

Northeast Traveler

Travel - Experience - Live!

Art in the Catskills

We all scream for New York's

Ice Cream Museum

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Vermont's Covered Bridges
New Hampshire's Foliage**

September 2023

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Northeast Traveler

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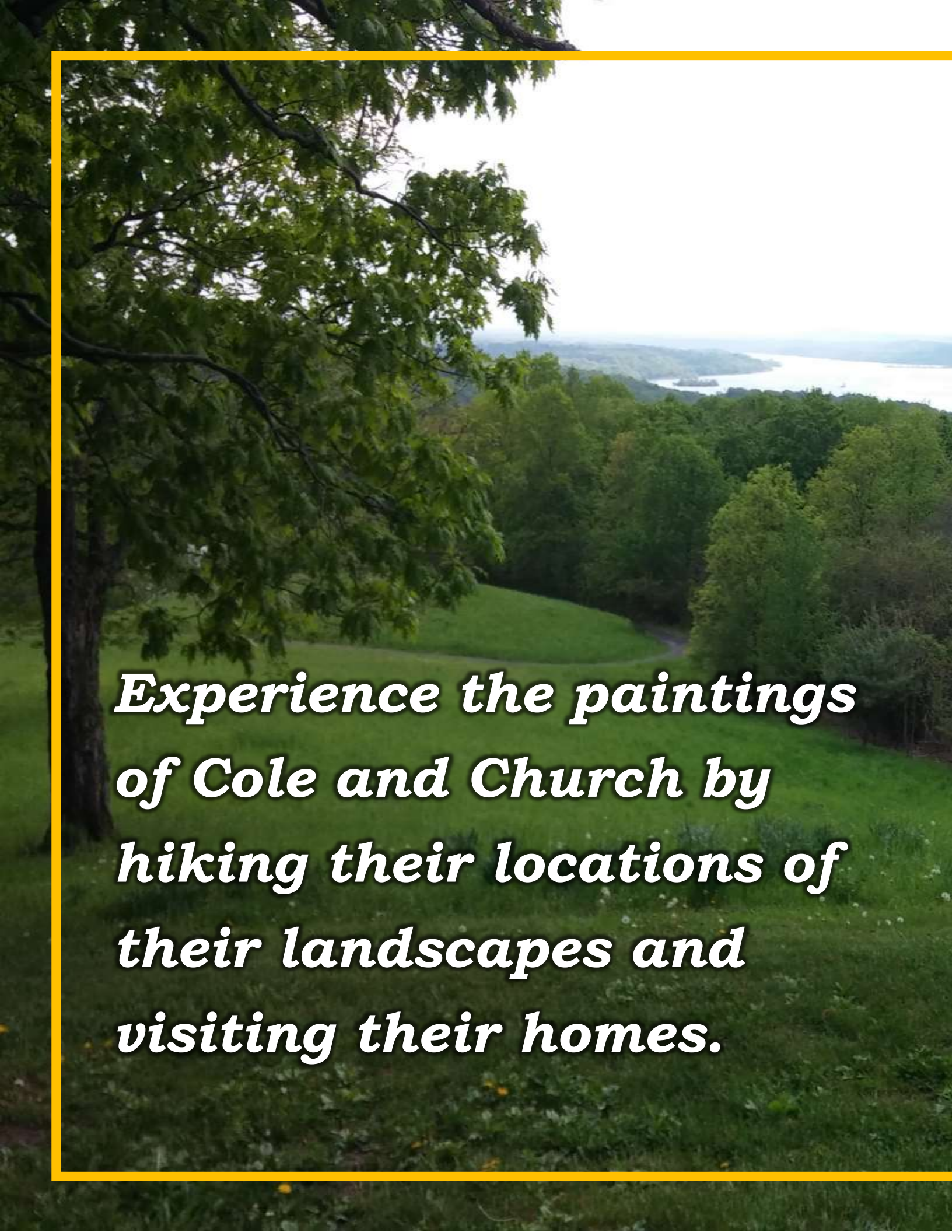
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Confirm directions and
critical information before
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concerns.

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Ogunquit, Maine



***Experience the paintings
of Cole and Church by
hiking their locations of
their landscapes and
visiting their homes.***



Hudson Valley Artist Trail

Art and Nature

Feature by
Paul Pence



I

n 1825, Thomas Cole hiked into the Catskill Mountains overlooking the Hudson River and painted the first landscapes of the area. The vivid autumn colors and sweeping vistas inspired him to render the views in a romantic style that was soon to be called the Hudson River School.



Among artists, the term “school” is more akin to the phrase “school of thought” than a literal school with teachers and students, but Cole’s painting style, depicting the harmonious junction of nature and pastoral human activity was echoed by his followers, several of whom he directly mentored before they went on to achieve their own measure of fame. At the time, the new country had just begun to shake off its birthing pains; the

steamship had begun popular use, and the Erie Canal had just been opened.

In general, the young country was starting to see the wilderness not as a frightening challenge but simply a beautiful piece of our shared back yard. The country was ready for realistic, idealized, and inspiring paintings that focused on the majestic wilderness that Americans were proud of, exactly the kind of paintings that Thomas Cole created.

Many of Cole’s paintings featured the rocks and trees

of New York's Catskills, part of the Appalachians that were barely traversable and sparsely inhabited in 1825 and barely more so now. The deep mountain gorges, secluded lakes, and as-far-as-the-eye-can-see summit views inspired Cole and his followers, but also inspired art lovers, helping to shape the American ideals of conservation and reinforcing the importance of our vast, natural spaces.

For the modern traveler, it is very simple to experience the rugged landscapes that inspired Cole and his contemporaries virtually unchanged for nearly 200 years.

A half hour scenic drive from the Hudson River followed by a half-mile hike lets you experience Kaaterskill Falls, where eons of weathering has created a waterfall and cascade that the Mohican Indians considered of mystical origin. It was the inspiration for the setting of the story Rip Van Winkle. Rushing water cascades over two drops, totaling 260 feet, splashing into a pair of gigantic basins before rushing along on its path that eventually takes it to the Hudson.

The hike to Kaaterskill Falls is part of the Hudson River School Art Trail, a series of hiking trails that end at scenic vistas immortalized by one of the Cole's many disciples.

Nearby, another half-mile trail leads visitors to Sunset Rock (and nearby "Artist's Rock"), with an expansive western view of a woodland valley, a pair of lakes named simply North Lake and South Lake, and more of Catskills beyond.

In all, the Art Trail has 17 sites to visit, most with a





not-too-strenuous hike through nature. The Art Trail also includes Cole's Hudson Valley home, which he called Cedar Grove.

Through the summer season, from 10 to 4 Wednesday through Sundays visitors can explore Cole's history and inspirations at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site. The historical house gives a look into how Cole and his family lived, some of his inspirations, and an up-close look at some of his work. The site features a rotating exhibit – one summer season featured works from Cole and his most celebrated disciple, Frederic Church, titled:



Master, Mentor, Master – Thomas Cole & Frederic Church. The exhibition told the story of their relationship, from teacher to student, originator and successor.

Church was even more celebrated than Cole – while his technique and style echoed Cole, Church was also an expert self-promoter and showman. He toured the

world, painting landscapes with the same romantic and detailed technique he had learned from Cole, but when he returned from a trip to South America with a painting measuring five feet by ten feet he



called “The Heart of the Andes”, he was launched into the 1859 version of superstardom.

He toured the US and Europe with the painting and other works, garnering both praise and commissions. Eventually he bought land atop a hill overlooking the Hudson to build his dream home and studio which he called Olana.

Olana is unusual for historic homes – it is furnished and decorated with the actual artifacts of the home’s builder rather than being simply a collection of historical artifacts of the period. Both Olana and the décor are the idiosyncratic creation of Church, who adored the Persian architecture he saw on his many travels and sought to duplicate it as a storehouse for the treasures he collected from around the world. In



fact, the name Olana is borrowed from a treasure storehouse in Assyria, 2000 years ago.

