

BEST OF NEW ENGLAND

Outdoors Edition

FROM PATIO DINING AND FARM STANDS TO WILDERNESS LODGES AND SEASIDE RETREATS, OUR EDITORS' PICKS FOR WHERE TO EAT, STAY, AND PLAY ARE ALL ABOUT FRESH-AIR ESCAPES.

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BEST MASSACHUSETTS
HOTEL ON THE BEACH
Chatham Bars Inn, Chatham
(listing on p. 106)

CHRISTOPHER CHURCHILL

MASSACHUSETTS

ATTRACTIONS

DOG EXCURSION

STODDER'S NECK STATE PARK, HINGHAM

Is it a state park, or is it a dog park without the designation? Happily, it's both. Dog owners up and down the South Shore know this 23-acre park as *the* place to bring their pets for social play. The "neck" is a peninsula at the mouth of the Back River, which means the land is bounded by water on three sides; the fourth side is guarded by a sturdy stone wall. Expect to find a mix of off-leash and leashed dogs here, many of which come to play practically every day. The landscape varies from grasslands and woods and hills, while the water offers ample opportunity for cooling off. mass.gov

DRIVE-IN THEATER

MENDON TWIN DRIVE-IN, MENDON

In the world of drive-in theaters, the c. 1954 Mendon Twin definitely runs with the cool

crowd. You'll not only enjoy a deftly curated collection of first-run and vintage movies but also primo concessions (triple cheeseburgers, mac 'n' cheese bites, hot fudge sundaes) and access to a beer garden serving wine, sangria, and draft brews (past offerings have included local favorites Wormtown Brewery and High Limb Cider). Next to the beer garden's 5,000-square-foot patio are fire pits where you can toast s'mores while keeping an eye on the big-screen action. mendondrivein.com

FARM ANIMAL FUN

ISLAND ALPACA COMPANY, OAK BLUFFS

White, beige, fawn, brown, rose gray, silver

gray: The 50-plus Huacaya alpacas at this Martha's Vineyard farm come in every color of the camelid rainbow. Bred to be prize winners and socialized to be gentle and friendly toward paddock visitors including kids, who are enchanted by alpacas' soulful eyes and soft muzzles, these fiber-producing animals also keep the shop supplied with premium-quality yarns, textiles, and gifts. islandalpaca.com

NATURE OUTING

WALDEN POND STATE RESERVATION, CONCORD

An early proponent of social distancing, Henry David Thoreau lived alone in the woods for two years, two months, and two days, a mile from any neighbor in his rustic abode built near the shores of Walden Pond in Concord. While only a replica of the hut exists today, Walden Pond's 200-plus acres of woodland make for a wonderful ramble, especially in the early morning hours, with the promise of a dip in the pond's refreshing

TRAVEL NOTE

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SeePlymouth.com

waters afterward. Note that the parking lot tends to fill up quickly on hot summer days. mass.gov

OUTDOOR FLEA MARKET **TODD FARM FLEA MARKET, ROWLEY**

For nearly half a century, this seasonal North Shore attraction has been catering to treasure hunters in pursuit of antiques, collectibles, and original work by local artists and artisans. On any Sunday morning from April to November, bring some cash—you'll save with free parking—and get busy browsing among the 200-plus vendors. The perfect piece to complete a collection, brighten up your decor, or spark a DIY project is just one discovery away. toddfarm.com

OUTDOOR MUSEUM **OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE, STURBRIDGE**

New England's largest outdoor living history museum makes the past anything but musty. If you haven't visited since your schoolkid days (or ever), this 75th-anniversary year is a great time to experience the seasonal rituals of this 1830s farm and village. Engage with costumed historians, observe the care of heritage animal breeds, or perhaps even take a historical craft class and do your part to carry the past forward. osv.org



Old Sturbridge
Village, Sturbridge

PUBLIC GOLF COURSE **CRUMPIN-FOX CLUB, BERNARDSTON**

Located just off I-91 in a small, rural Pioneer Valley town, Crumpin-Fox (named for a local 19th-century soda company) is not only one of Massachusetts's most challenging courses but also one of its loveliest, thanks to its mix of woodlands and open rolling terrain. And after more than \$1 million in renovations in

the past few years, the sylvan setting remains timeless even as the golf carts now boast GPS. crumpinfox.com

PYO FRUIT FARM **PARLEE FARMS, TYNGSBORO**

You'll taste the difference but won't necessarily see the science-guided, labor-intensive practices that the Parlee family employ on their 93 fruit-and-flower-planted acres. Go in June to pick strawberries and savor old-fashioned shortcake; time a July visit right, and you can pick both blueberries and fragile sweet cherries, which are easily collected from dwarf trees. Multitasking's possible in late August, too, if peaches hold on while the earliest apples redden. parleefarms.com

ZIPLINE **CATAMOUNT ZIP TOUR, SOUTH EGREMONT**

If you dangled in midair above the majestic Berkshires for only a moment, you'd be dazzled. Imagine the exhilaration of Catamount Mountain Resort's two-hour zip trek, which begins with a summit chair-lift ride, warms you up with a 1,000-foot zoom along the Ridge Span, then sends you on the longest point-to-point zipline in the country: the 5,523-foot Catamonster. Views stretch forever (or at least to the Catskills). catamountski.com

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MASSACHUSETTS

DINING

CITY PATIO DINING OLEANA, CAMBRIDGE

The patio seats at Oleana are so prized that you can't specifically reserve them. You just have to cross your fingers. That's because Ana Sortun's team has created a verdant oasis near the tech epicenter of Kendall Square. Sheltered beneath umbrellas and basking in the glow of twinkle lights, you can tuck into Eastern Mediterranean favorites like tamarind beef and spinach falafel, and enjoy the signature baked Alaska for dessert. oleanarestaurant.com

CRAFT BREWERY EXHIBIT A, FRAMINGHAM

There's no doubt Trillium and Treehouse deserve the accolades for all the award-winning IPAs they produce in the Bay State, but we've got our eye on this small brewery in the industrial backlots of Framingham, a stone's throw from the far bigger Jack's Abby brewery. Local beer lovers have been snatching up such Exhibit A standouts as the Cat's Meow, the lighter Just a Kitten, and the Kölsch-style Goody Two Shoes. Also be on the lookout for Wandering Thoughts, full of ripe citrus flavors. exhibit-a-brewing.com

FARM STAND VERRILL FARM, CONCORD

If Verrill Farm's name sounds familiar, it could be because you've seen it on a local menu. In operation since 1918, the farm supplies plenty of restaurant kitchens, but at the farm stand you can score the same ingredients for yourself, ranging from strawberries to squash to 30-plus varieties of heirloom tomatoes. Don't feel like cooking? Verrill also has take-home meals and prepared foods, sandwiches, and a bakery that stocks the stand with homemade pastries and other sweet treats. verrillfarm.com

ICE CREAM STAND RICHARDSON'S ICE CREAM, MIDDLETON

To see a family farm at its best, stop at Richardson's, where a family member has milked cows every day since 1695. To taste ice cream at its best, order a cone from the farm's ice-cream stand. Richardson's has been making super-premium ice cream (16 percent butterfat) for nearly 70 years, focusing on perfecting classics like vanilla and chocolate while expanding the flavor offerings to include grape nut custard, frozen pudding, peanut butter Oreó—more than 50 kinds in all. Bonus: After getting your licks in, you can check out the adjoining mini-golf courses, driving range, and batting cages. richardsonsiccream.com

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LOBSTER SHACK**THE LOBSTER POOL, ROCKPORT**

Located in the northwest corner of Rockport, the Lobster Pool has the rare luck to face Ipswich Bay at just the right angle so you can watch the sun set over the water, with Plum Island in the distance. The nightly show is best enjoyed from a picnic table on the back lawn, accompanied by a steamed lobster dinner or lobster roll (the fried fish sandwich is also a winner). Don't forget to BYOB—they're happy to provide the ice. thelobsterpool.com

MOUNTAIN-VIEW DINING**BASCOM LODGE, ADAMS**

This Arts and Crafts-style lodge sits at the summit of the state's highest mountain, putting guests in the catbird seat for Berkshire sunsets. Open from late May until mid-October, the lodge offers both lodging and dining. The "food with altitude" features ingredients sourced from an extensive network of local growers and producers. Lunches are casual sandwiches and salads, but the evening offerings are more sophisticated than you'll find at any other mountaintop lodge. And don't miss the excellent breakfasts, or the on-site bakery. bascomlodge.net



