

## Rhode Island's Reimagined Holidays: Outdoor Ballet, Bumper Cars On Ice, Online Caroling, Santa Scavenger Hunts, More



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Travel

*Award-winning travel writer/photographer, 100-plus countries*

Rhode Island's [Take It Outside grant](#) allows the festive holiday to continue this year in a socially distanced, safe way. Visitors will find reimagined classic traditions, new experiences and the debut of a hotel with all safety protocols in place.

## Providence



[Festival Ballet Providence](#) built an *outdoor* stage for professional ballet performances that will run three weeks in December. The stage will be used by professional ballet troupes as well as ballet schools from Providence and throughout the state.

An adapted version of The Nutcracker, now called [Nutcracker Sweets](#), will be performed with socially distanced seating, and outdoor heating elements. Some of the infrastructure will also be repurposed for the following seasons as well.

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Since it will not be practical or in the interest of public health to produce the holiday tradition in person this year, Trinity Rep will be creating *an online version of* [A Christmas Carol](#) and offering it free to everyone beginning in December.

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Providence was the first city in New England to offer ice bumper cars and now [The Providence Rink](#) offers a fun experience for all-ages at Providence's downtown outdoor rink. Distancing is best while *having fun outdoors*.

## Newport



Castle Hill Lighthouse, Newport, Rhode Island, just after a snowstorm. Mist upon the water. GETTY

[Newport Mansions](#) announces “Sparkling Lights at The Breakers: An Outdoor Magical Wonderland.” The new *outdoor experience* will illuminate the mansion and its historic grounds through Sunday, Jan. 10, 2021.

The exterior of The Breakers and its landscape will be covered in festive lights, including 28 spruce trees, and visitors will be able to peek through the windows at Santa's Workshop at The Children's Cottage. Holiday music will fill the air and refreshments will be available.

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[Wayfinder Winter Wonderland](#) debuts this December at the hip Newport hotel. Guests at [The Wayfinder](#) can catch holiday classics *poolside* during the hotel's holiday outdoor movie series complete with a hot cocoa station, cozy chairs and blankets, heat lamps and lots of lights – all from a social distance.

An ideal New England holiday destination, the hotel will deck the halls – and suites – with all the traditional holiday trimmings including a mini Christmas tree, pre-stuffed stockings, and festive décor. Ensuring guests can enjoy a socially-distant holiday getaway, merry makers can sip on warming hot cocoa or hot toddies by the lobby fireplace or catch holiday classics in-suite while indulging in room service from Nomi Park.

### **South County**

Brand new [Maker's Mark Hobbit House](#) opens at the Preserve Sporting Club & Residence. Enjoy dinner with a small group of (up to eight) friends and family, inside a luxuriously appointed hobbit house. Complete with a fireplace and a skylight, there's an upscale grilled menu prepared and served in iconic Le Creuset cast-iron cookware. You'll be cozy and safe *within your own group*.

Each course is paired with Maker's Mark bourbon, and after dinner you and your squad can tell stories by the fire pit while sipping bourbon and making s'mores. This is South County's latest one-of-a-kind dining experience - right out of the fantasy novels of J.R.R. Tolkien.

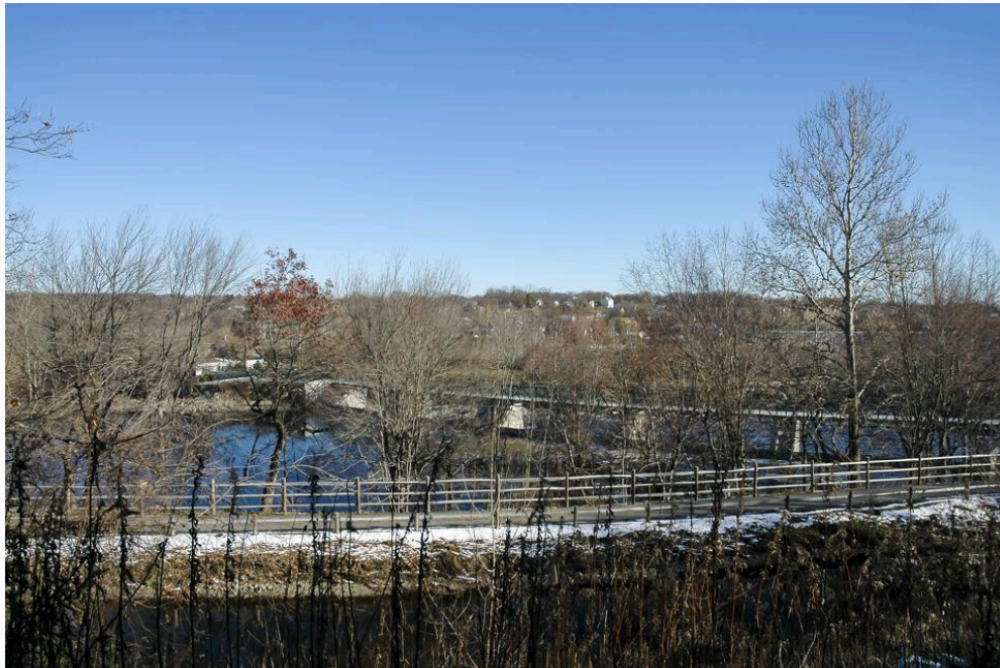


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The [Fondue Village at Ocean House](#) offers safe après ski dining: Now open until March 31, South County's first unique dining experience was established by Ocean House three years ago. The Fondue Village consists of several vintage ski gondolas, outfitted with warm woods, Alpine textiles, chandeliers and imported Swiss and Austrian glassware and china.

The gondolas offer a *socially distanced* setting for lunch or dinner featuring Alpine delicacies served alongside vintage selections of Veuve Clicquot champagnes for up to four guests.

## Blackstone Valley



High vantage point shows bridge across Blackstone River valley GETTY

“Search for Santa” on the [Blackstone Valley Explorer Riverboat](#). A unique twist on the classic Blackstone Valley Polar Express, this safe and socially-distant alternative for 2020 will run through December. Search for Santa is a 20-minute ride to the North Pole featuring a scavenger hunt of Christmas characters including the big guy in red, a reading of a classic Christmas story, a souvenir ticket and more. The riverboat will be *running at a third of the capacity*, 15 people maximum, to ensure social distancing.