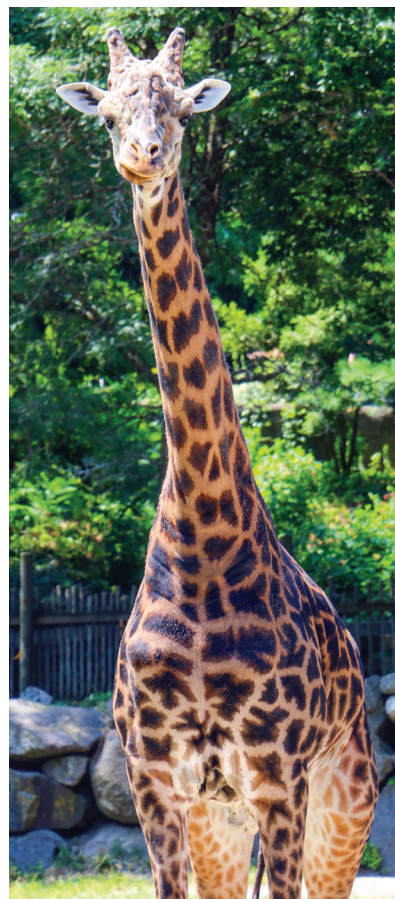


Roger Williams Park Zoo

PROVIDENCE, R.I.

With more than 160 species, plus thousands of jack-o'-lanterns, this is a wild fall hangout.



Visit the Roger Williams Park Zoo this time of year and your eyes are immediately drawn to the trees. There's something orange hanging from the limbs, and not just the resident golden lion tamarins. With Halloween in the offing, jack-o'-lanterns are making an appearance (this year's theme is 75 years of television; open nightly Sept. 29–Oct. 31), adding to the wonder to be discovered within Roger Williams Park Zoo's 435 acres. Amongst that wonder: moon bears, a Komodo dragon, red pandas, and, of course, tamarins.

This 40-acre attraction, now celebrating its 150th anniversary, is the third-oldest zoo in the nation. A great starting point for bird's-eye views 115 feet above the property is the two-seater Soaring Eagle Zip Ride. This area features the Woodlands Express train ride, along with the Hasbro Great

Backyard playground with features like its Drip Drop Water Garden and Sticks & Stones Building Zone.

Say howdy-do to long-horned ankole-watusi cattle, wildebeest, zebras and cheetahs during a visit to "Africa." Swimming elephants can be spotted in their yard or taking a dip, and just next door, Masai giraffes peer through the treetops.

Doing underwater loop-de-loops in the *Faces of the Rainforest* exhibit are Romo and Fernando, South American giant river otters. Be on the lookout for titi and howler monkeys, Chilean flamingos, tropical fish, toucan and an anteater that, if curled up and napping, might look like a pile of leaves. Don't let the day slip away without meeting the zoo's snow leopards, bison and oh so many more fascinating creatures.

Also worth checking out in the park: the Carousel Village to ride the ponies giving chase round the historic carousel, the famous Swan Paddleboats awaiting to whisk adventurers across the lake, the Botanical Center, home to New England's largest glasshouse display garden and four year-round greenhouses, and the Museum of Natural History and Planetarium with exhibits of creatures great and small.

— BEKAH WRIGHT

1000 Elmwood Ave., Providence, R.I.,
401-785-3510, rwpzoo.org

IN THE AREA

WHERE TO EAT: Word is that **Pot au Feu Bistro** (potaufeu.com), a 1972-established French bistro in Providence's historic downtown, was a favorite dining spot of Julia Child. This is the place to appease cravings for bouillabaisse Marseilles and the duck dish caneton framboise.

CAN'T-MISS ATTRACTION: Many may be familiar with the Rhode Island School of Design but might not know about its sister venue, the **RISD Museum** (risdmuseum.org). Six designated galleries include decorative arts and design, European, ancient Greek and Roman, ancient Egyptian, 18th- and 19th-century American, and Asian art.

HIDDEN GEM: A great way to gain insight into the lives and contributions of early Black Rhode Islanders is through **Providence Walks** (goprovidence.com/things-to-do/providence-walking-tours), which offers a 20-stop, self-guided tour. Include a visit to the **Stages of Freedom Historical Center** (stagesoffreedom.org) to tour the museum, catch a film screening, and for performances from the Jazz is a Rainbow teen ensemble.