The Lobster Pool,
Rockport

RIVER-VIEW DINING**THE ALVAH STONE, MONTAGUE**

After browsing the broad selection of titles at the upstairs Montague Bookmill, it's a treat to grab a table on the Alvah Stone's patio, where you can sip a cocktail and watch the Sawmill River rush by. Bountiful salads with local ingredients and the restaurant's famous corn-

bread with maple-bacon butter are just a few standouts from a menu that lures locals and tourists to this special spot. thealvahstone.com

SEASIDE DINING**WATER STREET KITCHEN, WOODS HOLE**

Woods Hole is known as a place for departures and arrivals, the gateway to Martha's Vineyard. But the food at Water Street Kitchen makes you want to linger awhile, spreading smoked bluefish pâté on crostini, dipping into a generous bowl of cioppino, or just watching the sunset with a cocktail in hand. Window seats are lovely, but sit at the bar for the best local gossip. waterstreetkitchen.com

WINERY**WESTPORT RIVERS WINERY, WESTPORT**

With 80 acres under cultivation, Westport Rivers is among the largest vineyards in New England, and one of the oldest, too. The winery's portfolio of crisp white wines—both sparkling and still—are rooted in its particular deftness with Chardonnay and Riesling grapes. They're also the ideal accompaniment to local seafood. You can tour and taste every Saturday, or plan a visit around the annual sunset music nights (Fridays, beginning in mid-June) or hayrides (Saturdays in the fall). westportrivers.com

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MASSACHUSETTS

LODGING

COASTAL CAMPGROUND NICKERSON STATE PARK, BREWSTER

Smack-dab in the middle of Cape Cod, the 418 well-spaced camping sites at Nickerson State Park are in extremely high demand during the summer. If you're one of the fortunate few to snag one, have fun swimming in one of the kettle ponds, exploring the hiking and biking trails that snake through the woods of pine and oak, and heading out on the 25-mile-long Cape Cod Rail Trail that skirts the park. mass.gov

FARM STAY STARLIGHT LLAMA BED & BREAKFAST, NORTHAMPTON

Take your picnic breakfast, and choose your grazing spot. There are so many idyllic options on this conserved 120-acre plot enfolded by mountains, including a replica of Thoreau's Walden cabin. The farm's lineage reaches back six generations; the solar-powered, three-guestroom B&B is a glimpse of green energy's future. You can feed the small llama herd, weed gardens, help with haying, or spend days hiking and biking and nights dark-sky gazing. starlightllama.com

HOTEL ON THE BEACH CHATHAM BARS INN, CHATHAM

As a guest of Cape Cod's most exclusive and complete resort, which first opened its doors in 1914, you'll have the power to command your own little beach realm. Cabanas on the property's quarter-mile private beach jut up like sand castles, and once you're sequestered inside or supine on a lounger in the sun, you'll have food and beverage service at your beck and call. North Beach Island, just offshore, protects your seawater bath from the wildness of the open ocean. chathambarsinn.com

HOTEL PORCH RED LION INN, STOCKBRIDGE

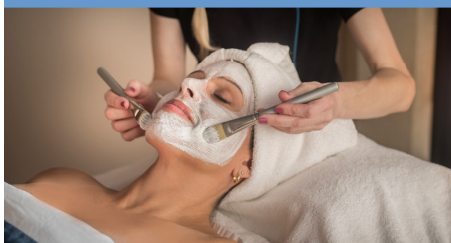
There isn't always a pop-up performance or drink special on the front porch at this landmark hotel, which traces its origins to 1773, yet competition for rocking chairs is always fierce. Overlooking one of the Berkshires' most vibrant crossroads, it's a threshold that's been crossed by countless luminaries. A few taps on your smartphone, and you won't have to imagine Norman Rockwell painting this scene or James Taylor's voice emanating from the landing. redlioninn.com



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ISLAND INN

THE WAUWINET, NANTUCKET

When *National Geographic* named Nantucket one of the 10 best islands in the world, few New Englanders were surprised. With its cobblestoned streets, deeply rooted maritime history, scenic lighthouses, and beautiful landscape, all framed by the Atlantic, the island has been a travel magnet for generations. And so has the Wauwinet, which has welcomed guests to its location at the edge of a wildlife sanctuary since the 1870s. Today a Relais & Châteaux property with 32 boutique guest rooms, four cottages, and a three-bedroom house rental, it boasts an understated elegance—along with a restaurant, Topper's, that is touted as being just as unforgettable as its setting. wauwinet.com

LAKESIDE CAMPGROUND

TULLY LAKE CAMPGROUND, ROYALSTON

Run by the Trustees of Reservations, this tents-only campground on the shores of a serene central-Massachusetts lake sells out quickly each summer. Many campers bring their own kayaks to paddle to the sandy isles found on Tully Lake. Hiking trails lead to scenic Doane's Falls, where Lawrence Brook tumbles over a series of ledges before it reaches the lake. thetrustees.org

RV PARK

NORMANDY FARMS FAMILY CAMPING RESORT, FOXBORO

When was the last time your RV stay came with concierge service? Sauna and Jacuzzi? Day kennels and dog-walking services? The offerings at the national-award-winning Normandy Farms—which indeed was built on farmland dating back to the mid-1700s—are as expansive as its 100-plus acres. Choose from nearly 400 sites, which range from basic to premium (water, septic, cable, high-amperage electric) and including a handful of cabins, yurts, pop-up trailers, and safari tents for the non-RV crowd. normandyfarms.com

WILDERNESS LODGE

WIGWAM WESTERN SUMMIT, NORTH ADAMS

America's Switzerland is yodeling its siren song again now that a long-abandoned Mohawk Trail landmark has visionary new owners. Wake up to rolling mountains and 800-plus acres of trail-laced forest when you stay in one of four comfy cabins or two main house units that share Florida Mountain's summit with the renovated Wigwam gift shop, now a window-walled, lodge-vibe café famed for its cold-brew coffee and more than 20 homemade fudge flavors. wigwamwesternsummit.com



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NEW HAMPSHIRE

ATTRACTIONS

DOG EXCURSION

URBAN FORESTRY CENTER, PORTSMOUTH

On the outskirts of a historic port city full of delights and surprises, maybe the most surprising of all is this 182-acre wilderness preserve, lush with forest and fields alongside a salt marsh, where leashed dogs can lope beside their owners on the walking trails. The land was once an 18th-century farm owned by Governor John Langdon of Revolutionary War fame, and you and Fido can explore historical markers as you amble through some of the prettiest land in southern New Hampshire. nh.gov/nbdf

DRIVE-IN THEATER

MILFORD DRIVE-IN, MILFORD

The concessions alone will whet your appetite for a trip to this c. 1958 go-to: fried dough and cotton candy, hamburgers and hot dogs, and frappes in a dozen flavors. Once you've got an armload of treats, settle in for new-release double features on two big screens. Admission is \$30 per carload for up to six people, so don't forget to bring your friends. Also boosting the Milford Drive-In's appeal are special-event screenings of non-Hollywood fare, such as concerts by Garth Brooks and Blake Shelton. milforddrivein.com

FARM ANIMAL FUN

THE FRIENDLY FARM, DUBLIN

This cheery barnyard becomes something of an *overly* friendly farm when you have a bag of feed in hand, and giggling kids adore attracting throngs of bleating and *baa*-ing pals. It's a tonic for the soul to free-range across green grassland, to picnic, and to pat bunnies and cradle chicks in your hands. There's subtle learning in every animal interaction and sheer joy in being farmer for a day without having to clean the pigpen. friendlyfarm.com

NATURE OUTING

UMBAGOG NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, ERROL

The jewel of this 25,650-acre refuge on the New Hampshire–Maine border is vast Umbagog Lake, whose serene waters invite wildlife lovers to paddle out into nature in hopes of spotting loons, osprey, herons, and—most famously—nesting pairs of bald eagles. For those inclined to stay on dry land, there's a short handicapped-accessible trail to an observation platform that's a prime perch for viewing moose, boreal birds, and waterfowl; the longer Roost Trail leads to

TRAVEL NOTE

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cliff-top views that range across the refuge and Umbagog area. fws.gov

OUTDOOR FLEA MARKET

HOLLIS FLEA MARKET, HOLLIS

By 8 a.m. on a summer Sunday, the action has already heated up at this southern New Hampshire staple, which can draw more than a thousand visitors a day. Founded in 1964 and run continuously ever since, the Hollis Flea Market hosts about 400 vendors spread across 20 acres, ensuring that there's something for everyone. Beyond the wealth of flea market wares, there are appraisal services and refreshments, including beer and wine for shoppers ready to toast their epic finds. Sundays from mid-April to October. hollisflea.com

