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January 2023



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Northeast Traveler

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Skiing, Dog Sledding, Adventure! Wintering in Stowe

Feature
By Paul Pence

*World Class Skiing in a Classic
New England Village*



White-mantled fields with occasional patches of tall grass poking through the snow grace Route 100 as it winds its way into Vermont's Green Mountains. White-flocked trees, still clinging to the last snowfall, stand like frosted sentries along the edges of the fields and riverbanks. It's not wilderness, not with restaurants and stores, but the village of Stowe is rural by almost any standard. The town sits just 30 miles from the Burlington International Airport or a scenic five-hour drive from Rhode Island – a place worth the trip simply for its scenic beauty and New England charm, but during the winter, there's a special reason to visit Stowe. It is home to the top ski area in the eastern US.

The Stowe Mountain Resort sits on eastern slopes of the highest peak in New Hampshire, the 4400-foot Mount Mansfield. Its 48 alpine trails range from the 1000-foot Inspiration Trail for people just learning their turns to the double diamond 35-degree pitch Goat Trail, so challenging with its double fall line, winding narrow path, and unexpected moguls that the expert skiers who dare take it say that it will make a mountain goat faint.

First time skiers at Stowe frequently take lessons and rent their equipment at the Spruce Base

Lodge ski school. Their “Stowe For Starters” program includes 90 minutes of group instruction and a lift ticket for the less-challenging Spruce Peak.

Even the lift for newbies is extra easy – it’s a carpet lift, where new skiers are pulled up the slope on “magic carpets”. Catching a 10 AM lesson gives neophytes plenty of time in the day to explore the mountain and to develop the skills to graduate on to the simpler green-tagged trails of Mount Mansfield the next day.

Equipment is also available from Pinnacle Ski and Sports, on Route





108, midway between the town and the mountain.

The trails on Mt. Mansfield include the gentle Toll Road trail, a three mile trail originally built for horse and buggy traffic up the mountain to the grand Halfway House hotel. The hotel is long gone, but the old roadway lets beginners ski for what seems like forever. The trail is serviced by the Four-Runner Quad lift, a detachable four-person ski lift that gives even the least-coordinated skier time to get out of the chair and onto his feet.

The same lift, built in 1986 to replace the previous single and double-seat lifts, also



serves most of the expert trails. The lift cuts a line straight up the mountainside, creating the resort's showcase trail, the Lift Line, a double-diamond trail that embraces just about every kind of terrain a downhill slope can encompass – drops, moguls, groomed, ungroomed, steep, mild, and even a natural staircase and quite unnatural series of ski lift towers.

Bright red gondolas take eight passengers at a time up a stretch of the mountain dedicated to intermediate skiers.

The trails there, Cliff Trail, Switchback, and the Perry Merrill



invention more than 4000 years ago in Scandinavia as a critical winter survival skill, cross-country skiing has evolved into a sport enjoyed by millions. Some people enjoy it as a low-impact whole-body exercise. Others just enjoy a quiet time through snow-covered

woods and fields.

The options range from a casual stroll down the snow-covered Stowe Recreation Path to a marathon trip along the Catamount Trail. The Stowe area boasts of over 100 miles of groomed trails and over 60 miles backcountry trails. These trails connect to the

trails, all offer beautiful views, broad turns, and enough duration for cruising the mountain. Lights on the lift towers light the Gondolier trail at night, letting the skiing day extend well after sunset.

In all, the resort features 12 lifts servicing over 40 miles of ski trails and snowboard terrain parks, able to satisfy the most demanding snow-adrenaline junkies. But winter in Stowe doesn't have to be spent on the mountainside rushing downhill at blood-pumping speeds.

Instead of downhill Alpine skiing, a growing number of skiers are opting for cross-country Nordic skiing. From its



500 mile Vermont Long Trail, stretching from state border to state border. Most of these trails were constructed in the 1930's by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) public works programs as summertime hiking trails. But in the 1960's Nordic skiing was introduced to Stowe.

The area resorts provide access to Stowe's cross-country trails, maintaining and grooming them through the winter. Grooming for cross-country trails is called "tracking". Groomers cut deep polished grooves for the skis to keep them pointed down the trail. This lets the skiers ignore what their feet are doing and spend more of their attention on the countryside

Nordic skiers almost universally carry ski poles to help them move forward, using their upper body strength to increase their speed and to help them up slopes.

The story of Stowe's history as a resort destination deserves a quick side-trip to the village's museum in the village's Town Hall, where visitors can see the hand-drawn sledge used by the first settler to arrive in the valley in 1794, dragging his possessions behind him because there was no road.





