

**PHYSCON 2019: Make Waves & Break Boundaries**  
**November 14 - 16, 2019**

**FAQ Guide**

The 2019 Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Congress (PhysCon) will bring together over 1500 physics and astronomy students, alumni, and faculty members for three days of frontier physics and astronomy, interactive workshops, tours, panels, career development, and networking. It is the largest gathering of undergraduate physics and astronomy students in the world! The event is hosted by Sigma Pi Sigma, the physics honor society, and anyone interested in physics and astronomy is invited to attend.

**QUICK FACTS:**

**Location:** Downtown Providence, RI - Rhode Island Convention Center

**Dates:** November 14-16, 2019

**Headquarter Hotel:** Omni Providence

**Quick facts:** 5 Plenaries, 20+ breakouts, 2 poster sessions, career & graduate school fair, and tours!

**2019 PhysCon Website:** <https://www.sigmapisigma.org/sigmapisigma/congress/2019>

**2019 PhysCon Mobile App:** Check the PhysCon 2019 website in the Spring

**Pre-Congress Contacts:**

Vanessa J Bridges: [vbridges@aip.org](mailto:vbridges@aip.org) (301) 209-3122

SPS National Main Office: [SPS@aip.org](mailto:SPS@aip.org) (301) 209-3007

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

- Chapter Engagement Project Registration Opens: **March 4, 2019**
- Early Bird Congress & Tour Registration Opens: **OPEN NOW**
- Omni Providence Hotel Reservations Opens: **OPEN NOW**
- Early Bird Ends: **October 3, 2019**
- General Registration: **October 4 - 25, 2019**
- Workshop & Tour Pre-registration Closes: **October 11, 2019**
- Omni Providence Hotel Cutoff Date: **October 17, 2019**
- Late/Onsite Registration starts: **November 13, 2019**

**TRANSPORTATION:**

**Train:** The Conference Hotel, the Omni Providence, is a 10-minute walk (0.1 miles) from Providence Station, which has Amtrak/T Train.

**Trains:** Local & Regional Transit Options [MBTA Commuter Rail](#)

Click [HERE](#) for a printable guide.

700 Jefferson Blvd. Warwick, RI 0286

800-392-6100

[Providence Train Station](#)

100 Gaspee Street, Providence, RI 02907

Tickets and Reservations – AMTRAK : (800) USA-RAIL

Station services and baggage: (401) 727-7388

[Amtrak](#) : (800) 872-7245

**Air:** Conference Hotel, the Omni Providence, is a 15–20 minute drive (10 miles) from T.F. Green Airport

Additionally, Logan International Airport (Boston) is easily accessible and might be your least expensive option, as Boston is a major airport. Once in Boston, train travel from Boston to Providence is available and very reasonably priced. Look for fare information at [www.mbta.com](http://www.mbta.com). South Station is the closest stop to the airport and easily accessible and free using the Silver Line. Details here: <http://www.massport.com/logan-airport/to-from-logan/transportation-options/taking-the-t/>



**Airport Pick-up:** Airport Taxis are located on the outer curb after exiting the lower level of the airport. Airport Taxi: (401) 737-2868

**Rideshare:** Lyft and Uber are available at T. F. Green

LYFT Pick-Up Instructions and Location for LYFT (Arriving Passengers): <https://www.lyft.com/>  
Arriving Passengers using LYFT may only be picked up in the area designated for TNCs. The designated pick-up area is located in a purple, enclosed shelter within “Lot D”, located directly outside the Lower Level Arrivals/Baggage Claim area of the terminal. Passengers should follow the purple signage located outside the Lower Level of the terminal directing passengers to the “Lot D” pick-up location.

The UBER pick up is located through garages A and B in its own parking garage area. Walk there before calling; typically, there are drivers already waiting. <https://www.uber.com/airports/pvd/>

**Rhode Island Convention Center (RICC):** One Sabin Street, Providence, RI 02903  
It is connected to the Omni Providence Hotel

### **PhysCon 2019 Registration: 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

The Rhode Island Convention Center (RICC) is one of New England’s premier meeting and exhibition facilities. Located in the heart of downtown Providence, the RICC is conveniently connected to our 2019 Congress hotel, the Omni Providence Hotel, and within walking distance to restaurants, shops, art galleries, night clubs, museums and more.

