

Northeast Traveler

Travel - Experience - Live!

Maine's Crown Jewel

Acadia National Park

Cozy Like A Hobbit

The Battle for Rhode Island

Mountain Biking in Waterville Valley

King Richard's Faire is Calling!

MAD About Taylor Swift

HerseyPark's Quieter Side

August 2023



Paul Pence
**Cozy Like A Hobbit
Purposefully Lost**

Micheal A. Walsh
**Rediscovering the
Battle For
Rhode Island**



Paul Pence
**Waterville Valley
Mountain Biking**

75

Debbie Stone
Acadia National Park
**Coastal Maine's
Crown Jewel**



91

Linda Eagleson
King Richard's Faire
**Old Old Style
Romance**



101

L,M,Brown
NYC's Museum of Arts
and Design Presents
**Taylor Swift:
Storyteller**



Northeast Traveler

**Northeast Traveler
Magazine**

2 Barber Avenue
Warwick, RI 02886
www.riroads.com
401.480.9355

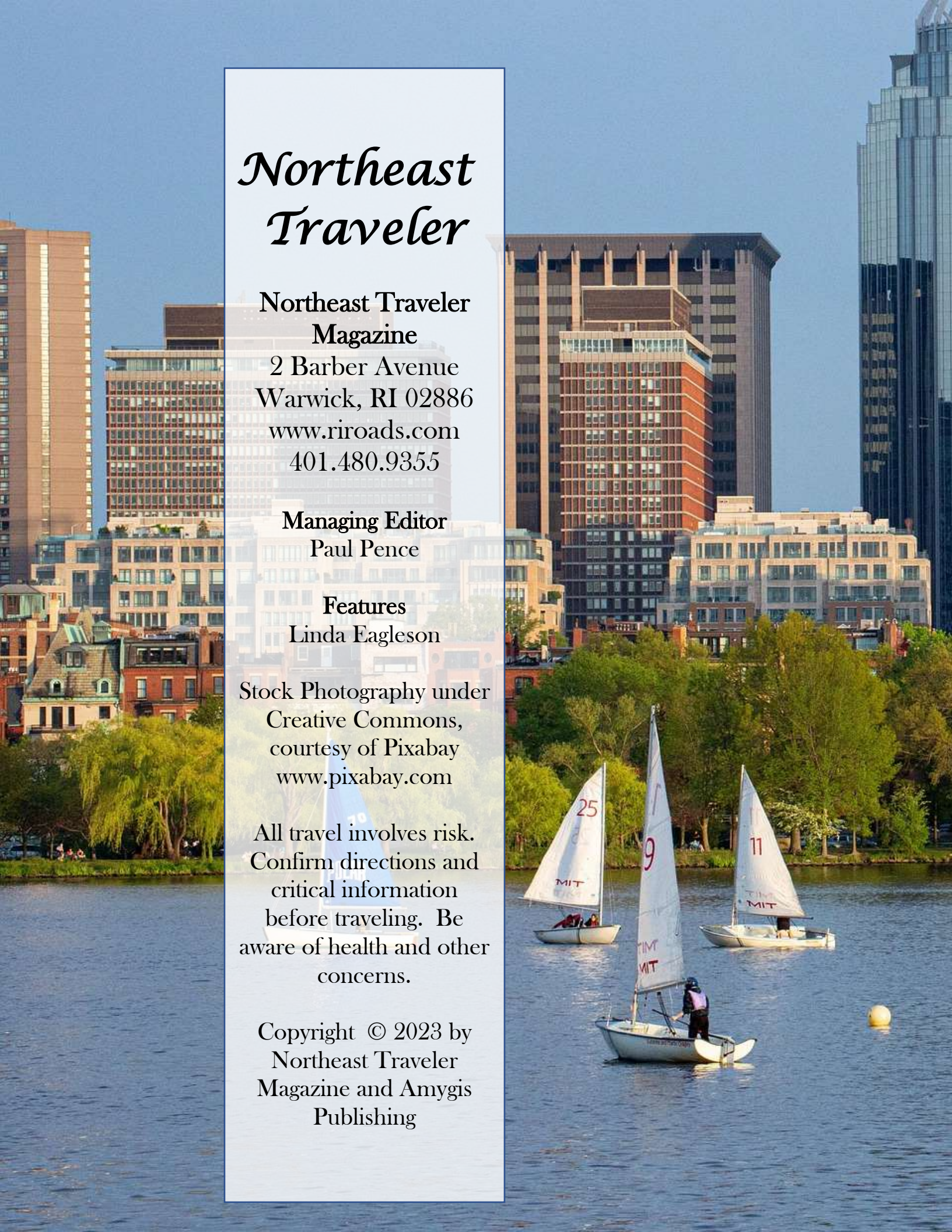
**Managing Editor
Paul Pence**

**Features
Linda Eagleson**

Stock Photography under
Creative Commons,
courtesy of Pixabay
www.pixabay.com

All travel involves risk.
Confirm directions and
critical information
before traveling. Be
aware of health and other
concerns.

Copyright © 2023 by
Northeast Traveler
Magazine and Amygis
Publishing



Sailing on the Charles River

Photo by Jonathan Sachs



*Embark on an enchanting journey
into Southern Maine's hidden
magic, where tranquility and
whimsy await your discovery of
The Shire.*



A photograph of a tiny house designed to look like a hobbit hole. The house is built into a hillside, featuring a prominent arched entrance with a wooden door that has intricate carvings. Two circular windows are visible on either side of the door. A small lantern hangs from the ceiling of the entrance. The house is surrounded by lush greenery and trees.

Cozy Like a Hobbit, While

Purposely Lost

Feature by

Paul Pence



The

he Shire, our hobbit home for the weekend, was so perfect that we half-expected to be welcomed by **Bilbo Baggins** himself.

Our usual excursions to the countryside progress from overcrowded interstates, to less crowded ones, through smaller and smaller towns and smaller and smaller roads until we finally find a turnoff from a winding wood-lined roadway into true wilderness. But this weekend trip into Southern Maine took us one step further away from our daily lives, past wilderness, and into fantasy.

In the wilderness surrounding Springvale Maine,



down a dead-end road, we entered into a hidden realm, tucked away from the world, inviting us to immerse ourselves in its magic. When we stepped out of the car we were greeted by the aromatic embrace of pine and earth, and the distant sounds of nature's symphony. With each step, we felt the cares of the outside world slip away, replaced by a sense of calm and tranquility. As we approached the

entrance of The Shire, we were already ready to forget the outside world existed.

I had carefully avoided telling my wife specific details of our lodgings, looking forward to watching her reaction. Her look of amazement built as we went down the chipped wood path to the stone patio and the hobbit home entry. Her eyes widened as she saw the hobbit home that awaited us. That look alone made the drive from Rhode Island worth it.

The Avallones, the Parekhs, and the Valcourts – the families who had brought this dream to life – had carefully crafted The Shire as a place where



sustainability and luxury converged in perfect harmony, all along the way echoing the vision of the cozy houses of the home-loving hobbits, whose idea of high adventure is straying beyond sight of their chimney. The vision our hosts shared went beyond a mere vacation experience; it was a quest to explore a way of living in harmony with nature, leaving a smaller footprint without sacrificing beauty or comfort.

We couldn't wait to get inside the hobbit home with the promise of fulfilling Tolkien's vision of a warm hearth in a cozy, safe shelter. The inside of the shire had high arched ceilings, completely unexpected for being earth sheltered. No, not underground like a cave. In fact, once inside, we were completely unaware that earth and sod were the outermost layers of the home,

keeping it warm in the winter and cool in the summer in an incredibly environmentally-friendly way.

And it was much bigger than we had expected. The Shire is an earth-sheltered cottage, larger than we anticipated from people attempting to describe the experience as a “tiny home” or “glamping”. Two bedrooms with queen-sized beds, a full kitchen, closets, and a modern bathroom with a big comfortable shower lined in blue tile.

Outside on the patio awaited a hot tub, plenty of seating, a picnic table, and a fire ring with arcane elvish language from “the one ring”.

My wife and I didn’t take too much time to settle in – we needed to check out the path down to the lake.

The Shire was the newest of the five properties at

Inside, with high arched ceilings and outside with an expansive patio, the Shire is larger and airier than expected.



Purposely Lost, so the path too was new, with patches of moss and little delights like colorful fungi springing up along the way.

At the lake we found a metal dock reaching out onto the calm waters of the pond. Pickeral weed, a bright green water plant with purple flowering heads grew to the right and the clear waters stretched out before us. It would be the perfect place to spread a picnic blanket and have a quiet intimate lunch.

Each of the properties has a canoe or kayak for a little bit



peaceful paddling. Not for us this trip, but the potential was there. Mostly, we just wanted to rest and

forget about
civilization.

The pond is
stocked with trout, so
there was a temptation



Each
property
has its own
private
three acres
of
wilderness
and dock.

to grab the collapsible
fishing pole I kept in
my trunk and try my
luck. Had I decided to,
I could get a one-day
fishing license online,
but instead we
wandered back to the
cozy home just to
enjoy the quiet and
solitude.

After our
explorations, we
returned to our treehouse to prepare dinner in the well-
equipped kitchen. Our hosts had thoughtfully provided
everything we needed – from Henkel knives to
Calphalon pans – ensuring that our culinary endeavors
would be as enjoyable as they were back home. With

laughter filling the air, we cooked up a delicious meal and savored the flavors of our homemade creations.

As the night sky unfurled its velvety canopy of stars, we stepped out onto the patio. The surrounding woods seemed to embrace us, cocooning us in a sense of peace and wonder, reaching so high that the stars barely had space to peek through above us. Instead, we had flickers of lightning bugs in the forest around us as I stoked up the fire in the fire ring.

Armed with marshmallows, chocolate, and graham crackers, we couldn't resist the nostalgia of creating s'mores over the crackling firepit. The sweetness of the marshmallows mingled with the crisp night air, and we





A careful attention to detail like the selection of books on the mantle and the fire ring with elvish script makes the Shire even more special.

reveled in the simple joys of life – the kind that warm the soul and create memories to cherish.

As the night deepened, the tranquility of The Shire enveloped us like a gentle lullaby, and we knew that we had found something truly special.

