



Rhode Island Story Ideas

You've come to the right place. Rhode Island offers a wealth of possibilities, depending on the interests of your audience. Here's a sampling, just to dip your toes in the water...

Big Fun for the Little Ones

Rhode Island is a child-friendly state and the perfect place for a family vacation. A logical choice is a trip to Providence, where you can explore the acclaimed Providence Children's Museum, visit the beautiful 430-acre Roger Williams Park, a Victorian park (1878) comprised of waterways, walks, outdoor gardens, and a Carousel Village, Museum of Natural History, and the park's crown jewel, Roger Williams Park Zoo. Other children's activities in the park include paddleboats, a carousel, miniature train ride, pony rides and a jungle gym. But there's plenty for a family to do beyond the boundaries of Providence. Consider a hiking adventure in one of our state parks or miles of paved bike paths, enroll in a family sailing course on Narragansett Bay, or step back in time at any of our bountiful historic attractions from Colonial times or the Gilded Age mansions of Newport. (Education is fun too!)

Romance by the Sea

The answer is yes, no matter where you go. Snuggle up in front of a roaring fire in your elegantly restored bed and breakfast, or wake to the sound of seagulls after spending the night in a romantic inn at the City-by-the-Sea known as Newport. Pack a perfect picnic and set out for the beautiful views provided by endless beaches or oceanfront cliffs, or hop aboard a historic sailboat and enjoy a sunset cruise for two. And if the mood should strike, you can even stick around and have your wedding here. Newport is home to the historic St. Mary's church, which hosted the wedding of President John F. Kennedy and Jacqueline Bouvier. Of course, if you want to ditch your oversized wedding and elope, but don't want to sacrifice a classy ceremony, the Chanler at CliffWalk offers couples a "comprehensive, no-pain" elopement package, with only twenty-four hours notice needed. www.thechanler.com

Put a Fork in It

You're never in danger of going hungry in Little Rhody. Our little state gets a lot of attention for our authentic Italian restaurants on Federal Hill. Did you know there are more restaurants on this mile stretch than Manhattan's Little Italy? Time it right and you could discover you are dining next to a celebrity – Rhode Island is becoming quite the "it" place for movie making these days. Of course Rhode Island would not be the Ocean State without seafood – there's no better summer lunch than clam cakes and chowder. We also serve delicious fruits and veggies, including apples, strawberries, corn and pumpkins. Throughout the year, we throw parties to celebrate every harvest you can

imagine. To wash it all down, we recommend one of Rhode Island's wines or microbrews.

We're Number 1

Rhode Island is a state of firsts. The state led the way toward revolution, and on May 4, 1776, the state was the first to proclaim independence from Great Britain. In 1790, Samuel Slater's mill in Pawtucket became America's first successful water-powered cotton mill, and in 1876 polo was played for the first time in the U.S., in Newport. In 1881, the Newport Casino hosted the first U.S. National Lawn Tennis Championships, which today is the U.S. Open. Extreme sports entered the limelight here, with Rhode Island serving as host of the inaugural Gravity Games, and the X Games were held here from 1995-1996. Built in 1828, the Arcade in Providence is the nation's first indoor shopping mall.

Quiet on the Set!

Rhode Island has been featured in a number of major motion pictures, due largely to the efforts of a small but determined band of state employees who know every inch of the state and do everything in their power to promote it to the Hollywood bigwigs. Cranston and Providence hosted Disney for its new adventurous movie *Underdog*, Warwick laid out the red carpet for Brad Pitt and Anthony Hopkins in *Meet Joe Black*, and had a pair of laugh-out-loud encounters with Jim Carrey as his films *Dumb and Dumber* and *Me, Myself & Irene* were filmed in Providence, Narragansett and Newport. On the docket for this year, Disney is back for an encore with *Evening*, starring Meryl Streep, and *Dan in Real Life*, starring funny-man Steve Carell. And that's just the tip of the iceberg, there's much more to this story.

A Divine Affair

For a taste that's truly Rhode Island, check out Newport Vineyards in Middletown. The revamped vineyard boasts a wide variety of grapes and an indoor and outdoor wine tasting area. Reds, whites, blush and dessert wines are produced and sold here. If that's not enough, there are two more vineyards within a fifteen-minute drive. Greenvale Vineyards, in Portsmouth, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, and Sakonnet Vineyards in Little Compton combines spectacular wine with fabulous views of the Sakonnet River. Venture down to Westerly for a taste of Rhode Island's newest winery, Langworthy Farm Winery, which is located about one-half mile from the Atlantic Ocean.

Play Ball!

Kids and kids-at-heart will love the old-time stadium of the Pawtucket Red Sox, the triple-A affiliate of the Boston Red Sox. Some of the Red Sox's most famous players have played at McCoy Stadium before moving to Fenway Park including shortstop Nomar Garciaparra. Built in 1942 and renovated during the 1998 and 1999 seasons, it was also the site of a USA Baseball National Team game against Italy in 2005. If baseball isn't your thing, we've got the Boston Bruins' farm team, the Providence Bruins, and a trio of Division I college basketball programs, including Rhode Island, Providence and Brown.

Something old, something new

The theater restoration project at the Providence Performing Arts Center dates back until 1995, but it's only now that visitors are able to reap all the benefits of a completely (and beautifully) restored theater. The entire theater has been updated and meticulously restored from head to toe, including new carpeting, comfortable seating, updated wall and ceiling areas, and the star of the theater — a brand-new chandelier designed by Rhode Island School of Design graduate Dan Dailey. The chandelier was carefully designed to blend in with the 1920s design of the Providence Performing Arts Center, yet it exudes a contemporary feel. The Stadium Theatre in Woonsocket has been completely restored and the tremendously popular AS220 is moving into larger quarters in the heart of Downtown Providence, just a stones throw from Trinity Repertory Company. Trinity Rep's restored space offers the best in regional theater.

Venice, Rhode Island?

Take a romantic ride through the Woonasquatucket and Providence rivers on a gondola. La Gondola is the area's only company with authentic Venetian gondolas. Manned by a gondolier and a fourteen-foot oar, this romantic excursion comes complete with a complimentary basket filled with cheese and crackers, an ice bucket, glasses and, of course, Italian music. Guests are welcome to bring along a bottle of their favorite wine as well. Make the experience even more memorable with a gondola ride during WaterFire.

WaterFire Providence

One hundred bonfires illuminate the waters of the Providence River during this magical outdoor event. Stroll along cobbled riverbank walkways leading to Waterplace Park, as the dramatic fires dance atop the water and fill the air with the rich scent of burning cedar logs. Music, reflecting a variety of cultures and rhythms, reverberates off the Venetian-style bridges. This event draws thousands of visitors; visit www.waterfire.com for a complete schedule of lightings.

Gallery Nights

On the third Thursday of the month, art enthusiasts from the region congregate in Providence, one of the most arts savvy cities in the Northeast. The "ArTrolley" shuttles visitors to more than thirty galleries, museums and historic sites throughout the East Side and downtown Providence. And the best part? It's all free! Trolley leaves from Citizens Plaza in downtown Providence.

For more information, visit us on the Web at www.visitrhodeisland.com.

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