



## 113<sup>th</sup> GFWC New England Region Conference Oceans '22



### Things to do in Rhode Island . . .

#### Roger Williams Park Zoo, Providence

Address: 1000 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island

Despite its history as one of the country's oldest zoos, Roger Williams Park Zoo is an outstanding example of modern zoo design and ethics. Largely cage-free, the zoo is a place where animals live in environments as close as possible to their native habitat, and where visitors can see them with a minimum of visible barriers.

In the 40-acre zoo, they can watch snow leopards, zebras, alligators, wildebeest, giraffes, elephants, kangaroos, red pandas, and dozens more native and exotic creatures in a setting that encourages kids and adults to learn more about them, their habits, and their habitat. The 435-acre park also contains a Botanical Center with New England's Largest public indoor display garden, the Museum of Natural History, A planetarium, and a carousel.

#### RISD Museum of Art, Providence

Address: 20 North Main Street, Providence, Rhode Island

The Museum of Art at the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence is remarkable not only for the staggering numbers of its collections, but for their breadth of scope. The historical and contemporary textiles and dress collection alone totals more than 26,000 objects, from ancient Egyptian clothing fragments and Elizabethan needlework to 20th-century American designers and Japanese Noh theater robes.

Other collections are equally impressive, including Decorative Arts and Design; Asian Art; Contemporary Art (which includes pioneering video arts); Ancient Art (complete with a mummy and coffin); and a Painting and Sculpture collection featuring works by Copley, Homer, Manet, Monet, Degas, Cézanne, Rodin, Picasso, Matisse, Maxfield Parrish, and Georgia O'Keeffe.

#### Benefit Street and John Brown House, Providence

Known today as "The Mile of History," Benefit Street was the social, cultural, artistic, civic, and intellectual heart of Providence in the colonial and early Federal periods. You can immerse yourself in these exciting times for the young country just by walking this mile of stone- and brick-paved street.

What makes Benefit Street especially interesting is that it is not a frozen-in-time museum street but a vibrant neighborhood, where later additions of Victorian and a few 20th-century buildings keep it in the here-and-now. Some of Providence's most interesting architecture is here, and a stroll along it will reveal beautiful gardens, a family burial ground, and churches, as well as period homes.

The most spectacular of these is the John Brown House, built for prosperous colonial merchant, John Brown. He was the first to build outside the crowded waterfront, but from high on this hill he could see his wharves at India Point, from which his ships plied their profitable China trade.

The elegant home is still filled with the original Brown family furnishings, which include some of the finest examples of works by **Rhode Island's famed cabinetmakers**, as well as early decorative arts. If you can see only one colonial home here, make it this one.





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## **Blithewold Mansion, Gardens & Arboretum, Bristol**

Address: 101 Ferry Road, Bristol, Rhode Island

Overlooking Narragansett Bay, Blithewold was built in 1908 for Augustus Van Wickle, and resembles a 17th-century English country manor. Its 45 rooms are furnished much as they were when the family lived here and decorated with their collections of Baccarat crystal, Gorham silver, more than 30 sets of fine china, several Tiffany lamps and dolls, along with objects collected in their travels.

The house was designed with large windows facing the water and overlooking the estate's 33 acres of gardens. Among the finest New England gardens open to the public, those at Blithewold include a water garden, an enclosed garden, display gardens, a rock garden, and a rose garden. The more than 500 different varieties of trees, shrubs, and plants include the East Coast's largest giant sequoia and a bamboo grove.

## **Herreshoff Marine Museum, Bristol**

Address: One Burnside Street, Box 450, Bristol, Rhode Island

Sailing, and most particularly the America's Cup race, is deeply ingrained into Newport culture and history. To gain a sense of this, and to see models and actual restored boats - including one that's considered the most beautiful hull form ever created - visit the museum commemorating the Herreshoffs and their boat designs.

Their most legendary feat was designing and building eight consecutive successful defenders of the America's Cup, from 1893 to 1934. The **America's Cup Hall of Fame** is part of the museum, which features more than 60 sailing and power yachts along with displays and videos on boat building and sailing.

## **The Breakers, Newport**

Newport's most celebrated — and showiest — Gilded Age mansion was built by Cornelius Vanderbilt in 1895 and reflects the unimaginable wealth of the Vanderbilt family. The Italian Renaissance "summer cottage" has 70 rooms, including a grand three-story dining room, and was built using imported French and Italian marble and alabaster.

## **Cliff Walk, Newport**

Newport's Cliff Walk has remained a public walking path since the days when the great palaces were at their prime. The pathway along the rocky shore provides walkers with views of breakers crashing on the rocks below, as well as the mansions' gardens and sea-facing facades above.

