

# **National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA)**

**Summer 2017**

**Business & Training Meeting, Providence**

## **Guide to Rhode Island**



*Contributed by:*

*Rebecca Ryan, RI State Approving Agency, Director*

# Getting to Rhode Island

By Car:

Located at the intersection of I-95 and I-195, Providence is 50 miles from Boston (about a one-hour car ride) and 185 miles from New York City (about three hours by car). For a detailed map of the area, please visit [GoProvidence.com](http://GoProvidence.com).

***Parking: The hotel has valet parking available for conference guests for a discounted rate of \$19 per night. The charge will be applied to your final bill.***

By Train:

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. For tickets call 800-USA-RAIL or visit [amtrak.com](http://amtrak.com). The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) runs low-cost commuter trains to Providence from Boston and other points in Massachusetts. Call 800-392-6100 or visit [MBTA.com](http://MBTA.com) for schedules and fares.

By Plane- Green Airport (PVD):

T.F. Green Airport was recently named one of the "Top Five Alternative Airports" in the country by Forbes magazine and received a Reader's Choice recommendation from Condé Nast Traveler. Just off Exit 13 on Interstate Route 95, Green Airport is accessible to Boston, Cape Cod and Southeastern New England. It offers more than 160 direct flights via major carriers. For more information, visit [pvdairport.com](http://pvdairport.com) or call 888-268-7222.

From the Airport to the Hotel:

## Car/Shuttle Services & Limousines

Airport Taxi & Limo	401-737-2868	<a href="http://airporttaxiri.com">airporttaxiri.com</a>
All Occasion Transportation	401-312-0945	<a href="http://alloccasionlimo.com">alloccasionlimo.com</a>
Arrow Prestige Limousine	401-383-5600	<a href="http://arrowprestigelimo.com">arrowprestigelimo.com</a>
Newport Shuttle	401-841-0020	<a href="http://newportshuttle.com">newportshuttle.com</a>
Peter Pan Bus Lines	401-751-8800	<a href="http://peterpanbus.com">peterpanbus.com</a>
RI Public Transit Authority	401-781-9400	<a href="http://ripta.com">ripta.com</a>
Sentinel Limousine	401-434-2700	<a href="http://sentinellimo.com">sentinellimo.com</a>
Uber	617-297-8184	<a href="http://uber.com">uber.com</a>
Zipcar	866-494-7227	<a href="http://zipcar.com">zipcar.com</a>

**\*The hotel highly recommends Uber as the cheapest option. Use code GOPVD2017 to receive \$20 off your first ride. (Offer valid for new users only.)**

From the Airport to the Hotel (cont'd):

## Car Rentals

Alamo	401-737-4800	alamo.com
Avis	401-736-7500	avis.com
Budget	401-739-8986	budget.com
Dollar	866-434-2226	dollar.com
Enterprise	401-732-5261	enterprise.com
Hertz	401-738-7500	hertz.com
National	401-737-4800	nationalcar.com
Payless	401-737-5015	paylesscar.com
Thrifty	401-732-2000	thriftyri.com

# Hotel Information:

**Providence Biltmore**, 11 Dorrance Street, Providence, RI 02903

Phone: 401-421-0700

Concierge: Julia Corsi [jcorsi@providencebiltmore.com](mailto:jcorsi@providencebiltmore.com)

\*The hotel has a car available that will bring guests to area restaurants and attractions upon request. For those wishing to venture beyond walking distance in Providence, this will be a great option to explore areas like Federal Hill. Please contact the Front Desk to make arrangements.

\*\*Please note that the hotel does not have a Business Center available. If you need handouts for a presentation, please plan to bring them with you or send them in advance (contact [Rebecca.Ryan@ribghe.org](mailto:Rebecca.Ryan@ribghe.org) to make arrangements.) The Front Desk will assist with boarding print outs if necessary but we suggest that you plan to arrive at the airport a few minutes early to print your pass on site.

\*\*\* Conference attendees will receive a 20% discount at the Biltmore Spa on site. Spa offerings can be viewed online at

[http://curiocollection3.hilton.com/resources/media/qq/PVDCUQQ/en\\_US/pdf/en\\_PVDCUQQ\\_Spa-Brochure\\_July2015.pdf](http://curiocollection3.hilton.com/resources/media/qq/PVDCUQQ/en_US/pdf/en_PVDCUQQ_Spa-Brochure_July2015.pdf). Call 401-455-3100 or e-mail [spareceptionist@providencebiltmore.com](mailto:spareceptionist@providencebiltmore.com) to schedule an appointment!