He added to his 200-acre farm with the purchase of a woodlot with astounding views of the Hudson River and the Catskills, then built his dream house to take the fullest advantage of those views. Then, he selected other remarkable views from his property and built carriage roads make them easily available.

Other significant artists of the Hudson River School include Asher Brown Durand, John Frederick Kensett, Sanford Robinson Gifford, Albert Bierstadt, and Eliza Pratt Greatorex, the first woman to be elected an associate of the National Academy of Design.

Like Cole they traveled extensively looking for



amazing landscapes and created memorable works.

Of course modern traveling is easier than the train and carriage transportation of Cole's day. Without arduous and expensive travel, the only way for most people to experience the Catskills and other majestic sights would be to view landscape paintings.

For modern travelers, the Catskills are just an hour north of New York City and three hour's drive from Boston. Once you are there, the hiking trails and the historical houses of Olana and Cedar Grove are just the beginning of the artistic experience.

More recent art is displayed at the Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art in Peekskill NY and at the Neuberger Museum in Purchase NY.

Sculpture lovers will enjoy the Kendall Sculpture Garden at the Pepsico headquarters, also in Purchase and at the Storm King Art Center with a hundred





outdoor sculptures and installations spread across 500 acres of woodlands, fields, and hills.

Bring along your sketch book and oil paints, so that after you are inspired by touring the art museums, you can take a hike into the Catskills and paint your own masterpiece.

For More Information:

- Hudson Valley Art Trail -www.hudsonvalleyarttrail.com
- Thomas Cole's Cedar Grove - www.thomascole.org
- Frederic Church's Olana - www.olana.org



MUSEUM OF I

A fun (and tasty) New York City Museum dedicated to that frozen treat we all scream for!



ICE CREAM

Embrace Your Inner Child at the Museum of Ice Cream



Feature By
Debbie Stone



W

ith nearly a hundred museums in and around the Big Apple, visitors are guaranteed to find one that appeals to them.

If you're looking for a museum that's not only interactive and immersive, but also tasty, head to the



Museum of Ice Cream. You'll learn plenty about this popular treat, plus, you'll get to sample it in several forms. It's innovative, fun and most of all, delicious!

The museum currently has locations in NYC, Austin, Texas and Singapore. The New York City site opened in 2016 to rave reviews and since then, it has attracted over several hundred thousand satisfied visitors. Founders Maryellis Bunn and Manish Vora are credited with the concept, while Figure8 is the parent

company.

Escape reality as you walk through the doors of this ice cream fantasy land. You'll feel as if you've entered Willy Wonka's factory. Thirteen multi-sensory installations are spread among three floors of the 20,000 square-foot building and decorated to the hilt to reflect the seasons and holidays. This past holiday



season, it was “Pinkmas.” Everything was done up in, you guessed it – pink!

Each space elicits imagination and creativity, while providing dozens of instagrammable and photo worthy moments. Follow the “melt this way” arrows, as you engage in activities like sliding down the indoor Ice Cream Portal, taking a ride to outer space in the Celestial Subway, dancing through the Rainbow Tunnel, meandering amid a wonderland of hanging bananas and jumping in the Sprinkle Pool. And yes, all ages are encouraged to participate!



Along the way, you’ll learn some fun

facts about ice cream. Remember the date 618 A.D., as that's the birth of ice cream, attributed to the Chinese Tang Dynasty. Flash forward to 1744 when ice cream in America is first written about in a letter from a guest of then Maryland Governor William Bladen. A few years later, an ad for ice cream is posted in the New York Gazette by confectioner Fillppo Lenzi, marking its marketing debut.



The cone makes its entrance at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904 when a waffle maker and ice cream maker join forces. Today, our country produces a whopping two billion cones a year.



The 1920s saw the invention of the ice cream bar, while the 1930s brought soft serve ice cream to our palettes. It was a stroke of accidental genius when Tom Carvel's ice cream truck had a flat



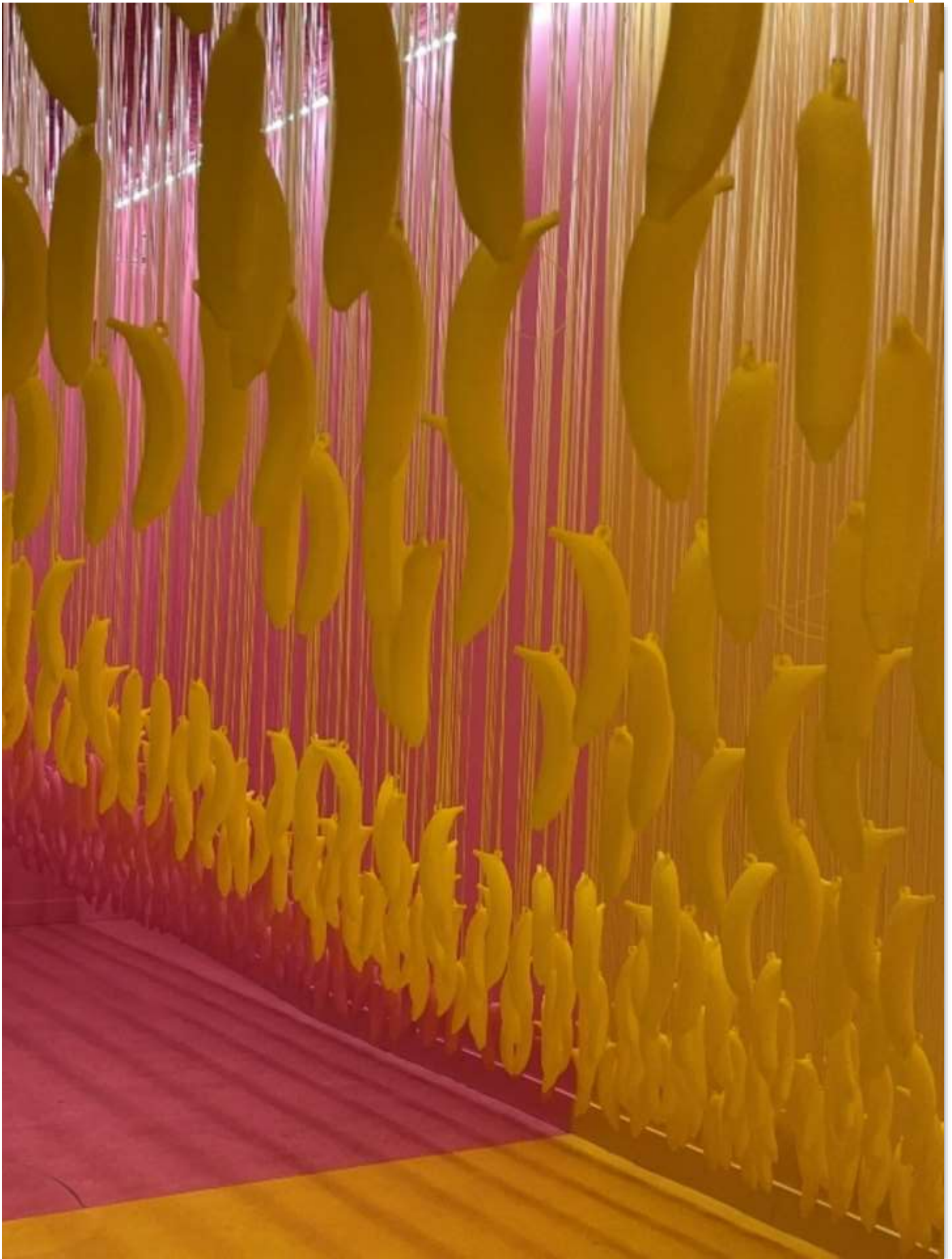
tire, causing his ice cream to slightly melt. His customers went wild for the results and soft serve became a mainstay.

