

START HERE
Land at T.F. Green Airport, only minutes from downtown.

Go back to town and board the 72-foot, double-masted schooner *Madeleine* to tour the harbor and bay with 48 other lucky souls in 19th century style. Catch the 90-minute sunset cruise at Bannister's Wharf to see why sailors like Captain Kidd revered these waters. Toast the close of day—and trip—with shipboard beer and champagne.

SUNSET SALUTE

Rent bikes from Ten Speed Spokes near the Gateway Visitors Center and ride out of town along Thames Street to reach Ocean Drive, a 10-mile, shore-hugging road with views of coves, beaches, and lighthouses, not to mention the occasional mansion. Catch your breath mid-route at Brenton Point State Park and watch the kites.

BEACH PEDAL

Hop the orange route trolley back to Newport Harbor for clam chowder and lobster salad at the Black Pearl on Bannister's Wharf. The casual tavern of high-gloss black paint, chalkboard menus, and nautical maps occupies a 1920s ship repair shop amid a wharf now packed with stores and restaurants. Ogle yachts at the outdoor tables.

SEASIDE SEAFOOD

Cheat Card
Let us help with trip logistics for your visit to the Ocean State. Go to spitmag.com and click on Rhode Island.

Start your day with a fritata and rosemary ham at the trek-worthy Nick's on Broadway (take a cab there), a shining example of what a Johnson and Wales culinary grad with a serious restaurant résumé can do with an aging and beloved diner. The epicurean 38-seater advances diners in the city that invented the genre.

FOODIE FUEL UP

Step off on the Rhode Island Historical Society's 11 a.m. walking tour of Benefit Street, the city's renowned "mile of history." The who's who of 18th and 19th century Providence built spectacular houses here. Why "Benefit"? The name came from the attempt to relieve traffic on Main Street one block over.

WALK THROUGH TIME

Visit Buddha. The 9-foot-tall wooden statue rates his own room at the Rhode Island School of Design Museum. RISD (pronounced Riz-dee for short) is on Benefit Street and boasts a particularly strong collection of Ancient Egyptian and Roman artifacts, Impressionist paintings, and colonial furnishings.

ART HISTORY 101

Acquire modern art at the unique RISD Works just across the river from the school. Pieces by alumni and faculty fill the space. Pick up a bowling pin lamp, a bowl made of an old Barry White vinyl record, DVD movies by director Gus Van Sant, or a blow-up Family Guy chair (cartoon creator Seth MacFarlane is a RISD grad).

SHOP STOP

Continue up Westminster Street from RISD Works, past the string of new boutiques springing up downtown, to L'Epicerie at the Hotel Providence. This sophisticated Italian eatery started as a neighborhood meat market before making a downtown and upscale move. Sample the osso bucco and the veal Bolognese.

PRE-THEATER FUEL

Dash around the corner to Trinity Repertory Company, aka Trinity Rep. The Tony-boasting troop does bold productions—think Scrooge played by a woman—of often cutting-edge material in the restored Majestic movie theater. Sept. 14 opens the season with a new staging of *All the King's Men*.