# Area Restaurants

## Very Close (approx. 5 minute) Walks

**McCormick's & Schmick's** – at the Providence Biltmore

<http://www.mccormickandschmicks.com/Locations/boston-massachusetts/providence-rhode-island/dorrancestreet.aspx>

-Steak and seafood

**Subway Sandwich Shop**- directly across the street from the Providence Biltmore

**North Bakery**- 2 Kennedy Plaza (also across the street) <http://www.northbakery.com/>

-Small quick service bakery/café with sandwiches and pastries

## **Food Trucks Parked Daily in Kennedy Plaza across from Biltmore Hotel**

**Ellie's Bakery**- 61 Washington Street <https://elliesbakery.com/>

-Parisian style café with scratch made sandwiches and pastries featuring local ingredients

**Ken's Ramen**- 69 Washington Street <http://www.kens-ramen.com/> (Note- cash only)

-Artisan Ramen Noodle Bar

**Figidini Wood Fire Eatery**- 67 Washington Street <http://www.figidini.com/>

-Traditional Neapolitan style pizza, small plates, and seasonal salads

**Viva Mexico Cantina Grill** – 129 Washington Street <http://www.vivamexicocantinagrill.com/>

-Classic Mexican cuisine

**Murphy's Irish Pub** – 100 Fountain Street <http://www.murphysprovidence.com/>

-Irish pub with NY deli style sandwiches.

**Union Station Brewery**- 36 Exchange Terrace <https://www.johnharvards.com/locations/providence-ri/>

-Classic pub fare with craft brews

**Luxe Burger**- 5 Memorial Blvd.

-Gourmet burgers.

## Close (approx. 10 minute Walks)

**Ocean State Sandwich Co.** – 155 Westminster Street <http://www.sandwichri.com/providence.html>

-Sandwiches and salads made from locally harvested ingredients.

**Mokban Korean Bistro** – 217 Westminster Street <https://www.mokban.com/>

-Japanese & Korean dishes, bubble tea café.

**The Malted Barley** – 334 Westminster Street <https://themaltedbarleyri.com/>

-Gourmet pretzels, pretzel sandwiches (gluten free options) and craft beer.

**Providence Coal Fired Pizza** – 385 Westminster Street <http://providencecoalfiredpizza.com/>

-Everything from scratch pizza, salads, and sandwiches

**UMelt** – 129 Weybosset Street <http://umelt.fireandwatergroup.com/>

-Gourmet grilled cheese – college favorite.

**Trinity Brewhouse** – 186 Fountain Street <http://trinitybrewhouse.com/>

-Award winning pub with pub grub and chili.

**At Providence Place Mall- lower level restaurants all accessible from the street**

**Unos Pizzeria & Grill**

**PF Chang**

**Panera Bread**

**Cheesecake Factory**

**Food Court (on upper level)**

For more options, check out <http://www.goprovidence.com/restaurants>

# Things to Do in Providence

## General Attractions



A visit to Providence offers easy access to many attractions, universities, shops, sporting event venues and restaurants. The city is home to several museums, including the [RISD Museum](#), part of the famed Rhode Island School of Design; the [John Brown House Museum](#), a landmark from the 18th century; and the [Governor Henry Lippitt House Museum](#), an American National Historic Landmark. For families, we have the [Museum of Natural History and Planetarium](#), the state's only natural history museum and public planetarium; the [Providence Children's Museum](#), a hands-on museum for children; and the [Roger Williams Park Zoo](#), home to scores of animals in naturalistic settings. Theaters,

galleries, outdoor adventures and more make Providence a place to get up and go.

## Shopping

From boutiques to department stores, Providence and the surrounding areas offer ample shopping. [Providence Place](#) offers visitors a mall with more than 170 shopping, dining and entertainment options. Funky urban chic can be found at one of the many boutiques on Thayer and Wickenden streets, both on the city's East Side. From the hip downtown neighborhood, to elegant Wayland Square and eclectic Federal Hill, there is a lot to see and buy. And for those looking to make something old, new again, Providence offers a fun and eclectic [vintage](#) retail scene.

## Eat Like a Local

For a small place, Rhode Island is jam-packed with culinary traditions. Like the state itself, our signature foods are quirky, fun and sure to please.

One of the easiest ways to pinpoint a native Rhode Islander is to have them say this word: "**quahog**." A type of hard-shelled clam, the quahog is Rhode Island's unofficial mascot. Unlike our tight-jawed brethren to the north, who pronounce it "ko-hog," Rhode Islanders say "kwah-hog." No matter how you say it, quahogs are delicious in a variety of ways: shucked and served straight from the sea, added to red sauce and served over spaghetti, or chopped, mixed with stuffing and put back into the half shell - affectionately known as the "**stuffie**."



Providence is the birthplace of the diner, dating back to 1872. The most beloved of all local diners is **Haven Brothers**, a trailer on wheels that parks nightly next to Providence City Hall. From blue collars to bluebloods, everyone stops at Haven Brothers, which serves burgers and other treats from the grill until the wee small hours. Another local tradition is **Olneyville New York System**, which has been serving their signature wieners since the 1930s. Those in the know order them "all the way," which means slathered in onions, mustard, celery salt and their top secret spicy meat sauce.