OUTDOOR MUSEUM

ANDRES INSTITUTE OF ART, BROOKLINE

With names like *Upheaval*, *Horse of Inspiration*, and *Growing with the Flow*, the creations at New England's largest sculpture park spark wonderment and conversation. Constructed on-site by artists from five continents during 21 annual two-week symposia, 100 large-scale works entwine with

nature along 10 miles of trails that climb Big Bear Mountain. Pause to consider each, including a new Old Man of the Mountain, from your own unique perspective. andresinstitute.org

PUBLIC GOLF COURSE

COUNTRY CLUB OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, NORTH SUTTON

When golfers speak of “classic” golf courses, they might simply point to this lovely and unpretentious 90-year-old course set at the base of Mount Kearsarge. The 7,000-yard course spreads along undulating wooded terrain, with the flank of the mountain hovering nearby. The 18 holes (especially 8, 9, 16, and 17) will test the most skillful without being so daunting as to discourage those still growing into the sport. Year after year, the friendliness and helpfulness of staff draws raves. And for those who want to make a weekend of it, the abundance of lakeside lodging in the Sunapee region is a big plus. countryclubofnh.com

PYO FRUIT FARM

RIVERVIEW FARM, PLAINFIELD

Get your fruit fix and cut your own flowers, too, at one of the prettiest PYO farms we've ever seen. Fertile Connecticut River Valley soil produces vibrant crops, kicking off around mid-August with blueberries, which never taste better than when they're fresh-plucked. Raspberries follow, then pumpkins and apples galore, from August's early Paula



Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge, Errol

KRISTIN TEIG

Reds through the CrimsonCrisps and Snow-Sweets that ripen in October. riverviewnh.com

ZIPLINE

BRETTON WOODS CANOPY TOUR, BRETTON WOODS

Clean, crisp, health-giving air attracted the White Mountains' first vacationers, and you can drink it in with gusto on this high-flying, three-hour adventure. Dual-cabled for safety, the course is composed of nine ziplines, three rappelling ropes, and two Indiana Jones-style sky bridges. Before long, you'll be bantering with your trusty guides and feeling relaxed enough to appreciate the rarity of seeing the Presidential Range and the tip-tops of ancient hemlocks from this angle. brettonwoods.com

DINING

CITY PATIO DINING COTTON, MANCHESTER

Sheltered by a vine-covered arbor, the sun-dappled courtyard patio at Cotton is the ideal spot for tucking into chef-owner Jeffrey Paige's modern comfort fare, from crab cakes and fried chicken to a spectacular meatloaf. For drinks, the 12 signature martinis are justifiably beloved, but with more than 40

wines by the glass, you're free to pursue any flights of fancy. cottonfood.com

CRAFT BREWERY

STONEFACE BREWING CO., NEWINGTON

When Pete Beauregard won first place for a home-brewed IPA in Boston in 2013, he knew he was onto something good. The following year, he would debut Stoneface Brewing on the outskirts of Portsmouth and begin turning out the best-selling Stoneface IPA. For a lighter beer, try Stoneface's Berliner Weisse with hints of either blackberry or raspberry—or go for the special double-fruited version. stonefacebrewing.com

FARM STAND

LULL FARM, HOLLIS

The flagship location of Lull Farm is open year-round and has something special in every season: vegetable starts and colorful annuals in spring, pick-your-own strawberries and abundant produce come summer, apple cider doughnuts and farm-raised turkeys in fall, and Christmas trees and homemade soups for winter. The farm store also sells farm-raised beef and chicken, pies from Lull Farm's own bakery, and anything else you might need for a farm-fresh dinner. livefreeandfarm.com

ICE CREAM STAND

SANCTUARY DAIRY FARM ICE CREAM, SUNAPEE

While the atmosphere at Sanctuary Dairy Farm lends itself to a day of outdoor family fun—with farm animals, trees for climbing, and yard games—the ice cream is the thing that's not to be missed. And after all, it's not every day you're served scoops out of a converted sheep barn! Find hard ice cream, gelato, soft-serve, and sorbet in a range of flavors from standard to extravagant, but the one concoction that no self-respecting New Englander should miss is the maple ice cream flavored with real New Hampshire syrup and mixed with chunks of maple candy and homemade fudge. icecreamkidbeck.com

LAKE-VIEW DINING

OAK AND GRAIN, NEW LONDON

The Inn at Pleasant Lake's namesake body of water provides the beautiful backdrop for delectable meals from its in-house restaurant. Chef Bryan Leary counts an on-site herb garden and maple stand among his culinary inspirations, and his menus give pride of place to local ingredients. Guests can opt for à la carte dining, tasting menus, or even chef-led cooking classes throughout the year. oakandgrain.com

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LOBSTER SHACK**RYE HARBOR LOBSTER POUND, RYE**

This diminutive shack is most notable for one signature flourish: seasoning its lobster meat with a touch of sherry. You'll taste this unbeatable pairing in the hot-and-buttered lobster roll and the lobster bisque, and once you've had it, you may never go back to plain old buttered lobster again. Looking for a cold roll? They have that too, accented with celery and a hint of lemon, as well as a delicious clam chowder. *Facebook*

MOUNTAIN-VIEW DINING**CARRIAGE HOUSE RESTAURANT, MOULTONBOROUGH**

After making his fortune in the shoe business, Tom Plant built a country estate, called Luc-know, in the Ossipee Mountains at the turn of the 20th century. Today the remarkable property includes the castle-like mansion itself and surrounding gardens, which are open for tours from late May until late October, as well as an extensive network of hiking and ski trails. At the restaurant, the Carriage House, you can dine on a terrace overlooking the mountains and Lake Winnepesaukee. *castleintheclouds.org*

WINERY**HERMIT WOODS WINERY, MEREDITH**

If you haven't yet fallen under the sway of fruit wines, prepare to be surprised and delighted by the offerings from Hermit Woods Winery. Here, they craft fruit wines of remarkable depth, such as a lush blueberry wine evocative of pinot noir, and an heirloom crabapple wine that's a medium-dry sparkler. You can taste the wines at a guided, seated tasting (some with food pairings), or pop in for a more casual self-guided tasting and order from a menu of sandwiches and other nibbles at the in-house deli. *hermitwoods.com*

LODGING**FARM STAY****INN AT EAST HILL FARM, TROY**

Kids willingly unplug at this hands-on farm with resort-style amenities including indoor and outdoor pools. There are always cows to milk, horses to ride, and grumbling chickens hiding the blue eggs you'll want cooked your way for breakfast, yet each weekend offers new themed or seasonal activities that strengthen family ties or kindle passion for a hobby like cross-stitch or square dancing. Warm pre-dinner fritters and warmer hospitality welcome all guests "home." *east-hill-farm.com*

HOTEL ON THE BEACH**SEASIDE VILLAGE RESORT, NORTH HAMPTON**

Four miles north of the hubbub of Hampton Beach, surrounded by multimillion-dollar oceanfront residences, this enduring property's allure is all in its location. After all, do



AMC Highland Center Lodge
in Crawford Notch, Bretton Woods

you really need fancy furnishings and frou-frou linens when warm sand and invigorating seawater are right outside your door? New Hampshire's lone hotel directly on the beach offers a mix of townhouses and other units, including some with kitchenettes for budget-friendly extended stays. *seasidevillageresort.com*

HOTEL PORCH**OMNI MOUNT WASHINGTON RESORT, BRETTON WOODS**

Built on a palatial scale and on a parallel line with the Presidential Range, the Mount Washington is the rare survivor of the White Mountains' grand hotel era. Its 903-foot-long wraparound veranda—the longest porch in New England—was quite the place to promenade in 1902. It remains an unparalleled perch for observing resort goings-on, unwinding with drinks, and binge-watching sun-glossed mountain views. *omnihotels.com*

ISLAND INN**OCEANIC HOTEL, STAR ISLAND**

Day-trippers catch the ferry in Rye or Portsmouth to visit Star Island, the most prominent of the nine Isles of Shoals, and stroll and picnic on its 46 ocean-swept acres. But for a deeper experience, you can book a "personal retreat" or attend a themed conference at the Oceanic Hotel, one of the grand wooden hotels that graced the New England coast in years past. What it lacks in luxury (shared baths, simple but comfortable rooms), it more than makes up for with a porch that's custom-built for relaxing, and a peacefulness that comes with seeing the sea with few distractions, sharing a historic island inn with others who are there for the exact same reason. *starisland.org*

