

# MAGIC

The Gathering

## GRAND PRIX



## Grand Prix Providence 2015 Travel Guide

Based on Melissa DeTora's 2013 *Travel Guide for GP Providence*

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## 1 How to Get to Providence

### 1.1 Flying

There are two airports that you can fly into: Logan International Airport (BOS), located in Boston, an hour away from the venue; and T.F. Green Airport (PVD), about 15 minutes drive from the venue.

#### 1.1.1 Flying into Boston

If you are flying into Boston, the best way to get to the convention center is to take public transit, with a total trip time of about one and a half hours.

1. Take the Silver Line bus to South Station (free from the airport). The silver line comes every 10 minutes, and takes about 20 minutes to reach South Station from the airport.
2. Take the Commuter Rail (Providence/Stoughton Line) to Providence (\$10.50). Trains leave south station to providence every 30 minutes to one hour on weekdays, with the final train to Providence at 11:59pm on weekdays (or 11:10pm on weekends). The last

returning train leaves Providence at 10:10pm on Sunday. The train station is about a 10 minute walk from the convention center.

[Full Commuter Rail Schedule](#): Make sure you select Outbound if you are traveling from Boston to Providence, and Inbound if you are traveling from Providence to Boston.

### 1.1.2 Flying into Providence

If you are flying into Providence, you have more options.

- Taxis are roughly \$30-\$35
- Uber estimates the trip cost at \$13-\$17.
- Airport Taxi & Limousine Service runs a shuttle service from T.F. Green (under a “Providence Shuttle” sign) to the Convention Center. It leaves every hour, on the hour, between 11am and 7pm, and costs \$11.77 per person, per trip. Call (401) 737-2868 for more information.
- Again, public transit is the cheapest way to get here. The [bus](#) to Kennedy Plaza costs \$2.00, and takes 40 minutes. It leaves about every half hour until 10:45 on weekdays. It travels much less frequently on weekends, with the last returning trip leaving Kennedy Plaza at 8:40pm on Sunday. Kennedy plaza is about a 5 minute walk from the convention center.
- Many hotels offer free shuttle service from the Providence Airport. You should call your hotel to see if they offer this.

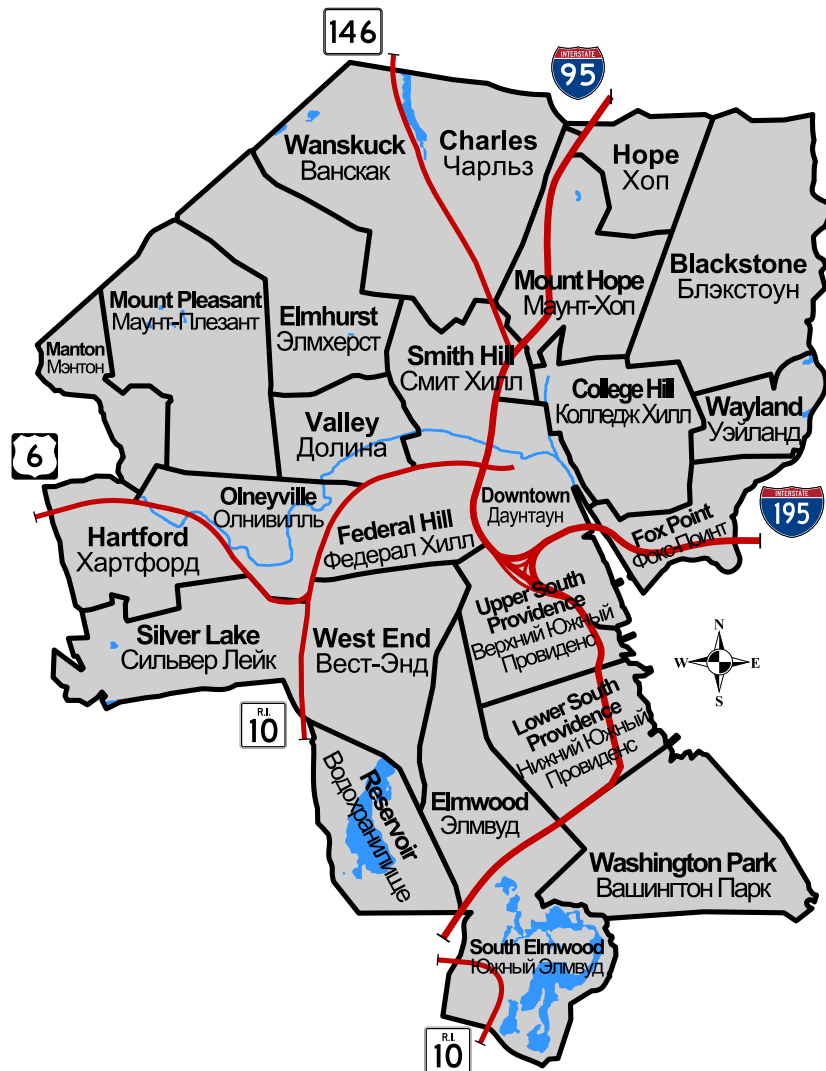
## 1.2 AMTRAK

[AMTRAK](#) also serves the Northeast region, and can be a cheaper alternative to flying, depending on where you’re coming from.

