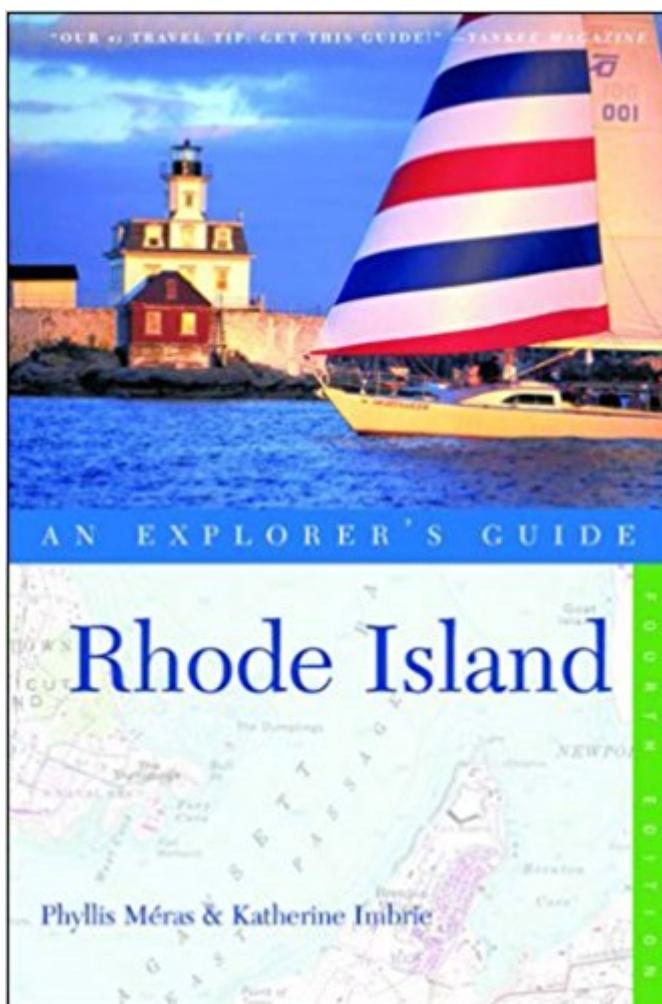


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# Rhode Island: An Explorer's Guide, Fourth Edition



## **Synopsis**

Good things certainly do come in small packages, and Rhode Island has something for everyone. Tour the luxurious mansions and historic neighborhoods or surf and swim off the beaches of Newport; celebrate Fourth of July in Bristol, where the entire town is decked-out in red, white, and blue; explore the museums and the Riverwalk in Providence's revitalized downtown area; or enjoy a drive through the farmlands and villages of rural South County, all within about an hour's drive of anywhere within the state. Experienced travel writers Phyllis Meras and Katherine Imbrie have traveled all over the state to bring you the best Rhode Island has to offer. In a revised and expanded fourth edition of this authoritative guide, travelers and locals alike will find more than 600 lodging and dining recommendations, plus attractions that will suit any interest and budget. Special icons indicate places that are suitable for families with small children or pets, in addition to pointing out "best values" for budget-conscious travelers.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Meras and Gannon have discovered the best of Rhode Island and put it together in manageable, readable form . . . excellent for both out-of-state tourists and Rhode Island residents who have yet to discover their beautiful state. -- Warwick, Rhode Island Beacon --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Phyllis MÃ©ras, former travel editor of the Providence Journal, has been exploring and writing about Rhode Island for many years. She has written for New England Travel, Travel America, and many other magazines, and is the author of several books. She lives on Martha's Vineyard. Katherine Imbrie, a Rhode Island resident, has been a features writer for the Providence Journal for more than 20 years. Her writings have appeared in Fodor's guides and Best Places to Stay in New England, and she is the author of *Ice Ages: Solving the Mystery*.

Sad to say, one of the least interesting and least useful guides I've bought. It gives one the impression that there isn't anything to do or see in this state besides the ocean and a few mansions, and nowhere to eat but well-known super expensive Providence spots or beach clam sheds. Classical humanist arts and literature and culture get short-shrift indeed. This is not the only dismal guidebook for Rhode Island. Please, someone: write a decent guidebook for this poor state.

This book is exactly what I was looking for! We can prepare for our vacation in Rhode Island and enjoy it completely! thank you!

This guidebook is divided into eight sections by geographic region, with a top-level map up front and detailed maps of each location by section. The entire book is black and white, but the maps and pictures are still crystal clear. The opening chapter is an index referencing any subject one could want to find in Rhode Island, from ballooning to antiques to quahogs to yachting. I was most impressed with the "Green Spaces" section for each region, listing dozens of outdoor parks and activities available in the Ocean State. While there are certainly other more detailed outdoor guidebooks to Rhode Island, they haven't been updated recently, and this is a great overview guide to the riches of "green space" available in Little Rhody. Also included are beaches with recommendations about what outdoor activities are appropriate at each. Plus, if you want to visit historic houses, historic churches, historic mansions, or general historic sites, this is the state and the guidebook for you. For Activities, price information is noticeably missing. Perhaps detailed prices date a guidebook too much, but as a traveler, I'd like to get an idea whether this boat excursion or that historic house is within my general budget. Restaurants, on the other hand, are broken into price categories, and include terse yet informative descriptive information about the cuisine, location, and atmosphere. As a native, I'm well aware that hotels in Rhode Island are just plain more expensive than they are in other parts of the country. If you want to sleep in luxury, you can find some great direction from this guide. For a deal, I'd recommend utilizing Internet search engines.

The low single-dollar-sign category in this book refers to hotels under a "mere" \$95 (as of 2000). There is something to be said for compact guidebooks, and this is not one. It is a generously oversized paperback with thick pages and both large fonts and margins. This isn't a book to tuck into your extra backpack pocket when trekking around. Then again, all that extra text left the authors room to inform me that Goddard Park was man-made by two generations of owners and is cited as one of the best man-made forestry projects of all time. Now, that's a new fact to try out on my parents!

This is one of the best travel books I have ever purchased (and I've purchased a lot). It goes into great detail and makes you feel like you're there. I like the way it is divided by area and the interesting comments not necessarily related to travel.

This is a great book! Every time I am stumped on a local history question I can turn to this book and find the answer painlessly. As a guide to restaurants and attractions it just can't be beat. I recommend this book to locals and visitors as a great reference source.

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