

FAMILY FUN

From the bears at the zoo to the Bruins at “The Dunk,” Providence offers a wide variety of family entertainment options.

The **Providence Children’s Museum** is an active place where kids and grown ups play and learn together. Located in Providence’s Jewelry District, the Museum presents hands-on exhibit areas and lively programs designed for children ages one to 11 that explore the arts, culture, history and science. The museum offers exhibits and programs that are based on the developmental needs of children and embrace a wide range of learning styles and forms of expression. For more information, please visit www.childrenmuseum.org.

The **RISD Museum of Art** houses more than 80,000 works of art, ranging from ancient Greek and Roman sculpture to French Impressionist paintings, from Chinese stone and terracotta sculpture to contemporary art in every medium, including textiles, ceramics, glass and furniture. Part of the Rhode Island School of Design, the museum offers a full schedule of special exhibitions, lectures, tours, concerts and other programs. Collections are displayed in 45 galleries on three floors, tracing the history of art from antiquity to the 21st century. For more information, please visit www.risdmuseum.org.

The **Roger Williams Park Zoo** is the third oldest zoo in the country (since 1872) and has been cited as "one of the outstanding reasons to visit New England" by the *Yankee Magazine Travel Guide to New England* and the “finest zoo in New England” by *Boston Globe*. Visitors to the 40-acre zoo see the world’s tallest, heaviest, fastest and rarest land animals - the Masai giraffe, the African elephant, and the cheetah – all roaming through natural settings. The zoo's population numbers nearly 1,000 animals, with some 165 species on display at any given time, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and insects. In the summer of 2018, the Roger Williams Park Zoo will unveil a brand new 10,000-square-foot rainforest exhibit after more than 12 months of construction. What sets this apart from other zoos, is that this giant facility will house dozens of animals and species of vegetations (all native to the Amazon rainforest) within the same enclosure as they would exist in the wild (instead of separate enclosures). Giant Anteaters, Chilean Flamingos, Sloths, Howler Monkeys, Titi monkeys, White-faced Saki monkeys and much more. The theme of the facility is “The Many Faces of the Rainforest” – which means that we are all connected to it in some way - regardless of where we live on the planet. It’s a fully immersive and educational facility, meant to shed light on how we’re all connected. For more information, please visit www.rogerwilliamsparkzoo.org.

WaterFire Providence is a multi-sensory experience that will engage and intrigue every member of the family. This series of bonfires installed on the three rivers of downtown Providence encourages visitors to stroll the city and take in the aromatic wood smoke, flickering firelight and enchanting music. The event occurs several times a month from May to October and has become a “must see” for visitors to the city. For more information, please visit www.waterfire.org.

Circus family contortionists, a rowdy rodeo horse, a giant three-eyed robot percussionist, break-dancing police officers, Mountain Trolls and blob-like GO-GO Dancers are just a few of the wild, life-sized characters that are part of the international performance group, **Big Nazo**. From dancing, opera singing, wrestling, rock and funk music and audience-interactive improvising, Big Nazo puppet lab, across from Providence City Hall, is the perfect place for family fun. For more information, please visit www.bignazo.com.

The **Providence Athenaeum** offers an educational experience at an affordable price. The historic Athenaeum building offers literature for people of all ages who appreciate books, culture and discovery. The building and the many programs hosted by the Athenaeum, including children’s activities, are open to the public daily. For more information please visit www.providenceathenaeum.org.

The **Festival Ballet Providence** engages audiences and thrills viewers with their wide range of dance including classical, neoclassical and contemporary dance. Rhode Island’s premiere, professional dance company is committed to introducing children to this form of expression. The Center for Dance Education, as well as Educational Outreach programming, provides dance opportunities for adults and children. For more information, please visit www.festivalballet.com.

The **Rhode Island Philharmonic** is the only fully integrated professional orchestra and music school in the United States. The Rush Hour Series provides a unique musical collaboration between conductor, orchestra musicians and guest artists. For more information, please visit www.ri-philharmonic.org.

The **Rhode Island School of Design** offers a variety of engaging educational programs for children, teens and families, ranging from Continuing Education classes and certificate programs for youths to Free-for-All Saturdays at the RISD Museum. These programs often include hands-on activities, performances, videos and special gallery guests. For more information, please visit www.risd.edu/kids_teens.cfm.

The **Craftland Shop**, which grew out of the seasonal Craftland Show, is a year-round retail gallery specializing in fresh craft made by independent artists. The store carries a wide selection of merchandise, ranging from jewelry to housewares, and from clothing to gifts. Craftland Shop's School of Craft offers a variety of learning experiences for all ages. For more information, please visit www.craftland.myshopify.com/collections/shop.

The **Alex and Ani Center** lets families take to the ice in the heart of the city. The Center boasts 14,000 square feet of ice, more than double the size of Rockefeller Center's rink in New York. It features a full-service pavilion with ticket area, concessions offering light refreshments and non-alcoholic hot and cold drinks, party rooms for special events, and skate rentals for children and adults. Skating lessons are also available. For more information, please visit www.providenceskating.com.

The **Steel Yard** offers arts and technical training programs designed to increase opportunities for cultural and artistic expression, career-oriented training and small business incubation. The Steel Yard partners with organizations to offer young adults a place to explore, invent and make connections between arts education, experimental learning and vocational training through courses, workshops and camps. For more information, please visit www.thesteelyard.org.

The **Providence Bruins** are the American Hockey League (AHL) affiliate for the Boston Bruins. A team filled with the hockey stars of tomorrow, the P-Bruins' home ice is at Providence's Dunkin Donuts Center, affectionately known as "The Dunk" to locals. For more information, please visit www.providencebruins.com.

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