How do you wash down these delicious delicacies? With one of two of Rhode Island's favorite beverages. **Del's Lemonade** is the taste of summer sunshine. Based on a classic Neopolitan recipe, the frozen, sweet/tart beverage features real hunks of lemon. Long before coffee became trendy, Rhode Islanders were crazy for **coffee milk**. In fact, it has been named

the official state beverage of Rhode Island. Similar to chocolate milk, milk is mixed with a coffee-flavored syrup. There are two different types of coffee syrup - Autocrat and Eclipse. Both have die-hard devotees.

## Things to Do Outside Providence

### NEWPORT & BRISTOL COUNTY

For more than 375 years, Newport has been welcoming visitors from near and far, which is how this charming coastal enclave earned its moniker "America's First Resort." Perhaps best known as a Gilded Age blue blood playground with legendary lavish mansions, today Newport – and its surrounding coastal communities – is also a destination for seekers of art and culture, rich history, unspoiled beaches, miles of scenic trails, distinctive shops, critically acclaimed restaurants, one-of-a-kind accommodations, and world-class events.

Barrington, Bristol, Jamestown, Little Compton, Middletown, Newport, Portsmouth, Tiverton and Warren are equally unique and boast remarkable histories all surrounded by quintessential, small town New England charm. From the spectacular sun-filled days of summer and the majestic colors and crisp salty breezes of autumn, to the serenity of winter and the reawakening season of spring, Newport retains a vibrancy that is palpable all year long.

Choose your own adventure. Explore spectacular Newport Harbor and discover why this special place is known as the "Sailing Capital of the World," trace the ocean's edge with a stroll along legendary Cliff Walk, step back into history by experiencing the famed mansions, savor local flavor at area wineries, indulge in the seasonal menus crafted by award-winning chefs highlighting the harvests of local farmers and fishermen, ride the waves, sink your toes in the sand, be pampered at a luxurious spa or saunter along the bustling downtown waterfront. You can do it all here.

[www.DiscoverNewport.org](http://www.DiscoverNewport.org)

### BLOCK ISLAND

Block Island, an 11-square-mile seaside resort located 12 miles off the Rhode Island coast, has been heralded as "One of the Last Twelve Great Places in the Western Hemisphere." Its rolling green hills and dramatic bluffs are reminiscent of Ireland, while its beautifully restored Victorian hotels and inns preserve the elegance of a bygone era.

The island's 17 miles of pristine, free public beaches are the main attraction of this tiny island, whose people are strongly devoted to preserving the ecology of their home. Block Island conservation groups operate a large trail system on the island, offering walking and hiking paths through grassy meadows, quiet woods and along the sandy shore.

Shops and restaurants are abundant in bustling Old Harbor, which is served by frequent ferry boats from Point Judith, RI. An hour-long ferry ride is the most popular method of traveling to the island, although some prefer to take the easy 20-minute flight from the state airport at Westerly, RI. Ferries also depart, in season, from New London, Conn., Montauk, NY and Newport, RI.

Block Island is close to home but a world away.

[www.BlockIslandInfo.com](http://www.BlockIslandInfo.com)

# SOUTH COUNTY

Experience South County's good nature, where you are invited to unplug and unwind, South County style. Make 20 unspoiled sandy beaches your backyard vacationland, with a South County sunrise being your only wake-up call.

Smell the salt air along miles of sandy shoreline with small town charm complete with iconic boardwalks. Explore the breathtaking beaches of Narragansett, Charlestown and more, including R.I.'s largest beach, Misquamicut, in Westerly. From Wakefield to Watch Hill, taste savory cuisine, shop unique boutiques and feel lively rhythms. Explore 29 forests and wildlife preserves throughout the region offering unspoiled nature walks and wilderness trails. How about an excursion? Paddle through scenic inland waterways that spill directly into the Atlantic Ocean.

South County's many festivals will entice you. Summer's biggest hit – besides relaxing at the beach – is moving to the music industry's biggest acts at the Rhythm & Roots Festival. Attend the Blessing of the Fleet Festival, where historic maritime traditions take center stage. Fall is all about watching – from migrating birds, to the riot of foliage bursting forward, to seals sunning on or off shore – the choice is yours. The Annual Cowboy Rendezvous is action filled and promises a galloping good time. Celebrating the holiday season with joyful exhibits at historic seaside villages aglow with luminaria sets the stage for warming up with our art scene. Spring is prime for outdoor recreation – be that strolling through the blooms of Dr. Kenney's Azalea Garden or trekking one of our unspoiled scenic management areas or fishing along one of our many waterways.

No matter what the season or activity, now is a great time to visit South County.

[www.SouthCountyRI.com](http://www.SouthCountyRI.com)

*\* Credit throughout the guide to the Providence Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau for information and photos.*