A map in the museum directs your attention to ice cream around the world, with numerous unique delights, including Hazelnut Gelato in Italy, Tiger Tail in Canada (a blend of swirling black licorice in orange flavored ice cream), Hokey Pokey in New Zealand (vanilla base with crunchy, gooey, honeycomb, toffee pieces) and Keso in the Philippines (a salty-sweet combo of cream and cheddar cheese).



You'll discover that China buys the most ice cream, followed by the U.S. and Japan, but in terms of consumption per capita, New Zealand takes the lead, then the U.S., Australia, Finland and Sweden.

Question and answer boards inform you that the average American eats twenty quarts of ice cream per year. And as for why we love the stuff so much, you can blame your addiction on science, as ice cream has the



perfect mix of sugar and fat – main energy sources that human brains are designed to crave.

Visitors can give themselves an ice cream-related name to wear during their tour. After reading some of the monikers for celebs, including Oprah Winfreeze, George Coolney, Katy Berry, Dwayne the Rocky Road Johnson and Leonardo DeCreamio, you'll be inspired to invent your own. My son, for example, whose name is Jake, chose "Jocolate," while his wife, Bri, was "Brinana Split." I, on the other hand, became "Debbin' Dots."

You can also use magnetic letters to decorate a wall in response to prompts like: "Share your earliest memory of ice cream with your cone-panion," "What is your dream?" and "What advice would you tell your younger self?" I'd need more letters, more wall space and a





lot more time to answer the latter!

As for treats, there are plenty. During my visit, the smorgasbord included a cone of “Creamy Peppermint Snow,” which was vanilla soft serve with peppermint crumble, followed by a cherry popsicle, a choice of a scoop of gingerbread or peppermint ice cream or raspberry sorbet, and for the finale, a doughnut hole in whipped cream with a fruity syrup drizzled on top. Talk about a sugar rush! And for the adults in the crowd, there are several blended alcoholic drinks available for an

additional cost.

For More Information:

www.museumoficecream.com

Pennsylvania State Capitol Building


Harrisberg, PA

Begun in 1902,
completed in 1906,
and renovated in
2007.

The dome is
topped with a
statue of William
Penn

The dome is 272
feet tall

The interior
features murals
depicting the
history of the state.

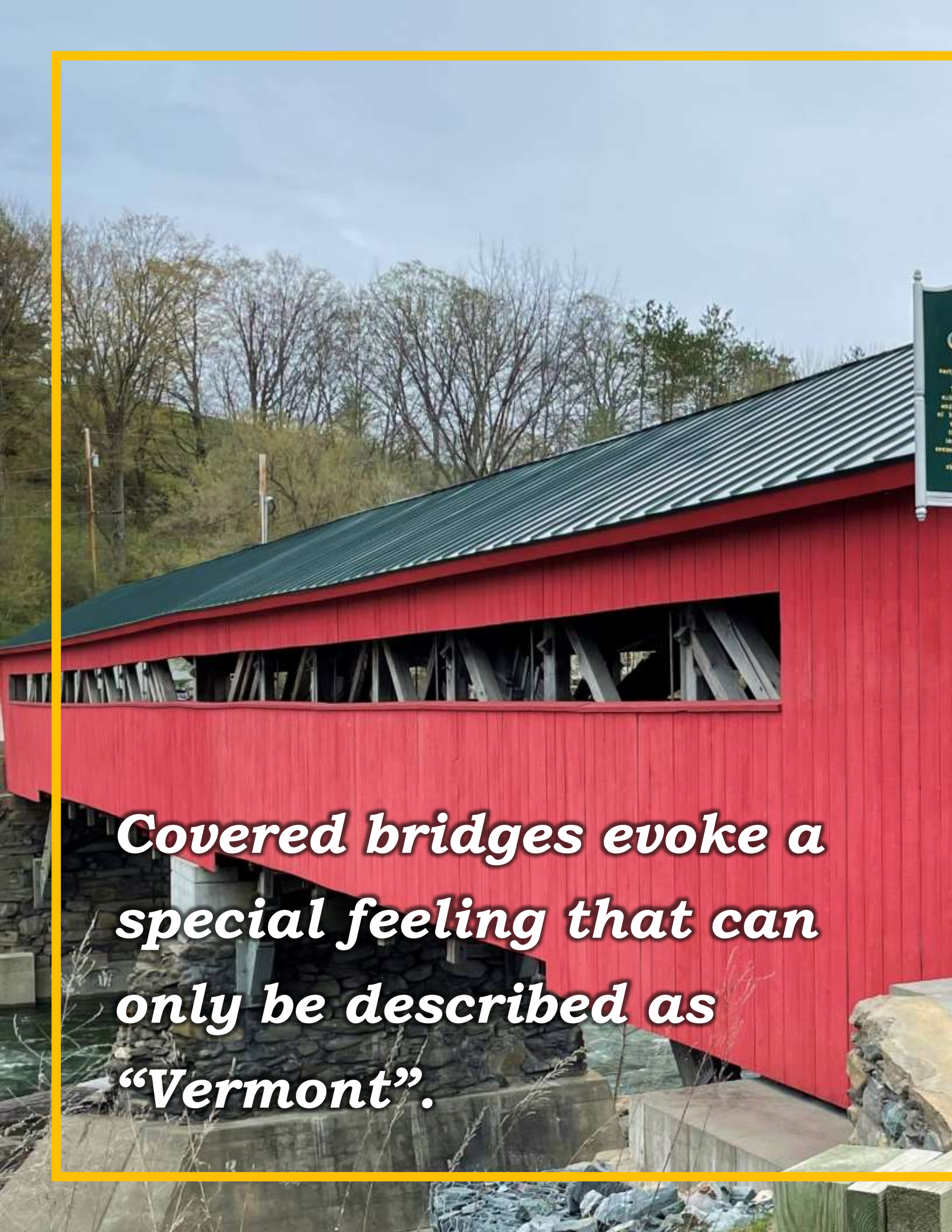


The center of the rotunda floor has a large compass rose.

The building's large bronze doors weigh 4.5 tons each.

The exterior is made of brick and Vermont granite.

The surrounding grounds have formal gardens and monuments.



Covered bridges evoke a special feeling that can only be described as “Vermont”.

Vermont's Quintessential

Stars:

Covered Bridges

**TAFTSVILLE
COVERED BRIDGE**

The Taftsville Covered Bridge is a fine example of a traditional wooden cross covered bridge in the United States. All evidence indicates the bridge is the oldest Taftsville resident owned Salmon Run Bridge. It features a unique patented bridge truss design, and that the original construction techniques are unique. Constructed entirely of local wood and stone in 1836, at a cost of \$2000, it is the oldest covered bridge in Windsor County, and the third oldest in the state. It is approximately 100 feet in length at the floor, and 600 feet at the roof. It is the longest covered bridge in Vermont. On August 25, 2011, Tropical Storm Irene devastated the north abutment, leaving the bridge for two years while extensive repairs and restoration efforts were made.

SEE MORE SIGNS FOR NATIONAL HISTORICAL BRIDGES

TAFTSVILLE

CLEARANCE 10 FEET

USD

Feature by

Debbie Stone



T

he covered bridges of Vermont are often found on postcards, in books and stories about the state, and on many different social media sites. They're the settings for idyllic scenic drives, weddings, and ghost tales.