## 1.3 Driving, Parking, and Getting Around

The RI Convention Center is located right off I-95 and is easy to get to. Convention Center Parking is just \$10.00 a day. There is also metered street parking which can be pricey but it’s free after either 6 or 8pm (check the signs on the street). Most metered parking is free on Sundays. Check the signs to make sure. There are also spots with no meters and if you are lucky enough to find one, it’s free (It may be a decent walk though).

The bus can take you pretty much anywhere you want to go. If you are not staying within walking distance to the venue, just get on any bus heading towards Kennedy Plaza. From there, it’s a short walk to the convention center. The bus is \$2.00 per ride and \$0.50 for a transfer. If you plan on using the bus a lot, a day pass is \$6.00.



Providence neighborhoods. The convention center is Downtown and my favorite areas are the East Side (College Hill + Mount Hope + Blackstone + Wayland), and Federal Hill. Some of the other neighborhoods are better to stay away from at night, so plan ahead.

## 2 Where to Stay

The Grand Prix takes place at the RI Convention center, which is located downtown. There are lots of hotels downtown that are within walking distance of the venue such as the Omni, Hilton, Biltmore, Hampton Inn, and Courtyard Marriott, and more. They range in price from \$150-\$200/night, plus more for parking. If you are interested in hotels that connect to the convention center via sky-bridge (you will never have to go outside), the Omni and the Hilton are your hotels.

If you have a car, I recommend staying 5+ miles away from the venue. Warwick, Lincoln,

East Providence, and Seekonk, MA all have good options and range from \$70-\$100 per night and have free parking. Many of these hotels also offer free breakfast and WiFi. The convention center is easy to get to and there is very little traffic driving in. You can even take the bus, but be sure to check the schedules to make sure you arrive on time.

### 3 Where to Eat

Providence has amazing food. We are the home of Johnson and Wales University, one of the top culinary schools in the country and many graduates move on to become chefs in Providence.

Another positive thing about food in Providence is that many restaurants are open until 2am (1am on Sundays) I have been to many GPs where everything was shut down by 10, making the only food options after a long day McDonalds, but that's not the case in Providence.

#### 3.1 Near the Convention Center

If you are on a budget, the Providence Place Mall Food Court is the place to go. There are lots of options such as Johnny Rockets, Popeye's, Subway, Taco Bell, Chinese, sushi, and more. There is also an awesome grilled cheese place called CheeseBoy. For dessert, there's Pinkberry, Ben and Jerry's, Godiva, and lots more. The food court unfortunately closes at 9:30pm.

The mall also has lots of chain restaurants such as Fire and Ice, P.F. Changs, the Melting Pot, Uno's, and Cheesecake Factory.

If you want something more interesting, there is a trio of restaurants a few minutes walk from the venue. All are great places to eat with a group of pretty much any size:

- [Luxe Burger Bar](#) is awesome. You can build your own burger there and they have choices such as Angus Beef, Ahi Tuna, and even vegetarian options. You choose all of your toppings and bread. You can even choose GRILLED CHEESE as your bread!! \$12-20 range, open 'til midnight Friday and Saturday, 11pm other days.
- [Union Station Brewery](#) has a more varied menu, with sandwiches, steak, fish and chips, pizzas, etc. In case you didn't guess, they also have many special beers on tap. They're open until 2am Friday and Saturday, and midnight on other days.
- [Bar Louie](#) also great food and drinks of all types. Bar Louie is open until 2am Friday and Saturday, and 1am on other days.

Another excellent spot within a five minute walk of the convention center is [Ken's Ramen](#). I don't recommend going there with more than four people, since the space is small. It's also cash only, but they have an ATM inside. The wait is usually quite long, but the ramen is absolutely amazing.

If you are looking for good beer, check out [Trinity Brewhouse](#). It's practically across the street from the convention center and they have lots of award winning beers that you can only get in RI. They also have a full restaurant. <http://www.trinitybrewhouse.com/>

[Local 121](#) is another great restaurant, but it's more upscale and pricey.

## 3.2 Federal Hill

Little Italy is located on Atwells Ave. in Providence, about 10-15 minutes walk from the convention center. They have great Italian food of all price ranges. Try the [Providence Oyster Bar](#), [Mediterraneo](#), or [Andino's](#). For dessert, check out [Pastiche Fine Desserts Café](#). Federal Hill also offers Sushi, Mexican, and more. If you take a walk down that street, you will surely find something. There are usually long waits on weekends but most of the places are open pretty late (1-2am).

Two noteworthy pizza places on Atwells are [Sicilia's](#), and [Bob and Timmy's Grilled Pizza](#). Sicilia's specializes in Chicago Style Deep Dish pizza, but they have pretty much everything Italian. It's a great place to go with a large group.