Here, amidst the harmony of nature and the comforts of eco-luxury, we had discovered a sanctuary to rejuvenate, reconnect, and embrace life's wonders. We finally bid farewell to the patio and retreated to the cozy interior of our treehouse. The plush bed beckoned, promising a restful slumber after a day filled with exploration and wonder.

Morning sunlight filtered through the windows, gently rousing us from our peaceful slumber. The gentle

chirping of birds outside served as a melodic alarm clock, inviting us to embrace the new day with open arms.

With the aroma of coffee brewing in the kitchen, we eagerly ventured into the day, ready to savor each moment our stay at The Shire had to offer.

After a leisurely morning stretch and another visit to the pond to marvel at its serene glassy surface, we gathered in the kitchen to whip up a delightful breakfast. The well-stocked kitchen became our culinary playground as we prepared our morning feast.

The hobbits of lore had remarkable appetites for such little people, but we settled for some eggs and fruit, anxious to get our day's adventures going. We savored



each bite, feeling a sense of gratitude for the simple joys that life could offer. The view from the window showcased the picturesque beauty of the surrounding woods, reminding us of the serene paradise that awaited just outside.

Beyond The Shire, other properties barely peeked through the foliage, each boasting its unique charm and allure. Canopy, the first treehouse at Purposely Lost, stood majestically on its stilts, up among the swaying branches of the trees. The prospect of staying at the treehouses or the other earth-sheltered hobbit home house should fill anyone with excitement, knowing that each offers a distinctive retreat, carefully designed to blend seamlessly with nature.

The three treehouses, maybe more properly



Modern, luxurious, and cozy barely describes the Shire and Purposely Lost's other hobbit home "Fern Hollow"



described as cabins, were raised up to the level of the tree canopy with sturdy legs. They are accessed via spiral staircases and give a different perspective to being in the wilderness.

I had the chance to look inside the one called “Skyframe” -- it had a traditional A-frame construction, albeit sitting at least 20 feet above the ground. A full kitchen like we had in the Shire, two bedrooms with queen-sized beds, and a comfortable living area makes this cabin in the sky an ideal place for natural retreat with all of the luxuries you could imagine.

All five of the properties have their own hot tubs, own boat docks with canoes, and their own fire ring. While my wife and I aren’t hot tub people, the hot tubs are very popular with the guests of Purposely Lost.



Skyframe is one of three canopy-level cottages at Purposely Lost.

Like the Shire, there wasn't a clock or TV set in sight within the treehouse. It makes staying there a timeless experience, a chance to connect with nature.

While Purposely Lost provided us with a captivating world of natural wonder and idyllic seclusion, nearby Kennebunk beckoned with its alluring charm and coastal allure. As we contemplated the possibilities, we realized that venturing into Kennebunk would mean temporarily leaving behind our enchanting wilderness retreat.

However, as we sat contemplating the prospects of a brief foray into civilization, a sense of tranquility washed over us. The siren call of the wild was too compelling to resist. Our souls craved the embrace of the forest, the soothing whispers of the trees, and the

unhurried rhythm of the pond.

The decision was made with ease—we chose to remain immersed in the sanctuary of Purposely Lost. We preferred the melodies of chirping birds to the hustle of city streets, the rustling of leaves to the buzz of traffic, and the shimmering pond to the vastness of the ocean.



Our retreat at Purposely Lost offered an opportunity to disconnect from the fast-paced world and reconnect with the essence of nature. It allowed us to unwind, rejuvenate, and discover a simpler way of living—one in harmony with the environment and our inner selves.

We cooked dinner together, played cards, told stories, gazed at the stars, listened to the frogs and the rustle of the leaves, and forgot at least for a while that civilization existed.

In this enchanted world, time seemed to slow down, and we felt a profound connection with the natural world around us. The symphony of night sounds—the chirping of crickets, the croaking of frogs—harmonized with our laughter and stories shared. Our worries and stress melted away under the magic of the moment.

As the morning sun gently filtered through the tree canopy, we awoke to the birds' symphony, bidding us a sweet farewell from our cozy hobbit abode. The rustling of leaves outside our window seemed like nature's gentle way of coaxing us to embrace the day with gratitude.

With a mixture of contentment and wistfulness, we gathered our belongings, knowing that it was time to bid adieu to this magical place.

As we reluctantly walked the path from the hobbit house to our car, we couldn't help but glance back, hoping to capture one last glimpse of the Shire. Its charm and the memories we had woven into its walls held a special place in our hearts.

The drive back to civilization was bittersweet, each mile taking us further from the serenity we had grown to love. Yet, we knew that we carried a piece of Purposely Lost with us—its tranquility, its beauty, and its promise of renewal.

For more information:

- www.purposelylost.com

The wall
outside is
made of
wine barrel
staves..



A group of historical reenactors in 18th-century attire are gathered on a grassy field. In the foreground, a large, spoked metal cannon wheel is visible. Several men are standing around it, some holding long-barreled rifles. One man in the center is wearing a green vest and a black tricorn hat, looking towards the left. Another man to his left is wearing a white coat and a black tricorn hat with a feather. In the background, there are trees and a flag with red and white stripes. The scene is set outdoors on a bright day.

Where to discover Rhode Island's forgotten history of rebellion, alliance, and sacrifice in gaining America's Freedom.

Rediscovering the Battle For Rhode Island



Feature by
Micheal A. Walsh



R

hode Island is often overshadowed in the annals of American history. While larger battlegrounds and leaders from other states take center stage, Rhode Island's crucial role in the struggle for U.S. independence remains largely unsung in the pages of history books.

Let's explore the Revolutionary War historical sites of the Ocean State and shine a light on its significant contributions, not only as a major battleground but also



as the home of one of the war's most distinguished military leaders, Nathanael Greene.

The struggles for American independence found an epicenter in the heart of Rhode Island, where growing tensions with British authorities ignited the flames of revolution. The events that unfolded within the state's borders not only influenced the course of the war

but also shaped the destiny of a nation yearning for freedom.

As the winds of change swept across the American colonies, Rhode Island became a hotbed of resistance against British oppression. The narrow streets of Newport and bustling ports along the coastline bore witness to the mounting frustration of the colonists. One of the significant incidents that heightened tensions occurred right in the waters of Newport Harbor.

In the prelude to the Revolutionary War, British

The Siege of Newport and the Battle of Rhode Island denied the British the use of a key seaport.

naval vessels were dispatched to enforce the Crown's authority and suppress dissent. Among these vessels were the St. John and Liberty, symbols of British power and dominance. However, the spirit of defiance and rebellion ran deep in the hearts of the Rhode Island patriots.

In an audacious act of rebellion, Newport residents shot cannons at the St. John. When the Liberty was sent to show the crown's power to the unruly colonists, they boarded that ship, stole its cannons and longboats, and fired back at the ship while they made a bonfire of the longboats, totally humiliating the crew and the power of the King.



Newport Harbor, the site of these events, is now a picturesque waterfront, a center of tourist activity, even if these pivotal events are mostly forgotten.

This bold display of resistance not only showcased the colonists' unwavering resolve but also foreshadowed the impending clash of arms that would engulf the state in years to come.

The sparks of the Revolution ignited off the shores of Warwick, when a notorious British vessel, the HMS Gaspee was sent in response to the humiliation of the Liberty.



The Gaspee Incident is one of many acts of defiance to the crown's authority in Rhode Island.

The Gaspee was tasked with enforcing the British government's revenue and trade laws, leading to a series of confrontations with local merchants and smugglers.

On a fateful night in June 1772, a group of audacious Rhode Islanders, incensed by the Gaspee's heavy-handed actions, took matters into their own hands. Under the cover of darkness, they commandeered boats and rowed stealthily towards the unsuspecting vessel that had gotten stuck on a sand bar while chasing smugglers.

In a daring act of defiance, colonists boarded the Gaspee and engaged in a fierce confrontation with its crew. The confrontation culminated in the looting and burning of the HMS Gaspee and the shooting of one of

its crew, which sent shockwaves through the British authorities. This brazen act of resistance not only symbolized the Rhode Islanders' commitment to liberty but also served as an early foreshadowing of the war to come.



Modern Wawrick residents celebrate the burning of the Gaspee every year with a parade, festivals, and historical reenactments in the village of Pawtuxet at the place now named “Gaspee Point”, culminating in a recreation of the burning of the Gaspee.

As the Revolutionary War reached full flame, Rhode

Island found itself thrust into the heart of the conflict once again during the Battle of Rhode Island in 1776. The strategic location of Newport made it a coveted prize for both British and American forces. British troops, intent controlling Newport's critical part, seized the city.



Warwick RI relives the burning of the Gaspee with parades, festivals, and re-enactments.

But while British troops occupied Newport, they were held in place by American troops under the leadership of Brigadier General John Sullivan. Unable to forage for firewood due to the siege, the British troops dismantled huge swaths of Newport houses just for the firewood to make it through the harsh winter.

With attacks and counter-attacks, fierce fighting and shifting fortunes, culminating in what is now called the Battle of Quaker Hill. With the support of French troops under the command of Rochambeau, the British troops were unable to escape Newport to quell the rest of Rhode Island.



Even though the colonists couldn't break the British troops' hold on Newport, neither could the British troops make use of its harbor. Newport was effectively useless without a way to move troops and materials overland, so Quaker Hill and the larger

Battle of Rhode Island was a success, tying up resources and denying the British an essential harbor. The British withdrawal from Newport in 1779 and testament to the colonists' determination and resourcefulness in the face of a powerful adversary.

It also marked one of the rare instances during the war when American and French forces fought side by side, paving the way for the Franco-American alliance that would prove pivotal in securing American independence.

Modern visitors can roam Newport and imagine the battle lines. Perhaps the most interesting place to visit is the Colony House which acted as the command post

for the besieged British troops under Sir Robert Pigot. Several other significant buildings exist from the era including the Turo Synagogue, making a walking tour of Newport a historian's delight.



Newport's Colony House withstood the occupation and siege.

During the Revolutionary War, General Jean-Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau, led a contingent of French troops to aid the American cause. As these forces marched to join General George Washington's army, they encamped at various locations along the way. One such significant stop was the Canonchet Farm in Rhode Island.