I had long drooled over such images and yearned

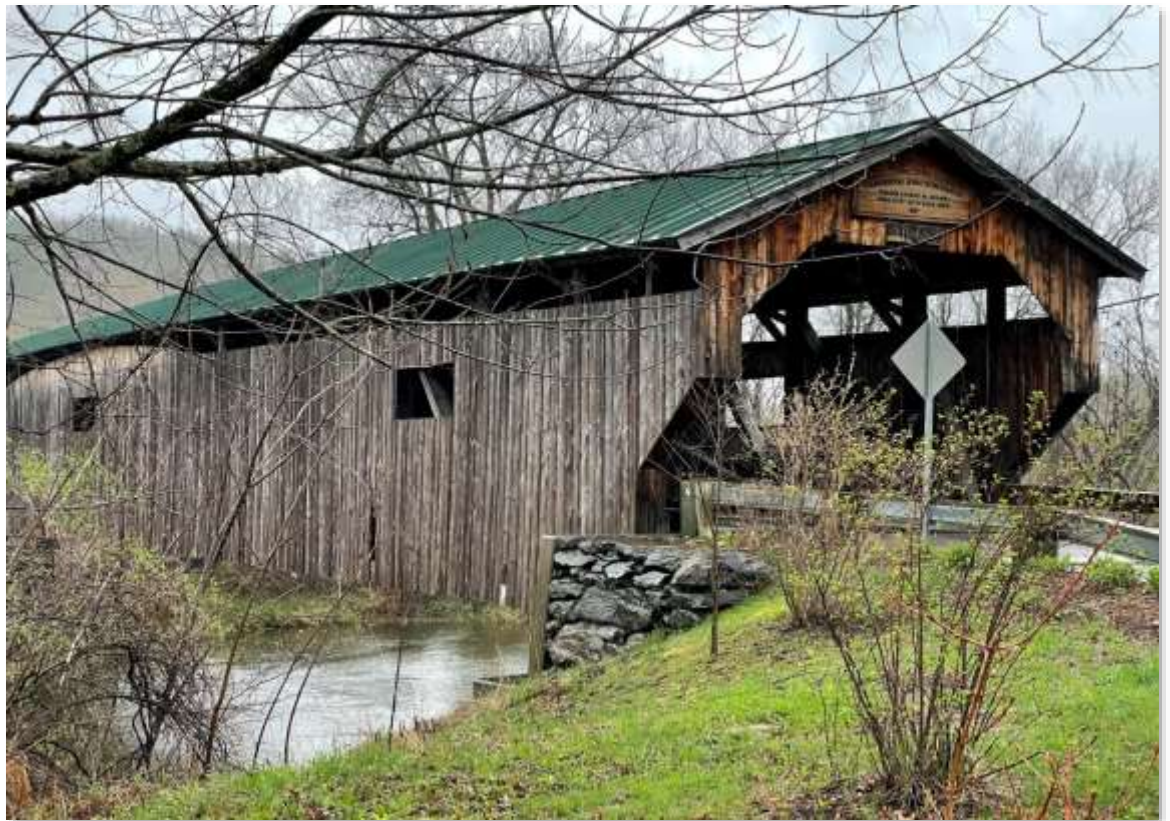


to see the bridges in person. Last year, I had planned a trip to the area to finally make my dream a reality, but of course that didn't happen. With the advent of Vermont easing its Covid restrictions for fully vaccinated travelers in spring, I set out to accomplish my goal.

Vermont is home to more than a hundred of these historic structures and as such, it boasts more covered bridges per square mile than any

other state in the country. At one time, there was upwards of five hundred, but unfortunately many were lost to the major flood of 1929, as well as to modernization and vandalism.

Built of timbers from forests and fashioned by craftsmen, the bridges date from 1820, with the majority built during the mid and late 19th century. They were primarily constructed to keep snow off the bridge roadway during winter, as a sloping roof allows snow to fall into the river. They also provided shelter for travelers during storms. Additionally, the coverings



protected the bridges themselves. Exposure to harsh weather elements can lessen the life of a bridge, however, if covered, it can last a century or more. Sides and roofs made the structures more durable. Sides, in particular, helped farmers get their cattle over the bridge, as the sight of rushing water made them balk.

The bridges are undeniably romantic, complete with bucolic backdrops and charming hamlets. It's obvious why these weathered beauties are magnets to visitors, who enjoy photographing them with avid enthusiasm. They are iconic symbols of our heritage and their appeal lies in their ability to evoke the spirit of the past to a simpler

way of life. You can easily picture horses and buggies making their way over the bridges on rudimentary dirt roads through the pastoral countryside.

On a 63-mile loop from the town of Stowe, I stopped at nine covered bridges and photographed them from every angle. Each one was unique, from size and span to its history, color and backdrop.

Cambridge Junction Bridge, for example, was created to access a railroad junction and the surrounding village of Cambridge Junction. It has a whopping span of 135 feet, making it one of the longest spans of its type in the U.S.

Gates Farm Bridge, on the other hand, only reaches





sixty feet and peacefully sits in a cornfield on a farm.

Then there's Red Covered Bridge, which crosses a picturesque gorge. One of the last to be built during the historic period of covered bridge construction in the state, it possesses a queen post truss design and red metal roof. This design style was used when the structure needed to cover a larger span. This bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Jaynes Covered Bridge has several names. When it was built in 1877, the Jaynes family lived nearby. It's also known by Upper Bridge and Coddington Hollow due to its location. And then some people call it the Kissing Bridge, which from what I've learned, is a common moniker for many covered bridges. The idea is that the

bridge provided a discreet place for couples to kiss without being seen by others.

Bridges with multiple names are not unusual in Vermont. Grist Mill Bridge is another case in point. It's called Grist Mill because it lies just past an



old grist mill building, but you might also hear it referred to as Bryant Bridge (someone named Bryant lives or lived in the area), Canyon Bridge (it's situated on Canyon Road) and Scott Bridge (this could be the name of the man who built it). In truth, the builder's actual identity is unknown, making the bridge a bit of a mystery. And who doesn't love the scent of an elusive past!

A favorite among visitors is Gold Brook, or Emily's Bridge. The 48-foot Howe truss bridge spans the Gold Brook and is famous for being Vermont's only haunted covered bridge.

This style of bridge was prominent across the country, as it was strong and relatively





easy to build. It was also innovative because of it used vertical iron rods. The rods were secured with bolts between the diagonal beam and if the joints loosened, the bolts could be tightened. This design solved a major problem with bridges made entirely of wood.

As for the bridge's ghostly notoriety, there are a few versions that revolve around the "Legend of Emily." The most prevalent tells of a farmer's daughter, Emily, who was jilted by her intended groom on the day of their marriage. Despondent, she took her life at the bridge. Some believe that Emily's spirit continues to haunt the bridge, especially on moonlit nights, when she waits for her man to return.

Other folks remember the story as a tale concocted in the presence of some suggestible college students during the 1970s, when renewed interest in witchcraft was all the rage in schools across the nation. Young Emily, deserted by her fiancé, does not commit suicide, but rather rides back across the bridge in a state of uncontrolled fury. Unfortunately, her horses panicked and she was thrown from the wagon to her death.

Happily, my journey didn't include a carriage accident. It included a chance to see the amazing countryside and of course Vermont's wooden covered bridges. These bridges are revered and beloved sentinels in rural America, and hopefully they can continue to be preserved to withstand the test of time.



**A 70's Themed Silent
Dance Event**

**Death at the
Disco**

*Boogie the night away
at a silent dance event,
where rhythms and
riddles intertwine under
the disco ball's shimmer.*



S

tep into a world where rhythms pulse directly into your ears, giving a 70's boogie beat that only the chosen few can hear. A silent concert for you and a crowd of disco-loving dancers to get



**down with
the hustle
and the
bump, when
suddenly,
there's a
murder and
it's up to you
to solve it.**

Welcome to the enchanting realm of a silent concert event. As you slide on the wireless headphones, the ambiance undergoes a breathtaking metamorphosis. The spinning disco ball,

the kaleidoscope of flashing lights, and the dancers in their gold lamé and sequins and polyester leisure suits, gold chains, and soft silky but incredibly gaudy double-knit shirts with wide lapels suddenly have music to accompany them.

