

Kidinfo Guide: 100+ Things To Do with Kids in Rhode Island

Plus bonus ideas in nearby MA and CT. (Revised and updated: May 2016)

Consider **100+ Things To Do with Kids in Rhode Island** Kidinfo's Bucket List, filled with things to do with your children before they grow up! Fun, food, culture, and history—all unique to our area: these are things we believe every young Rhode Islander should see and do.

For easy planning in any weather and any mood, our list is divided into four categories: Outdoor, Indoor, Food, and Close-to-RI-Favorites. We've included a note to let you know if the activity is FREE. (Always a bonus in our book!) **100+ Things To Do with Kids in Rhode Island** has been updated again in May of 2016 to incorporate fresh ideas from Kidinfo readers, and to remove items that have closed or changed since the list made its debut in 2009.

The guide is easy to use—print it out, check things off as you go, add date of visit, make notes, and add your own favorite spots!

outdoor

1. Visit [Roger Williams National Memorial](#) in Providence. Learn why the founder of Rhode Island was also a champion of the ideal of religious freedom. Bonus: Lovely spot for an outdoor picnic in season. (Free)
2. Stroll through [Swan Point Cemetery](#) in Providence, and find the resting place of famous souls like horror, fantasy, science-fiction writer H. P. Lovecraft. (Free)
3. Jump aboard the sunken ship *The Hannah* in Burnside Park (downtown Providence). Open all year long. (Free) Bonus: Attend Kidinfo Storytime and Art in the Park during July and August. (Free)
4. Tour downtown Providence sights from a new perspective with [Providence River Boat Company](#). Daytime, sunset, and Waterfire cruises available.
5. Watch the sunset over downtown Providence from Prospect Terrace. Park or hike to the top of Neutaconkanut Hill for another great view of the city. (Free)
6. Music! Enjoy [concerts at Waterplace Park](#) in downtown Providence. (Free)
7. Experience [Waterfire](#) in downtown Providence. Get there just before sunset to see the iconic bonfires as they are being lit. Take a [gondola ride](#) or [boat ride](#).
8. Explore [Slater Park](#) in Pawtucket to see the animals at Daggett Farm, ride the swan boats on the pond, enjoy the playground, and visit the home of the [Rhode Island Watercolor Society](#).
9. Visit the window displays of [Big Nazo Lab](#), located in downtown Providence at the corner of Eddy and Fulton Streets. If you're lucky, you may get a sneak peak inside. (Free)
10. Visit the original [Shepard Fairey mural](#) (commissioned by AS220 in 2010) painted on the side of the Pell Chafee Theatre on Aborn Street. (Free)
11. Make art and enjoy live music at [AS220's annual FooFest](#) in downtown Providence. Takes place over the course of one weekend each August.
12. Pack a picnic supper and dine on the lawn of the John Brown House in Providence while listening to [Concerts Under the Elms](#), Thursday evenings in the summer.
13. Visit the [Roger Williams Park Zoo](#) in Providence: meet the animals and play in the Big Backyard space.
14. Rent a swan paddle boat, canoe, kayak at [Roger Williams Park](#) in Providence.
15. Run in the breeze at [India Point Park](#) in Providence. Find the pirate ship in the 49-foot ceramic mural located near the playground. (Free)
16. Play at Dexter Park located next to the [Cranston Armory](#) in Providence. (Free)
17. Take a hike! Visit [Rhode Island Families in Nature](#) to choose from almost four dozen trails throughout Rhode Island. (Free)
18. Play the Rhode Island Farm Scavenger Hunt. Take a road trip and explore 28 of RI's 1,200 working farms. Visit www.RIFruitGrowers.org to download the map and clues or pick up a pamphlet at a participating farm.
 - Visit a real working dairy farm: [Wrights Dairy Farm and Bakery](#) in North Smithfield (Blackstone Valley).
 - Travel back in time by visiting a 1790s New England farm: [Coggeshall Farm Museum](#) in Bristol.
 - Visit [Casey Farm](#) in Saunterstown. (Free for Historic New England members and Saunterstown residents.)
 - Visit a working family farm: [Watson Farm](#) in Jamestown (Free for Historic New England members and Jamestown residents.)
 - Visit a real working farm: [Dame Farm and Orchards](#) in Johnston.