The French army's presence on Rhode Island's soil marked a critical moment in the budding alliance between the two nations. The cooperation between the French and American troops paved the way for future collaborations, adding strength and legitimacy to the cause of American independence.



The route that Rochambeau's troops took through the state is marked with road signs, leading today's history buffs along the same path from Newport, through Providence, south to Cranston, and out the western side of the state., then for another 800 miles to Virginia.

Another prominent figure in the Franco-American Alliance was the Marquis de Lafayette, a French nobleman who became a trusted aide to General George Washington and a passionate advocate for the American cause. During the war, Lafayette visited Rhode Island, where he was received with great enthusiasm and admiration.

The White Horse Tavern in Newport, still standing and open to the public, hosted a celebratory dinner in honor of Lafayette, commemorating the unity and friendship between France and the United States. This

momentous occasion symbolized the strength of the Franco-American Alliance and highlighted the mutual respect and shared aspirations of both nations in the fight for liberty.



White Horse Tavern in Newport is a landmark many times over throughout the centuries.

In the shadow of these momentous events, Rhode Island emerged as not only a battleground but also a melting pot of diplomacy and cooperation. The Franco-American Alliance, with its roots firmly planted in the state, became a beacon of hope and solidarity that shone brightly on the path to American independence.

Amidst the turmoil of the Revolutionary War,

Rhode Island had the honor of nurturing one of the war's most remarkable military leaders – Nathanael Greene. His strategic brilliance and unwavering commitment to the cause of American independence would play a pivotal role in turning the tide of the war in favor of the patriots.

During the Rhode Island campaign, General Nathanael Greene set up his headquarters in the heart of the state, using the Greene Homestead in Coventry called “Spelt Hall” as his base of operations. From this unassuming location, Greene orchestrated crucial military decisions that would impact the course of the war.

Nathanael Greene, nicknamed “The Fighting Quaker”, was known for flexibility, adaptability, and an understanding of the strengths and limitations of his



own forces. Rather than engaging in large, direct confrontations, he preferred to employ guerrilla tactics and engage in a war of attrition, weakening the British forces over time.

Later in the conflict, as the commander of the Southern Department, Greene successfully led a campaign to retake the South from the British forces, reclaiming territories and securing vital resources for the American cause.

His legacy extended well beyond the war's conclusion. After the American victory, Nathanael Greene continued to serve his country as a statesman. He was instrumental in promoting the idea of a stronger central government and played a crucial role in the formation of the United States.

In recognition of his invaluable contributions, numerous places and institutions bear the name of Nathanael Greene. His indomitable spirit and dedication to the cause of liberty remain an enduring Modern visitors can explore not only the Nathanael Green Homestead in Coventry, but his command post during the British occupation of Newport, Spell Hall. Prescott farm also served as a waypoint for his troops headed toward Newport to assist in the siege there.

Rhode Island's naval prowess also played a crucial role in the struggle for independence. Privateering, the practice of issuing private ships with government-issued letters of marque to raid enemy vessels, thrived in the state's coastal waters.

From the bustling ports of Bristol, Providence, and after the siege Newport, Rhode Island's privateers set

Greene's
homestead
"Spelt Hall"
is open for
visitors.

sail to disrupt British supply lines and seize enemy ships. These daring sea raiders not only proved a significant nuisance to the British, but they also secured essential supplies for the Continental Army.

The privateering efforts of Rhode Island's sailors proved so effective that they collectively captured more British ships than any other state during the Revolutionary War. These naval victories dealt heavy blows to British naval supremacy and severely hampered the enemy's ability to control the region's waterways.

Modern Revolutionary War historians might spend their entire time exploring Newport, since it was the largest city in Rhode Island at the time and second only to Boston in the region, but the port of Bristol RI, should





Coggeshall Farm Museum in Portsmouth lets you explore life in the 1700's.

be added to the list. Bristol was a major shipbuilding port for the area, not only during the war for independence but before and after in other periods of historical significance.

And while not directly involved in the war, the Coggeshall Farm museum in Bristol recreates the life of a working farm of the 1700's, making it the ideal addition to a historical tour.

While our journey has already taken us through key events and sites in the state's Revolutionary War history, there are so many more remarkable destinations waiting to be discovered. Here are a few additional historical sites paint a more comprehensive portrait of Rhode Island's significant contributions to the birth of a nation.

The recoats are coming, the redcoats are.... uh.... okay, they're here.

John Brown House (Providence): Step into the elegant halls of the John Brown House, where military and political leaders gathered to chart the course of the Revolution.

Colony House (Newport): Explore the historic walls of the Colony House, where the Rhode Island General Assembly convened to shape the state's role in the war effort.

The Whitehall Museum House (Middletown): Wander through the rooms where General George Washington resided during his visit to Rhode Island, absorbing the spirit of a leader who shaped the course of history.

Prescott Farm (Portsmouth): Walk the grounds where Colonel William Prescott rallied troops during the



Rhode Island campaign, becoming an emblem of steadfastness in the face of adversity.

Redwood Library and Athenaeum (Newport): Immerse yourself in the wisdom and discussions of the past at the Redwood Library, a beacon of intellectual exchange during the Revolution.

Rhode Island's story during the Revolutionary War may have been lost amidst the more prominent chapters in American history, but its significance cannot be understated. From the daring burning of the Gaspee to its pivotal role in the Battle of Rhode Island, this tiny state stood tall as a crucible of conflict.

When you plan your visit to Rhode Island, be sure to take some time to explore the forgotten valor of Rhode Island and recognize its indelible mark on the struggle for U.S. independence.

For more information

- Discover Newport: discovernewport.org
- Gaspee Days Committee: gaspee.com
- Newport Historical Society: newporthistory.org
- White Horse Tavern: whitehorsenewport.com
- Varnum Continentals: varnumcontinentals.org :
- Nathanael Green Homestead
www.nathanaelgreenehomestead.org
- Coggeshall Farm Museum: coggeshallfarm.org
- Rhode Island Historical Society: rihs.org
- Redwood Library: redwoodlibrary.org
- W3R - w3r.stqry.app – w3r-us.org

Explore
Rhode
Island
history with
us!

The logo for Northeast Traveler, featuring the letters 'NE' in a large, stylized, serif font above the word 'Traveler' in a smaller, elegant script font. The entire logo is set against a solid yellow rectangular background.

NE
Traveler



Beyond the thrilling rides and roller coasters, discover the hidden treasures and quieter pleasures that make HersheyPark the "Sweetest Place on Earth."

HersheyPark

Let's Have
Fun Again!





I

f it has been a while since your last visit to Hersheypark, you might have missed some of the exciting developments that have been added to the "Sweetest Place on Earth." In addition to the 13 thrilling roller coasters and 58 other rides, there are a few quieter, more relaxing attractions that are worth exploring.



Did you know that the most-visited corporate visitors' center in the world offers a delightful chocolate-making experience? The Hershey's Chocolate Tour ride at **HERSHEY'S® CHOCOLATE WORLD®** has been captivating visitors since 1973. Undergoing numerous updates,

including a significant \$4.5 million renovation in 1988, this attraction provides a simulated journey through the chocolate-making process. As you embark on the ride, animatronic singing cows named Gabby, Harmony, and Olympia accompany you, adding a touch of whimsy to the experience. Don't miss the chance to explore this year-round attraction located at the park's entrance, which welcomes a staggering 3,000,000 visitors annually.

For a serene and enchanting experience, immerse yourself in the Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory at Hershey Gardens. Paying homage to the Hershey family's conservatories from the early 1900s, this elegant 16,000-square-foot facility serves as the gateway to Hershey Gardens. It features an indoor Butterfly Atrium, a charming Welcome Pavilion, and an

Learn all about how chocolate is made at Hershey's Chocolate World.



Educational/Horticultural Wing. Inside, you'll encounter several hundred North American and tropical butterflies, educational programming, and events. Moreover, the conservatory provides a breathtaking view of the town of Hershey from its outdoor terrace, allowing you to embrace the town's scenic beauty.

At the Grand Lobby of The Hershey Story Museum, you'll find



Tastings, a delectable experience that will tantalize your taste buds. Delight in sampling exotic warm drinking chocolates made from cacao beans sourced

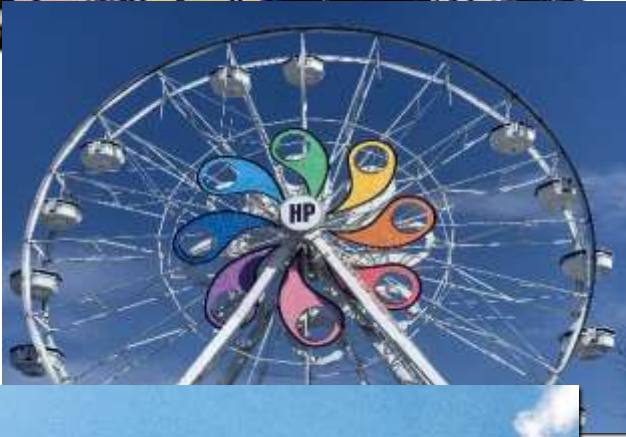
from one specific region of the globe. These artisanal chocolates offer distinctive flavors, such as licorice, fruit, caramel, and vanilla. Moreover, Tastings allows children to participate by swirling a white or milk-

chocolate stirring lolly in a mug of warm milk, creating their own warm drinking chocolate. Don't forget to savor the taste of Hershey's chocolate as well.

Or make a splash and cool off at "Hershey's Water Works," an exciting indoor pool complex nestled within the Hershey Lodge. This aquatic wonderland offers two zero-entry indoor pools, a rejuvenating whirlpool, thrilling Twizzlers Twists Slides,

There's plenty of fun at Hersheypark that doesn't involve roller-coasters.





Reese's Water Walk, a captivating water play structure, and even an outdoor splash pad. As part of the 665-room Hershey Lodge, this indoor water park ensures that guests have a blast throughout their stay. Additionally, you can indulge in full-service food and bar offerings, maintain your fitness routine at the fitness center, and enjoy some quality time in the game room.