Dressed in your own vintage platform shoes, you're there to dance... but you're also there to solve a murder mystery.

You probably can imagine the 1970's disco scene, even if you are too young to have joined John Travolta in experiencing his Saturday Night Fever. You can also imagine the modern, high tech twist where the booming base and drums can only be heard when you wear your headphones. And you can imagine a



murder mystery night, where it's up to you and your fellow participants to solve the mystery before you get back to the dance floor to shake your groove thing.

Now imagine all three at the same time.

Is the murderer the DJ who never left his station playing the vinyl? Maybe it's the mustached man who is channeling his inner

lounge lizard. Or the femme fatale who is built like a brick house and letting it all hang out. Whoever the murderer is, there's a victim who failed at staying alive. Help figure it out and get back to the dance floor to celebrate good times.

At special Death and the Disco event, attendees step onto the dance floor as both



dancers and detectives, their focus shifting between rhythm and riddle. Each audio stream they tune into unravels a web of cryptic clues and labyrinthine motives, unfolding an intricate narrative that beckons for deciphering. These auditory threads guide participants through real-time

role-playing and spontaneous interactions, where overheard conversations between suspects and the victim become a harmonious duet with melodies.

You step into the role of an undercover operative, summoned to the heart of the club's clandestine world, facilitated by confidential documents and the help of a more experienced agent on assignment. Our hidden operatives have discreetly planted bugs on three pivotal figures. Your arsenal includes specialized agent headphones, designed to tune into these concealed conversations—the gateway to unraveling the enigma.

Your task: to embrace this dual identity, to listen and merge seamlessly with the players, extracting coveted secrets and concealed motives. Your mission unveils in whispers and exchanges, amidst the cadence of music and rhythm.

As the final piece of the puzzle falls into place, the mystery is solved, and the successful sleuths are



awarded for unmasking the killer, the event undergoes a transformation into a full-fledged disco party, fueled by the same pulsating energy that once ignited the 70's sent straight to your ears through your headphones.

Whether you're captivated by the art of unraveling enigmas or yearn to boogie to the timeless anthems of the Bee Gees and the Commadores, take this opportunity to immerse yourself in an event that challenges norms.




Mark your calendars for September 15 from 9pm to 10:30 with the after party continuing to 2am at 230 Fifth, on 5th Avenue in NYC. And for those whom disco doesn't rock their boat, the DJ will be spinning three different sound

tracks, so you can also choose to dance your own way to top 40's dance or hip-hop and reggae instead.

For more information:

www.quietevents.com/event/death-at-the-disco

NE
Traveler

A scenic view of a golf course. In the foreground, there is a brick path leading to a flower bed filled with yellow and red flowers. The middle ground shows a green golf course with several large, mature trees. The background is a dense forest of trees with some autumn-colored leaves. The entire image is framed by a yellow border.

***Rural Connecticut is
calling you for a weekend
getaway, roaming the
country roads and
exploring the history of
the state***



A Road Trip into Connecticut's Quiet Corner

Feature by
Paul Pence



A

drive through the New England countryside can easily take you from one state into another. We took a weekend drive and soon found ourselves in Connecticut, with rolling hills and quaint villages that just went on and on and on.



Admittedly, our trip wasn't spur of the moment — Linda and I planned ahead and were hosted by the inns and restaurants we stopped at. But a trip like ours could easily be accidental, by taking a turn to the right or left on a whim, stopping when something looked interesting, and driving on when the urge to see what's around the next corner is too great to resist.

This time of year, the foliage makes a great excuse for a road trip in New England. But the countryside is beautiful any time of year, with farms and hills opening up the views. Beyond the scenery, the history, shops, and food can be enough to get into the car and start exploring.

Perhaps the most amazing discovery on our trip was a gourmet restaurant in what many would consider the middle of nowhere. In Eastford Connecticut we stopped for dinner at the Still River Cafe. With a name like that, you'd think a coffee shop with seating under a spreading oak tree, but this is nothing like that. We had



an amazing dinner as excellent as any we've eaten in the best fine dining restaurants of Boston and Newport.

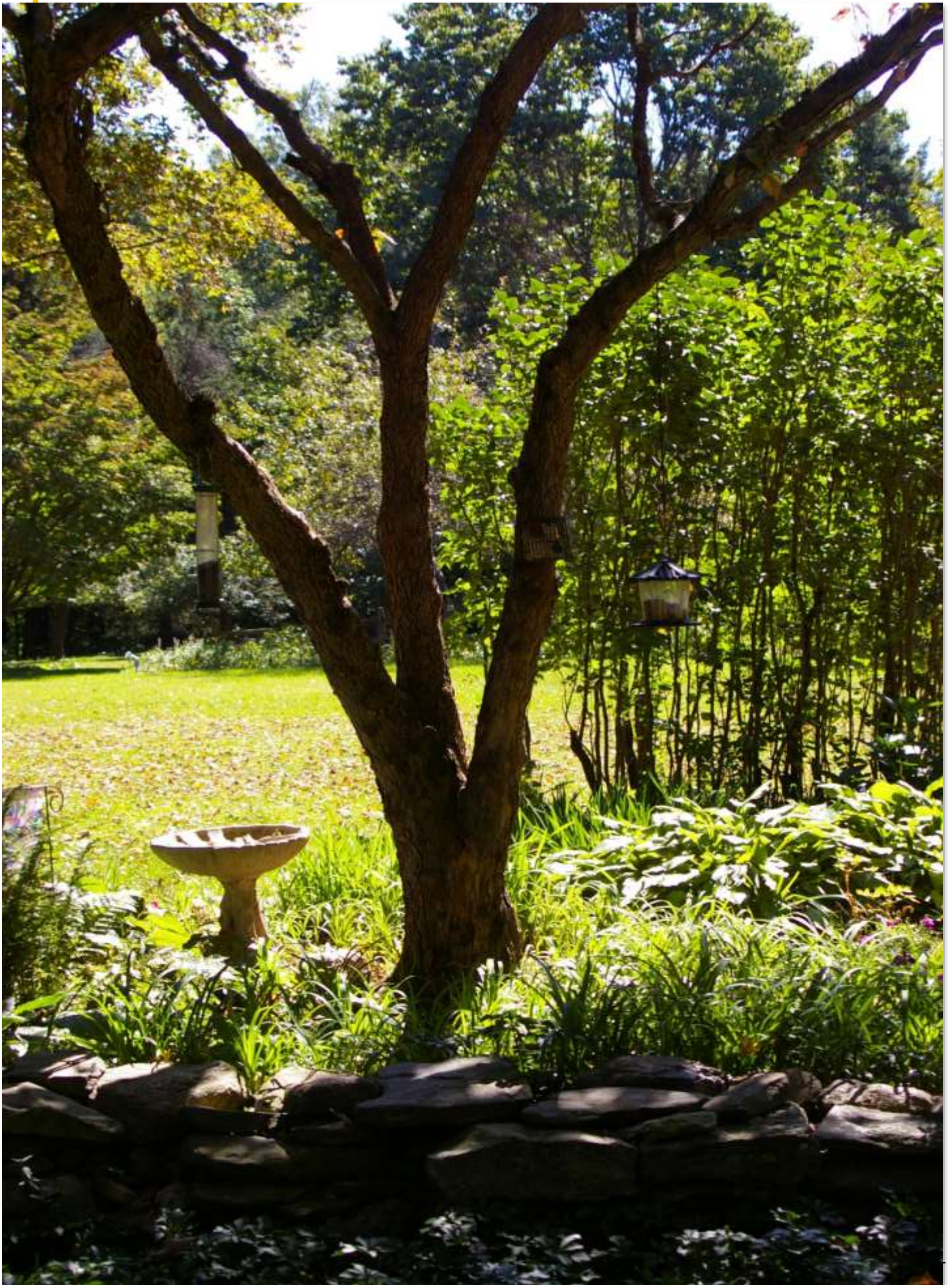
Our dinners were explorations of themes: a gel-skinned droplet of cucumber juice and a cucumber mousse, roasted beets of three different colors served with a goat cheese parfait topped with toasted shreds of beets, a plate of North Ashford Farm heirloom tomatoes including Brandywine, Green Zebra, striped Cavern, and striped German heirloom tomatoes, with Bufala di Vermont hand crafted buffalo milk mozzarella, basil ice cream with micro basil — and that's not even the entree! The entrees continued exploration, not with

just one way of serving quail, but four different ways, with a cranberry and apple stuffed quail, pan seared quail breast with sautéed spinach and “frisee aux lardons” with poached quail eggs. Even the dessert was an exploration of a theme, with three different creme brulee comprising a single dessert.