- Visit [Kenyon's Grist Mill](#) in Usquepaug. (Free with a food or clothing donation for the Jonny Cake Center.)
- Head to [Sweet Berry Farm](#) in Middletown to wander the grounds and pick various berries and apples. The beautiful market includes a café of prepared foods and baked goods.

19. Shop from a local farmer. Many outdoor farmer markets open May through November with a handful open indoors the remainder of the year. (Visit www.FarmFreshri.org for a complete list of markets.)
20. Go for a ride on the [East Bay bike path](#) from Providence to Bristol. (Free) Ice cream stops in Riverside, Warren, and Bristol. Visit <http://www.dot.ri.gov/community/bikeri/index.php> for a list of bike paths around the state. (Free)
21. Watch [Movies on the Block](#) outside on Thursday evenings (June-September) in downtown Providence. (Free)
22. Fly a kite at [Breton State Park](#) along Ocean Drive in Newport. Annual [Newport Kite Festival](#) in mid-July. (Free)
23. Visit [Touro Synagogue](#), America's oldest synagogue, in Newport.
24. Experience the [Newport Folk Festival](#) at Fort Adams State Park, first weekend in August.
25. Visit the [International Tennis Hall of Fame](#) in Newport.
26. Stroll the [Cliff Walk](#) in Newport and imagine living in the opulent mansions. (Free)
27. Spend the night at the [Rose Island Lighthouse](#) in Newport.
28. Spend the day at [Easton's Beach](#) in Newport. Enjoy the carousel, water slide, skateboard park, and playground.
29. Visit [Save the Bay Exploration Center & Aquarium](#) in Newport.
30. Pack a tailgate picnic and head to Glen Farms in Portsmouth for the [Newport International Polo Series](#). During timeouts, kids run on to the field to stomp down divots. Every Saturday evening in summer.
31. Check out the tide pools at [Beavertail State park](#) in Jamestown. (Free)
32. Visit a former military fort with a history dating back over two centuries at [Fort Wetherill State Park](#) in Jamestown. (Free)
33. Join URI Marine Scientists at [Fort Getty](#) in Jamestown on a summer day at low tide for a two-hour beach walk.
34. Visit the [Norman Bird Sanctuary](#) in Middletown.
35. Have a picnic at [Roger W. Wheeler State Beach](#) in Narragansett at sunset. (Free after 5pm)
36. Visit every [carousel in the Rhode Island](#) area: Crescent Park Loeff Carousel (East Providence), Flying Horse Carousel (Watch Hill), Slater Memorial Park Carousel (Pawtucket), Carousel Village, Roger Williams Park (Providence), Easton's Beach Carousel (Newport).
37. Explore [Green Animals Topiary Garden](#) in Portsmouth, the oldest and most northern topiary garden in the United States.
38. See [Shakespeare in the Park](#) during the summer in Wilcox Park in Westerly. (Free)
39. Visit a blue lobster at the [Audubon Environmental Education Center](#) in Bristol.
40. Welcome spring by attending [Daffodil Days](#) at [Blithewold Mansion](#) in Bristol. Bring your camera!
41. Take a hike up the old ski lift at [Diamond Hill Park](#) in Cumberland. (Free)
42. Book a group tour of the [Johnston Landfill](#).
43. Attend a [PawSox](#) youth clinic before the Red Sox minor league baseball team's game in Pawtucket. (The clinic is free. Tickets required for game.)
44. Go bouldering in [Lincoln Woods](#). (Free)
45. Watch a film at the [Rustic Tri-View Drive-In](#), Rte 146, North Smithfield. Open May through September.
46. [Pick your own berries](#), and make your own jam.
47. Visit the [Chapel-By-The-Sea](#) in Colt State Park in Bristol. (Free)
48. Visit the [Kettle Pond Visitor Center](#) in Charlestown.
49. Visit the shops, feed the animals, and picnic at the [Fantastic Umbrella Factory](#) in Charlestown. (Admission is free.)
50. Swim, fish, play, or go boating at Ninigret Park in Charlestown. Visit the [Frosty Drew Observatory](#) on Friday evenings to get closer to the night sky.
51. Go camping in Hope Valley's [Arcadia Management Area](#).
52. Step back into history and explore [Smith's Castle](#) in Wickford.
53. Swim at the [Spring Lake Beach Facility](#) and play in the arcade in Burrillville.
54. Go fishing at [Sabin Point Park](#) in East Providence. (Free)
55. Take the ferry round trip to [Block Island](#) for the day.
56. Visit the [Jamestown Fire Department Memorial Museum](#) in Jamestown.
57. Have a picnic at [Goddard State Park](#) in Warwick. (Free)
58. Ride the [Prudence Island Ferry](#) round trip from Bristol for a [delightful daytrip](#).
59. Go on a seal watch. See [Harbor seals in Narragansett Bay](#). View seals from Rome Point from October through April at low tide. (Free)
60. Visit the [Biomes Marine Biology Center](#) in North Kingstown.
61. Visit the [tiny pirate playground](#) in Warren. (Free) Followed by ice cream at [Imagine](#).
62. Visit the [imPossible Dream Playground](#) in Warwick. (Free)
63. Journey with [Blackstone River Cruises](#) to learn about the river's Industrial Revolution past and recovery to vibrant ecosystem. Stay overnight on a canal boat.