Don't forget the thrilling favorites too!

Experience the adrenaline rush on HersheyPark's iconic roller coasters. From the inversions of Great Bear to the acceleration of Storm Runner, these thrilling rides offer unforgettable adventures for thrill-seekers.

Take a ride on the

Kissing Tower, HersheyPark's towering Ferris wheel that offers awe-inspiring views of the park and its surroundings. This classic attraction is perfect for those seeking a moment of tranquility and scenic beauty. \

Cool off and make a splash on HersheyPark's exhilarating water rides. Experience the excitement of Tidal Force's steep drop and massive splash or embark on a watery adventure on Coastline Plunge. Or spend the whole day at the Boardwalk waterpark, immersed in the cool water.

Enjoy storytelling and excitement with HersheyPark's dark rides. Join the interactive gaming experience of Reese's Cupfusion or enjoy the whimsical journey of Laff Trakk, a funhouse-themed roller coaster.

Don't miss the vibrant live entertainment that fills the park with music, shows,





and character interactions. From musical performances to character meet-and-greets, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Seasonal Events and Festivals

Throughout the year, HersheyPark hosts exciting seasonal events and festivals that add an extra layer of fun to your visit. During the

holiday season, experience the magic of Hersheypark Christmas Candylane, where the park transforms into a winter wonderland with millions of twinkling lights, festive decorations, and special holiday-themed entertainment. Halloween lovers can indulge in Hersheypark in the Dark, a spooktacular event featuring haunted attractions, trick-or-treating, and thrilling nightti

me rides. In the summer, the park comes alive with Hersheypark Summer Concert Series, offering live music performances by renowned artists. Check the park's calendar to plan your visit around these exciting events.

Even more fun!

In addition to the attractions mentioned earlier, HersheyPark offers a range of additional

recreational facilities. Golf enthusiasts can tee off at the award-winning Hershey Country Club, featuring two stunning courses designed to challenge and delight players of all skill levels. Nature lovers can explore the picturesque hiking trails in nearby Hershey Gardens or indulge in a relaxing spa treatment at the renowned Chocolate Spa, offering a range of rejuvenating services inspired by the sweetest indulgence.

Funhouse-themed indoor Laff Trakk is bright and whimsical.

Halloween, Christmas, and more seasonal fun.





Dining Options

HersheyPark boasts a wide range of dining options to satisfy every palate. From casual eateries to fine dining establishments, visitors can enjoy a variety of cuisines. Treat yourself to a mouthwatering burger at the Hersheypark Supply Co.SM Food Court, savor delicious barbecue at the Smokehouse BBQ & Brews, or indulge in sweet treats at

the Ice Cream Parlour. For those seeking healthier options, Fresh Harvest Buffet offers an array of wholesome dishes made with locally sourced ingredients. Don't miss the chance to fuel up and replenish your energy while exploring the park.

Travel and Accommodation

Getting to HersheyPark is convenient,

as it is located just a short drive from major cities like Philadelphia and Baltimore. The closest airport is Harrisburg International Airport, which offers various transportation options to the park, including shuttles and car rentals. To make the most of your visit, consider staying at one of the park's recommended accommodations. The Hershey Lodge, located adjacent to the park, offers

comfortable rooms, excellent amenities, and convenient access to all the attractions. Other options include Hotel Hershey, Hershey Park Camping Resort, and nearby hotels and resorts that cater to different budgets and preferences.

Wrapping it up...

Beyond the adrenaline-pumping rides

Food! And not just fast food on paper plates.



Lodging nearby and on-site.



and roller coasters, HersheyPark holds hidden treasures waiting to be explored.

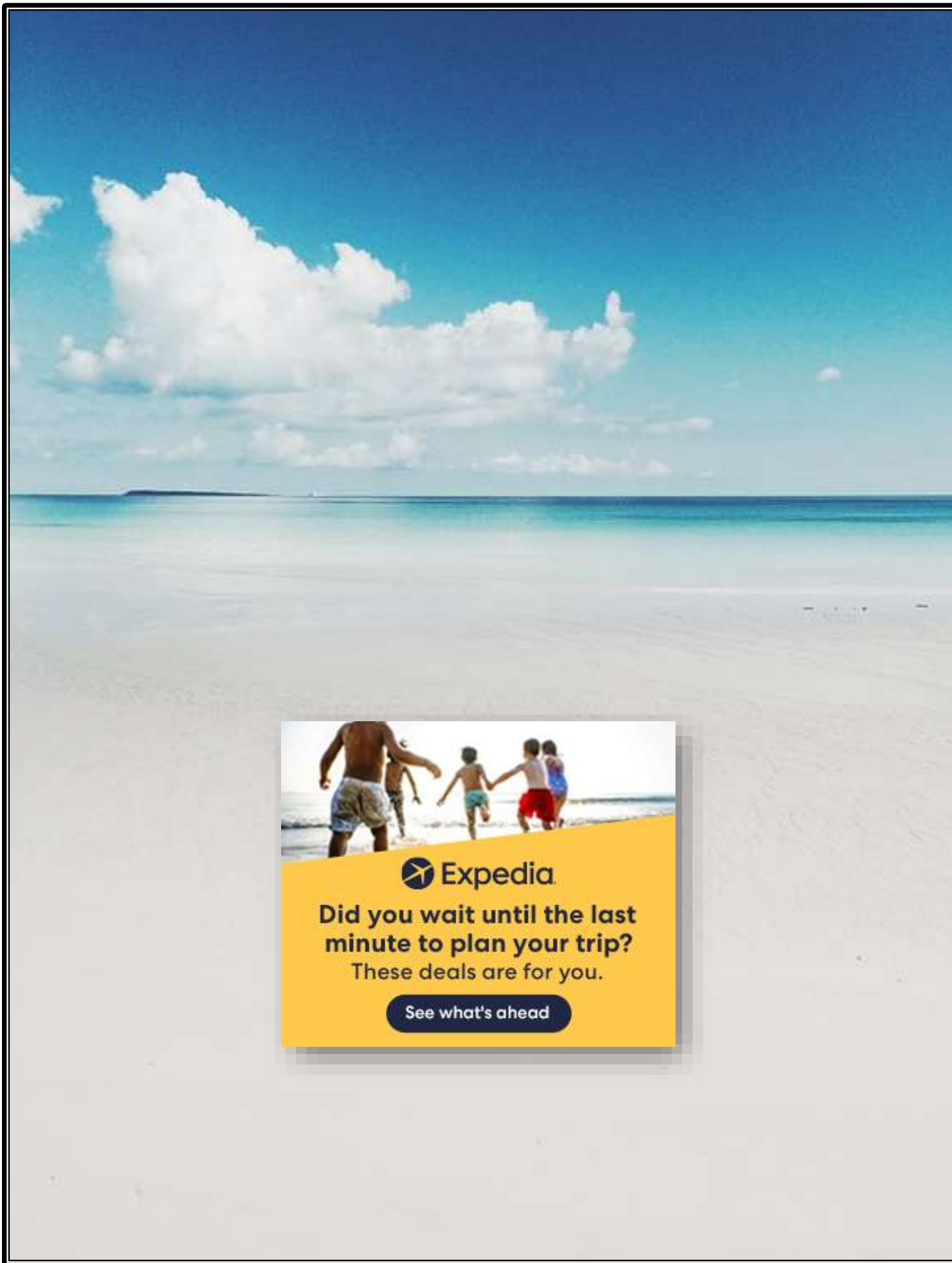
So, whether you're seeking heart-pounding excitement or a moment of tranquility, HersheyPark has something for everyone. Explore the hidden gems, enjoy the beloved familiar attractions, and create unforgettable memories at the "Sweetest Place on

Earth."

Plan your visit, immerse yourself in the wonders of HersheyPark, and let the magic unfold. Experience the thrill, indulge in the sweetness, and discover the hidden treasures that await you at HersheyPark.

For more information:

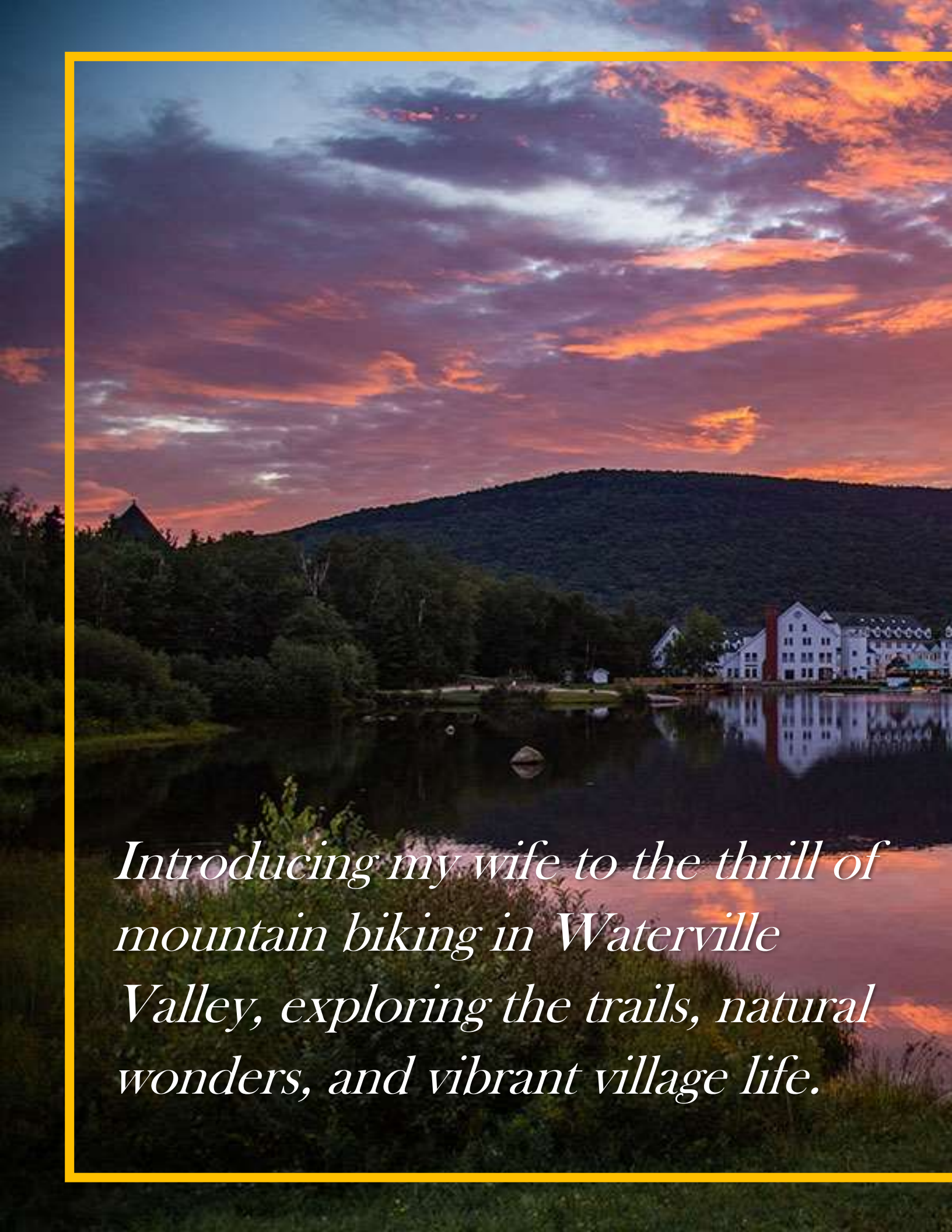
- www.hersheypark.com



 **Expedia**

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

[See what's ahead](#)