### **Parking:**

Looking for secure, convenient and cost-efficient parking in the City of Providence? The Rhode Island Convention Center (RICC) offers a parking facility that is easily accessible from all major highways and is connected to RICC, the Dunkin’ Donuts Center, the Omni Hotel and the Providence Place Mall. We boast a state-of-the-art security system and a professionally trained staff, which translates into the most secure place to park in the City of Providence.

- Easy in/out parking
- 2,400 parking spaces
- 33 handicapped parking spaces
- 24/7 camera monitoring
- 24/7 on-site roving security personnel
- 22 emergency call boxes
- Superior lighting
- Color coded locations



### Parking Rates

Daily rates are available.

Enter the facility at or after 7:00AM and exit by midnight. Otherwise, hourly rates apply.

Overnight Rate: \$20

We are a 24/7 facility. Our Overnight Rate increments to a maximum of \$20 per each 24-hour period.

Hourly Rates range from \$5 - \$20

Early Bird Rate: For information regarding our Early Bird Program please call 401.458.6339.

Lost Ticket Fee: \$22

**Omni Providence Hotel:** 1 West Exchange Street, Providence, RI 02903

**Open for Reservations: OPEN NOW**

<https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/providence/meetings/sigma-pi-sigma-2019-physics-congress>

**Omni Central Reservations Phone Number:** 402-952-6646

**Reservation Code:** SIGMA PI SIGMA

**HOTEL RESERVATION CUT OFF DATE:** October 17, 2019

### Hotel Highlights:

- Non-smoking luxury hotel
- 564 luxurious [guest rooms](#)
- Heated indoor pool
- The Capital Club Fitness Center
- [On-site restaurants](#)
- Within walking distance of Brown University, Rhode Island School of Design and Providence College
- Valet parking at Omni Providence Hotel
- Self-parking at the Rhode Island Convention Center
- Connected to Rhode Island Convention Center, Dunkin' Donuts Center, and Providence Place Mall



**Transportation:** (See above for airport/train transportation)

- The hotel is a 10-minute walk from Providence Amtrak Station
- The hotel concierge can arrange car rental, limousine or town car service
- The hotel is a 15–20-minute drive (10 miles) from T.F. Green Airport
- Providence Station – .12 miles
- Martha's Vineyard Port – 10 miles
- Logan International Airport (Boston) – 50 miles

**Getting around town:**

Rideshare services Lyft and Uber are available.

For shorter distances, there are also JUMP

bikes available through the Uber app - electric bikes that can be used throughout most of downtown

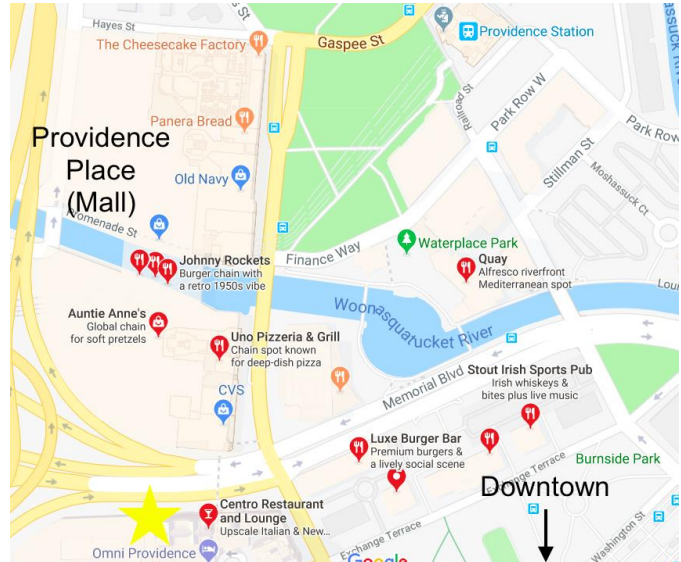
Providence for only \$2 for half an hour. Providence has a lot of narrow, not-very-bikeable streets, so it's

probably not advisable to use this service downtown at night, but for outside of the main downtown

