

## PROVIDENCE: URBAN SOPHISTICATION MEETS SMALL TOWN CHARM

### DEMOGRAPHICS:

Providence is the capital of Rhode Island, the smallest state in size in the United States. The population of Providence is 179,219 with the total population of Rhode Island at 1,056,298. Rhode Island measures approximately 37 miles wide and 47 miles long, which is equivalent to the size of metropolitan Chicago. Centrally located along the Eastern Seaboard, Rhode Island is the only state that is surrounded by New England states. With more than 25 percent of the U.S. population located within 500 miles, Providence is a quick getaway for many visitors. Providence is 40 miles from Boston, 185 miles from New York City and 350 miles from Montreal, Canada.

### CONTACT INFO:

[www.goprovidence.com](http://www.goprovidence.com) and 1-800-233-1636

### HISTORY:

Founded in 1636 by Roger Williams, most of Providence burnt to the ground in the late 1600s, during the King Phillip's War (a battle between settlers and Native Americans). The surge of reconstruction that followed provided the city with some of the most significant Colonial-period architecture in the country. Historical sites include **Benefit Street**, also known as "**The Mile of History**," the **Rhode Island Statehouse**, the **John Brown House** and the **First Baptist Church in America**.

### LODGING & DINING:

Convenience and easy accessibility are Providence's hallmarks. In the Greater Providence area, there are 5,500 hotel rooms and approximately 500 restaurants. Larger hotels in the Providence area include:

- The Omni, Providence (564 rooms)
- Marriott Providence Downtown (351 rooms)
- Providence Biltmore Hotel (309 rooms)
- Hilton Providence (274 rooms)
- Renaissance Providence (272 rooms)
- Hampton Inn & Suites Downtown (110 rooms)
- Crowne Plaza Hotel Providence-Warwick (266 rooms)
- Courtyard Downtown Marriott (216 rooms)
- Sheraton Providence Airport Hotel (206 rooms)
- Comfort Inn Airport (201 rooms)
- Hampton Inn Providence/Warwick Airport (173 rooms)
- Hilton Garden Inn Providence Airport/ Warwick (160 rooms)
- Wyndham Garden Providence (136 rooms)
- Radisson Airport Hotel – Providence (111 rooms)
- Best Western Airport Inn (103 rooms)
- Residence Inn Providence/Warwick (96 rooms)
- Courtyard by Marriott - Warwick (92 rooms)
- Hotel Providence (80 rooms)
- The Dean Hotel (52 rooms)
- Christopher Dodge House Bed & Breakfast (14 rooms)
- Hotel Dolce Villa (14 rooms)
- Old Court Bed & Breakfast (10 rooms)

### DINING:

Consistently ranked as one of the top culinary destinations in the U.S., the city's famed restaurant scene is a hotbed for many of the country's most exciting young chefs. Home to the famed **Johnson & Wales University**, the world's largest culinary educator, Providence has more degreed chefs per capita than any other city in the U.S. lending to its highly sophisticated restaurant scene.

### ARTS & CULTURE:

With the largest number of working artists in the country, the city of Providence has evolved into a haven for artists and entertainers. The **Arts and Entertainment District**

features several galleries and performance spaces, including **AS220**, an alternative arts performance. The city's vibrant arts and culture is also reflected in the **Rhode Island School of Design's Museum of Art**, the Tony award-winning **Trinity Repertory Company**, **Perishable Theatre** and the **Providence Black Repertory**.

#### **ATTRACTIONS:**

With a thriving arts district, a commitment to historical preservation, and a sophisticated nightlife, Providence offers a variety of entertainment options. One of Providence's most popular attractions is **WaterFire**, a multi-sensory experience highlighted by a series of bonfires installed on the three rivers of downtown Providence. Additional attractions include the annual Halloween **Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular**, featuring thousands of illuminated, carved pumpkins on display in a woodland setting at Roger Williams Park Zoo, as well as restaurant weeks, film festivals and more.

#### **SHOPPING:**

For those who love to shop, Providence offers an eclectic shopping experience from **The Arcade Providence**, the oldest shopping mall in America (circa 1828), featuring three-tiers of unique Rhode Island shops and dining, to charming shopping gems such as **Wickenden Street** with its art galleries and antique shops; and from **Thayer Street**, home to chic boutiques and located on the edge of Brown University, to the **Providence Place Mall**, located in the heart of the downtown area and anchored by Nordstrom and featuring 100 specialty shops.

#### **FAMILY FUN:**

Multi-generational families can enjoy the city's array of activities and events designed especially for them. The **Alex and Ani Center**, located in the heart of the city, offers outdoor winter fun. Children will also delight in the sights and spectacles at the **Roger Williams Park Zoo**, the third oldest zoo in the country, and the **Providence Children's Museum**, with hands-on exhibit areas and lively programs designed for children ages one to 11.

#### **COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES:**

Six colleges and universities have campuses in Providence, making an indelible impact on the region's intellectual, cultural and social life. Institutions include: **Brown University**, **Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI)**, **Johnson & Wales University (J&W)**, **Providence College (PC)**, **Rhode Island College (RIC)** and the **Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)**.

#### **SPORTS ACTIVITIES:**

Year-round sports activities abound in Greater Providence for the entire family and avid sport fan alike. A team filled with the hockey stars of tomorrow are the **Providence Bruins**, the American Hockey League (AHL) affiliate for the Boston Bruins. The **Pawtucket Red Sox**, in the neighboring city of Pawtucket, is the farm team for the World Champion Boston Red Sox. Alumni greats include Wade Boggs, Roger Clemens and Jason Varitek.

#### **CONVENTION CENTER:**

At the heart of the city's bustling downtown is the Rhode Island Convention Center (RICC). Elegantly designed to complement the city's historic architecture, the RICC contains a 100,000-square-foot exhibition hall, a 20,000-square-foot ballroom, 23 meetings rooms and the all-glass Rotunda Room, a special function space overlooking the city. The RICC also includes an exhibitor's services center, state-of-the-art business center, superb in-house food service and 10 loading docks with ramp access to the show floor.

Of the 5,500 hotel rooms in the Greater Providence area, 2,050 of them within walking distance of the RICC. A 2,400-space parking garage is also connected to the facility, with a 13,500-seat civic arena conveniently located next door.

#### **AIRPORT, RAIL & HIGHWAYS:**

##### *T.F. Green Airport*

Only 10 minutes from downtown Providence, the T.F. Green Airport (PVD) is consistently named among the top in the country. Located just off Exit 13 on Interstate 95, Green Airport offers more than 160 direct flights via major carriers.

##### *Interlink*

Interlink is an integrated system of trains, buses and rental car operations based at T.F. Green Airport in Warwick. Connecting scheduled rail service on MBTA commuter trains, a commuter parking garage, rental car services and a skywalk to the airport terminal, the

InterLink provides travelers a seamless and time-saving transfer from the airport to surrounding areas including Providence and Boston.

*Train Service*

Providence is located on Amtrak's Northeast Corridor between Washington D.C./New York City and Boston. High speed Acela Express train service transports passengers from New York City to Providence in about two and a half hours.

*Highways*

Located at the intersection of I-95 and I-195, Providence is approximately a one-hour car ride from Boston and about three-hours by car from New York City.

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