By the early 1800's, Stowe had already established itself as a summer resort town, providing clean mountain air to city dwellers who found the area a welcome respite just a train ride away from the factories and foundries of the Northeast. In 1851, the road up Mt. Mansfield was created and the Halfway House hotel was built soon afterward.

The toll road became popular as an alpine ski trail in 1914 and the federal parks service began purchasing vast tracts of land on Mt. Mansfield the same year.

The first ski tow, powered by a Cadillac engine, began pulling skiers up the road in 1937, where they used the hiking trails created by the CCC for their downhill runs.

Despite being a historic New England village, in the winter, Stowe seems to exist for skiing. Stowe bustles during the winter. With only 4300 permanent residents, Stowe's population explodes with tens of thousands of winter sports enthusiasts filling the hotels and resorts.

The remote ski chalet standing solitary at the base of the slopes with its roaring fires and hot drinks



may be may be extinct, since skiing's popularity means that excellent ski slopes no longer exist in isolation – they quickly begin to rub shoulders with a crowd of restaurants and outfitters and nightspots and condominium developments.

Stowe village has extended the seven miles from its original location up Mountain Road to the ski lifts on Mount Mansfield, lined almost all the way with businesses that cater to skiers. When skiers aren't skiing, they're shopping in Stowe's 45 unique stores for stylish clothing, local art, and Vermont

foods.

The state is famous for its maple syrup and rustic crafts, but it also home to widely-recognizable brands like Cabot Cheese, Ben and Jerry's ice cream, Green Mountain Coffee, and Lake Champlain Chocolates. For local shopping, check out Green Envy for fashion or Stowe Kitchen Bath and Linens for just about everything else!

At night, visitors to Stowe congregate in the village's nightspots. While practically every lodge and inn has its own lounge, after the first couple nights' stay visitors usually want to get out and





explore the area's nightlife.

Probably the most popular nightspot is the Rusty Nail. While it sounds like a great name for a cowboy watering hole with country music playing on the jukebox, it is actually one of the best places in Stowe to get a drink and good meal, with Cajun-inspired dishes like blackened seafood or Creole sauces on their menu.

As the evening moves on, live music begins, usually a cover band that plays well-known rock tunes, and the main room converts into a dance floor. A small cover charge

pays for an evening of music and dancing.

The Stoweflake Resort and Spa is a great home base for a trip to Stowe, with 200 rooms, townhouses, spa, conference facilities, and sports & wellness center. The resort pampers its guests, with attentive staff, well-appointed rooms, and welcoming public spaces. The spa features 30 treatment rooms, 120 signature services, and features an indoor waterfall in the aqua solarium -- the perfect place to soothe out the aches and pains from the double-diamond runs.

Charlie B's Pub is not only a place for draft and bottled beer, it's also a place for steaks, seafood, traditional New England foods, and creative vegetarian entrees.

Sitting on 108, Stoweflake is one of the stops for the Stowe Shuttle, which carries skiers up to the mountain, but also making a convenient way to explore the town without driving.

But describing Stowe as a ski destination doesn't encompass the entire winter experience. Certainly Stowe gets 20 feet of natural snowfall a year, but snow doesn't have to mean skiing.



Tour guides offer snowmobile tours of the Mount Mansfield State Forest in either the mild or wild flavors – a slow scenic nature tour of the winter woods or a more adventurous jaunt through more challenging terrain.

Perhaps the best way to connect to nature during the winter is snowshoeing. The sport has been revived by the advent of easy-to-wear aluminum-framed snowshoes requiring negligible maintenance. Snowshoeing allows nature lovers the opportunity to wander wherever they please through the blue spruce and hemlock forests surrounding Stowe,





absorbing the sights and scents of the woodlands. All of the ski outfitters in Stowe offer snowshoes too, making it easy to find equipment.

Dogsledding can be classified as an adventure, not just a winter experience. As anyone who has tried to walk an over-anxious dog can attest, even a single modestly-sized dog can pull hard on his lead.

With a proper harness and training, a single sledding dog can pull a sled weighing a full ton with little difficulty. With a dozen hearty, snow-loving Alaskan huskies pulling just for the joy of getting outside for a run, a lightweight

toboggan rockets across the snow. Umiak Outfitters offers a 20-minute dogsledding adventure throughout the winter at Stoweflake.

And for the least athletic visitor to Stowe, there's still a chance to get out into the snow for a little adventure.

Horse-drawn sleighs pulled by heavy draft horses can take whole families on a sedate adventure along quiet pathways and fields

These big horses pull sleds during the springtime maple syrup collection, but during the winter they get their exercise by providing a thrill for the young, old, and





romantics who visit Stowe. Rides are available at several of the area's lodgings.

There's plenty of snow in Stowe, so consider the drive to the mountains. Dress warmly!