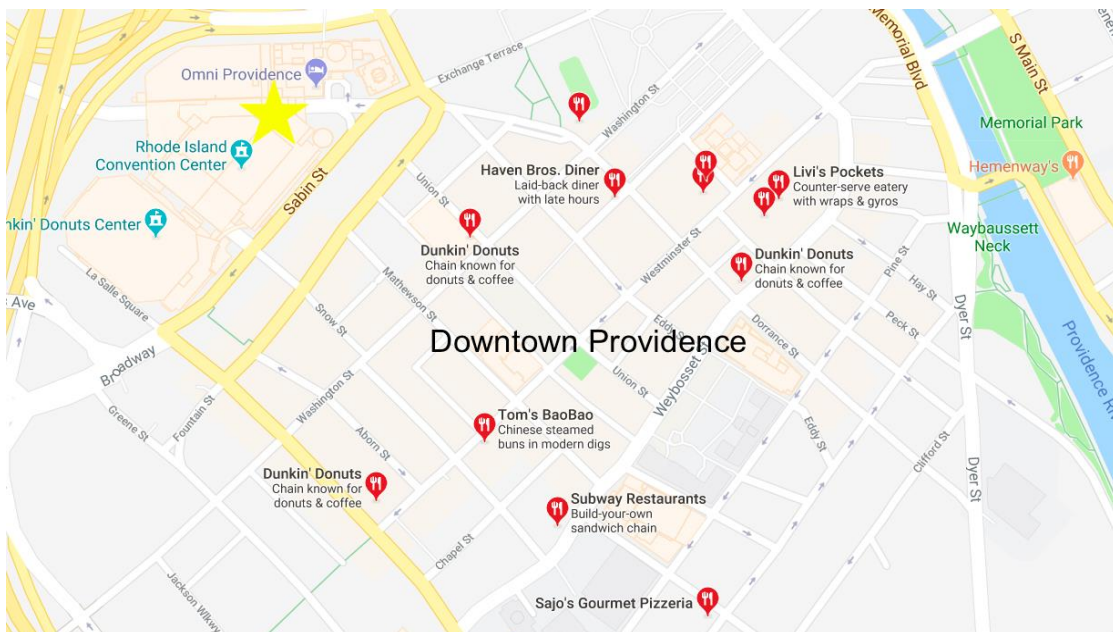
area or during the day it's a great affordable way to get around. For further distances, Rhode Island has

a statewide bus system called the RIPTA, which is available through the app Transit, which is available on

Google Play and the App Store.

