



## Preconference Activities

**Newport Mansion Tour:** <http://www.newportmansions.org/index.cfm> (approximately 45 minutes from Providence)

The Preservation Society of Newport County, Rhode Island's largest cultural organization, preserves and protects the best of Newport County's architectural heritage. Its 11 historic properties and landscapes – seven of which are National Historic Landmarks – trace America's architectural and social development from the Colonial era through the Gilded Age. In keeping with its mission, the Society strives to offer its members and the public a comprehensive view of each property's architecture, interiors, landscapes and social history.

Tickets for 20 or more individuals can be purchased at \$20 to tour 3 mansions or \$26 for 5 mansions. Individual ticket prices are \$31/person for 5 mansions.

**Boston's Freedom Trail Historic Tour:** <http://www.thefreedomtrail.org/> (approximately 45 minutes from Providence)

A *Walk Into History* walking tour is the best way for a small or large group to experience the Freedom Trail. Led by an 18th Century Costumed Guide, the 90-minute tour mixes humor, history and fun. Be transported back in time to the days of the American Revolution and have a hands-on revolutionary experience. The tour can be tailored to your group or you can take the standard walking tour. Standard tour does not include entrance to Freedom Trail sites which charge admission (Old South Meeting House, Old State House and Paul Revere House.) Dates, times and departure points can be customized for your group. Individuals can do a self-guided walking tour at no charge.

**Rhode Island Light House Tour:** <http://www.rhodeislandbaycruises.com/> (25 minutes from Providence)

This sightseeing cruise is a one-of-a-kind tour featuring 10 of the most picturesque lighthouses in Rhode Island. You will board the Millennium catamaran which offers first-class amenities and three viewing levels; as you cruise through Narragansett Bay and past the featured Lighthouses you will also sail past 10 islands, many other other sights as well a complete Newport Harbor Tour. This truly the best way to see Narragansett Bay!

**Pawtucket Red Sox:** <http://web.minorleaguebaseball.com/index.jsp?sid=t533>

This is the minor league team of the Boston Red Sox. They do have a home game on Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:05 p.m. against Syracuse. Group tickets for 25 or more are \$5.50 for general admission, individual tickets are \$10.00 for general admission.

There is also a home game on Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:05 p.m.

**Boston Red Sox:** [http://boston.redsox.mlb.com/index.jsp?c\\_id=bos](http://boston.redsox.mlb.com/index.jsp?c_id=bos) (approximately 45 minutes from Providence)

There is a home game of the Red Sox on Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup> against Kansas City. The time is TBD. Also the State Farm Home Run Derby is at 4:00 p.m.

**Roger Williams Park Zoo:** <http://www.rwpzoo.org/> (right in Providence)

Adults are \$12.00; Children \$6.00 Groups of 10 or more are \$10.00/adults; \$5.00/children

**Providence Children's Museum:** <http://www.childrenmuseum.org/>

Admission is \$7.50/person Open 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. seven days a week. Highly recommended.

**Providence Heritage Trail:** <http://www.visitrhodeisland.com/what-to-do/heritage-trails/providence-heritage-trail/>

**Providence Federal Hill:** <http://www.providencefederalhill.com/>

Bring your appetite to Rhode Island's authentic Italian restaurants on Providence's Federal Hill. There are more Italian restaurants on this mile-long stretch than in Manhattan's Little Italy. When you are filled to the groaning point, stroll along the neighborhood's sidewalks and mellow outdoor piazzas and shops. Federal Hill is the "Heartbeat of Providence.

**Providence Athenaeum:** <http://www.providenceathenaeum.org/>

A gem of a private library built in 1753, the Athenaeum has a wide-ranging collection of travel books. (It's open to the public, but only members may withdraw books). It also has a tragic romantic story attached to it. Poet Sarah Helen Whitman was a widow and six years Edgar Allen Poe's senior. The two had corresponded before they met in Providence and a passionate love affair ensued. "Your hand rested in mine, and my whole soul shook with a tremulous ecstasy," he wrote. He proposed; she said not until he gave up drinking. He could not, they separated, and Poe ended up dying destitute the following year. Whitman dedicated herself to keeping his memory alive and his work in high esteem.