*Introducing my wife to the thrill of
mountain biking in Waterville
Valley, exploring the trails, natural
wonders, and vibrant village life.*

A scenic landscape at sunset. In the foreground, a calm lake reflects the vibrant orange and yellow hues of the setting sun. The middle ground shows a cluster of buildings, including a prominent white multi-story structure with a steeple and a long, dark-roofed building. The background is dominated by a large, dark mountain range under a sky filled with wispy clouds. The entire scene is framed by a bright yellow border.

Waterville Valley **Mountain Biking**

Feature by
Paul Pence



M

My wife and I stood at the precipice of excitement. For me, the seasoned mountain biker, this was a chance to rediscover the magic of the trail while also giving my wife the gift of a new experience. For her, it was an entirely new world — an opportunity to embrace the thrill of mountain biking for the first time.



The day began with a buzz of excitement as we headed to the bike rental shop in Waterville Valley. With the Freedom Pass in hand, we were granted a 2-hour standard mountain bike rental each day of our stay. The friendly staff at the shop issued us helmets, stressing the importance of safety on the trails. The staff also took the time to ensure we had the right-sized bikes, fitting them to our comfort and making sure we were all set for

Mountain biking can be peaceful, quiet, and can have a touch of thrilling.

an unforgettable ride.

With our bikes and helmets secured, we set off towards the ski lift that would take us up Snow's Mountain. Along the way, we passed by the historic 9-hole golf course, which we unfortunately didn't have the chance to experience ourselves. Created in the late 1800s by summer residents seeking outdoor fun, the golf course officially opened in 1898, making it one of New Hampshire's oldest courses. Its open and casual atmosphere has endured through the years, offering

golfers of all ages and abilities a chance to enjoy spectacular views of the White Mountains as they play.

We also caught glimpses of the 18 award-winning clay tennis courts, which were part of the renowned Waterville Valley Tennis Club. Named one of the Top 50 tennis resorts in America by Tennis Magazine and ranked number 13 in the world by Tennis Resorts Online, the club offers exceptional facilities and programs for all tennis enthusiasts.

At the base of the ski lift, our bikes hooked to the lift chairs ahead of us and we followed, enjoying the scenery. As the chairlift carried us upward, we admired the golf course and tennis courts from above, making mental notes to return for these experiences in the future. Someday soon, maybe, but for that morning, the mountain biking adventure ahead beckoned, promising an immersive encounter with the natural wonders of Waterville Valley.

As the ski lift gently ascended



Snow's Mountain, a serene sense of anticipation washed over us. The rhythmic clanking of the lift's machinery accompanied the

tranquil rustle of leaves in the breeze, creating a soothing symphony that set the stage for the adventure ahead. With each passing moment, we rose higher above the



valley floor, granting us sweeping panoramic views of the surrounding peaks and valleys.



The forest canopy enveloped us, providing a cool respite from the warm summer sun. The quietude of the

moment allowed us to savor the tranquility of nature and to mentally prepare for the thrilling journey that lay ahead.

Our ascent came to a gentle stop at the mountain's summit. To our surprise and delight, a retired opera singer stood by, greeting us with a warm smile and a melodious voice. With a touch of theatrical flair, he helped us off the lift, offering encouraging words and imparting local wisdom about the best routes down the mountain. His presence added an enchanting touch to the adventure, reminding us that the journey ahead was not just about mountain biking, but also about immersing ourselves in the unique charm of Waterville

Great golf and tennis facilities, and a ski lift to take us and our bikes up the mountain.



Valley.

We had our choice of trails, over 50 miles of them. No terror-inducing double-diamond high adventure this



time, we chose the wide, well-established path that gently led us mostly downhill through scenery and serenity.

The path wound its way through the dense forest, revealing snippets of the surrounding natural beauty as we rode along. A beautiful stream glistened in the sunlight, its babbling waters providing a soothing

Views,
nature, and
for my wife
a nice wide,
smooth
path down
the
mountain.



soundtrack to our ride. The trail seemed to have a life of its own, guiding us through a kaleidoscope of colors and sounds. Butterflies danced in abundance, adding a touch of enchantment to our surroundings. The crisp mountain air filled our lungs, and we could feel the thrill of adventure coursing through our veins.

While we took it slow and easy, it was easy to see



how seasoned riders could test their mettle on the more challenging paths.

Waterville Valley's mountain biking trails catered to all levels of skill and courage, promising an exhilarating experience for everyone. Yet, even on our leisurely journey, we felt the magic of the trail unfold before us, as if the mountains themselves were welcoming us into their embrace.

The descent offered an opportunity to fully immerse ourselves in nature's splendor.

The forest canopy provided a cool shade, sheltering us from the sun's rays. The trail occasionally opened up to reveal awe-inspiring vistas, showcasing the beauty of the White Mountain National Forest. The gentle downhill stretches allowed us to pick up speed and embrace the thrill of the ride, while the more level parts granted us time to savor the sights and sounds around us.

As we continued our mountain biking adventure, my wife's confidence grew, and her smile widened with each successive turn and momentum-creating slope. It was a testament to the allure of mountain biking and the enchantment of Waterville Valley's trails.

Despite our careful and leisurely pace, our mountain biking adventure wasn't completely without mishap. As we descended the trail, taking in the beauty of the forest, a sudden blur of speed caught us off guard. A much faster cyclist zipped past, startling my wife, and causing her to lose balance and take a spill. Thankfully,

We had to stop to admire the stream.



she arose undaunted, and it served as a reminder to stay vigilant on the trail.

On reaching the base of the mountain, the exhilaration of the descent was accompanied by a sense of accomplishment. We had conquered Snow's Mountain on our terms, reveling in the thrill of adventure while taking time to immerse ourselves in the natural beauty surrounding us. My wife's first mountain biking experience had been a success, and we couldn't have asked for a more enchanting setting than Waterville Valley.

We traded our downhill glide for a leisurely ride on Waterville Valley's roadways. Our path led us past the Coyote Grille, our chosen dining venue for the evening. The tantalizing aroma of grilled delicacies wafted through the air, reminding us of our delicious dinner the previous night.

The menu had offered an array of tantalizing options, and we couldn't resist trying the Point Judith

calamari, prepared Rhode Island style—tender and spicy, a burst of flavors that danced on our taste buds. Equally enticing was the Prince Edward Island mussels sautéed in a white wine garlic sauce, a



Great food
in
abundance
at Coyote
Grille.



divine combination of taste and aroma. Appetizers such as the salad made with julienne pink lady apple, baby greens, shaved red onion, candied pecans, and cave-aged bleu cheese in a roasted shallot vinaigrette, and the Thai spring roll featuring marinated grilled chicken and julienne vegetables, showcased the chef's expertise in blending unique flavors.



The Coyote Grille's inviting pub atmosphere added an extra layer of enjoyment to our dining experience. Live music on Fridays lent an air of festivity to the evening, creating the perfect backdrop for a memorable dinner. Each bite, accompanied by cheerful tunes and friendly chatter from fellow diners, had made our evening at the Coyote Grille a true delight.

We also made our way past an abundance of lodgings, including the Valley Inn, our chosen haven of comfort which offered more than just a cozy room. It boasted an array of amenities designed to make guests feel right at home. The inviting lobby, adorned with fireplaces and plush couches, created a warm and welcoming ambiance. For those seeking leisure and relaxation, the seasonal outdoor pool provided the perfect spot to bask in the sun. Additionally, the guest laundry and meeting spaces catered to practical needs

and business travelers alike, ensuring that every aspect of our stay was nothing short of delightful. With a central location, the Valley Inn provided easy access to the



After dinner, a comfortable and convenient place to stay.



athletic center, offering a range of amenities to relax and unwind after a day of mountain biking.

Our route led us to the Town Square, the heart of the village, bringing us to its quaint shops, charming cafes, and friendly locals enjoying the summer day. The Village Condominium and Town Square Condos stood proudly, offering guests a front-row seat to the vibrant village life. We couldn't help but feel grateful for the Freedom Pass, which allowed us to explore every nook and cranny of this picturesque destination, making our experience truly immersive and rewarding.

Amidst the picturesque landscape of Waterville Valley lies serene Corcoran's Pond, adding another layer of charm to this delightful destination. The spring-fed pond provides the perfect setting for leisurely water activities, such as canoeing, kayaking, pedal boating, and stand-up paddleboarding. As the sunlight dances on the shimmering waters, we found ourselves drawn to

the tranquil beauty of the lake, offering a refreshing escape from the summer heat. The Freedom Pass provided us with the opportunity to rent any of these watercraft, and we relished the chance to explore the lake's hidden coves and captivating shoreline. Whether gliding gently across the water or simply basking in the tranquility of the surroundings, the lake at Waterville Valley offered a peaceful respite—a moment of pure bliss amid the grandeur of the White Mountain National Forest.

