



travel isn't measured in terms of miles

We anchored the boat in a protected cove. Swimming through green waters toward a crescent beach of sparkling white sand, our bodies cooled for the first time all day. We walked toward a farmhouse at the end of the beach and a lighthouse marking the opening of the cove. What I first took for stones in the distance were really a dozen black cows wading in the shallow water. Just fifty nautical miles northeast of Watch Hill, we found ourselves in another world. Back on the boat, relaxing and reading we could have been in the Caribbean or anchored in a cove in Turkey or Greece. This time it was Tarpaulin Cove on the Elizabethan Island of Naushon, Massachusetts.

Tarpaulin Cove was our picnic destination before a planned hike, dinner, and overnight in Cuttyhunk. The furthest west of the Elizabeth Islands, Cuttyhunk is one of the few that isn't owned by

the Forbes family and possible to explore. It is the place Bartholomew Gosnold landed in 1602 when Queen Elizabeth sent him off to claim agricultural outposts. He would later find Martha's Vineyard, naming it for his daughter. We were also told he named Buzzard's Bay for the misidentified osprey. Instead of reminding us of some exotic locale, landing in Cuttyhunk was more like time-travel. One guidebook said it was like the 1950's, but it could have been earlier, as its handful of residents are fiercely committed to no cars, no alcohol, and 3 restaurants (depending on how you define restaurant). Instead of worshipping the cod, Cuttyhunk is the island for striped bass, and no visit is complete without breakfast at the Cuttyhunk Fishing Club and its view of Gay Head. There is a great Monday-night "Lobsters on the Lawn" clambake close to the marina and Tuesday morning yoga up the hill at the Town Hall.

If you want to stay in 2018, you may prefer a cruise across Long Island Sound to Shelter Island in the Hamptons. Anchor on the northwest side and find yourself in the south of France. The boats are sleeker and faster, definitely more Miami than Rhode Island and the day-time party atmosphere with flowing rose and moules-frites is a nice break from the southsides and lobster rolls at home. The wait staff speaks French at Sunset Beach and on Sundays, the music is pumping louder than usual. Reserve your table early for these Ibiza Sundays – and on that day of the week, you can be transported to the Islas Baleares. If you want sophisticated shopping, Sag Harbor isn't far, nor is a berth in Easthampton where the farm stands and culinary offerings alone make the trip worthwhile! We filled our cooler with delicacies such as the guacamole salad from Round Swamp Farm and enjoyed it for days afterward.

Watch Hill is our first love and our homeport, but exploring the region by water has broadened summer's possibilities. Little Narragansett Bay is the perfect launching pad for daylong excursions

by sea. The convergence of good weather and free time (not as easy as it sounds) always gets me thinking about the next way to transport ourselves. Block Island and Montauk are always favorites – bring bikes or rent some to visit beautiful beaches and cliff walks, and to burn some calories before indulging on yummy fish tacos and margaritas.

Try using Dockwa, an easy online service for reserving slips and moorings, when planning your getaway. Be okay with not getting home on time – even with a great forecast, it's New England and the fog can sock you in. Or if you are having a great time at lunch at Sunset Beach, you are likely to order another bottle of rose and cancel all obligations for the rest of the day. Start small with trips to Fisher's, Mystic, or Stonington and learn the waters. Get advice and recommendations whenever possible from the old salts around Watch Hill. They aren't shy about telling you what's easy and what to beware of. Get your sea legs and go. Even the simplest trips can open up new worlds.