For More Information

- Stowe Mountain - Skiing - www.stowe.com/ski-ride
- Pinnacle Ski and Sports - www.pinnacleskisports.com
- Catamount Trail Association - www.catamounttrail.org
- Stoweflake Mountain Resort and Spa - www.stoweflake.com
- Stowe Shuttle - gmtaride.org/stowe/routes-schedules-stowe.html
- Green Envy Boutique - vermontenvy.com
- Stowe Kitchen Bath and Linens - www.stowekitchen.net
- The Rusty Nail - rustynailvt.com
- Umiak Outfitters Dogsledding - www.umiak.com
- Gentle Giants - Sleigh Rides - www.gentlegiantsrides.com/sleighrides.htm
- Go Stowe - www.gostowe.com



Photo Courtesy of Maine Tourism



Exploring Camden, Maine

Feature
By Debbie Stone

*Exploring the quaint New
England town on Penobscot Bay*



It was a rainy day in Camden, but that did little to mar the allure of this charming Maine town. In fact, the weather added to the ambiance of the place, giving it a moody cast, which only served to enhance its beauty.

Situated on Penobscot Bay, Camden offers scenic views, outdoor adventure, quaint shops and plenty of great places to eat and stay. It looks and feels like the quintessential coastal Maine village you imagine, with clapboard-and-brick homes, colorfully painted storefronts, white-steepled churches, a

picturesque harbor full of schooners and gently rounded mountaintops.

Take it all in at Camden Harbor Park and Amphitheatre, two parks that were gifted by a local philanthropist and designed by renowned architects, the Olmstead Brothers and Fletcher Steele. These lovely landscaped green spaces,

which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, serve as the ideal backdrop for everything from festivals and concerts, to theater productions and graduations. But they are most commonly used for strolling or sitting and gazing at the peaceful panorama. As I sat in the park, I was mesmerized by the scene. It almost felt as if I were sitting inside of a living painting.

Strolling the streets and popping into the eclectic stores is a favored pastime for visitors to Camden, as is munching on lobster rolls (or anything lobster), spending time in

the park, watching the boat action at the harbor, or actually in the bay on a seasonal schooner sailing excursion.

Get your exercise with a hike in Camden Hills State Park. This outdoor adventure playground sits on nearly 6,000 acres and encompasses several mountaintops, including well-known Mount Battie and Mount Megunticook. The park has a diverse landscape of high cliffs and granite ledges, as well as lush lowlands and rocky shores.





Its roots date back to the 1930s and Depression-era federal programs. The government bought farm land in order to aid local farmers whose acres were no longer productive, then proceeded to design and develop state park systems around the country. The effort was aimed at creating accessible, affordable outdoor recreation outlets.

There's a 25-mile system of trails in the park for hikers, as well as designated trails for mountain bikers and horseback riders. In the winter, people come to snowshoe, cross-country ski and snowmobile.

Hiking up Mount Battie is a popular activity at the park. The reward, on a clear day, is a sweeping, unobstructed vista of Camden Harbor and Penobscot Bay. Climb the iconic stone tower nearby for more of the same. Those who don't want to make the trek, can drive the Mt. Battie Auto Road and enjoy the spectacular panorama without the effort.

If the weather gets too intense, there are several good inside options. I highly suggest making a reservation to do some winetasting at Cellardoor Winery in nearby Lincolnville. This boutique, artisan



winery is a wonderful spot to while away an hour or two, enjoying pre-poured flights of wine, which you can accompany with a build-your-own snack board or cheese plate.



The five-and-a-half-acre estate vineyard is planted with over 5,000 vines of hybrids specifically developed to deal with the challenges of Maine's ever-changing and often harsh climate. Owner Bettina Doulton and her team work to create wines that are

distinctly Maine-made, offering over twenty different wines, appealing to a range of palettes. Production is about 12,000 cases a year. Estate vintages include Bulles Rose and Blanc de Blancs, plus dessert wines, Vin Doux Naturel Marquette and Late Harvest Frontenac Gris. And there's also Maine's

first-ever Ice Wine, too.

Doulton, who bought the winery and 68-acre farm in 2007, left a successful 21-year



career at Fidelity Investments to realize her longtime dream of running a small business.

She fell in love with Cellardoor on her first visit and a year later, took over the reins, embarking on a new life chapter. Her goal was to produce and share good Maine wine, and in the process, put Maine on the map for notable wine. Her efforts have succeeded in establishing the Maine Wine Guild and its statewide Wine Trail.

Cellardoor is a mecca for wine lovers. It's not only the award-winning wines that make the experience memorable, but also the

environs of the place. You'll sample wines in a handsome, refurbished, 1790s timber barn that has a rustic chic ambiance.

