

Van Miller's Guide to
Great Dives

Jimmie, Jeff, Casey, and Junior
The Greatest Sports Team Ever

Charlotte

ESCAPE

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Great Getaways for Every Month of the Year

AUGUST

Providence

WHY GO NOW Beat the Southern heat—it's much cooler in New England than Charlotte in August.

It's a good bet that Charlotte will be hot this summer given that temps hit 80 in December (damn your prophecies, Al Gore!). So head north to Providence, a city chock-full of New England's history and funny accents, but without all the traffic.

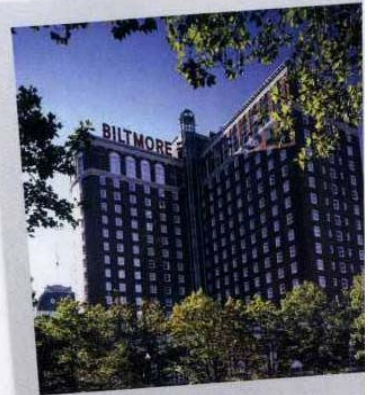
Book a room at **The Biltmore** (11 Dorrance St., 401-421-0700, www.providencebiltmore.com, \$139 and up), a fixture in the Rhode Island city since 1922, and you'll be within walking distance of the delicious pomme frites at the **Bravo Brasserie** (123 Empire St., 401-490-5112, www.bravobrasserie.com) and the home-style meatloaf of **DownCity** (50 Weybosset St., 401-331-9217, www.downcityfood.com). Thanks to the **Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)**, the city's major artist population has spawned a slew of craft and furniture shops. Stroll a few blocks to Westminster Street and check out the cool

clock collection at **Bowl and Board** (217 Westminster St., 401-521-0504, www.bowlandboard.com) and the jewelry at the hipster-friendly **RISD Works** (10 Westminster St., 401-277-4949, www.risdworks.com), which features items from the schools' alums and faculty.

If you're looking for a beach with sand that hasn't reached molten temperature, take a forty-five-minute detour south to the beaches at **Narragansett** or **Newport**. But be sure to make it back for dinner in the **Federal Hill** section of town—ubiquitous chef Mario Batali called it "One of the Top Ten Little Italys in America"—a spot packed with family-owned restaurants like **Costantino's Ristorante & Caffè** (DePasquale Plaza, 265 Atwells Ave., 401-528-1100, www.vendaravioli.com).

Plan your trip to align with one of the city's many summer **WaterFire** events—which feature 100 bonfires lit on installations atop the city's three rivers. A riverside stroll admiring the flames is a perfect way to end an evening.

—D. M.



The Biltmore
Hotel

TRAVEL FILE

- Twenty percent of the country's National Historic Landmarks are found in Rhode Island, thirteen in Providence alone.
- The **Culinary Archives & Museum at Johnson & Wales University** features cooking utensils from as far back as 5,000 years ago.

From top: Stay at the Biltmore Hotel; view one of Providence's spectacular WaterFire events, which run throughout much of the summer.

