



What's "FAQ?" Frequently Asked Questions.

Where's Block Island? 12 miles off the New England coast, south of Rhode Island, and 12 miles north of the easternmost tip of Long Island. To the left of Martha's Vineyard. **How big is it?** Small...adorable actually. 12 square miles, which The Nature Conservancy called "one of the last 12 Great Places." Visit Block Island, and you'll realize how special the other 11 must be. **No McDonalds?** No! No franchises at all. Not even a name-brand gas station. Yes, you can find Ben & Jerry's ice cream, and Starbucks coffee. But you won't find a Ben & Jerry's or Starbucks store. **No squirrels?** No raccoons or skunks or various other non-indigenous critters either. And just

TRY to find a plumber who'll show up. **Is it fancy?** "Block Island chic" is an oxymoron. You can wear shorts even to the best restaurants (we have some great ones). **Where does the electricity come from? And where did it go?** We grow our own, right here on the island, with big diesel engine generators. Every so often, power...just...goes off. Locals shrug and grin. It'll be back in a few minutes. **Where's the beach?** Start walking, in any direction. **Is there a nude beach?** No area is officially designated. Let's just say that there are 17 miles of beach, vast stretches of which are quite secluded. **Where's the pharmacy?** There isn't one. Prescriptions are flown-in from pharmacies on the mainland. **Are there camping areas?** Only one, for Boy Scouts. Otherwise, camping is prohibited by town ordinance. **Did The President of The United States really visit?** Three of 'em did! Ulysses S. Grant dedicated the Southeast Light, which Bill Clinton visited. In between, the Army Corps of Engineers *moved* it, so the gradual erosion of majestic Mohegan Bluffs wouldn't cause it to tumble into the sea. And in the 1950s, while fishing in the area, Ike came ashore. **How do I get there?** Planes, trains, and automobiles...and, of course, boats. The Block Island Ferry (401-783-4613) leaves from Point Judith in Narragansett RI, as does the Island Hi-Speed Ferry (877-733-9425). And there's The Montauk Ferry (631-668-5700). New England Airlines (800-243-2460) flies back and forth from Westerly RI hourly; and charters to/from other airports, including Providence (PVD). The Block is also surprisingly Amtrak-friendly (800-USA-RAIL). Get off in Westerly RI, and take a short cab ride to Westerly Airport. **Do I need to bring my car?** You can, but you sure don't need to. It's a small island, so you can walk or bike almost anywhere. Most cab rides are short, and the drivers are all characters. If you want auto reservations on the ferry, call early. Many prime summer dates sell out in the dead of winter. **Are bicycles, mopeds, and cars available for rent on the island?** Yes, yes, and yes. You can even rent horses, and ride on the beach. **Do I have to go home?** Nope. **Where should I stay?** The Block Island Chamber of Commerce can tell you where rooms are available. 800-383-BIRI

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