At the adventure center we dismounted our bikes. We exchanged knowing smiles, relishing the shared memories we had created on this unforgettable journey. The one minor spill, caused by a fleeting moment of surprise, did nothing to dampen the spirit of our adventure. Instead, it became a tale to be told, a testament to the exhilarating unpredictability of mountain biking and the promise of danger and

Aptly
named
Town
Square, the
center of
activity for
Waterville
Valley.



excitement should we take the more rugged trails on our next visit..

Recreating our mountain biking adventure in Waterville Valley is both accessible and rewarding. To begin, securing a Freedom Pass is the key to unlocking the full range of activities this charming village has to offer. The pass not only grants access to the 2-hour standard mountain bike rental each day but also provides the opportunity to explore a myriad of other exciting pursuits, from golf and tennis to canoeing, swimming, and even ice skating at the indoor arena.



Don't miss the opportunity to immerse yourself in the vibrant village center, as shops, cafes, and friendly locals invite you to explore and experience the authentic

The heartbeat of Waterville Valley resides not only in its natural splendor but also in its vibrant cultural calendar. Throughout the summer, the village's Town Center came alive with a tapestry of events, weaving together concerts, festivals, theater performances, art exhibits, and captivating nature presentations. From friendly competitions to joyous celebrations, there was

Let's go
again!

always something to entice visitors of all ages. Imbued with a sense of community and camaraderie, the village invites visitors to partake in the festivities, promising an enriching experience that added a touch of magic to our summer escape.

If you can't make it for summer mountain biking, don't forget that Waterville Valley has an amazing winter adventure waiting for you. When the snow blankets the landscape, the village transforms into a winter wonderland, offering an array of exciting activities to delight snow enthusiasts. Hit the slopes at

the ski resort, where well-groomed trails cater to skiers and snowboarders of all levels. Embrace the serenity of the snowy woods with snowshoeing, or glide gracefully across the ice at the indoor ice arena. With its picturesque surroundings and a host of winter activities, Waterville Valley invites visitors to discover its charm in every season, promising unforgettable experiences for all who seek the magic of the mountains during winter.

As we reflected on our adventure, we realized that Waterville Valley was more than just a destination—it was a treasure trove of adventures waiting to be uncovered. We carried with us the memories of our mountain biking adventure—the crunch of tires on gravel, the breeze across our faces, and the laughter that echoed through the forest.

For more information:


- 1-800-GO-VALLEY
- www.visitwatervillevalley.com



Yale University

New Haven, Connecticut





Founded in 1701,
Yale is one of the
oldest universities
in the US.

Five US
presidents studied
at Yale.

The Frisbee flying
disk was invented
by a Yale grad.

Iconic Memorial
Quadrangle is a
picturesque
courtyard.

New Haven style
pizza is thin,
charred, and
served unsliced.

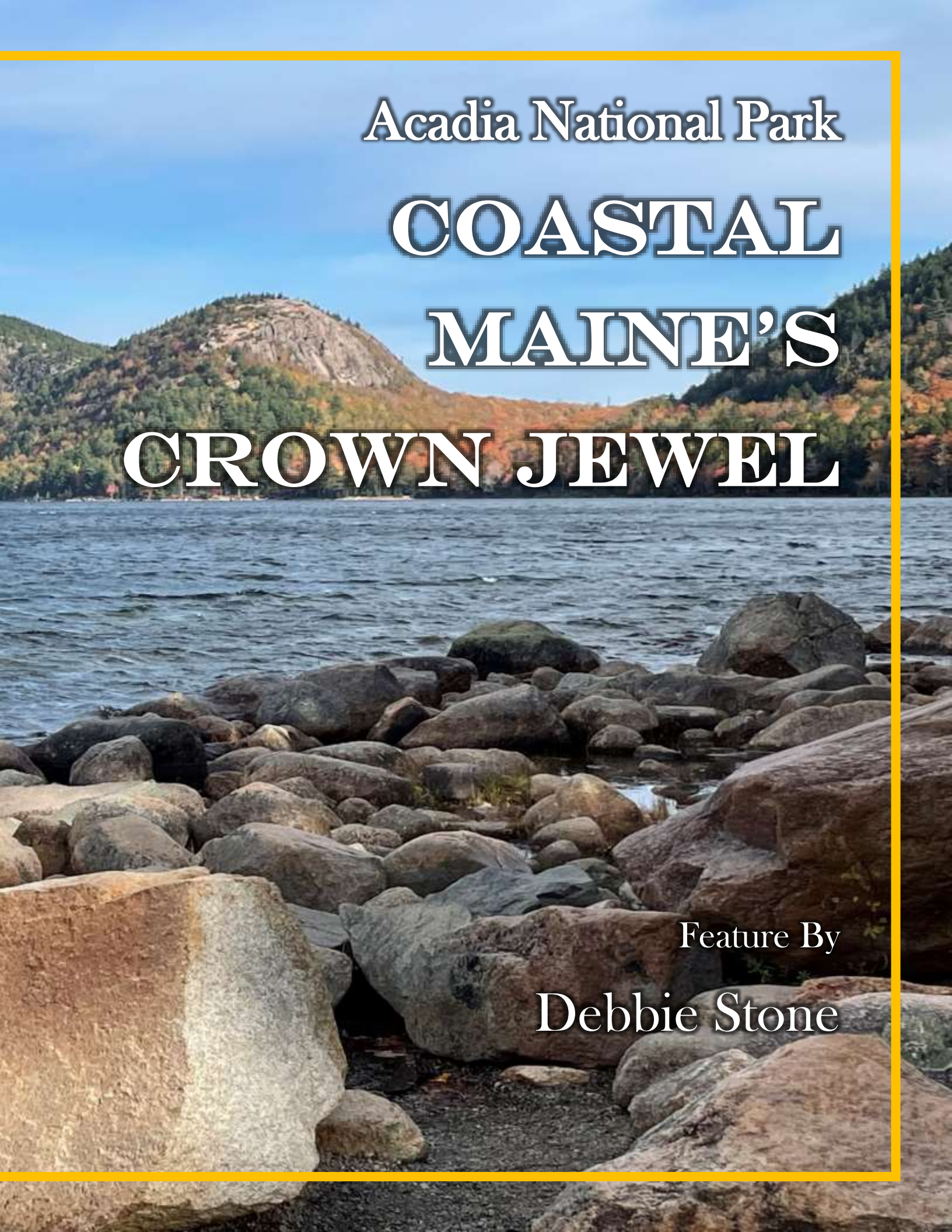
Libraries,
museums, and
even a farm
attract visitors.

Yale teaches
23,000 students
a year.

“The Shrine” is a
dorm room
untouched since
1897.

*Coastal New England charm,
nature, and history.*





Acadia National Park
COASTAL
MAINE'S
CROWN JEWEL

Feature By
Debbie Stone



T

he popovers at the Jordan Pond House in Maine's Acadia National Park are famous. But until you try them, you might be skeptical of their reputation. After all, they're popovers. **How good could they be?**

It only took one bite of my Jordan Pond House popover to know that the glowing accolades were true. I



Popovers
for
breakfast at
the Jordan
Pond House.

was an instant convert. The muffin-like baked treat was light and fluffy with a delicious buttery flavor, and served piping hot. Of

course, I slathered it in butter and strawberry jam. A glass of blueberry lemonade made the perfect accompaniment, as did the beautiful view of Jordan Pond and the Bubble Mountains. And when the server asked if I wanted another popover, I eagerly replied, “Yes, please!”

The Jordan Pond House traces its history from 1847, when settlers established a small mill near the foot of the pond. As to its name and that of the pond, credit goes to the Jordan family, who built the original farmhouse on the property. The place became a restaurant in the early 1870s, which is when the custom of serving tea and popovers outside on the lawn overlooking the pond was established.

People come from all over, not only to experience

this popular tradition and walk the trail around picturesque Jordan Pond, but to explore the rest of glorious Acadia National Park. With an average of 3.5 million visits a year, Acadia is one of the top ten



most-frequented national parks in the U.S. It boasts the highest rocky headlands along the country's Atlantic coastline (oh, those jagged pink granite formations!), a rich cultural heritage and an abundance of diverse environments. There are 27 miles of historic roads, 158 miles of hiking trails and 45 miles of unique carriage roads in the park.

Acadia encompasses nearly 50,000 acres, including Mount Desert Island, Schoodic Peninsula, Isle au Haut and other outer islands. Most of the park is located on Mount Desert Island, the largest island off the Maine coast. And this is the area where most visitors opt to spend their time.

The Park Loop Road is an effective way to get

around this part of Acadia by vehicle, as it offers dramatic views and access to notable highlights, as well as to various hiking trails. It winds through forests, past lakes and mountains and along the shoreline of this natural paradise.

One of the highlights of Acadia is Thunder Hole, a natural rock formation that is affected by sea conditions. Big, crashing waves move into the hole and cause a thundering boom and a boisterous splash. Time it right – about two hours before high tide – for the most impactful experience.

Sand Beach is another point of interest. The beach is primarily made up of crushed shells. You can swim here, and “polar bears” do, but know that the



warmest water temps are between 55-60 degrees in August. Brrr!

Don't be disappointed if you're not able to spot sea otters at Otter Point and Otter Cliffs. There are none here, nor anywhere in Acadia. It's possible these places were

158 miles of hiking trails lead you around the national park.



actually named for river otters. Wildlife aside, both these locations offer spectacular views and make rewarding stops. At impressive Otter Cliff, the granite formations rise way above the water. Take the trail further on to Otter Point, where you can laze on the rocks and explore tide pools.

Monument Cove is known for its namesake pillar, which is the result of storm wave action over centuries.

This stalwart sentinel has stood in its current form for 500 years, guarding the cove from above. Nearby is the unofficially-named “Boulder Beach,” where you’ll see a section of shoreline covered in bowling ball sized rocks.

Hiking trails range from easy to challenging, depending on the terrain. Some go through forests or along the coastline, while others loop around lakes. You can also scale cliffs to reach mountaintops for dramatic panoramas.

