

## TRAVEL



PHOTO: GO PROVIDENCE

The Ice Bumper Cars at the Providence Rink.

# Go PRO Providence makes for a perfect winter city escape

The season of brrrrrrrrrr is here, and our instinct, if we are not skiers or snowboarders, is to hunker down.

But winter can be an amazing time for a city escape. And while I love Boston, I also make a point to visit Providence, Rhode Island.

Providence is a

gem of a city; small enough to be easily accessible — even walkable in most cases — yet packed with plenty to do.

They've also got special events, programs and activities you can only experience in winter. Here's how an overnight or weekend trip to Providence will make you PRO-winter.

Hotel choices: Providence has a multitude of

accommodations, from the big yet cozy Omni Providence Hotel (<https://www.omnihotels.com>) to the boutique style Beatrice (<https://www.thebeatrice.com>) and everything in between.

Most are centrally located, meaning you can take the train and get to and from spots easily.

A bonus: Visit Rhode Island (<https://www.visitrhodeisland.com>) is holding its now-annual Hotel

Month in January. Book now for a visit next month and, depending on your choice of hotel, you can save up to half.

Where to dine: Providence has long been heralded as a foodie destination thanks to the long history of their Federal Hill Italian scene. Now, great dining of all kinds is scattered throughout the city.

A few must visits include Mare Rooftop (<https://www.marerooftop.com>)

where a 360-degree view of the city means incredible sunsets no matter where you sit (and sparkling light views at night). They focus on local ingredients and creative fare. They have igloos for outdoor winter dining as well.

Sarto Providence (<https://sartoprovidence.com>) puts a modern twist on classic Providence fare. The open kitchen feels fresh and new, but with classic touches — the building was built in 1860 and has been an apothecary and tailor shop.

Should you visit Jan 8-20, it's Providence Restaurant Week (<https://www.goprovidence.com/rw/>) when you'll find great deals and chefs amping up their specialties.

And for breakfast? It's practically the law that you have a Providence inspired doughnut. Try Knead Doughnuts (<https://www.kneaddoughnuts.com>) or PVDonuts (<https://www.pvdonuts.com>) or better yet: Both.

Cool things to do: There's shopping, both at big Providence Place and at amazing boutiques scattered about (thanks to the influence of the Rhode Island School of Design). There are history tours and museums — you'll want to check out the RISD Museum for a look at the famed school's past and current artists, as well as the Providence Art Club (<https://providenceartclub.org>) where, while you must be a member to dine there, the public is welcome to view the galleries in an historic building worth visiting on its own.

There's theater, live music and other indoor diversions for when you want to get out of the chill.

At the Providence Rink (<https://theprovidencerink.com>) you can skate outside with the city soaring around you or try out their ice bumper cars.

As crazy as it sounds, winter is a great time to do a self guided walking tour of the city. Providence is a blast to meander around. You'll find historic buildings, cool murals, the Brown University campus, riverside walks and more.

Bundle up but in layers: the hills can warm you up fast. You can find self-guided tours here: <https://www.goprovidence.com> — and all that

walking will balance the doughnut consumption.

Get out in nature: In a city? Yes, Providence is home to the vast Roger Williams Park — and its zoo — and both are open all winter. You can take a winter hike (or stroll), cross country ski, or visit the animals both inside and out. (<https://www.rwpzoo.org>)

Getting there: Driving to Providence is easy, and parking is widely available and a bit less expensive than other cities. Also, consider leaving your car at an MBTA commuter rail station and taking the train there. You'll find things easily walkable, and Ubers and taxis a snap to find. One note; the Park and Zoo are a little bit of a drive, so if you don't want to Uber, you'll want your car for that.



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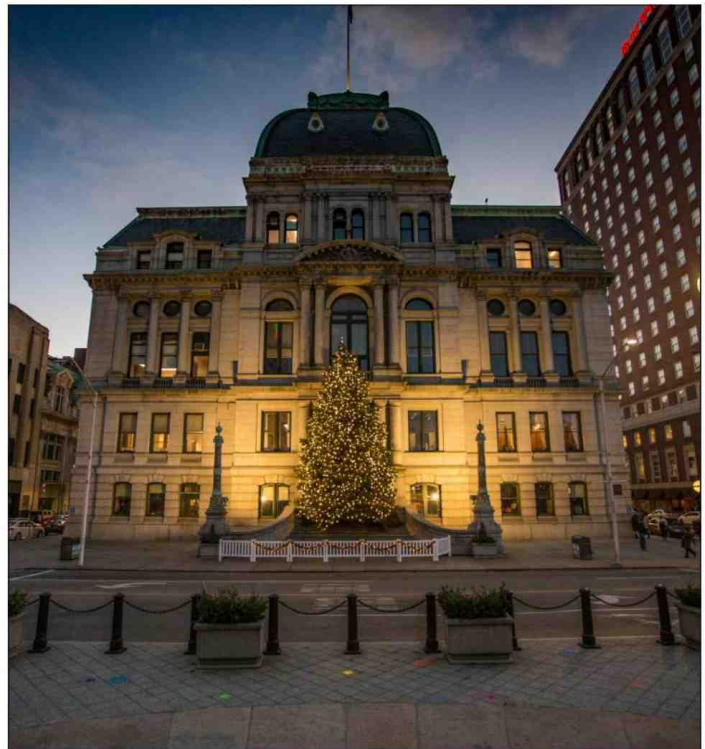


PHOTO GO PROVIDENCE

Providence is ready for winter visitors.



PHOTO GO PROVIDENCE

Roger Williams Park in Providence dazzles in the snow.