

Providence, Rhode Island

Providence means “divine guidance and God’s will.”

Providence provides the charm and culture of the New England area with the vibrancy and dynamics of a Renaissance City. Roger Williams Park Zoo, a tour of Historic Homes, Waterplace Park, WaterFire, Providence Place Mall and local universities are just a few of the sights to behold. The city’s multitude of venues also plays host to many Broadway productions.

The best way to explore the city is by foot. Providence is a “walkable place,” complemented by an environmentally friendly trolley system (50 cents anywhere on the trolley route).

Must-See in Providence

Providence Place Mall - The 1.25-million-square-foot mall is near Waterplace Park. This US\$460 million mall, designed by internationally renowned architect Friedrich St. Florian, includes **153 stores**, a food court, a multiplex cinema with an IMAX theater and seven restaurants.

Waterplace Park and Riverwalk – The hallmark of Providence’s Renaissance, it is a four-acre park perfect for a brisk walk or casual stroll. From May to October you can experience WaterFire, where bonfires are lit on the three rivers as part of a unique urban sculpture by award-winning artist Barnaby Evans. Together with music from around the world, the glow and aroma of the fire creates an enchanting atmosphere for onlookers.

Benefit Street - Put on your walking shoes and stroll along Benefit Street. A “mile of history” is packed onto this cobblestone street lined with historic buildings. The Nightingale-Brown House, built in 1792, home of five generations of the Nicholas Brown Family (of Brown University) is a “must see” on the block. Some of these homes are open to the public.

John Brown House - Built by the university’s namesake. Stop by for a tour of a three-story Georgian mansion that dates back to 1786. John Quincy Adams once described the home as the “most magnificent and elegant mansion I have ever seen.”

Providence Athenaeum - A library built in Greek revival style, where, local legend has it, Edgar Allan Poe courted Sarah Whitman behind the dusty bookshelves on the creaky wooden floors.

Rhode Island School of Design Museum of Art – This innovative and internationally renowned museum showcases more than 80,000 works of art from Paul Revere’s silver and caricatures of 18th century Europe, to French impressionists and the avant-garde works of recent alumni. A 12th-century Buddha has its own room with benches for meditating.

State Capital - The State Capital is a tribute to the inspiring architecture of the turn of the century. It is topped by one of the world’s largest self-supported domes.

Federal Hill – Providence’s own “Little Italy.” The Old World meets the New World in this mouth-watering section of the city where the pasta is fresh, the sauce is spicy and the atmosphere is festive.

College Hill - Catering to the hip: The avant-garde neighborhood, sandwiched between Brown University and the Rhode Island School of Design, is a quirky, fun-filled scene. The five-block stretch of Thayer Street is filled with college students, vintage clothing shops, bookstores, music shops and cafes.

Roger Williams Park and Zoo – This zoo is home to more than 1,000 animals from around the globe, including polar bears, tree kangaroos, moon bears and giraffes, all on display in natural settings. This 430-acre zoo includes a natural history museum, a planetarium, a carousel, an antique train and gardens.