Favorites include Gorham Mountain, Beehive Loop, Beech Mountain South Ridge Loop, Cadillac North Ridge and Bubbles Nubble Loop. At 1,530 feet, Cadillac Mountain is the highest point in the park and on the eastern seaboard. It's the first place you can see the sunrise in the U.S. from early October to March. If you're short on time or don't want to hike up to the summit, you can always drive to the top and get the same awe-inspiring vistas.

Biking is another popular activity at Acadia, particularly on the rustic carriage roads. We have John

Just because
it's a
national
park doesn't
mean it's
uninhabited



D. Rockefeller Jr. to thank for the construction of this system. The famed philanthropist was an adept horseman, who wanted to travel on motor-free byways via horse and carriage into the heart of Mount Desert Island. His efforts resulted in Acadia's beloved carriage roads. Check out the handsome stone bridges – all seventeen of them! And the large, cut granite stones lining the road are called “Rockefeller's teeth.”

For another view of the park, I suggest taking a boat trip, where you can see Mount Desert Island and the shores of Acadia from the water, along with lighthouses and landmarks of Frenchman Bay. Bar



Harbor Whales offers several seasonal excursions that you can board at the docks in the town of Bar Harbor – the gateway to Acadia.

I took the *Somes Sound, Lighthouses & Acadia Park Cruise*, which provided a thorough overview of the area. You'll ride in a state-of-the-art catamaran, with knowledgeable guides and crew, who'll regale you with details about the history, geology, wildlife and more of this special place. Along the way, they'll also point out any wildlife that choose to make an appearance, including seals, eagles, seabirds and harbor porpoise.

It was surprising to learn there are over 4,000



Not all of
the
adventure is
on dry land.



islands off Maine’s coastline. Amusingly, more than thirty of them have “sheep” in their name. Mount Desert Island is the largest in the state, and the second largest off the U.S. outside of Hawaii and Alaska. Only Long Island is bigger.

Interesting to note is that Cadillac Mountain was named for French explorer Cadillac. Though not born of nobility, he convinced the King at the time that he was of royal blood. He devised his own Coat of Arms which you can still see on the hood of Cadillac cars.

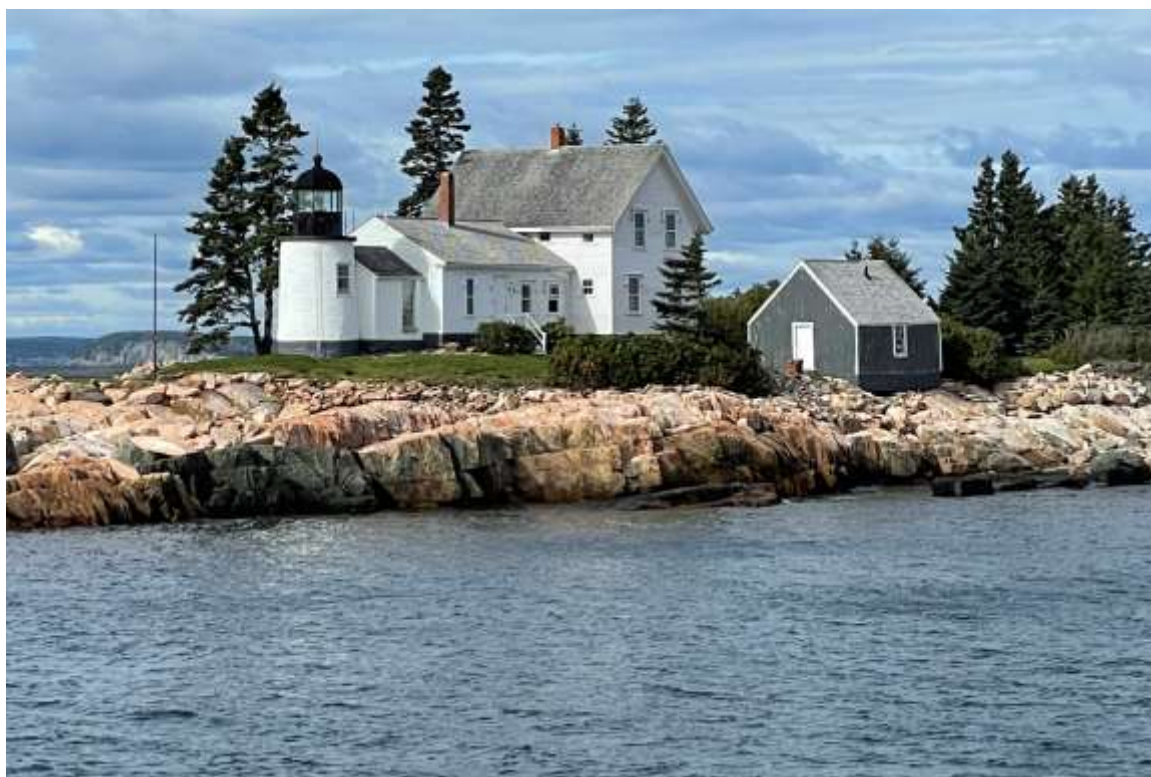
I loved hearing about “Millionaire’s Row” and gazing at some of the more notable residences. Kenarden, for example, belongs to the Campbell Soup family and during the summer, they fly a flag that is white with a big red tomato on it. Another, the High Seas

Estate, was built for a professor from Princeton. Story has it that he constructed the house to entice his fiancé to move here from Europe and marry him. The good news – she agreed. The bad news – he booked her on the Titanic!

In Seal Harbor, the lifestyles of the rich and famous are on display. Martha Stewart’s home, “Sky Land,” which is set on 63 acres, was originally built in 1925 by Edsel Ford. During the summer, you may see her wooden picnic boat in the water.

The estate on the Point is called “The Anchorage.” Nelson Rockefeller was the first owner, but it was later sold to Edsel Ford. The last T-bird made was delivered here to this house and given to Josephine Ford, great-granddaughter of Henry Ford.

Catamarans
give
smoother
rides than
one-hulled
boats.



The most expensive house on the island is now owned by a venture capitalist. It's worth a mere \$40,000,000.

As for the lighthouses, we saw several of these romantic icons, including my favorite, Bass Harbor Light. Widely regarded to be one of the most photogenic lighthouses in the country, it dates back to 1858. Some say it's haunted at night by the ghost of a construction worker who disappeared during the construction of the site.

Our guide told us about the rigors of a lighthouse keeper's life, which was full of rules, regulations and inspections. They were busy from morning to night caring maintaining the upkeep of the tower, the keeper's house and all the buildings and grounds, while ensuring that the light operated properly through the





Harborside
Hotel, Spa,
and Marina
in Bar
Harbor.

night. They made about \$1 a day and were not given pensions or compensation for injuries. The powers in charge at the time encouraged the keeper to have lots of kids to help with all of the chores.

Staying in Bar Harbor makes the most sense when you visit Acadia, as it's mere minutes to the park. This charming community has a colorful harbor scene, numerous shops and eateries, and options galore when it comes to accommodations.

If you want to be steps from all the action, I recommend staying at the Harborside Hotel, Spa & Marina. This highly rated resort is a relaxing retreat with all the bells and whistles, including oceanfront swimming pools and hot tubs, fitness facilities, a spa for some personalized pampering and a private marina.

Bass Harbor
Light is
especially
photogenic.



Accommodations in the newly-renovated property are spacious and elegantly-appointed with natural wood touches, plush bedding and a lux marble bathroom with upscale bath products.

The hotel also has its own onsite restaurant. La Bella Vita is a cozy Italian trattoria, complete with copper pots, Italian mosaics and picture-perfect harbor views. Authentic Old-World recipes are the mainstay here with brick oven pizzas, antipasti and pastas. Specialties include chicken piccata, chicken parmigiana, grilled ribeye, surf and turf, East Coast halibut and a Sicilian ocean stew that's chockful of mussels, clams, shrimp, lobster and haddock.

Save room for dessert and order the blueberry pie with lemon curd. It's swoonworthy! Actually, I've found

that anything blueberry in Maine – blueberry pancakes, blueberry cobbler, blueberry fudge, blueberry beer – is a winner because the berries have such an intense flavor.

In town, dining choices are numerous. Naturally, fresh fish and shellfish abounds, with lobster the favored crustacean on the menu, but there are plenty of other choices if creatures from the sea aren't your thing.

Being a pescatarian and seizing every opportunity to eat Maine “lobstah,” I had it in every form possible, from simply steamed to stuffed in tacos and enchiladas, grilled cheese, bisque and stew, ravioli and omelets. I even tried lobster ice cream, which is the only form of lobster I discovered I didn't like. Somehow, frozen lobster tidbits in vanilla ice cream...

For more information

- Acadia National Park - www.nps.gov/acad
- Harborside Hotel - www.harborsidehotel.com
- Bar Harbor Whales - www.barharborwhales.com
- For all things Bar Harbor: www.visitbarharbor.com



Extra comfy
and well fed
at the
Harborside
Hotel.



Spending the day in fantasy, in the age of knights and chivalry!



King Richard's Faire

Old Old Style

Romance

Feature By

Linda Eagleson

Photos courtesy of King Richard's Faire



B

illowling gowns draped along the hay-encrusted grounds as two exuberant women, clad in velvet capes, made their way past us to gain entrance to the Faire. My husband and I both knew what to expect, as both having been to King Richard's Faire in our prior lives. And as usual, we were not disappointed.

We decided to have our youngest tag along with us. He hasn't been to the Faire since he was a youngin,



sporting swords and armor, ready to battle with the king himself, if necessary. This time, grown now, he opted for shorts and t-shirt, and asked us to do the same, probably embarrassed by the costumes that we had wanted to wear. (If you would like to rent a costume for the day, you can do so from a vendor located immediately after the entrance to the faire).

The Faire grounds were filled with people from all facets of life, some in costume, some with children dressed as little darlings from period times, and others just there for a good ol' drinking festival, clutching elongated flasks filled to the brim with dark ale.

The air was crisp, with a light chill of autumn resting on our shoulders. The aroma of freshly baked bread drifted, making us scurry to the nearest vendor to satisfy our cravings

We opted for the White Chowder in a bread boule, which is freshly baked bread hollowed out, with a creamy, white sauce chowder and an abundance of clams poured into the bread and served with the lid for



spooning out the chowder.