LAKESIDE CAMPGROUND**WHITE LAKE STATE PARK, TAMWORTH**

Twenty miles south of North Conway, glacially carved White Lake has been providing generation after generation of New Hampshire swimmers a place to cool off. The wise ones spend the night on the sandy shoreline to watch the sunset over the White Mountains. The 140 sites are located in a pitch pine forest a short walk to the beach. *nhstateparks.org*

WHITE MOUNTAINS CAMPGROUND**LAFAYETTE PLACE CAMPGROUND, FRANCONIA NOTCH STATE PARK, FRANCONIA**

Book one of the 97 sites at Lafayette, evenly spaced in the woods and along a creek, and you'll be at one of the finest starting points for outdoor recreation in the White Mountains. You can choose to swim in nearby Echo Lake, bike on trails to Cannon Mountain, or take some of the best-known hikes in New England to Lonesome Lake, Basin-Cascades, or the ridge walk atop Mount Lafayette. *nhstateparks.org*

WILDERNESS LODGE**AMC HIGHLAND CENTER LODGE IN CRAWFORD NOTCH, BRETTON WOODS**

Stay at the Appalachian Mountain Club's flagship lodge, in one of the White Mountains' most alluring spots, and you lay claim to the expert guidance and free-to-borrow gear you need if you and your family aren't typically outdoorsy. Accommodations are varied and no-frills: You're here to spend your time hiking, climbing, biking, paddling, and observing wildlife and waterfalls. Even after a hearty included dinner, you'll want to venture out to peer at intensely sparkly stars. *outdoors.org*

VERMONT

ATTRACTIONS

DRIVE-IN THEATER SUNSET DRIVE-IN, COLCHESTER

The only thing better than a family night at the movies is when the big-screen fun also includes a mini-golf course and a playground. Opened in 1946, the Burlington area's sole drive-in theater flickers to life every night in summer with double features on four giant screens. Just next door, the Starlight Inn offers movie-themed rooms for those who'd like to extend the cinematic spell. sunsetdrivein.com

FARM ANIMAL FUN RETREAT FARM, BRATTLEBORO

Scan a QR code for up-to-date "dirt" on where animals are pasturing, then explore the farmyard and trails that loop through 500 free-to-visit acres that have nourished bodies and minds since 1836. Each creature has a job: Goats gobble invasive plants, pigs till soil, cows contribute fertilizer. Tramp through the

TRAVEL NOTE

Before setting out to visit any of our Best of New England winners, please contact them or check online for updates on hours and operations this summer.

echo-y cow tunnel under Route 30, and you'll see fields that produced 10,000 pounds of crops for food banks in 2020. retreatfarm.org

OUTDOOR FLEA MARKET WATERBURY FLEA MARKET, WATERBURY

Since getting its start in 1975, Waterbury's weekly flea-for-all has grown to comprise 10 acres of antique and used furniture, household utensils, books, records, glassware, jewelry, and more. Count on low vendor fees to keep the selection both reasonable and eclectic. Weekends from May to October. [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/waterburyflea/)

OUTDOOR MUSEUM LAKE CHAMPLAIN MARITIME MUSEUM, VERGENNES

Explore New England's most storied lake from every angle—even from a hand-built wooden longboat, which your family group can power on a rowing tour. Outdoor exhibits on three acres have been expanded, and you'll have the rare chance this summer to see *Philadelphia II*, a replica of Benedict Arnold's 1776 gunboat, out of the water for maintenance. In a historic development, the museum will be admission-free for the first time this year. lcm.org

PUBLIC GOLF COURSE GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL, KILLINGTON

At the state's only municipal course—which has been cared for by the same superintendent for nearly a quarter century—the fairways are narrow, the woods are close, and glacial boulders abound, but with views as special as the ones you see from the 16th tee, you may be tempted to stop swinging and take photos. Hours spent here are a true respite—one made even sweeter on summer days when a beer cart with local craft brews stops by. gmngc.com

PYO FRUIT FARM CHAMPLAIN ORCHARDS, SHOREHAM

Famed for its apples and ciders, Champlain Orchards is also your place to pick immune-boosting elderberries; red, black, and gold raspberries; apricots; cherries; red and pink currants; blackberries; peaches; nectarines; and Asian and European pears and plums. Check the online PYO Tracker for what's popping. champlainorchards.com

DINING

CITY PATIO DINING BRICK, BURLINGTON

The lush alfresco dining room behind the Hotel Vermont comes with its own outdoor kitchen and a wood-burning oven that serves up excellent pizzas made with local Jasper Hill Farm cheeses, as well as sandwiches, charcuterie, salads, and a well-curated beer, wine, and cocktail list. hotelvt.com/eat-drink/brickoutdoor-kitchen-and-bar

CRAFT BREWERY HILL FARMSTEAD BREWERY, GREENSBORO BEND

Nearly since its start in 2010, this has been a place of pilgrimage for beer geeks. Some of the best-loved brews are named after founder Shaun Hill's forbears, including double IPA Abner, while the Philosophical series includes the popular maple-infused imperial stout Beyond Good and Evil. Mediocrity has no place here, as evidenced by the awards and accolades Hill Farmstead hauls in, year after year. hillfarmstead.com

FARM STAND HUDAK FARM, SWANTON

While Hudak Farm's greenhouses might be what lures folks here in spring, they return to the farm stand throughout spring, summer, and fall to stock up on vegetables picked that day, as well as farm-raised pork and seasonal treats such as fresh-pressed apple cider and house-made maple syrup. hudakfarm.com

ICE CREAM STAND VERMONT COOKIE LOVE, NORTH FERRISBURGH

Founded in 2007, Vermont Cookie Love runs a year-round shop and production facility that sells fresh-baked cookies and frozen cookie dough, but it's the maple creemeees, sold from the seasonal walk-up ice cream, that make this place a summertime rock star. Also on offer is Vermont's own Wilcox Ice Cream, topped with house-made whipped cream, hot fudge, and salted caramel or sandwiched between two cookies in a chewy, creamy pièce de résistance. vermontcookie.com

MOUNTAIN-VIEW DINING THE CLIFF HOUSE, STOWE

There's mountain-view dining, and then there's mountain-*top* dining. For the latter, take the gondola from Stowe Mountain Resort to the summit of Mount Mansfield, where the Austrian chalet-style Cliff House awaits. The panoramic Green Mountain



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views, stunning in any season, add extra flavor to whatever you order. On a summer day, grab lunch out on the deck. gostowe.com/listing/cliff-house-restaurant

RIVER-VIEW DINING WATERWORKS, WINOOSKI

Nearly every table in the high-ceilinged space of the former Champlain Mill has a gorgeous view of the Winooski River. Serving lunch, dinner, and weekend brunch, Waterworks specializes in American comfort food—think burgers, flatbreads, and pasta—often made with signature Vermont ingredients. Wash it all down with help from a well-chosen lineup of locally brewed beers. waterworksvt.com

WINERY LINCOLN PEAK VINEYARD, NEW HAVEN

After nearly two decades of experimentation, Lincoln Peak winemaker Chris Granstrom has zeroed in on the grapes that grow best in the Champlain Valley. He uses hybrid varieties like Marquette and La Crescent to make award-winning wines that express the distinctive terroir of this part of the state. When summer rolls around, sample them in the casual tasting room overlooking a pond, or pair with your own picnic and lay a blanket on the big lawn. lincolnpeakvineyard.com

LODGING

FARM STAY FAT SHEEP FARM & CABINS, HARTLAND

Before they owned 59 acres of woods, fields, and sheep-grazing grounds, Todd Heyman and Suzy Kaplan sketched their dream farm on graph paper. That vision, including five sun-filled cabins with fully outfitted kitchens, is now a real rural escape, where you can collect eggs, milk sheep, or simply porch-sit and allow magical mountain views to stir dreams of your own. Three cabins are dog-friendly; stalls are available for visiting horses. fatssheepfarmvermont.com

HOTEL PORCH THE EQUINOX GOLF RESORT & SPA, MANCHESTER

Add porch-hopping to the list of outdoor pursuits you'll want to sample during an action-packed Equinox getaway. Snag coffee and a coveted rocking chair on the columned front porch, and watch the village awaken. There's more Main Street hubbub to observe over lunch on the Marsh Tavern porch. Later, sip a maple syrup-sweetened old-fashioned by the slate fire pit on the porch de résistance: the Mount Equinox-facing Falcon Deck. equinoxresort.com