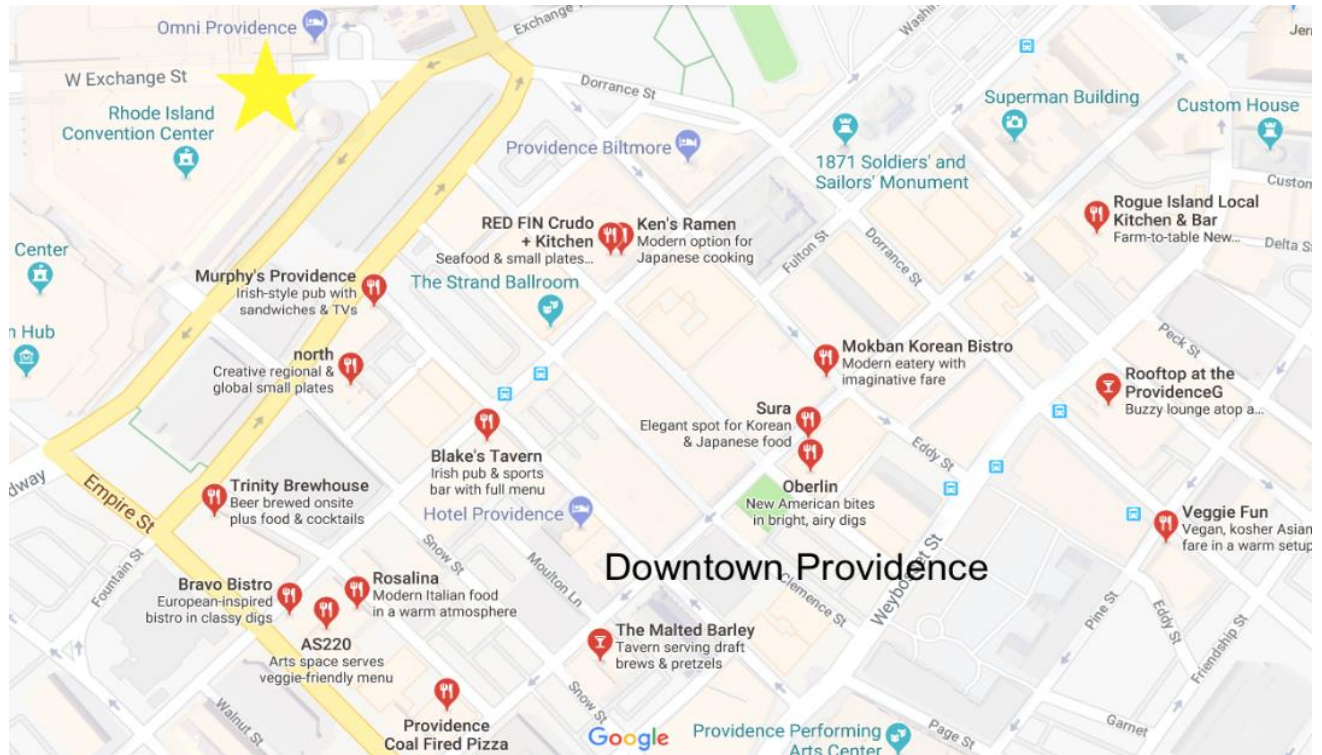


Map 1:: Dining Closest to Hotel/Convention Center (Updated 10/18)



Map 2: Casual Dining Closest to Hotel/Convention Center (Updated Sept. 2018)

## Downtown:



Map 3: Downtown Restaurant Map (updated 10/2018)

## Restaurants near Downtown and Brown University:

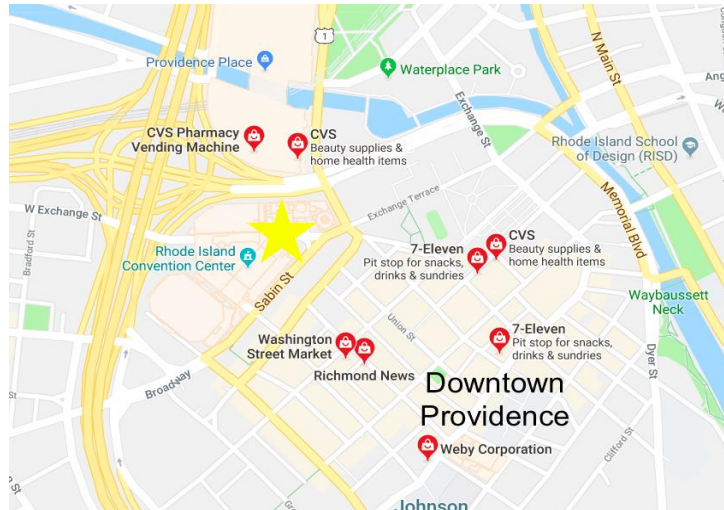
- Veggie Fun (\$\$)
- The Eddy (\$\$)
- Fortnight Wine Bar (\$\$)
- Capriccio (\$\$\$)
- Rogue Island Local Kitchen and Bar (\$\$)
- Providence GPub (\$\$)
- The Salon (\$)
- Bar Louie (\$\$)
- Tom's Baobao (\$)
- Small Point Café (\$)
- Stout Irish Sports Pub (\$\$)
- Union Station Brewery (\$\$)
- The Malted Barley (\$\$)
- AS220 (\$)
- Trinity Brewhouse (\$\$)
- Mokban Korean Bistro (\$\$)
- Murphy's Providence (\$\$)
- The Boombox (\$\$)

## Notes from local SPS Chapter Brown University:

Downtown: Veggie Fun is pan-asian restaurant that serves vegan and kosher options that's only an 8-minute walk from the Omni hotel. AS220 is a combination restaurant/community arts space that supports a lot of local non-profit work, though it's only open Tuesday through Saturday. It's about 7-minutes from the Omni. Mokban is an authentic, family-run Korean restaurant that's a 6-minute walk from the Omni. Tom's Baobao is a fast, counter-serve Chinese restaurant, apparently known for having really good dumplings, that is an 8-minute walk from the Omni, though they also offer delivery through Grubhub. Capriccio was also recommended as a higher-end option - they're fairly pricey and it's

recommended you dress up a little, but they serve really good Italian food and are an 11-minute walk from the Omni. A local favorite café is the Small Point Cafe.