Well fed, we drove well after dark we drove toward UConn’s main campus to our lodgings for the night at the Daniel Rust House B&B.

Built in 1731 and expanded repeatedly over the ensuing years, the B&B not only made us feel welcome, but also feel like we were transported into the past, when the house





was an 18th century Tavern used by the Sons of Liberty.

The B&B was cozy, comfortable, and welcoming, with a fireplace in our room, a four poster bed, private bathroom, antiques and keepsakes from the innkeepers' private collection, hot tea and coffee in the parlor, secret passageway, and even a friendly cat.

The Daniel Rust House was such a peaceful oasis on our road trip, it was tempting to just park there for the weekend. After all, every trip needs a home base, and being on Main Street in Coventry, it placed us right near many of the places we wanted to visit.

But, alas, we had to get moving. The innkeepers Cathy and Germain's delicious hot breakfast and friendly conversation got us up and moving while the morning was still morning.

The first stop was the home of Coventry Connecticut's most famous historical resident — Nathan Hale.

"I regret that I have but one life to lose for my country," may or may not have actually been said by Hale before his execution at age 21 for spying for the American revolutionary army in Manhattan, but there is no doubt that he grew up just a short drive away from the Daniel Rust House.

The house where Hale was born and grew up was razed in the 1770's. He moved away from home to go to college and later join George Washington's army about the same time that his family moved into the larger



house that he and his many brothers built. Thanks to a large number of boys, the Hale family's 400-acre farm was prosperous. The main house was built with two fireplace stacks and a central hall and a very long ell extension housing the kitchen. The house remained largely unaltered to this day and has been decorated with period decor throughout. Visitors to the homestead can watch a short movie about Nathan Hale before being given a guided tour.

If we had stayed longer in Coventry, we would have stopped at Memory Lane Countryside Antique Center or the Coventry Country Store, but we wanted to make it to Willimantic to stay on schedule.

Willimantic is the location of the Great Frog Battle of the 1754. At the height of the French and Indian War, villagers were awakened by a horrible noise. Rushing to their muskets, they came down the dark country road

anticipating a battle to save their village, finding only thousands of bullfrogs.

Willimantic was also the site of a thriving textile industry, remembered by the Windham Textile and History Museum. In what was once the company store for the American Thread Company factory, a museum houses artifacts and exhibits that help us understand the era when everyone worked for the company.

A rotating exhibit when we visited was featuring sewing machines, while machinery fills a neighboring building and the upstairs shows life in the row houses and a mill manager's home.

From there, we went to Willimantic Brewing Company for lunch. The Willimantic Brewing Company





is in the town’s classic 1907 limestone and granite post office. Of course with a name like theirs, you can be sure that they are a brew pub, serving a broad selection of not only their own beers, but also of “guest beers”, satisfying those who insist on their favorite brand despite a smorgasbord of ales, pilsners, and alds laid before them. Beer doesn’t always mix well with a driving trip, but happily they also serve food.

Their pub food extends far beyond burgers and fries, delving into steaks and pastas that seem more fitting to a nice date restaurant, but for lunch pub grub was just right. We had a brochette made in part from spent brewer’s grains for an appetizer. Linda had a



salad and I had their variation of a Ruben called the Windham Village sandwich, with corned beef, onion, coleslaw and Swiss cheese toasted on rye.

We could have spent more time shopping and exploring Willimantic, with bullfrog-on-spool icons decorating the bridge, a long pedestrian bridge with gardens, a walkable downtown, and loads of shops. Instead, back on the road toward our next destination, Woodstock, CT.

Of course, there's a lot along the way. On the weekend we traveled, there was an outdoor art show with music called "Artists in the Country". There's no shortage of events, in the autumn look for organized



walks in October under the title “Walktober”. Woodstock is also the location of the Taylor Brooke Winery and the historic Roseland Cottage and Bowen House.

We passed that opportunity and headed to a more family-oriented activity: an educational corn maze at Fort Hill Farm in nearby Thompson. The theme changes every year, for us it was the “Appalachian Trail”, with a somewhat easy-to-navigate maze with the intent not to find your way out, but to find all of the hidden landmarks. The corn is amazingly high, at least 10 feet, perfect height for cow corn, and perfect for Fort Hill Farm, which produces organic milk under the co-op brand “The Farmer’s Cow”.

Then our night’s lodgings at the Mansion at Bald Hill. This Gilded Era home features its own fine dining

which we didn't sample, but their rooms are as plush as the wealthy Bowen family would have commanded in their day.

Our room was Mr. Bowen's own. We spent the night in complete luxury and had breakfast in the library. In the morning, we walked around the formal gardens, perfect for a wedding.

Then, on the road again, stopping at Southwood Alpacas to see the soft-furred llamas that produce such fine wool. Local weavers turn their hair into scarves and other garments. The hair is very fine and soft, and being hollow is extra warm.

Had we even more time, we would have done more shopping at the Garden Gate and Coco's Cottage in South Woodstock or at Majilly, Martha's Herbarry, Celebrations Shoppes, and Hazelwood Fine Crafts in Pomfret. Or perhaps we would have gone for a walk at





the Audubon Properties at Bafflin Sanctuary and Trailwood in Pomfret.

