

WORD OF MOUTH

THE PEOPLE, PLACES & IDEAS WE'RE TALKING ABOUT RIGHT NOW



NORTHEAST KINGDOM

New England's shoreline has been an all-American summer destination since the earliest days of the republic, but for a region that is unapologetically rooted in the past, there's a remarkable amount of change afoot. Here's what you need to know as this swath of the East Coast jumps into the season →

The Loft suite at Dye House hotel in Providence, Rhode Island

PHOTOGRAPH: DYE HOUSE



Dye House was once a part of a large wool-mill complex



A modern take on Shaker decor at Dye House

THE NEWS FROM NEWPORT

If you've missed festivals, take note: Newport is inching its way back to normalcy this summer with a stacked dance card of (reduced-capacity) goings-on: The **Newport Folk and Jazz festivals** are back in late July, followed by the **Newport International Boat Show** in September. Book a room at **The Vanderbilt, Auberge Resorts Collection** to be at the center of the action; the Gilded Age grande dame just underwent a facelift courtesy of hip Dallas design collective Swoon. Walk over to **The Reef**, a brand-new restaurant on Howard Wharf that focuses on sophisticated seafood dishes like za'atar-crusted salmon—it's a welcome departure from Newport's usual all-fried-everything approach. Across town, the beloved **Castle Hill Inn** ups its alfresco game with private candlelit farm dinners in the middle of its vegetable gardens. And across the Narragansett Bay from Newport in fast-changing Providence, a former wool mill in the city's Olneyville neighborhood gets a new life as **Dye House**, a boutique hotel whose five meticulously designed guest rooms combine industrial cool and irresistible coziness.

Aubergeresorts.com, doubles from \$216; castlehillinn.com, doubles from \$435; dyehouser.com, doubles from \$150

PHOTOGRAPHS: ERIN LITTLE, DOUGLAS MERRIAM, DYE HOUSE, FARAWAY NANTUCKET



Moonrise over Somes Sound on Mount Desert Island, Maine



A guest room at the recently updated Claremont in Southwest Harbor, Maine

MAINE MENU

All roads lead to the shore during Maine's precious warmer months, especially this year with splashy debuts such as the **York Beach Surf Club**. Thanks to new owners and a to-the-studs renovation, this surf-themed "Scandi-nautical" hotel brings new energy to the South Coast. About 25 miles north, Kennebunkport—known for its old money crowd and as the summer home of the Bush family—also feels unusually fabulous this season. In part because of the opening of the AWOL hotel with its punchy decor (not a hint of wicker or wainscoting), but more so because of **Club Cumming on the Coast**: Multihyphenate entertainer Alan Cumming brings a version of his downtown Manhattan nightclub to the shore with a summer residency of singers, dancers, and drag queens who will be performing at the Kennebunkport Inn. Just around the corner, **Kennebunkport Captains Collection** offers a fresh take on "The Port," with a cluster of four historic sea captains' mansions transformed into elegant hotels. And if you make it all the way north to Acadia National Park, scope out **The Claremont**, which underwent an ownership change and total renovation. Now, next to the waterfront croquet green, there's a heated outdoor pool overlooking Somes Sound—a change that even the saltiest Mainers can get behind.

Yorkbeachsurfclub.com, doubles from \$189; kennebunkportcaptains.com, doubles from \$202; theclaremonthotel.com, doubles from \$365



An alfresco evening at Faraway Nantucket

A WHALE OF A GOOD TIME

The arrival of the delightfully offbeat **Faraway Nantucket** offers a fresh aesthetic for the namesake island, whose design default is classic saltbox. Think 1920s Parisian salon meets Massachusetts maritime, with lots of rattan furniture, antique rugs, and a spacious courtyard that's sure to be Nantucket's meeting place of the summer. Faraway's owners, Blue Flag Partners, recently acquired six other properties nearby that are expected to undergo renovations in time for next summer. A few steps down the street, born-and-raised islanders Tessa Cressman and Jenny Bence just opened **Green Market Nantucket**, whose natural beauty products, regional flowers, and local produce provide an overdue alternative to the one big chain store. Two blocks over, surf shop and café **Stoke ACK** is the spot for almond milk flat whites and local intel on the latest swell. And wherever you're heading, make use of **Sandy Pedals**, the island's first electric bike share. With over 50 docking stations from Madaket to Sconset, you'll never have to fight for a taxi or hoof it to the beach again. **TODD PLUMMER**

Farawayhotel.com, doubles from \$270