Near Brown University campus: Some local favorites include Baja's (a build-your-own taco place that's open until 1:45 in the morning), Chinatown (a Chinese restaurant that's good but also very affordable, open until 2AM), and Pokeworks (a build-your-own poke bowl shop - poke is a native hawaiian dish with fish and



Map 4: Pharmacy/Convenience Stores (updated 10/2018)

vegetables), all of which are on Thayer street which runs right through campus and is no more than a ten minute walk from anywhere on campus. For breakfast/cafe options, we'd recommend Blue State Coffee (an eco-friendly coffee shop that's on Thayer and is a great place to sit and work), Brickway on Wickenden (a local sit-down breakfast place with bottomless coffee and really good French toast that's a few blocks south of campus), Louie's (a local place with a vibe is open starting at 5AM which is really its claim to fame), and Bagel Gourmet (a grab-and-go bagel shop on South campus that's also really affordable).

#### Best Places for Coffee/Tea (within walking distance/Downtown):

- Bolt Coffee:  
122 Fountain Street  
The Dean Hotel, Providence, RI  
Open M-Sat 7AM – 4PM, Sun 7AM – 2PM
- Small Point Cafe:  
230 Westminster St, Providence, RI  
Monday 7am - 5pm  
Tuesday - Wednesday 7am - 6:30pm  
Thursday - Friday 7am - 7:30pm  
Saturday 7:30am - 7:30pm  
Sunday 8am - 6:30pm (free parking on the street)
- New Harvest Coffee and Spirits:  
130 Westminster St, Providence, RI  
Mon – Wed 7am – 10pm  
Th – Fri 7am – 12 midnight  
Sat 9am – 12 midnight  
Sun noon-5pm
- White Electric Coffee:  
711 Westminster St, Providence, RI  
Monday - Friday: 7am — 6:30pm  
Saturday: 8am — 4pm  
Sunday: 9am — 4pm

#### Local Attractions:

- Athenæum - 251 Benefit St, Providence, RI 02903 <https://providenceathenaeum.org/>  
The Providence Athenæum is an independent, member-supported library and cultural center located on Providence's historic Benefit Street. Over its nearly 200 years of existence, the library

has welcomed illustrious writers, spirited thinkers, and energetic community members through its doors to engage in reading, conversation, and debate. At its heart, the Athenæum encourages a love of reading and learning to all.

“Beautiful historic library with a really well-curated collection of books and some good work spaces” – Brown University SPS chapter

- Brown University: 1 Prospect St, Providence, RI  
Just outside of Downtown
- Water Place Park and Riverwalk - Memorial Boulevard, Providence, RI  
Watch a street artist sketching the city, enjoy a lovely stroll by the river past Venice inspired bridges or see some wonderful public art, all at this well-designed four-acre park and scenic Riverwalk, considered to be the heart of the restoration of Providence's downtown area.  
Within walking distance from hotel
- Providence Performing Arts Center - 220 Weybosset St, Providence, RI  
Located Downtown - <https://www.ppacri.org/>
- Rhode Island School of Design Museum of Art - 224 Benefit St, Providence, RI  
<https://risdmuseum.org/>  
Museum Tuesdays–Sundays, 10 am-5 pm  
Third Thursdays open until 9 pm  
RISD Works Tuesdays–Sundays, 10 am-5 pm
- Benefit Street  
A mile of history is packed onto this cobblestone street lined with historic buildings. The Nightingale-Brown House, built in 1792, home to five generations of the Nicholas Brown Family (of Brown University) is a "must see" on the block.  
<https://www.visitrhodeisland.com/listing/benefit-streets-mile-of-history/97/>
- Rhode Island State House - 82 Smith St, Providence, RI  
This imposing marble building houses King Charles' 1663 charter of the Rhode Island colony.  
<http://sos.ri.gov/divisions/Civics-And-Education/State-House-Tour>
- Historic Federal Hill - short drive from the hotel/downtown  
Sip a strong espresso at an outdoor cafe, grab a quick pizza for lunch, or dine in style at a gourmet Italian restaurant in this historic section of the city, also known as Little Italy. You'll know you have arrived by the huge arched gateway, with a bronzed pinecone, which marks the entry to the neighborhood. <http://federalhillprov.com/about/>
- Museum of Natural History and Planetarium - 1000 Elmwood Ave, Providence, RI 02907  
The Museum of Natural History is Rhode Island's only natural history museum and is home to the state's only public planetarium. For more than a century the museum has served as a unique educational, scientific and cultural resource by offering exciting exhibits and programming that provide ways for children and families to learn about our world and its people.  
<http://www.providenceri.gov/museum/>