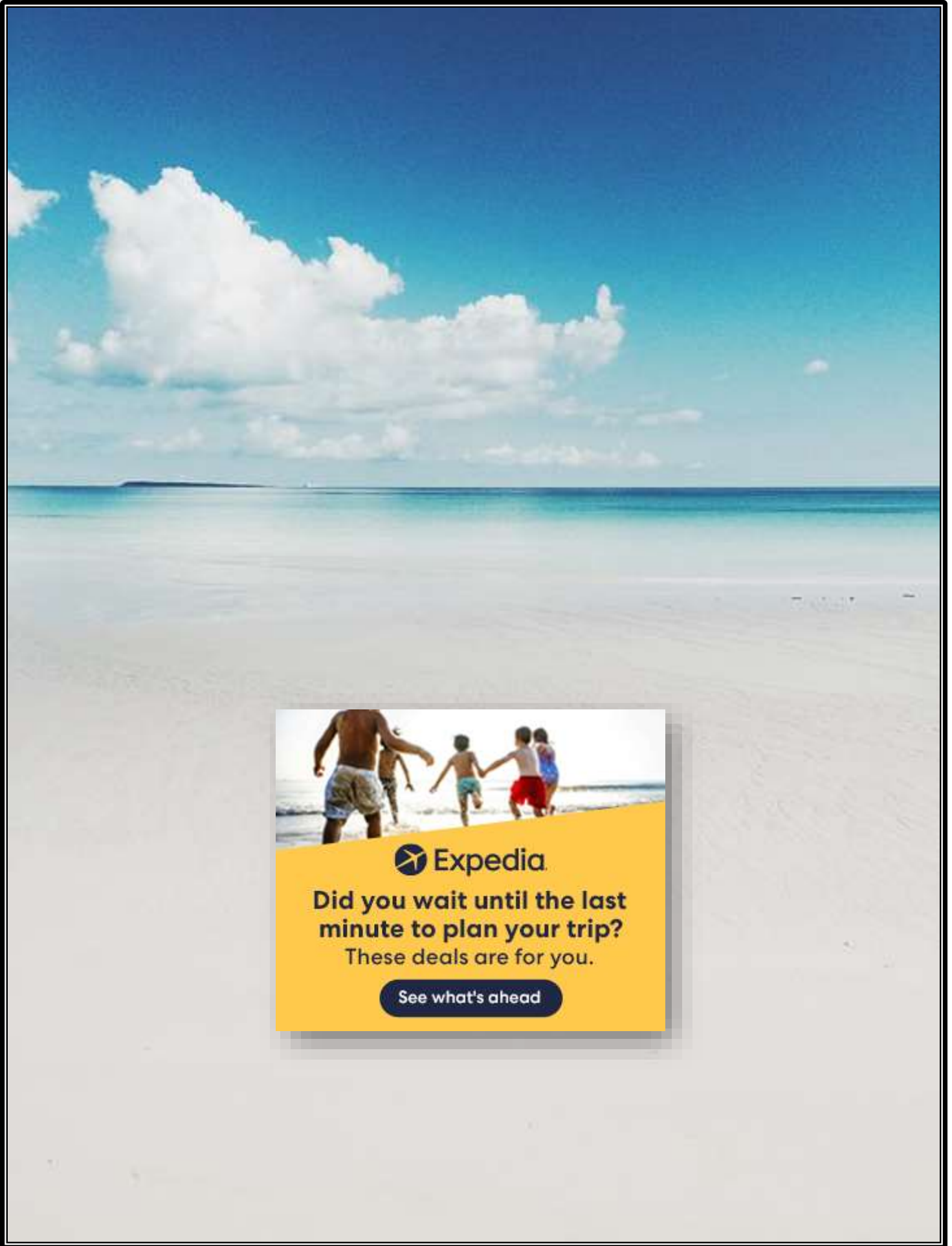
But instead, we had a quick stop at the Vanilla Bean Cafe before heading home, tired and happy that we had the adventure beyond the edge of our state.

Places On Our Road Trip

- Still River Café www.stillrivercafe.com
- Daniel Rust House B&B
www.thedanielrusthouse.com
- Nathan Hale Homestead www.hartnet.org/als/nathanhale
- Memory Lane Countryside Antique Center

www.memory-lanes.com

- Coventry Country Store 860-742-5336
- Windham Textile & History Museum
www.millmuseum.org
- Willimantic Brewing Company www.willibrew.com
- Artists in the Country www.artistsinthecountry.org
- Taylor Brooke Winery
www.taylorbrookewinery.com
- Fort Hill Farm www.cornmaze.com
- Mansion at Bald Hill www.mansionatbaldhill.com
- Southwood Alpacas 866-SWD-CRIA
- Roseland Cottage and Bowen House www.historicnewengland.com
- Garden Gate 860-928-0571
- Cocos Cottage 860-928-1514
- Majilly www.majilly.com
- Martha's Herbarry www.marthasherbarry.com
- Celebrations Shoppes
www.celebrationsshoppes.com
- Hazelwood Fine Crafts
www.hazelwoodfinecrafts.com
- Audubon Properties at Bafflin Sanctuary and Trailwood www.ctaudubon.org/visit/pomfret.htm
- The Vanilla Bean Café
www.thevanillabeancafé.com



 **Expedia**

**Did you wait until the last
minute to plan your trip?**
These deals are for you.

[See what's ahead](#)

A photograph of a red and white lighthouse situated on a grassy hill. The lighthouse has a white base with a small window and a red upper section. The foreground is filled with tall, golden-brown grasses. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The entire image is framed by a thick yellow border.

Cape Cod's Second Summer

***Summer on Cape Cod
doesn't end at Labor
Day. Enjoy the warm
weather, sandy
beaches, and local
culture through
October.***



I

f you're fond of sand dunes and salty air, you can extend your summer — and the fun — through October with Cape Cod's "Second Summer."

Come September, visitors can expect fewer crowds, warm

temps, a chill vibe and plenty of adventures to be had. Fall colors,



cranberry harvests and dreamy golden sunlight welcome each day, and a bevy of seaside festivals celebrate the season.

Fall is festival season on Cape Cod!

At the Harwich Cranberry & Music

Festival on September 16-17, shop for paintings, jewelry, photography, and other works of art while enjoying a wide variety of live on-stage entertainment. The annual

Tennessee Williams Theater Festival takes place this year from September 21-24 in Provincetown, where Williams spent several summers working on his classic plays.

Experience the best in craft beer at the annual Cape Cod Brew Fest on September 23 at the Cape Cod Fairgrounds in Falmouth.

On September 30, the festival fun continues with Mashpee Oktoberfest, the Yarmouth Seaside Festival and Chatham's wildly



creative Pumpkin People in the Park. For more Fall events, visit the Cape Cod Chamber's Events Calendar.

Taste of the Cape

Cape Cod has you covered with as many clam shacks, seafood emporia, food trucks and haute cuisine restaurants as you can patronize throughout the entire season. Savor a clam or lobster bake (Art's Dune Tours' sunset dune tour with seafood dinner and bonfire is amazing), freshly harvested oysters or

quahogs, dig into clam chowder or freshly grilled just-caught fish. Enjoy one of the Cape's many



outdoor dining spaces. whether it be intimate patio dining or a waterfront table with a view.

Experience craft beer and wine from more than a dozen craft breweries and wineries, or take a

customized private
tour with TapTastings
Craft Brew Excursions.

**Water, water
everywhere!**

Thrill to humpback,
right and other whales
breaching at
Stellwagen Bank on
whale watches
departing Barnstable
and Provincetown, or
sight them in Cape Cod
Bay from its 60+ miles

of coastline.

Take a seal tour to
Monomoy, or a sunset
sail or fishing charter
from various ports
along the Cape's 559-
mile coastline.

Windsurf or ocean
surf (or take lessons) or
join an SUP or
kayaking group
paddling Cape Cod Bay
or one of the Cape's
rivers. Fishermen can
fish for various fish in



season in autumn, or shellfish (licenses required). Enjoy magical ocean sunsets, beach picnics, kite flying or just a day of relaxation on your beach chair.

Surf the Turf!

Cape Cod's 27 public golf courses await so tee off at one of its links or other courses before or after

a swim, lunch or seaside hammock nap.

Cape Cod National Seashore

The National Seashore's 44,000 acres include 40 miles of pristine sandy swimming and surfing beaches, marshes, ponds, and uplands supporting diverse bird and other species. Lighthouses, cultural





landscapes, and wild cranberry bogs offer a glimpse of Cape Cod's past and continuing ways of life. Its six beaches are counted among the most popular and Eastham's Coast Guard Beach was named to Dr. Beach's Top 10 Beaches in America for more than a decade. Find a round-up of seven great ways to

experience the Cape Cod National Seashore here.

Fall Color!

Often overlooked for showier parts of New England, Cape Cod is the perfect place to take in rich autumn colors. And the garden path at Heritage Museums & Gardens in Sandwich is pure eye candy this time of year; October brings colorful berries and hollies, with hydrangeas “antiqueing” into pinks and reds.

With fall colors around the corner, select a forested conservation trail to see Mother Nature in all her peak color leafed-out glory.

Drive the 34-mile Old King's Highway (Route 6A) along the



Cape's 'north side' and it will become clear why it was recently designated a National Scenic Byway by the Federal Highway Administration. Hikers and mountain bikers can find their own trails along more than 600 miles of conservation lands across the Cape. Cyclers have more

than 125 miles of dedicated Cape-wide cycling trails to ply, including the gorgeous 10.7-mile Shing Sea Bikeway (Falmouth) and 25½-mile Cape Cod Rail Trail (South Yarmouth to Wellfleet).