ISLAND INN

THE NORTH HERO HOUSE, NORTH HERO

North of Burlington and running straight up toward Quebec, the Champlain Islands transport visitors to a landscape that takes their breath away. Walter Blasberg, who has been coming to the islands since his boyhood, has managed this gem of a 26-room inn and restaurant for more than two decades. The classic experience is to dine here and then fall sleep to the splash of waves against the dock. Request a lakeside room, and be sure to ask about biking to the nearby great blue heron rookery, where you can listen to bird calls that seem to come from ancient times. northherohouse.com

WILDERNESS LODGE MOUNTAIN MEADOWS LODGE, KILLINGTON

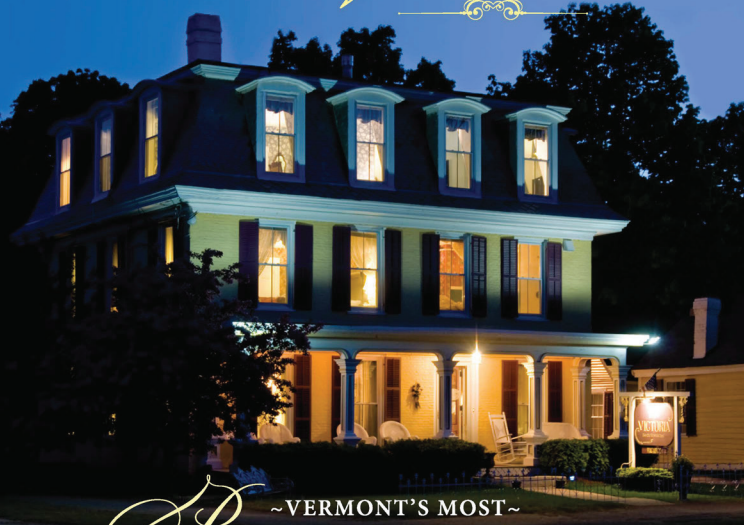
It's the first summer since this rustic-chic, 26-room retreat was made over by new owners known for intimate properties that honor their settings' uniqueness. The lodge sits on Kent Pond, with woodlands all around and the AT running straight through, so you can devote hours to hiking, kayaking, and casting for trophy fish. A farmhouse and a 180-year-old barn with exposed original beams and contemporary lodge decor are where you'll decompress, dine, and dream. mountainmeadowslodge.com

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CONNECTICUT

ATTRACTIONS

DRIVE-IN THEATER

MANSFIELD DRIVE-IN THEATRE AND MARKETPLACE, MANSFIELD

Though this 40-acre complex hosts eastern Connecticut's largest flea market, the main attraction since 1954 has been cinema under the stars. Three screens show first-run features and old-school flicks via digital projection, while the snack bar serves up everything from clam fritters to fried Oreos. mansfielddrivein.com

FARM ANIMAL FUN

SILVERMAN'S FARM, EASTON

It's not just the usual suspects like llamas, sheep, and goats that approach you for a pat and a nibble of grain. Meet shaggy Highland cattle, rams with extravagant horns, and pot-bellied pigs—all adoptees given a forever home by the Silverman family. Allow plenty of time for picnicking and for picking fruits and veggies. silvermansfarm.com/animal-farm

OUTDOOR FLEA MARKET

ELEPHANT'S TRUNK FLEA MARKET, NEW MILFORD

With about 500 vendors, this is reputedly New England's largest weekly flea market—and it's certainly among the best-known, thanks to HGTV's *Flea Market Flip*. Scour the displays for collectibles, then stop at the farmers' market stands and food trucks for provisions. Sundays from April to December. etflea.com

OUTDOOR MUSEUM

MYSTIC SEAPORT MUSEUM, MYSTIC

America's preeminent maritime museum preserves not only two million artifacts but also the heartbeat of the golden age of wooden

shipbuilding on the Mystic River. Interact with artisans and storytellers as you wander the 19th-century village, and climb aboard vessels like the *Charles W. Morgan*, the last wooden whaleship afloat. mysticseaport.org

PUBLIC GOLF COURSE

RICHTER PARK, DANBURY

These 180 acres lie beside a reservoir and a pond, and water offers a challenge on nearly all holes. Fairways winding through woods bordered with stone walls lend the feeling of being in a New England landscape painting. While long a magnet for locals, nonresidents can play anytime and also can reserve tee times nine days in advance. richterpark.com

PYO FRUIT FARM

LYMAN ORCHARDS, MIDDLEFIELD

At one of America's oldest family businesses (c. 1741), all of your faves are on the roster: blueberries, raspberries, peaches, pears, apples, pumpkins, and jostaberries. Never heard of that last one? Lyman is the Northeast's only commercial grower of these sweet-tart hybrids. lymanorchards.com

TRAVEL NOTE

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DINING

CITY PATIO DINING

LA TERRASSE, NEW HAVEN

The Union League Café has always set a high-water mark for fine dining in New Haven, and La Terrasse, its Paris-inspired outdoor eatery, brings that excellence to an alfresco setting. The menu is more streamlined, but there's a lovely progression from small bites to raw bar to prix fixe dinners. unionleaguecafe.com

CRAFT BREWERY

NEW ENGLAND BREWING CO., WOODBRIDGE

Here, tangy IPAs like Sea Hag and Fuzzy Baby Ducks plus myriad other tasty ales and lagers lure beer hounds off the Merritt Parkway before they head to nearby New Haven for their requisite pizza order at Frank Pepe, Sally's, or Modern. newenglandbrewing.com

FARM STAND

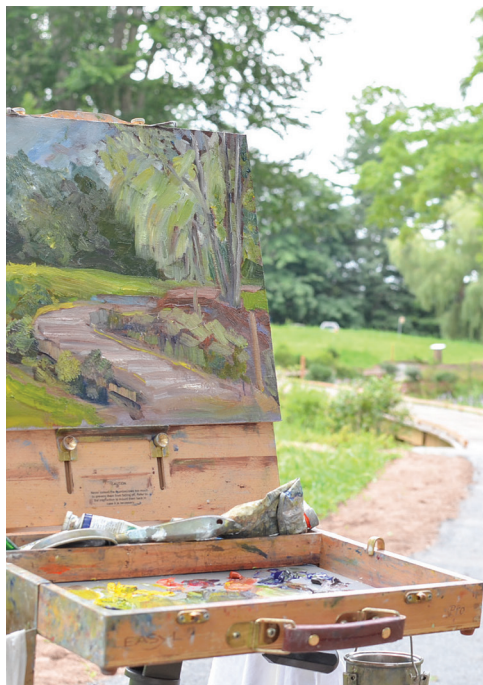
SPORT HILL FARM, EASTON

At the height of the season, you'll find nearly 100 varieties of produce to choose from, along with fresh eggs from free-ranging hens. The stand also carries a curated assortment of items from other local producers, including bread and honey. sporthillfarm.com

ICE CREAM STAND

FERRIS ACRES CREAMERY, NEWTOWN

Standing in line for a scoop, you may well



Ian Dobbins, Photographer



FLORENCE GRISWOLD MUSEUM

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24-hour advance tickets required

spot the herd of cows in the nearby rolling hills that call Ferris Acres home. This luscious ice cream is made daily in inventive flavors, drawing locals and visitors alike since the creamery was founded in 2003. [ferrisacrescreamery.com](#)

LOBSTER SHACK

LOBSTER LANDING, CLINTON

From his shack's waterfront setting to its clamshell driveway, owner Enea Bacci could probably cash in on atmosphere alone, but his care in producing a perfect hot-and-buttered roll is almost heroic: Lobster meat par-cooked in a rich broth, then gently finished in butter with a squeeze of lemon and stuffed into a custom-made, griddled bun. [Facebook](#)

RIVER-VIEW DINING

MILLWRIGHT'S, SIMSBURY

In a beautiful post-and-beam dining room with tall windows framing the river and waterfall below, chef-owner Tyler Anderson delivers the kind of innovative, seasonally driven food that's made him a seven-time James Beard nominee. [millwrightsrestaurant.com](#)

WINERY

GOUVEIA VINEYARDS, WALLINGFORD

It would be worth a visit to this vineyard for

the views alone: a 360-degree panorama encompassing vineyards, woodlands, and fields. Sample your way through the award-winning lineup of more than a dozen wines year-round; in summer you can also try Gouveia's Portuguese-inspired sangria and, in winter, mulled wine. [gouveiavineyards.com](#)

LODGING

FARM STAY

CHATFIELD HOLLOW INN AT CHATFIELD HOLLOW FARM, KILLINGWORTH

Set beside a koi-filled pond, this log-cabin inn has three woodsy-chic suites with spa-style bathrooms and optional attached single rooms. Explore 26 acres, the domain of black swans, hens, and peacocks, where the chief crop is shiitake mushrooms, grown using traditional Japanese techniques. [chfbandb.com](#)

