroom on board USS *Massachusetts*. Enjoy a taste of New England with fish & chips or clam chowder, or cool off with a cold beverage or milkshake followed by a wide selection of ice cream. And, of course, the Wardroom Grill also serves an array of specialty sandwiches and desserts, as well as a variety of all-American fast food items such as burgers, pizza, and chicken tenders

The town has evidence of another era when the mills that are such a dominant part of the landscape were active. The gates to the Cove get locked at night so there are limited options for shore leave after dark. There are however a train museum, a maritime museum, an amateur theatre and restaurants within a five minute walk of the docks. Contact [Battleship Cove](#) at 508-324-4345 or VHF channel 72.

Charming Wickford, RI



[Wickford](#) is a lovely little harbor and the quintessential Rhode Island fishing village. The latitude of Wickford is 41.573N. The longitude is 71.461W. Given the

prevailing southwesterlies in Narragansett Bay, it is usually a nice broad reach across the bay.

Wickford has several good marinas, a mooring field in the outer harbor which is well protected, and lots to see and do. **The harbor is known for shoaling.** Keep your charts and your wits about you. There are areas that are quite shallow, but the central mooring field has depths of about 7-12 feet. The town moorings are first come first serve. You can contact the harbormaster on VHF Channel 65 for instruction to the moorings as you approach. The **town maintains a nice dock** at the head of Wickford Cove, just off Main Street and easy walking distance from several restaurants and an interesting mix of shops. You can tie up for up to two hours without charge – subject to change.

As you enter the outer harbor through the breakwater, look to port to see Wickford Light, constructed in 1831 and now a private residence. Be aware that the entire harbor is a No-Wake zone. A little further, the channel splits. The Wickford Shipyard, [Brewer's Wickford Cove Marina](#) and the commercial fishing dock are to port. The town dock is at the head of the cove on this branch. [Wickford Marina](#) and the boat ramp at Wilson Park are on the starboard branch. Be aware that it is very shallow - very shallow!

Wickford Harbor is a busy place, with many moored boats, kayaks, sailing dinghys, commercial and recreational fishing boats, and tenders going every which way. If that isn't enough, you may want to visit during the annual art festival (second weekend in July) or the International Quahog Festival in August. Or pick a quiet weekend after Labor Day and just soak up the atmosphere. It was the inspiration for John Updike's famous book, *The Witches of Eastwick*. Gilbert Stuart, whose portrait of George Washington graces the \$1 bill, grew up here. There is much to imagine.

Pleasant Street Wharf, a marina located between Wickford Marina and the [Wickford Yacht Club](#) to port just beyond G C "9" is family-owned and family-oriented. It's a friendly place that will accommodate, somehow, any visiting cruiser. They have heads, showers, ice, gas and diesel available. There are grills on the dock and on any night there are people cooking there. Just bring your food and join in the fun. Even if you forget your food you will eat if you want to, as everyone shares.



The town itself is truly lovely, spanning the harborside and offering great provisioning amenities right at the docks. There is a supermarket, a liquor store, a bakery and various other supplies a stones throw from the dinghy dock. The town is well preserved and maintained and a joy to visit.

[Wickford Yacht Club](#) can be reached at 401-294-9010 and monitors channel 9. Contact the harbor master regarding town moorings at 401-294-3316 x 255 and VHF channel 65. Wickford Marina is at 401-294-8160 and channel 10. Brewer's Wickford Cove Marina offers launch service on VHF channel 9.

Jamestown, RI offers a quiet retreat with a view

On certain weekends, it's almost impossible to get a mooring or slip in Newport. That's usually the case when one of the classic boat shows or regattas is in town. On those weekends, if you don't want to chance anchoring in the tight quarters beyond Fort Adams and you don't feel like taking a dinghy ride from beyond Goat Island, that's when you're likely to finally experience Jamestown, the lovely little village in the nook of Conanicut Island.



Jamestown is reached via East Passage, the same passage as the approach to Newport. Rather than making the turn to starboard, you'd head to port, toward the East ferry docks. The water leading up to the island is deep and the bottom sharply sloped so you won't want to anchor here. But then again, who wants to do that when you can avail yourself of the services of [Conanicut Marine](#), centrally located in Jamestown Village. It offers 100 slips and 205 moorings, showers, a launch, direct access to town, a ship's store and chandlery, and the dock where the ferry to Newport stops. The owner encourages boaters to come for lunch or a complete refit, they can handle everything in between as well. Jamestown Boat Yard located on the Dumplings in East Passage offers 57 moorings and a private beach away from town. The full service facility has long been recognized as the premiere repair spot for Nautor's Swans and many others.

Conanicut Island is connected by two bridges to the shores of Narragansett Bay. Although it's a short hop to Newport, there's much to do on Conanicut Island. Try a round of golf on the 9-hole, 36 par course, outfitted with pro shop, bar & grill, and golf carts. Near the golf course, you can also find the Conanicut Island Sanctuary with hiking trails and wildlife viewing platforms overlooking the scenic salt marsh. You might also take a stroll down the quiet streets to view the beautiful homes tucked away among the trees.

Otherwise, try Mackerel Cove Beach where life guards and beach facilities tend to your safety and comfort. If you're feeling more energetic head to Fort Wethergill State Park, where you can go sightseeing, rock climbing, fishing, picnicking, and

scuba diving! Don't let the children miss the historic windmill on North Main Road, or the museum, playground and library that will keep them occupied for hours.

You can also visit the 3rd oldest lighthouse and its museum in the country, **Beavertail Lighthouse**, located on the southern-most tip of the island.



August is the month for events on the island, some of which are an around the island kayak race, an around the island sailboat race, the "fools rules" regatta where participants have to build their "boat" in two hours out of non-boating materials.