For more information:
Cape Cod Chamber
capecodchamber.org

More Ways to Experience New Hampshire Foliage



Photos Courtesy
New Hampshire Division of Travel & Tourism



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hile summer is coming to an end, it also means that autumn is on the way, and with it comes the opportunity to experience New Hampshire's vibrant fall colors. This is one of the best times to visit the state and take advantage of everything it has to offer.



The Granite State offers many ways to experience the season off the beaten path; whether a hike, a drive, or a weekend stay. New Hampshire bursts with the colors of nature and adventurous activities to keep the entire family busy.

New Hampshire's foliage season runs roughly from mid-September through mid-October, but this varies widely depending on weather, topography, and geography. Just before the season begins, a sneak preview of fall can be found as swamp maples surrounding some ponds and lakes turn a fiery red. Columbus Day Weekend is often the focal point of fall foliage excursions, but the White Mountains can present colors earlier.

As to "peak," that is a subjective term – "peak" is in the eye of the beholder – and light and the mix of trees in foliage add to the mix.

Nonetheless, there are plenty of activities

to keep visitors busy for a day or weekend.

Here are a few ways a foliage leaf peeping excursion can also be combined with a visit to one of the state's many attractions.

TAKE A CRUISE FOR A COLORFUL VIEW

One special place to enjoy the foliage show is Lake Winnepesaukee. It's hard to see

foliage while you're driving. The M/S Mount Washington offers a unique and relaxing view point. The big lake has amazing colors and the juxtaposition of the water and sky can be breathtaking. Sundays through September to mid-October, they offer Fall Foliage Dinner Cruises from Weirs Beach from 5–7 p.m.





TAKE THE TRAIN THROUGH THE TREES

Climb aboard one of the region's three sightseeing trains for unique views of foliage: Hobo Scenic Railroad in Lincoln, the Conway Scenic Railroad in Conway, and the world-famous Cog Railway that chugs up Mount Washington from its base in

Bretton Woods.

RIDE INTO THE SKY!

For a different aerial view, take the sky ride to get a bird's eye view of the fall foliage. Ski mountains in the area can offer trips up their chair lifts and gondolas to the tops of their mountains, where the views are simply spectacular. Consider the Loon Mountain



Gondola in Lincoln, the Wildcat Mountain Gondola in Jackson, and the Cannon Mountain Aerial Tramway in Franconia.

MAKE A WHOLE CITY YOUR HOME BASE

New Hampshire cities make lively home bases with their own unique way to enjoy the city. Concord, Hanover, Manchester

all offer their own experiences with shopping, dining, history, art, and of course wonderful scenery.

Concord is an emerging destination worth a look. It is set in the middle of the state, with great hikes, apple picking, and events within an easy drive. It makes the perfect fall foliage base.



Main Street in Concord is getting a facelift and what is done so far looks great, with lots of new places to shop, eat and great 19th century brick architecture.

Al-most 100% of the stores and restaurants along Main Street are locally owned. They range from high fashion, to antiques, to a range of authentic cuisines including

Greek, Asian, American, Mexican, vegan and more. It is a small city with big city offerings, reminiscent of Boston's Newbury Street, with a variety of art-inspired stores including the League of NH Craftsmen, Capital Craftsmen and Romance Jewelers, art galleries and shops with other rare finds.

Concord is the state capital – that means



the State House on Main Street – open five days week with 194 years of history to share.

But, there is a lot more. See the grave and the home of Franklin Pierce, the only US President from New Hampshire. Learn about New Hampshire's First in the Nation Primary at the

State Library, Barley House Restaurant, and State House. Or, venture outside the city to see Canterbury Shaker Village, the Pierce Homestead, stone arch bridges, or Mary Baker Eddy's home (there are two).

The Currier Museum of Art in Manchester provides a reason to step inside during the

autumn. Curated exhibits are changed frequently, so you are bound to experience art and life differently with every visit.

SURROUNDED BY FOREST IN A VALLEY

Waterville Valley is a full-featured resort area, which just happens to be surrounded by some of the most spectacular

landscapes in northern New England. The adjacent White Mountain National Forest features America's oldest network of hiking trails leading to spectacular views in every direction.

After working up a big appetite with the fall hikes, Waterville Valley offers their Annual Chili Challenge & Brews Event in late



September. For this annual favorite, area restaurants compete in Town Square for the title of Best Chili. The Brew Tent will also be open in Town Square throughout the contest. During the same weekend, families will enjoy the White Mountain Storytelling Festival, providing stories and story times for guests of all ages.

To complement the brilliant fall foliage, Waterville Valley's Town Square is hosting a Fall Foliage Celebration in October. The weekend will feature a variety of family activities including free outdoor concerts, children's games, and pumpkin painting.

EMBRACE A SMALL TOWN

Small towns in New Hampshire are easy to fall in love with.



Visitors feel so comfortable, that they return again and again to that special diner, the quiet place by the pond, and the familiar smiles on Main Street.

And leaf season is also festival season, when the towns

decorate, citizens gather, and being out the in the country is



celebrated.

OR EXPERIENCE FOLIAGE THE OLD FASHIONED WAY

Hike, mountain bike, or drive. It doesn't matter. No matter how you choose to explore the vibrant

colors of autumn, your trip to New Hampshire will revive your spirit and leave you amazed at the beauty of the Granite State.

For More Information

- M.S. Mount Washington Cruises -- www.cruisenh.com
- Mount Washington Cog Train -- www.thecog.com
- Concord Chamber of Commerce -- concordnhchamber.com/visitor_info.html
- White Mountain Tourism -- www.visitwhitemountains.com
- Currier Museum of Art -- www.currier.org
- White Mountain Storytelling Festival -- www.nhstorytelling.org/festival
- Waterville Valley -- visitwatervillevalley.com

About the Authors



DEBBIE STONE is an established travel writer and columnist, who crosses the globe in search of unique destinations and experiences to share with her readers and listeners. She's an avid explorer who welcomes new opportunities to increase awareness and enthusiasm for places, culture, food, history, nature, outdoor adventure, wellness and more. Her travels have taken her to all fifty states and nearly 100 countries,

spanning all seven continents.

Her stories reach over three million readers and listeners, and appear in numerous print and digital publications, including Luxe Beat Magazine, Big Blend Radio & TV Magazine, Parks & Travel Magazine, Northwest Prime Time, Woodinville Weekly, Santa Fe Fine Lifestyles Magazine, Edmonds Beacon, Outdoors Northwest, Southwest Stories Magazine, Go World Travel and Travelworld International Magazine, among others. She can also be heard sharing her travel adventures on Big Blend Radio.



LINDA EAGLESON is at

heart an essayist, exploring the world around her and her feelings about it for most of her life. She lives a simple life and finds joy in simple things like a comfortable chair or an unexpected explosion of dandelion blossoms. She loves the outdoors and enjoys bringing her experiences to her readers.

Linda's works have appeared in the Westerly Sun and in the pages of Rhode Island Roads, Jaunting, and Northeast Traveler. She has also presented her work at poetry slams and open readings across the state of Rhode Island.

PAUL PENCE not only writes many of the articles in the pages of this magazine, he is also the publisher and editor of all of the magazines in the Amygis Publishing's family of travel magazines.

He loves exploring, traveling the back roads, experiencing the world, and finding what is unique and memorable about the places he visits.

And he loves writing - poetry, short stories, essays, non-fiction, news, and, of course, travel writing.

For over 20 years, he has shared his explorations with readers in a wide variety of outlets, from groundbreaking forays into the first stirrings of the dot-com boom to travel guides, local newspapers, and television, including Runner's World, Travel Lady, Providence Journal, and Northstar Travel Media. He currently publishes and writes for Amygis Publishing.





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