

Things to Do on Block Island Information

Marie has been coming to Block Island for family vacations all her life and holds this island very close to her heart. After all, Block Island is the inspiration for Gansett Island! Now that you're finally here, take some time to enjoy the island's beaches, shopping, hiking, lighthouses and so much more. As you wander, you're sure to see a few things that look familiar if you've read the McCarthys of Gansett Island Series.

- Rent a moped or a bicycle, just off the ferry in Old Harbor, but PLEASE be careful if you do. The roads are winding and the traffic can be heavy. You really don't want to get hurt here as Dr. David isn't working this weekend.
- If you want a private tour of the island provided by a local, you can grab a cab right off the ferry landing, just like Ned's!
- Hike Rodman's Hollow, a beautiful scenic hike in a glacier made hollow. There are two trail options for this moderately difficult hike that includes a few hills. The best way to get there is by cab. Please make sure to apply bug spray and check for small ticks afterward. Lyme Disease-carrying deer ticks are VERY prevalent on Block Island, so please be mindful if you venture into high grass or hiking trails.
- Visit the Southeast Lighthouse, quite a hike up the hill (not for the faint of heart.) Or an easy cab or moped ride.
- Visit the Mohegan Bluffs, one of the most scenic parts of the Island with some great history. The Bluffs are just past the Southeast lighthouse.
- Have a drink at Ballard's. You'll be there for lunch at 11:45 a.m. so stay after and enjoy the beach, too!
- Sit on the Adirondack chairs at the Spring House Inn and admire the view with a yummy cocktail!
- On the road between Old Harbor and New Harbor, note the location of the grocery store, where Marie pictures Grace's pharmacy to be located on Gansett.
- Visit Payne's Dock in New Harbor, the inspiration for the McCarthy's Marina, accessible by bike or cab near the Salt Pond. Walk out to the end of the main dock to get a feel for the atmosphere, and notice the wooden ramp off the main dock, where Marie has been racing crabs her whole life.
- While you're there you must have a Mrs. Payne's donut!
- Have a drink at Mahogany Shoals, on Payne's dock, one of the island's best-kept secrets, and the inspiration for Big Mac's Tiki Bar!
- Right outside the gate for Payne's, check out the Narragansett Inn, inspiration for McCarthy's Gansett Island Inn.
- Also, head over to the Block Island Boat Basin to visit the legendary Oar Bar,

which Marie has mentioned in recent Gansett books. Thousands of painted oars in one place. You won't want to miss it!

- The easiest bike or moped ride is up Corn Neck Road to visit the North Light where Settlers first landed on BI.
- Go shopping along Water Street!
- Enjoy pizza, pastry and ice cream at Aldo's.
- Stop for a coffee or iced tea at Juice 'N Java.
- One of our favorite stores is Lazy Fish, right downtown, with some wonderful eclectic finds.
- Check out painted rock! It's probably twice its original size, tourists and locals alike paint it at least once a week.
- Get Zen and walk the Labyrinth on Corn Neck Road.
- Visit the Abram's Animal Farm. You'll be amazed at all the exotic animals! Just a short walk to the left of the ferry landing past the Hotel Manisses.
- Stroll Crescent Beach, just a quick walk from the ferry landing.
- The rocking chairs on the porch at The National are a great spot to people watch and it's right across the way from The Surf Hotel, inspiration for The Lawry's Sand and Surf! The recently renovated Surf Hotel is also a great place to grab a drink and watch the world go by.