One thing you won't do is starve in Jamestown. It is home to many fine restaurants offering choices that range from simple American fare to gourmet cuisine.

Chopmist Charlie's, a Rhode Island institution, offers seaworthy fare in a casual nautical setting with live entertainment. (401-423-1020). They also do the most amazing job of catering - from motor kitchens that they drive right up to your venue, with staff that are efficient and friendly, and food that's expertly prepared. They are highly recommended. Try **Trattoria Simpatico**, Tricia's Tropigrille, FISH restaurant, or the **Jamestown Oyster Bar**. Simple fare is also available at the Slice of Heaven Pizza, East Ferry Deli, and Spinnaker's Cafe.



For reprovisioning, head over to McQuade's Market for gourmet supplies, a video library, and free delivery for orders over \$50. The liquor store, Grapes & Gourmet, is right at the dock by Conanicut Marine, Baker's pharmacy is just up Narragansett Avenue, and the best ice cream is just steps away.

Dutch Harbor, RI offers a lovely anchorage for the night



Dutch Harbor is a reasonably protected anchorage with good holding ground and a mooring field as well. It's a lovely spot in the West Passage between Dutch Island and Conanicut Island which provides back door access to Jamestown less than 1 mile away. The stately homes that face the harbor offer their owners a tranquil view of the harbor and the island that protects it from the swell off Block Island Sound. Depths in the harbor are about 15 feet and the bottom is mostly mud.

Dutch Harbor Boatyard (401-423-0630 and VHF channel 69) maintains the mooring field and has 8-10 transient moorings available. There are heads and showers at the dock but no fuel. Ice is available, as is a self-service pump out station. Their email address is info@DutchHarborBoatYard.com and their web site is DutchHarborBoatYard.com. They take advance reservations for transients and clubs.

The street that leads from the harbor across the island winds right down the main drag where all the restaurants and amenities are. There are several to choose from (see Pp on Jamestown) including Chop Mist Charlie's, a premiere Rhode Island eatery in Jamestown. Chop Mist Charlie also has the most amazing on-the-road catering service if you are traveling with a crowd. They cook everything on portable kitchen trucks that they drive right alongside your venue. Their staff is courteous, pleasant and highly efficient; the food is very well prepared, and reasonably priced. All in all, it's a highly recommended experience. Or you might try **Trattoria Simpatico**, Tricia's Tropicrille, FISH restaurant, or the **Jamestown Oyster Bar**. Simple fare is also available at the Slice of Heaven Pizza, East Ferry Deli, and Spinnaker's Cafe.

The best things to do in Dutch Harbor are go for a swim and watch the sunset, most likely in that order. The water is clean and clear, the vistas lovely, and the chance to relax is a prime one. Don't miss out.

Newport, Rhode Island



Newport is one of the world's great yachting destinations. It is always hopping! One weekend you might have a classic wooden yachts regatta, the next weekend the highest end, most technologically advanced mega-yachts arrive from a casual jaunt across the Atlantic to see who can go it just a tiny bit faster this week. Naturally, the golden era of yachting when the mansions along Cliff Walk provided a bird's eye view of the entire series of America's Cup Challenges has left its imprint. There is still a sense of grandeur, tradition, exquisite style, and opulence, which on occasion translates into what some might call "class". But today, one might attend a mystery theater evening at one of the mansions rather than an exclusively private social gathering.



When New York Yacht Club (NYYC) failed to keep the America's Cup, Newport seemed to go through a period of uncertainty about its future. More recently, the residents and leaders have realized that it's not a one event town and that sailing in all its forms can certainly preserve its character while enriching its future. So a new heritage is forming and it feels downright vibrant. Major yachting events are being staged by all the facilities working in unison, with the Yacht Restoration School, Fort Adams and the Museum of Yachting, NYYC, Ida Lewis YC, Newport Yacht Club, and the marinas and shipyards at the epicenter. And the leadership is really working hard to get people into town and to get more people - especially young people - out sailing. Bravo!

Newport Harbor is one of the most entertaining, interesting, beautiful and best recreational harbors in the world. Newport is considered by many to be the sailing capital of the world. With its refreshing ocean breezes, beautiful coastline and stunning sights, Newport offers an unparalleled sailing experience. Newport is a natural harbor that doesn't really have a parallel. Deep water, easy access to the Atlantic, a plethora of services and facilities, exquisite protection from the elements, and a great little town to support it make Newport unique among ports of

call. Add to that a heavy emphasis on sailing, and voila you have a sailing mecca. It draws sailors in from the sea for a day, a week, or a long spell. Viva Newport. Your day has come again.

Epicurean delights abound. Try the [Spiced Pear](#) restaurant for an amazing setting with dramatic oceanfront views and excellent culinary creations. The 120-seat restaurant offers outdoor dining for breakfast, lunch and dinner on its covered terrace overlooking the manicured garden, ocean and Easton's Beach as well as indoor dining in the veranda room and main dining room. The Spiced Pear Restaurant is located within Newport's exquisite waterfront hotel, the Chanler at Cliff Walk. I still always gravitate to the [Black Pearl](#), the [Mooring](#) or the [Red Parrot](#) for lunch and The Clarke Cooke House (known as the [Candy Store](#)) on Bannister's Wharf http://www.bannistersnewport.com/clarke_candy_grill.html is always a favorite for a delicious dinner. I just love the ambiance at the Candy Store. Always vibrant! [Scales and Shells](#) is a terrific fish restaurant down on Thames, and the [Newport Blues Cafe](#) sounds terrific but we haven't had a chance to sample it yet.

Of course, the most spectacular location in Newport has to be the New York Yacht Club's although they do not offer reciprocal privileges to members of other clubs.

