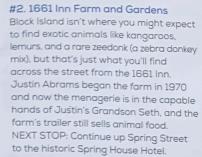


VISITOR CENTER







#3. Spring House Hotel, which opened in 1857, still transports guests to the Victorian era. Many famous people have enjoyed the view from the hotel's enormous veranda and magnificent front lawn, including Ulysses S. Grant, Mark Twain and Billy Joel who refers to Block Island in his song The Downeaster 'Alexa'. The Kennedy family has even hosted a wedding here. NEXT STOP: Head a half a mile up Spring Street to the Southeast Lighthouse.



#4. Southeast Lighthouse, a National Historic Landmark, was built in 1873. The 52-foot tall tower originally held a light fueled by lard oil with four wicks; today it shines a green light every 3.7 seconds. In 1993, due to the erosion of its perch on the Mohegan Bluffs, it was moved from its original location (marked by a large boulder at the edge of the cliff) to where it currently stands, 300 feet inland. NEXT STOP: Head a few yards up Spring Street to Mohegan Bluffs.



#5. Mohegan Bluffs got their name from a Native American battle dating to 1590, in which 40 Mohegans are said to have been driven off the 200-foot cliffs by the victorious Manisseans. In 1939, a Texaco tanker crashed here, spilling over 70,000 gallons of oil – fortunately, today you can't tell. Over a hundred steps lead to the bottom of the bluffs and the beautiful Corn Cove Beach. NEXT STOP: Turn west onto the Mohegan Trail and pedal half a mile to Painted Rock.

#6. Painted Rock is one of the island's most colorful traditions. On Halloween night of 1962, the rock was painted as a prank. While it wasn't until 2000 that the culprits confessed, a tradition was born - since the sixties, locals and visitors alike have repainted the rock so often that, when a section of the rock was chipped in 2006, the accumulated layers measured 1 1/4" thick. NEXT STOP: Head north on Lakeside Drive and make a left on Coonymus Rd. towards Rodman's Hollow.



#7. Rodman's Hollow is a glacial outwash basin - a ravine-like area formed by ancient glacial melting. An oasis for many bird and plant species, it protects animals like the northern harrier and American burying beetle. Hike the Hollow's unspoiled trails, and you may discover why the Nature Conservancy has named Block Island one of the "Last Twelve Great Places" in the Western Hemisphere. NEXT STOP: Continue along Coonymus, which turns into West Side Rd., until you get to Dead Eye Dick's at the intersection.

#8. Dead Eye Dick's enjoys one of the best sunset views on the island, and has been a popular seafood spot since it first opened in the 1940s. In the early days, the place featured a popular local pianist, Billy Stubbs, whose piano still remains in place to the right of the bar. NEXT STOP: Head up Ocean Avenue to its intersection with Beach Avenue. For the shorter tour, turn right then an immediate left toward marker 12. To extend the tour by 8.5 miles, turn left.

#9. Fred Benson Town Beach is part of a 4 mile stretch known as Crescent Beach. It's actually made up of multiple beaches, among them Mansion Beach, originally named after the elegant home of Edward F. Searles, which burned down in the 1960s. With a total of 17 miles of gorgeous public access beaches, Block Island is sometimes called "Bermuda of the North". NEXT STOP: head up Corn Neck Rd. about .5 miles until you see a small turn around on left with bike racks, just before Scotch Beach parking area.



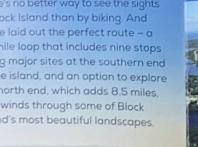
#10. Great Salt Pond is home to New Harbor, a popular spot for boaters to sail in and drop anchor. Minimal waves make it easy to view plant and animal habitats, and the Great Salt Pond is an ideal place to learn to paddleboard or to rent a kayak - some of which even offer guided tours. Fishing charters pursuing tuna, bonito and mahi-mahi also depart from this location. NEXT STOP: Continue north on Corn Neck Road to the road's end near the North Lighthouse.

#11. North Lighthouse is the northernmost point on the island, and is the 4th lighthouse built on this location. The first was built in 1829; the current structure - 55 feet tall topped by a priceless Fresnel lens that can be seen from the mainland, 13 miles away dates from 1867. The area beyond the lighthouse is a National Wildlife Refuge. and offers sandy paths and gorgeous ocean views. NEXT STOP: Return south the length of the island to where the road becomes Water Street.

#12. Water Street is the perfect place to reward yourself for your biking efforts. With views of Old Harbor and unique shops and restaurants, it's the heart of Block Island. Water Street offers everything from ice cream to paintings, t-shirts to designer jewelry. On Wednesday mornings the intersection of Spring Street and High Street is home to a farmer's market. Wherever you stop, we hope you've enjoyed your taste of Block Island and enjoy the rest of your stay.

Block Island Bicycle Tour.

There's no better way to see the sights of Block Island than by biking. And we've laid out the perfect route - a 7.5 mile loop that includes nine stops along major sites at the southern end of the island, and an option to explore the north end, which adds 8.5 miles, and winds through some of Block Island's most beautiful landscapes.





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