64. Cool off at the [Waterpark at Yawgoo Valley](#) in Exeter.
65. Visit the [Washington County Fair](#) in Richmond during one long weekend in mid-August.
66. Go ice skating [outdoors](#) during the winter or [indoors](#) during the summer.
67. Play at [Adventureland](#) in Narragansett, including mini-golf, bumper boats, go-karts, batting cages and a carousel.
68. Walk along spectacular ocean views on a natural “cliff walk” at [Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge](#) and check out the visitor center, just up the road from [Second Beach](#) in Middletown.

indoor

70. Visit [RISD Museum of Art](#) and think like an explorer. Find the mummy or hunt for food motifs. (Free on Sundays and third Thursday of the month.)
71. Visit the [Edna Lawrence Nature Lab](#), just around the corner from the RISD museum. See an amazing variety of specimens on display, including birds, bears and bones. (Free.)
72. Visit the [Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology](#) in Providence.
73. Visit the [Museum of Natural History](#) and [Cormack Planetarium](#) in Providence.
74. Enjoy films from around world, and learn about filmmaking at the annual [Providence Children’s Film Festival](#). Takes place during the month of February. (Each year, some screenings are free.)
73. Visit the children’s room in one of America’s oldest libraries: [Providence Athenaeum](#) on Benefit Street in Providence. (Free.)
74. See a show at [Providence Performing Arts Center](#) (PPAC) in Providence. Check the schedule to attend the brown bag lunch organ concert series. (Free.)
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77. Cheer on the [P-Bruins](#) at a hockey game in Providence.
78. Watch an [IMAX](#) movie at Providence Place Mall.
79. Watch [children’s films](#) at [Cinemaworld](#) in Lincoln every morning at 10AM, all summer long. (Children are FREE.)
80. Enjoy a garden oasis all year long at the [Botanical Center](#) in Roger Williams Park in Providence.
81. Take the [Underdog Tour](#). Visit all the Providence locations used in the film. (Free)
82. Visit the [Johnson and Wales Culinary Museum](#) on the Providence-Cranston line. (Scheduled to reopen September, 2014.)
83. See [Kaleidoscope Children’s Theatre](#) at Scottish Rite Auditorium in Cranston. Tuesdays during July and August.
84. Go duckpin bowling (no ducks involved). Find a list of Rhode Island Duckpin bowling alleys at [The Rhode Less Traveled](#).
85. Attend story time any time of year at [Barrington Books](#), [Books on the Square](#), or your favorite library. (Free)
86. Children provide the power and operate miniature machinery in the Apprentice Alcove at [Slater Historic Mill](#) the birthplace of the industrial revolution in Pawtucket.
87. Learn why we honor Gilbert Stuart by visiting the [Gilbert Stuart Birthplace & Museum](#) in Saunderstown.
88. Visit the [Museum of Work and Culture](#) in Woonsocket.
89. See a show at [Stadium Theater Performing Arts Centers](#) in Woonsocket.
90. Enjoy local food, community, and often music from November through May at the [Pawtucket Wintertime Farmers Market](#) at Hope Artiste Village.
91. Jump for joy at an indoor trampoline park: [Skyzone](#) in East Providence and [Launch](#) in Warwick.
92. Strap on skates and roll to the tunes at [United Skates of America](#) in Rumford.
93. Take in a dynamic show with Providence’s young talent at [Everett’s Friday Night Live](#) (all ages improv comedy Fridays at 7 PM – break during summer) and [Manton Avenue Project](#), where local actors perform plays written by young playwrights.

food

94. Eat gelato from [Venda](#) in DePasquale Plaza in Providence. (In summer, eat near the fountain.)
95. Have wood-grilled pizza at the legendary [Bob and Timmy’s](#) in Providence. Eat more yummy pizza at the recent pizza additions to the city: [Flatbread Pizza Company](#) or [Providence Coal Fired Pizza](#).
96. Have ice cream at [Gray’s](#) or [The Daily Scoop](#) on Thames Street in Bristol.

