

The loft bedroom is an add-on to the original cottage's two-bedroom design. The lounge chairs are from Pier 1.



The outdoor shower is painted Navel by Sherwin-Williams. The rain-style showerhead is by Moen.

FIVE MORE EASY ESCAPE ISLANDS

These five islands—with dreamy beaches, big views, and small-town charms—provide paradise that's just a bridge (or quick ferry ride) away.

1 AMELIA ISLAND, FLORIDA

Median home price: \$342,500

Old Florida at its best, this barrier island on the Atlantic coast just across the bridge from Jacksonville contains a lively, 50-block historic downtown, 13 miles of unspoiled beaches, and wildlife-filled nature preserves ideal for hiking, biking, and kayaking.

2 GIBSON ISLAND, MARYLAND

Median home price: \$2.2 million

It's a haven for those seeking solitude among nature: The private Chesapeake Bay community is less than an hour from Baltimore, but more than two-thirds of its 920 lush acres is set aside for recreation.

3 BALBOA ISLAND, CALIFORNIA

Median home price: \$2.1 million

Mom-and-pop stores, colorful beach cottages, and nearly two miles of boardwalk make this exclusive isle in the midst of Newport Harbor a perfect mix of classic Americana and SoCal cool.

4 BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WASHINGTON

Median home price: \$862,000

The Puget Sound enclave is just a 35-minute ferry ride from Seattle and contains big-city amenities—farm-to-table eateries, artisan wineries, even an orchestra—all in a peaceful, rustic setting with spectacular Mt. Rainier views.

5 DAUFUSKIE ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA

Median sale price: \$220,750

With no cars and miles of beautiful beachfront, unwinding is easy on this Lowcountry charmer, a 25-minute boat ride from Savannah. The island's private Haig Point community offers a golf course and multiple restaurants.

—Jennifer Ceaser, former editor-in-chief, *Islands* magazine