CURTAINS UP

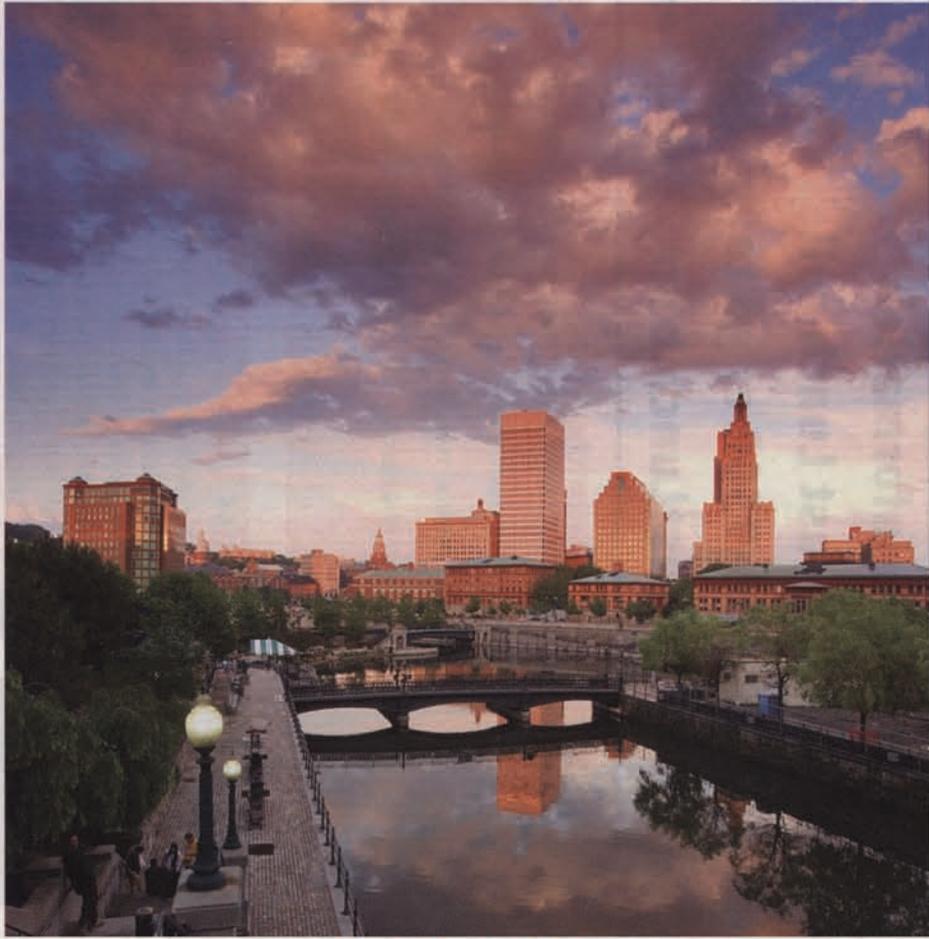
DAY ONE A.M.

DAY ONE P.M.

DAY THREE P.M.

DAY THREE A.M.

DAY TWO P.M.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE PROVIDENCE WATER

PLAYTIME
Providence and Newport

Size matters in Rhode Island. But in a good-thing-in-small-package sort of way. Finally, a state—the physical size of metropolitan Chicago—that you can acquaint in three days. Founded by free-thinker Roger Williams, Providence is still intellectually advanced beyond its size with an opera, orchestra, ballet, theaters, and four colleges, including Brown University, Rhode Island School of Design, and the world's largest culinary school, Johnson and Wales University. Some 30 miles south, sailors hail Newport, the former resort colony of 19th century New York robber barons. From cultured Providence to carefree Newport, Rhode Island packs big fun into a small space.

[READ CLOCKWISE FROM THE "START HERE" SQUARE]

- SPOILING YOURSELF
- WINING AND DINING
- FOOD FOR THE SOUL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- MOVING ADVENTURE

DAY TWO A.M.

BROWN DOWNTIME

FEASTING CONTINUED

MOVEABLE FEAST

Take the green line trolley back to the east side of the river and walk up College Street to the main gates of Brown University. They open only twice a year—in autumn to let the freshman class in and spring to release the seniors—but pedestrians can enter the main quad by side fountain, plus all the local color you could want, make the spot a delight for all the senses.

Lunch (if you still have room after the previous stop) on Federal Hill at Costantino's Ristorante. There, you can order the lobster-stuffed ravioli that you just saw the neighborhood is bigger than New York's, and it pays to come hungry. Stop, nibble, and sip at a wine shop, several delis, a ravioli-making kitchen, and a traditional bakery until you say, "Basta!"

Book one of culinary expert Cindy Salvato's tasty RI Market Tours of Federal Hill, Providence's restaurant- and shop-filled Little Italy. The neighborhood is bigger than New York's, and it pays to come hungry. Stop, nibble, and sip at a wine shop, several delis, a ravioli-making kitchen, and a traditional bakery until you say, "Basta!"

Room Key
Book quarters with a little character at the Providence Renaissance Hotel.

Backtrack downhill toward the river, stopping off at the nautically themed Hemenway's Seafood Grill and Oyster Bar for a dozen Rhode Island-harvested oysters; try the Poppasquash, Potter's Cove, Beavertail, or Quonset Point. Enjoy a microbrew at the granite bar and take in the river views.

LOCAL DELICACIES

Follow the crowds come sundown to the Providence River, where nearly 100 bonfires glow in braziers balanced just above the water over a half-mile course. WaterFire, the installation credited with reviving the city in the late 1990s, provides spectacle as well as entertainment on two live music stages.