HOTEL ON THE BEACH

MADISON BEACH HOTEL, MADISON

A Hilton-family boutique property that was rebuilt nine years ago to emulate its historic predecessor, Madison Beach Hotel's private stretch of sand, jaunty navy-blue shade umbrellas, balconied rooms, alfresco dining, and peachy-pink sunsets combine to make it the ultimate on-the-water escape. [hilton.com](#)

HOTEL PORCH

THE WEST LANE INN, RIDGEFIELD

Rich mahogany floorboards on the full-length front porch are one of many discoveries that new owners have made while refreshing this 1849 inn, located a quick stroll from downtown. Locally baked scones and iced local coffee accent warm-weather breakfasts on the porch. [westlaneinn.com](#)

LAKESIDE CAMPGROUND

LAKE WARAMAUG STATE PARK, KENT

Tucked away in the Litchfield Hills is one of the most cherished campgrounds in the Nutmeg State. The 76 sites are set in a forest near the waters of majestic Lake Waramaug. Go swimming at the beach, fish for bass, or grab the canoe in the early morning hours for a quiet paddle. [portal.ct.gov/deep](#)

WILDERNESS LODGE

LEGENDS ON THE FARMINGTON, BARKHAMSTED

Just downstream from 4,000 acres of state-protected forest, this post-and-beam lodge with six B&B rooms lures serious anglers and mainstream vacationers alike. Outside flows the Farmington River, renowned for year-round fly fishing. One lesson with a hired guide, and you'll be hooked. [legendsbnb.com](#)



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RHODE ISLAND

ATTRACTIONS

DRIVE-IN THEATER

RUSTIC TRI-VIEW, NORTH SMITHFIELD

The state's only first-run drive-in may be retro to the point of no-frills, but with three screens showing double features plus a snack bar that doles out doughboys and clam cakes, it's a guaranteed good time. *Facebook*

FARM ANIMAL FUN

SOUTH COUNTY MUSEUM, NARRAGANSETT

Animal lovers should beeline it to this museum's Living History Farm, especially when chicks are hatching in early July. Rhode Island Reds are the state's official bird, and these amber fluffballs are part of an effort to march the breed back to its heritage form. Playful goats and sheep compete with the flock for attention. *southcountymuseum.org*

OUTDOOR FLEA MARKET

GENERAL STANTON INN FLEA, CHARLESTOWN

Held on the grounds of a stately 1667 inn, this

picker's paradise attracts several dozen vendors selling all manner of antiques, crafts, and collectibles. Rounding things out are farm stands, local nonprofit booths, and food trucks, including Del's Lemonade. Sundays from April to Columbus Day. *Facebook*

OUTDOOR MUSEUM

COGGESHALL FARM MUSEUM, BRISTOL

Newly allied with Old Sturbridge Village, this coast-side living history farm takes visitors further back in time than its sister site. It's the 1790s here, and structures, tools, and tasks demonstrated by costumed interpreters, such as broom making and wool spinning, offer a glimpse of life in New

England on the cusp of industrialization. *coggeshallfarm.org*

PUBLIC GOLF COURSE

NEWPORT NATIONAL, MIDDLETOWN

Since the Arthur Hills-designed Orchard Course opened in 2002, it has remained at or near the top of New England's most popular golfing destinations. Because of the ocean views and the constantly shifting winds off the bay, players compare the experience of playing here to the famous courses of Ireland and Scotland. *newportnational.com*

PYO FRUIT FARM

SWEET BERRY FARM, MIDDLETOWN

Grown using predominantly natural means of pest control, fruits hand-harvested at Sweet Berry Farm have the exceptional appearance and flavor that befits a place that's been a passion project and a land-preservation success story for more than 40 years. Strawberries ripen first, then summer raspberries, blueber-

TRAVEL NOTE

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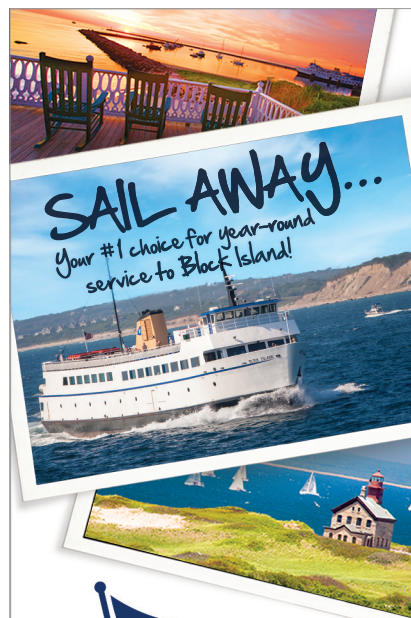


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DINING

CITY PATIO DINING OBERLIN, PROVIDENCE

Strung with party lights and sheltered from Union Street by screens and potted plants, the new Oberlin patio has an impromptu, celebratory feel. It's a testament to creativity, something amply represented in chef Ben Sukle's Italian-inspired menu of crudos and elevated takes on the freshest summer vegetables. oberlinrestaurant.com

CRAFT BREWERY TILTED BARN BREWERY, EXETER

Homegrown hops flavor the beers at the state's first-ever farm brewery, Tilted Barn, which recently expanded into a new post-and-beam barn that houses a 30-barrel brewhouse and a tasting room with a large outdoor lawn, seating area, and patio. Grab a delectable fruity double IPA and drink in the serene setting. tiltedbarnbrewery.com

FARM STAND WALKER'S ROADSIDE STAND, LITTLE COMPTON

At this sweet, seasonal roadside stand, the jewel-like vegetables are piled into wooden crates, big bouquets of vibrant dahlias are crowded into buckets, and it's very hard to leave empty-handed. Even if you're just passing through with no plans to cook, it's still worth a stop to sample the brownies from the on-site bakery, or to grab a few pints of berries to eat at the beach. [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/walkersroadsidestand)

ICE CREAM STAND THE WRIGHT SCOOP, NORTH SMITHFIELD

Not only is the venue cool (a 1966 Streamline trailer), but the scoops are phenomenal: The milk and cream are sourced from cows steps away, the ice cream base is homemade, and trimmings from goods made in the on-site bakery are often folded into the final concoctions. thewrightscoopri.com

LOBSTER SHACK NEWPORT LOBSTER SHACK, NEWPORT

Rhode Island's seafood shacks tend to lean more "seafood-ecumenical" and less lobster-specific. But the Lobster Shack is committed to its namesake, with a menu ranging from rolls, bisque, and more inventive fare like "lobster bites," which are like clam cakes, only, you know. ... newportlobstershack.com

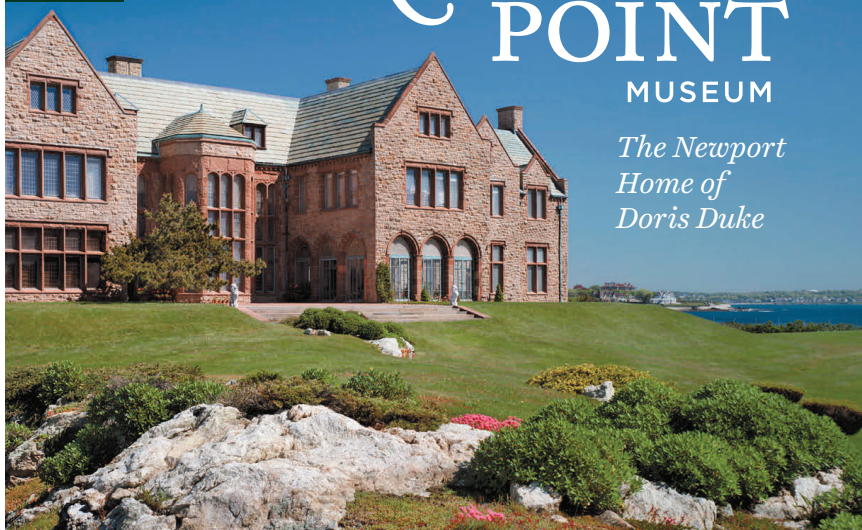
WINERY CAROLYN'S SAKONNET VINEYARD, LITTLE COMPTON

Winemaker Elaine Phipps and vineyard manager Lorraine Frank's combined decades of experience are evident when you taste these white, red, rosé, and dessert wines. Sample