Succulent, mouthwatering turkey legs, freshly cut fruit in cups, 'The King's Nuts' (which was my favorite) - - roasted pecans with a sugary topping, crispy fried dough showered with powdered sugar and cinnamon, homemade fudge, 'spirits', water and sodas.

You never have to worry about going hungry in this place!

Still licking our lips from our delicious meal, we wandered around the faire, hoping to spot a view of the king and queen. We encountered minstrels strumming on their instruments, wizards, cloaked in decorative costumes, wenches willing to chat (or so they say) with you,





Much of the fun at the faire calls for you to join in...



knights and barbarians, offering to battle it out to the end, and costumed vendors offering their hard worked items for a reasonable price.

Rides are also available throughout the faire grounds, keeping in mind that they have adapted the rides to the theme of the Renaissance times. One ride in particular caught my eye, and that was the Gryffin Swing, where a giant mythical creature swings groups of people, provoking squeals of laughter from the children and grownups alike.

We knew we wanted to experience every event that we could, so we continued along our way. My guys decided to try their hand at the archery stand, showing off their perfect skill at hitting the bulls eye, after about ten attempts.

Well, let's say that they were sort of close.

If archery is not for you, there are many other challenges like axe throwing all designed to test your strength and skill; prizes are awarded for some events.

There were performers throughout the faire grounds; mimes, jugglers, street entertainers, talented



... or just sit back and watch the fun from the (relative) safety in the audience.

musicians and even some surprise guests.

We had to watch the “Mud Show”. Slapstick comedy and child appropriate “dirty humor” involving, of course, mud, is just about as silly and funny as a set of renaissance-era performers can get. Just avoid the first couple of rows of seats... there’s a reason that experienced attendees leave those seats open for unaware newbies. Not just the performers end up covered in mud and laughing about it.

The most popular attraction at the Faire is, of course, jousting... the ever-popular “battle to the death”. Let’s admit that horses are amazing creatures on their own, but with talented athletes daring injury or worse to entertain us, it’s hard not to feel your heart pumping!

Amidst the vibrant festivities, I couldn't wait to witness the legendary jousting tournament that had drawn me here. Finding a spot near the jousting arena, I eagerly waited for the knights to take their positions. As the fanfare announced the beginning of the event,



my heart raced with anticipation. The thunderous sound of hooves filled the air as the armored knights charged toward each other on their noble steeds. With each clash of lances, my adrenaline soared, and I found

myself cheering for the gallant competitors. The breathtaking display of horsemanship, skill, and chivalry transported me back to the era of knights and maidens. It was a mesmerizing spectacle that left me in awe, and I couldn't have asked for a more exhilarating experience at King Richard's Faire.

Believe me, you are well entertained when you attend King Richard's Faire!

So, it was time to head home, and we were quite exhausted from walking around the faire grounds. We had just about made our way to the exit, but paused for a moment as we starred in awe! There they were; clad in soft, velvet robes, flowing gowns, adorned with rubies and diamonds, ornately decorated crowns, and a large court that followed. The King and Queen of the faire. People everywhere, bowed and curtsayed to the royal



The jousting is the highlight of the faire.

couple, as they traveled the realm after the mighty knights of the king's table battled to the death for our entertainment.



Now our day really was complete, having seen the King and Queen of the realm, and we could head on home, knowing that the events of the day would linger in our thoughts.

So, if you want to spend a day, free from the stressful

events of everyday life, wipe all your worries away, and be entertained for a minimal cost, then come to King Richard's Faire in Carver.

You won't be disappointed!

For more information:

- King Richard's Faire – www.kingrichardsfaire.net

A photograph of Taylor Swift in a highly ornate, jeweled, and beaded outfit, sitting on a large, ornate clock face. The clock face is part of a larger mechanical display with gears and a pendulum-like structure. The background is a warm, reddish-pink color with hanging lights. The entire image is framed by a thick yellow border.

Museum of Arts and Design

Taylor Swift: Storyteller

Article by
L,M,Brown

*Immerse yourself in a
captivating fusion of fashion, art,
and music at MAD through
September 4.*



T

aylor Swift, has captivated audiences worldwide with her heartfelt songwriting and transformative performances. The Museum of Arts and Design's (MAD) exhibit, Taylor Swift: Storyteller, celebrates her illustrious career and artistic metamorphoses, offering a mesmerizing glimpse into her world.

Throughout her career, Taylor Swift has undergone significant artistic



growth, transitioning from a country music prodigy to a pop sensation and later embracing alternative and indie elements. The exhibit showcases this evolution through her exquisitely crafted costumes, inventive scene designs, and imaginative iconography, providing

visitors with an immersive experience that transports them into the captivating worlds Swift brings to life on stage and screen.

Among the highlights of the exhibit are the iconic outfits and props from her award-winning music videos. Visitors can marvel at the cheerleader and ballerina ensembles from the hit single "Shake It Off" (2014), which marked her transition to the pop genre. The red wedding dress and bellhop uniform from "I Bet You Think About Me (Taylor's Version) (From The Vault)" (2021), directed by Blake Lively, showcase her re-recordings and her prowess in storytelling. The sparkling ensemble

"I Bet You Think of Me" video still, courtesy of TAS Rights Management

Article spread "Bejeweled" video still, courtesy of TAS Rights Management



from "Bejeweled" (2022), directed by Swift herself, exhibits



her creative control and artistic vision.

Beyond the glitz and glamour of her costumes, the exhibit delves into the emotional core of Swift's songwriting, which serves as the driving force behind the captivating stories she tells through her art. Her music videos feature a diverse range of characters, each brought to life through costume and a powerful narrative that challenges traditional female archetypes and addresses gender norms.

Alexandra Schwartz, MAD's Curator of Modern and Contemporary

Art, Craft, and Design, praises Swift's unique ability to communicate through fashion, stating, "Whether she's dressed down in a flannel shirt and untamed hair or dazzling her audiences in head-to-toe Swarovski crystals, Taylor gives greater meaning to the

palettes, textures, and depths of feeling expressed in her songwriting."

The exhibit goes beyond being a mere fashion exhibit; it explores the profound impact Swift has made as a trailblazer for female musicians. With fearless self-expression and a



Taylor Swift:
Storyteller
installation
– Photos by
Bruce M.
White,



willingness to challenge societal norms, she has empowered audiences and sparked meaningful conversations about identity, individuality, and artistic integrity.

In addition to the enchanting exhibits, the Museum of Arts and Design offers an array of public programs and fun events inspired by Swift's creativity and passionate fan base. From video and film screenings to karaoke sing-alongs, these engaging activities celebrate Swift's artistic legacy and foster a sense of community among her devoted followers.

The Store at MAD offers a curated selection of Taylor Swift merchandise. Fans can find stylish

apparel and captivating accessories that capture the



essence of Swift's artistry, allowing them to take a piece of the experience home with them.

MAD, Photo by Gustav Lillequist
Courtesy of MAD

Folklore – Photo by Beth Garrabrant

The MAD has been a prominent institution in the world of contemporary art and design since its inception in 1956 by visionary Aileen Osborn Webb. Situated in the heart of New York City, MAD has become a hub for creativity, celebrating artistic ingenuity and skill in all its forms, from traditional techniques to cutting-

edge technologies. That philanthropy has been echoed by the three individuals who generously provided funding for Taylor Swift: Storyteller Marian Burke, recognizing the profound impact of Taylor Swift's artistic journey and her contribution to the music and fashion industries.

MAD's mission is





Non-Stick
Nostalgia at
MAD -
Photo by
Jenna Basco

to explore and showcase the intersection of art, craft, and design, highlighting the evolving landscape of creative expression. The museum fosters a participatory setting that encourages visitors to directly engage with skilled making, encounter thought-provoking works of art, and gain a deeper

understanding of the artistic process.

Over the years, MAD has presented numerous groundbreaking exhibitions that have captured the imagination of art enthusiasts and the general public alike. Some notable past exhibits include:

“Non-Stick
Nostalgia: Y2K

ROBERT
Restaurant
at MAD,
photo
courtesy of
ROBERT
Restaurant



Retrofuturism in Contemporary Jewelry”, “Generation Paper”, “The World of Anna Sui”, and the annual award and exhibition for the winner of the Burke Prize for emerging artists

MAD's commitment to embracing diverse perspectives and fostering dialogue around contemporary art and design has established it as a dynamic cultural institution that

continues to inspire artists and audiences alike. With its dedication to pushing the boundaries of creativity, MAD provides a perfect platform for an artist like Taylor Swift, whose multidimensional artistry and transformative storytelling align with the museum's mission.

Through Taylor Swift: Storyteller, MAD reaffirms its role as a place where art, fashion, and music



converge, inviting visitors to be part of the ever-evolving narrative of creative expression and to appreciate the profound impact artists can have on shaping culture and society. As Taylor Swift's journey unfolds within the walls of MAD, visitors are sure to be inspired by the power of art and its ability to captivate and transform.

Taylor Swift: Storyteller is an extraordinary

opportunity to dive into the multi-faceted world of Taylor Swift, a singer, songwriter, and trailblazer who continues to leave an indelible mark on the music and fashion worlds. Don't miss this chance to be enchanted by her artistic journey at the Museum of Arts and Design. Tickets for the exhibition are priced at \$25 per person and grant access to all of MAD's exhibitions. Members of MAD enjoy free admission to this special exhibit, as well as invitations to the Members-only preview on May 18, dedicated viewing hours, and more.

For more information

- madmuseum.org

Taylor Swift:
Storyteller
installation
– Photo by
Bruce M.
White,

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's magazines Jaunting, Northeast Traveler, and Rhode Island Roads.





**SELL YOUR USED
CAMERA GEAR
FOR CASH.**

FREE SHIPPING
13500+ ★★★★★ REVIEWS



Get a Quote Now





**1-Hour cruise of Ellis Island
and the Statue of Liberty**

Museum of Modern Art

Smartphone Audio App of NYC

Skip the lines at the Empire State Building!



www.nettravelermagazine.com