HOT WATER

Cave to your guilty cravings for chili dogs and cheese fries at Haven Brothers Diner. The "lunch wagon" harks back to the origins of diners with a stainless steel trailer-cum-kitchen that pulls up to Providence City Hall at 5 p.m. and shuts down at 4 a.m. daily. Cut the grease with the local specialty "coffee milk."

LOWBROW CHOW

Catch the 8:30 a.m. ferry departure for the historic vacation capital of the Ocean State, Newport. In just over one hour, the high-speed boats provide shoreline views of Narragansett Bay from the industrial outskirts of Providence to yacht harbors straight out of *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*.

ANCHORS AWEIGH

Take the yellow route trolley along mansion-lined Bellevue Avenue and get off at Rough Point, the art-filled estate of late tobacconist Doris Duke. One-hour docent-led tours showcase the home's museum-quality Western art and furnishings collection and culminate in a new exhibit of Duke's designer clothes.

DIOR STOP

Stroll the 3.5-mile Cliff Walk from its southern end at Rough Point. The path was originally a colonial fisherman's trail but is now a public right of way. It runs past Newport's famed mansion row, including the 70-room Breakers and the 1902 vintage Rosecliff, where 1974's *The Great Gatsby* was filmed.

REAL ESTATE GAPE

School Stop
The Johnson and Wales Culinary Museum traces diner history, features an 1833 tavern, and exhibits White House china.

Get There

Fly T.F. Green International Airport in suburban Warwick is a 10-minute drive from downtown Providence and about 30 minutes from Newport. Aero Airport Limousine Service (401-737-2868) shuttles between Providence and the airport. Cozy Cab (cozytrans.com) links the airport to Newport.

Get Around Rhode Island Public Transit Authority, aka RIPTA (ripta.com), operates convenient trolleys in both Providence and Newport that hit the best sights. Fares run \$1.50 per ride or \$6 for an all-day pass.



Get Away RIPTA also operates seasonal ferry service linking Providence and Newport via Narragansett Bay daily from May 16 through Oct. 16, reservations recommended (providencefastferry.com). Trolleys marked "Ferry" depart Kennedy Plaza in downtown Providence and arrive at the docks on Conley's Wharf.

Take There

RI Style Thanks to its student population, Providence tolerates all manner of dress, and RISD students stand out for their creativity. Preppy sailors and navy blazer-clad visitors in tourist-thronged Newport in its highest of seasons—summer. So come as you are.



Beach Gear August is the height of beach season in Rhode Island, as temperatures reach into the 90s. Locals leave the cities for the shore, where ocean breezes ease the summer swelter. Bring your swimsuit.

Windbreaker Pack a light jacket in September and October when cooler weather generally prevails as students return to Providence and New England's fabled fall foliage draws leaf-peepers.

Stay There

Renaissance Providence Hotel The just-opened 272-room Renaissance occupies a grand 1929 neo-classic Masonic Temple across from the Rhode Island Statehouse. The hotel adopted an arts theme, from its theatrical lobby to Etch-A-Sketch games in the minibars. *Rooms from \$199.* renaissanceprovidence.com



The Chanler Stay like a Newport magnate at the only hotel on Cliff Walk, the 20-room Chanler. Most rooms offer Atlantic views. Even if you don't overnight here, book a terrace table at the famed Spiced Pear restaurant. *Rooms from \$275.* thechanler.com



Hotel Providence Adapting three historic buildings into one 80-room boutique, Hotel Providence provides immersion into all things Providence, from the antiques in the rooms to the in-house Italian eatery L'Epicureo. The convenient location can't be beat. *Rooms from \$339.* hotelprovidence.com

Celebrate There

In Providence

AUG. 7-12 The 25th anniversary Rhode Island International Film Festival promises to screen 250 movies in six days. film-festival.org

AUG. 24-SEPT. 16 Providence neighbor Pawtucket throws the annual Pawtucket Arts Festival, highlighted by a Rhode Island Philharmonic performance and colorful dragon boat races in the Asian tradition. pawtucketartsfestival.org

In Newport

AUG. 3-5 The music festival where Bob Dylan went electric, Dunkin' Donuts Newport Folk Festival tunes up the 2007 version with the North Mississippi Allstars, Emmylou Harris, and Alejandro Escovedo. festivalproductions.net

AUG. 10-12 Dianne Reeves, Dave Brubeck, and B.B. King play the granddaddy of outdoor jazz fests, the JVC Jazz Festival at Newport's Fort Adams State Park. festivalproductions.net