97. Buy a house made hotdog from [The Worst Window](#) at Chez Pascal — take it to go to enjoy by the fountain in Lippitt Park in Providence.
98. Eat crepes or cupcakes at the [Duck & Bunny](#). Eat out in the back garden, weather permitting.
99. Have a food truck lunch or dinner. Use [this link](#) to find a list of trucks and their routes.
100. Have supper at [Champlins](#).
101. Enjoy live music and a fun meal at [Buster Krab's Burger Shack and Beach Bar](#) in Narragansett.
102. Order a coffee cabinet at [Delekta Pharmacy](#) in Warren.
103. Have a [Del's lemonade](#). Find the Del's nearest you with the tool on [this page](#).
104. Have breakfast or lunch at [Crazy Burger](#) in Narragansett.
105. Buy lobster off the boat in [Point Judith](#) in Narragansett.
106. Have clam cakes at [Aunt Carrie's](#) in Point Judith in Narragansett.
107. Buy pie at [Schartner Farms](#) in Exeter.
108. Have a lobster roll at [Blount Clam Shack](#) on the waterfront in Warren, or at Crescent Park by the carousel in Riverside.
109. Devour homemade ice cream and visit the cows at the original [Gray's](#) in Tiverton.
110. Have lunch at [Stanley's](#) in Central Falls, open since 1932.
111. Have a doughboy and walk the beach at [Iggys](#) in Warwick (open year round) or in Narragansett (seasonal).
112. Have breakfast at the classic [Modern Diner](#) in Pawtucket.
113. Sample RI's favorite donuts at [Allie's Donuts](#).

close-to-Rhode Island

Many [free or discount passes](#) are available at the library.

Connecticut

- Visit the [Navy Submarine Force Museum](#) in Groton, CT. (Free)
- Watch the [drawbridge raise and lower](#) for boats in downtown Mystic, CT. (Free)
- Bonus: Toy store, ice cream, playground all nearby!
- Visit [Mystic Seaport](#) in Mystic, CT.
- Visit the [Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center](#) in Mashantucket, CT.
- Visit [Mystic Aquarium](#) in Mystic, CT.

Massachusetts

- Pick-your-own seasonal flowers, berries, pumpkins, and more at [Four Town Farm](#) in Seekonk, MA.
- Visit [Battleship Cove](#) in Fall River, MA.
- Visit the [New Bedford Whaling Museum](#) in New Bedford, MA.
- Visit [Old Sturbridge Village](#) in Sturbridge, MA.
- Visit [Plymouth Plantation](#) in Plymouth, MA.
- Visit the [Discovery Museums](#) in Acton, MA.
- Visit the [Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art](#) in Amherst, MA.
- Visit the [Ecotarium: Museum of Science and Nature](#) in Worcester, MA.
- Zoom! Car racing and bumper boats at the [Grand Prix](#) in Seekonk.
- For even noisier, faster fun, watch a race or demolition derby at [Seekonk Speedway](#). You might get dirty.
- Visit [PaperHouse](#), a house made ONLY of paper, in Rockport, MA.
- Visit [Nash Dino Land](#) in South Hadley, MA.
- Visit the [Museum of Science](#) in Boston, MA. (Free with your Roger Williams Park Zoo membership.)
- Visit the [Boston Children's Museum](#) in Boston, MA. (Free with Providence Children's Museum membership!)
- Learn how ice cream is made at [Bliss Dairy](#) in Attleboro, MA.
- Visit [deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum](#) in Lincoln, MA
- Visit [Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary](#) in Lincoln, MA for trails, farmyards, and play spaces.
- Explore the Adventure Park and Hidden Hollow at [Heritage Museums and Gardens](#) in Sandwich, MA.
- Scramble across glacial rock formations at [Purgatory Chasm](#) in Sutton, MA. (Free)
- Visit nearby zoos in Massachusetts: [Southwick's Zoo](#) in Mendon, [Capron Park Zoo](#) in Attleboro, and [Buttonwood Park Zoo](#) in New Bedford.