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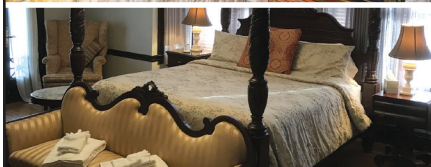
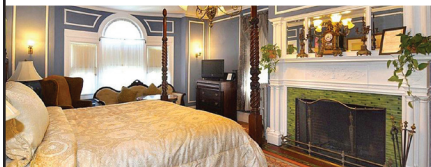
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RHODE ISLAND

flights at the cedar-shingled tasting room, or grab a table outside on the lawn and enjoy a bottle in the sun. sakonnetwine.com

LODGING

FARM STAY

LAVENDER WAVES FARM, SOUTH KINGSTOWN

Share your getaway with alpacas, white peacocks, and babydoll sheep when you book the lone suite at this fragrant private farm. The space, which sleeps four, is styled with reclaimed-wood wallboard, beams, and furnishings; amethyst geode sinks; and picture windows that frame views of 4,000 lavender plants, arrayed in a sunburst around a gazebo. lavenderwavesfarm.com

HOTEL ON THE BEACH

WEEKAPAUG INN, WESTERLY

Brisk waves or still water? Vacation dilemma solved when you choose the refined yet casual Weekapaug Inn on Quonochontaug Pond, where 35 watercraft stand ready for guests' use. Follow the scent of the sea over the bridge and down a path to the property's private Atlantic beach, and cherish the lightness of knowing chairs, umbrellas, towels, drinks, and food await you. weekapauginn.com

HOTEL PORCH

OCEAN HOUSE, WATCH HILL

On the Verandah, with a drink and a plate of glistening local oysters, croquet action below, milky-blue ocean in view, you've found the New England hallmarks of perfection. From the little things—like lobster rolls *your way*, hot or cold—to the monumental elements of historic character, visual splendor, and world-class service, the sweet life is here for even lunch-only visitors. oceanhouseri.com

LAKESIDE CAMPGROUND

BOWDISH LAKE CAMPING AREA, WEST GLOUCESTER

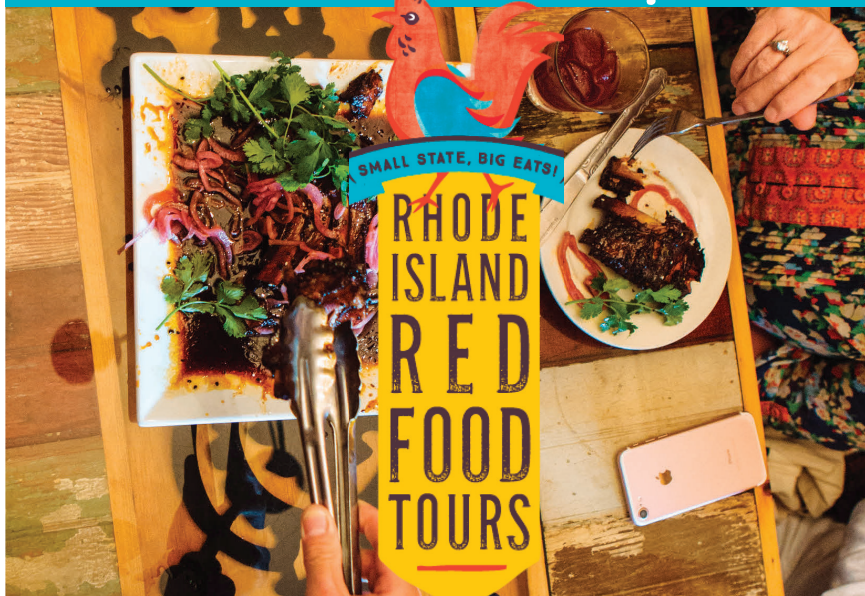
On the western edge of the state, not far from the Connecticut border, Bowdish Lake feels more like summer camp than a campground. The large lake and a small pond allow for swimming, boating, and fishing, but also expect darts, wagon rides, artistic offerings at the Red Craft House, ice cream socials, and a genuine feeling of being part of a welcoming community. bowdishlake.com

WILDERNESS LODGE

THE PRESERVE SPORTING CLUB, RICHMOND

The Ocean State is half forested, and a luxury sporting lodge—the sort you'd expect to find out west—hides in the midst of 3,500 of those wooded acres. Full-kitchen suites have just been added to the array of lodgings for overnights, enticed here by a multitude of on-property activities: fishing, golfing, shooting sports, tennis, swimming, biking, ziplining, spa-going. preservesportingclub.com

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MAINE

ATTRACTIONS

DRIVE-IN THEATER SACO DRIVE-IN, SACO

Located a mere 20 minutes from Portland, the state's first drive-in theater is still going strong. Visitors kick back among the trees at this 1939 single-screen standby, which hosts new releases, old favorites like *The Goonies*, and the occasional quirky treat, such as a screening of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* set to music from one of the oldest working municipal pipe organs in the U.S., Portland's own Kotzschmar Organ. thesacodrivein.com

FARM ANIMAL FUN MAPLE CREST FARM, HERMON

Cancer recovery, love, and serendipity have all played roles in this manicured farm's adoption story. From one donkey, Garry and Trish Martin's collection of rescues has grown to include 27 alpacas, four mini donkeys, four goats, two horses, nearly 40 sheep, peacocks,

pheasants, and innumerable chickens. On no-charge, pre-booked tours, families can help with feeding and other chores, learn about solar-powered living, and meet the newborns at this little piece of heaven. maplecrestfarm.me

OUTDOOR FLEA MARKET MONTSWEAG FLEA MARKET, WOOLWICH

While Maine's Route 1 is not short on roadside eateries and attractions, it's worth keeping your eyes peeled for this one. Actually, it's hard to miss: At the height of summer the biggest flea market in Midcoast Maine boasts roughly 100 vendors, who pile their outdoor tables with collectibles and yard sale miscellany. Need another reason to pull over? Park-

ing and admission are free. Wednesdays and weekends May to October. [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/montsweagflea/)

OUTDOOR MUSEUM LANGLAIS SCULPTURE PRESERVE, CUSHING

Maine native Bernard "Blackie" Langlais created over 3,500 "wood paintings," as he called his sculptures and carved reliefs, before he passed away in 1977 at age 56. Encounter a dozen of these massive works, including a life-size elephant, on the artist's former homestead, now a Georges River Land Trust property. If they pique your interest, seek out more Langlais pieces in 50-plus other settings along Maine's Langlais Art Trail. georgesriver.org

PUBLIC GOLF COURSE BELGRADE LAKES GOLF CLUB, BELGRADE LAKES

When Maine philanthropist Harold Alfond hired British golf course architect Clive Clark to transform 240 acres in the Belgrade Lakes

TRAVEL NOTE

Before setting out to visit any of our Best of New England winners, please contact them or check online for updates on hours and operations this summer.



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Region into an 18-hole course, he said, “Anyone can build a clubhouse, but not everyone has this”—and he opened his arms to take in the stunning view of lakes and forest. Alfond also said he wanted a golf club “to be open to everyone,” so here the emphasis remains on golfers from around the country who have put this *Golf Digest* five-star course on their bucket list. Bonus: Your pooch is welcome to keep you company on the links. belgradelakesgolf.com

PYO FRUIT FARM

LIBBY & SON U-PICKS, LIMERICK

High-bush blueberries are a wonder crop at this 40-acre family fruit farm, which also grows summer and fall raspberries, peaches, and apples. Through late October, long after other farms’ blueberry seasons are kaput, you’ll still find deep-blue clusters of these antioxidant-rich berries to pick. Visit on weekends, when you might hear live music wafting through the fields, and you can get some extra vitamin C from fresh-fruit smoothies and homemade fruit doughnuts. libbysonupicks.com

ZIPLINE

TAKE FLIGHT AERIAL ADVENTURE PARK, KITTERY

At what is touted as Maine’s largest aerial adventure course, it should come as no surprise

that your Adventure Zip Line Tour would begin with a giant lobster trap climb. Your friendly flight crew will put you at ease as you whiz between platforms on a series of six lines. Added challenges will wobble your knees and whet your appetite for even more adrenaline-boosting bonding experiences on the park’s 65-plus other swinging, swaying, balance-testing rope elements. takeflightadv.com

DINING

CITY PATIO DINING

CHAVAL, PORTLAND

Set against a Technicolor two-story mural, the back patio at Chaval has served as an open-air dining room in the summer and a greenhouse village during the colder months. Whatever the setup, it’s a perfect spot for enjoying the Spanish and French stylings of chef-owners Ilma Lopez and Damian Sansonetti. Carnivores flock here for the famous Chaval burger, but seafood lovers will find plenty of local catch on the menu. chavalmaine.com