Another excellent spot is [North Restaurant](#). This is the perfect place to go if you have a small group of people (2-4) who like to try new things. They have tons of small plates to share, all of which are absolutely amazing, and awesome drinks. The wait is sometimes long, but you can grab a drink across the street in [The Avery](#)

[Ogie's Trailer Park](#) is another cool spot on Federal Hill with good food and drinks. It is a 20 minute walk from the venue though.

Last, but certainly not least, [Kitchen](#) has the most amazing breakfast and brunch (you will never see bacon the same way again). If you find yourself available in the morning, this is the place to go. It's only a 10 minute walk from the Convention Center, but like many places on this list, be prepared to wait. Also, they can't seat more than a group of four, and they accept cash only.

## 3.3 College Hill

### 3.3.1 Thayer Street

Thayer St. is located right near the Brown University campus, a 20 minute walk from the convention center (in the neighborhood of College Hill) and it also has lots of food options. If you like Sushi, try [Shark Sushi Bar & Grille](#). It's pricey but delicious. There is also an award-winning falafel place called [East Side Pockets](#). There is also, of course, every Magic player's favorite restaurant, Chipotle. Most restaurants on Thayer St. are open til 2am Fridays and Saturdays which is great after working (or playing) a long day at the GP.

A great place to go with a group is [Flatbread Company](#). You can sit outside in good weather, and the flatbread is customizable and delicious.

After dinner, stop at [La Creperie](#). They have sweet and savory crepes, which make an excellent snack or dessert.

### 3.3.2 Wickenden Street

Wickenden St, also located on College Hill, is similar to Thayer St. They have tons of different restaurants. If you are free on Sunday, try the [Duck and Bunny](#) for brunch. They also have amazing cupcakes and desserts. It's a small, cute place and perfect if you are traveling with a significant other.

There's also have a great sushi place called [Sakura](#), which is BYOB (bring your own beverage).

A good place for pizza by the slice is [Fellini](#).

### 3.3.3 Hope Street

Hope street has a bunch of nice restaurants and cute shops, the downside is that it's about a 30 minute walk from the venue.

[The Wurst Kitchen](#) is a nice little spot on Hope Street that serves house-made German-style sausages. They are open for lunch and dinner, and you can choose to eat inside or outside (or sit in the park across the street!)

[Apsara Palace](#) is a great Chinese, Thai, and Cambodian restaurant with an extensive (but not expensive) menu. They are also BYOB.

If you are vegetarian (or just want vegetarian food) try [Garden Grille](#), or for Indian food, try [Rasoi](#). Both are good for small groups.

[Pizza Gourmet](#) is a great place to grab a slice of pizza if you are in the area.

## 3.4 A Couple More

I would me remiss if I didn't mention my favorite Mexican place in Providence, [Tallulah's](#). They're on the expensive side, but really delicious. They're also way too far to walk from the Convention Center, but if you're in the area, grab a taco or burrito, and you will not regret it.

There's also [Olneyville NY System](#), home of RI best hot wieners. Hot wieners are famous and only available in RI so check it out for the true RI experience. You can also get coffee milk, another special RI thing. It's basically chocolate milk, except with coffee syrup instead of chocolate syrup.

This food guide wouldn't be complete without mentioning Dunkin Donuts. Sure, you can find them everywhere in the Northeast, but Rhode Islanders love their Dunkin Donuts iced coffee. We even drink it in the wintertime. Our civic center is called the Dunkin Donuts

center for a reason! If you have never had an iced coffee from Dunkin Donuts, your visit to RI would not be complete without trying one.

## 4 Where to Play Magic

There are four Magic stores in Providence. In order of closest to furthest from the Convention Center:

- [Multiverse](#) has a 7pm standard FNM, but the space is only large enough for 16-20 people.
- [Mana Core](#) doesn't appear to currently host regular events.
- [Untapped Games](#) has a 4pm FNM draft and 7PM standard, with enough room for about 30 people.
- [Die Hard Games](#) runs an FNM draft at 4:30 and standard at 7:30. The store is very large.

## 5 More Fun Things to Do

The Providence Place Mall has a giant movie theater and Imax Theater. There is also a Dave and Busters. It closes at 2am (Midnight on Sundays).

[Providence Performing Arts Center](#)- Check their website for shows and times.

[Trinity Repertory Company](#), Rhode Island's regional theatre company.

Independently owned movie theaters: [The Avon](#) on Thayer St. and [Cable Car Cinema](#) on South Main St.

Shopping: [Providence Place Mall](#) has pretty much everything, but if you are looking for something different, check out the shops on Thayer St., Wickenden St., or Hope street. All three make nice walks .

Benefit Street, on college hill is another great place for a walk. It has many historical buildings, including the house of RI Governor Stephen Hopkins, who signed the Declaration of Independence.

If you're into running, Blackstone Boulevard, in the Blackstone neighborhood is the place to go. There's a running/walking path which makes a nice 5K lap.

For more information about Providence: <http://www.goprovidence.com/>