CRAFT BREWERY

BISSELL BROTHERS, PORTLAND

Word spread quickly about Bissell Brothers’ signature ale, The Substance, after it was first tasted back in 2013 at the late-night hot spot

the Thirsty Pig. Now, Noah and Peter Bissell run their namesake brewery and taproom at Thompson’s Point in Portland, as well as a second brewery, Bissell Brothers Three Rivers, in their rural hometown of Milo. Start with the tropical IPAs, but don’t overlook the highly original barrel-aged saisons like Fire Road and creamy oatmeal stouts like Umbra. bissellbrothers.com

FARM STAND

JORDAN’S FARM, CAPE ELIZABETH

Before Cape Elizabeth became known as a well-to-do bedroom community of Portland, it was largely farmland. Jordan’s Farm put down roots here in 1948, and the family-run farm stand has only grown over the years. Jordan’s is known for its sweet corn, but that’s only a fraction of what it sells; an expansive selection of vegetables, fields of cut-your-own flowers, and locally raised and harvested meat and fish are also available. jordansfarm.com

ICE CREAM STAND

BRESCA & THE HONEYBEE, NEW GLOUCESTER

Ice cream lovers will find this gem of an ice cream stand, which has been making its own full-flavored product since opening in 2013, on the shores of Sabbathday Lake. Owner and

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acclaimed Maine chef Krista Kern Desjarlais makes a firm commitment to using milk and cream from nearby dairy farms, a dedication that pays off in the finest, freshest ice cream possible. While grabbing a cone, visitors can also opt to use the boating, tubing, or picnicking facilities at nearby Outlet Beach. *brescaandthehoneybee.com*

LAKE-VIEW DINING BLAIR HILL INN, GREENVILLE

Set on 80 lush acres with a commanding view of Moosehead Lake, Blair Hill Inn is one of only two Maine properties that belong to Relais & Châteaux, the international association of luxury hotels and restaurants. The 10-guestroom mansion serves breakfast daily and dinner to guests five nights a week and opens to the public for dinner each Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The six-course menu changes throughout the season (May to November) and is peppered with ingredients sourced from the inn's own gardens. *blairhill.com*

LOBSTER SHACK MCLOONS LOBSTER SHACK, SOUTH THOMASTON

Maine boasts so many legitimately great lobster shacks that choosing just one is nearly impossible, but factoring in both the food and the views, we return again and again to this picture-perfect cove-side shack where the lobster for your steamed dinner is pulled fresh from the dock and the terrific rolls come with butter, mayo, or a combination of both. Don't miss the roast clams appetizer or, for dessert, the homemade pies. *mcloonslobster.com*

SEASIDE DINING ARAGOSTA, STONINGTON

With an absolutely gorgeous location on Goose Cove, Aragosta is one of Maine's most beautiful restaurants, and chef-owner Devin Finigan composes every plate like a work of art. As befits a restaurant in some of the world's most fertile fishing grounds, the menu changes frequently: One week, lobster might fill a ravioli; the next, it could be a garnish for a spring pea soup. Whatever is on the menu, though, it's always delightful. *aragostamaine.com*

WINERY OYSTER RIVER WINEGROWERS, WARREN

Forgot stuffy tasting rooms: From June through September, visitors are invited to visit Oyster River's post-and-beam barn to purchase a bottle to take home or to drink on-site (ask about the Wednesday pizza nights). The natural wines, made with Maine-grown organic fruit and precious little intervention from the winemaker, are shockingly good. The Morphos sparkling wine is especially quaffable, so stock up when you go. *oysterriverwine.com*

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LODGING

COASTAL CAMPGROUND

HERMIT ISLAND CAMPGROUND, PHIPPSBURG

Located on a private island, this family-owned 271-site campground has been luring ocean-loving campers since 1952. If you crave a water view, check the map and try to book one of the Ocean Prime sites. Even if you're bunking down in the forest, though, it's an easy walk to the water to swim, sail, kayak, and fish. hermitisland.com

FARM STAY

TODDY POND FARM, MONROE

Weeklong summer stays in the pond-view, three-bedroom cottage at this 500-acre-plus farm will place you amid cows and sheep ... and on a path to discovering a Maine-led trend toward sustainable farming. Help with morning chores; cook with produce, meats, and cheeses from the farm store; forage for blueberries; loll away hours on the screened porch. By your final evening by the fire pit, you'll feel utterly unwound. toddypondfarm.com

HOTEL ON THE BEACH

INN BY THE SEA, CAPE ELIZABETH

You'll feel a childlike heart-thump of anticipation with each step along the boardwalk as

you descend through native vegetation to the vanilla sands of Crescent Beach. This wood-planked pathway to the ocean is a favorite amenity of Inn by the Sea, which is known for its groundbreaking green initiatives, coastal spa experiences, exquisitely prepared seafood, and dog-friendliness. (Speaking of which, leashed pooches can join in the beach fun in the off-season.) innbythesea.com

HOTEL PORCH

CAPE ARUNDEL INN & RESORT, KENNEBUNKPORT

The scene of many champagne moments, the front porch at this Ocean Avenue resort's Victorian main building is a favorite spot for overnight and dinner guests alike. Away from the bustle of Kennebunkport's Dock Square, its white wicker chairs can be turned toward the wind-fluttered American flag flying over the Bush family's summer compound on Walker's Point or angled so that almost all you'll see is wavy ocean and wide sky. capearundelinn.com

ISLAND INN

CHEBEAGUE ISLAND INN, CHEBEAGUE ISLAND

Here is a century-old inn that embodies everything one desires in an island escape: a strikingly lovely porch facing west to the bay; dinners that become island-wide events for

tasting and socializing; easy access to tennis courts and a nine-hole golf course; and free use of bicycles to roam the 3.5-mile-long island. chebeagueislandinn.com

RV PARK

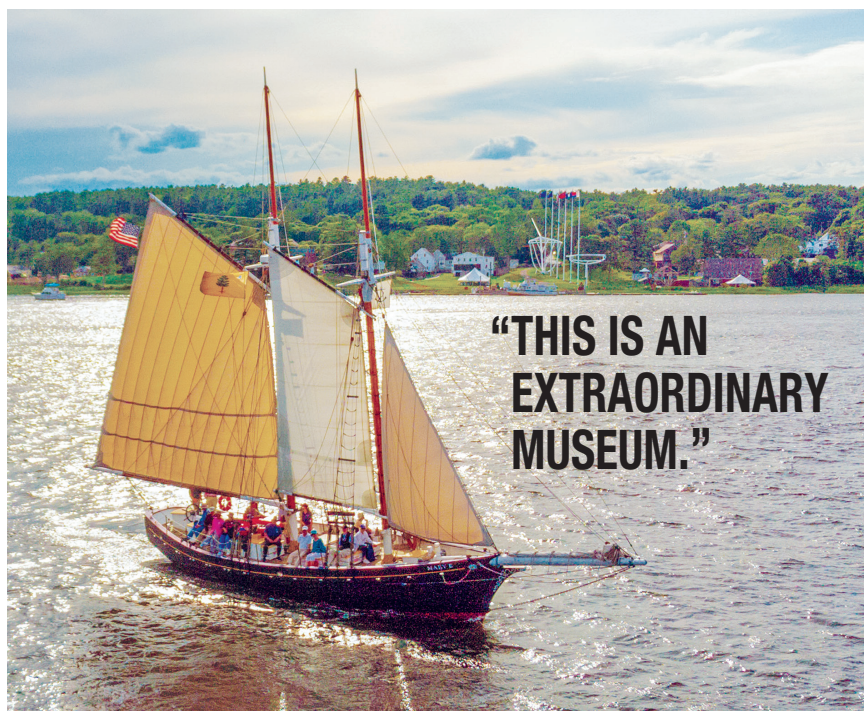
SEARSPORT SHORES, SEARSPORT

"Located right on Route 1 ... no windy dirt roads, no tight turns"—could anything be more musical to the ears of weary rig drivers? But easy access is just the opener in this 40-acre campground's bid for your affections. It ups the ante with 125 RV/tent sites, trailer and cabin rentals, kayak rentals, nature trails, lobster bakes, a quarter mile of private beach, and a small friendly flock of sheep and goats. maineoceancamping.com

WILDERNESS LODGE

ATTEAN LAKE LODGE, JACKMAN

From the time your boat captain deposits you at this island outpost, where vacationers have retreated since 1893, your agenda will be far from ordinary. Paddle to uninhabited isles, hook a salmon, pick blueberries on a mountaintop, hike crowd-free trails, put more than one lobster on your plate, bonfire-toast marshmallows, and snuggle up in your gas-lamp-lit cottage to read until loons' calls induce sleep. atteanlodge.com



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