During my visit, I tasted a few whites, including a bright and crisp Pinot Noir Blanc 2018 and The Tower 2017, a Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon meld with citrus and nutty notes. I also had a sparkling Blanc de Blancs 2016.

For the reds, I tasted the Col Agnel 2015, which was bursting with berry flavors and spice, and the bold, full-bodied Sewell 2015. My session concluded with the C'est de l'Or 2014, a flavorful dessert wine



with hints of fig.

Another popular attraction is the Farnsworth Museum in neighboring Rockland. This nationally recognized museum of works by some of America's most notable artists is a treasure. Included is a sizeable collection of pieces by sculptor Louise Nevelson, along with works by Winslow Homer, George Bellows, Marsden Hartley, Rockwell Kent, Edward Hopper, John Marin, Georgia O'Keeffe and more.

There's also an entire gallery devoted to paintings, watercolors and drawings by the Wyeth family

– Andrew, his father Newell Convers (N.C.) Wyeth and Andrew's son, Jamie Wyeth. On display are works depicting subjects from the area around their homes and studios in Chadds Ford, PA and in Midcoast Maine, where the family summered.

Currently on display through March 6th, 2022, is a special exhibit entitled "Women of Vision." Thirteen remarkable women who have made important contributions to Maine are celebrated. This tribute honors philanthropists, photographers, poets, sculptors,



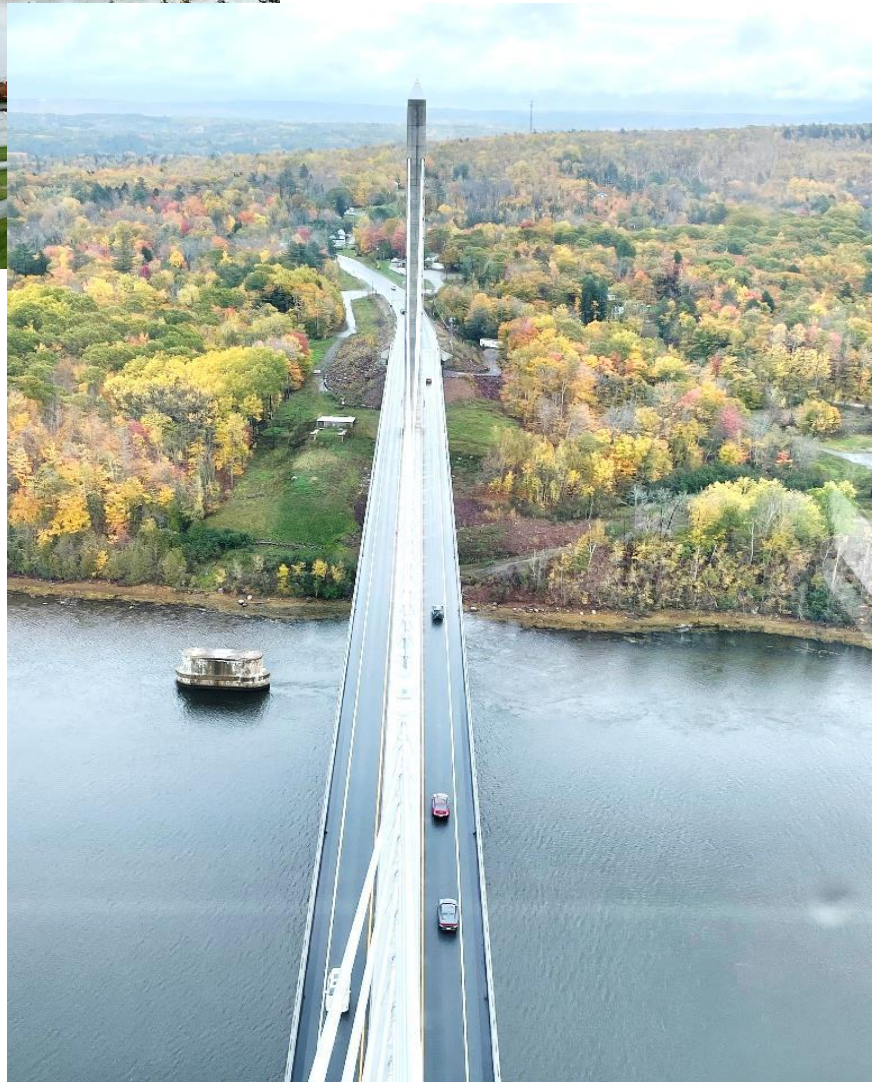


the world and as such, is one of the top sights along the coast of Maine. This engineering marvel has won awards for its innovative design.

To access the observation tower, you'll take an elevator 42 stories above the bridge to a glass tower with 360-degree views. At this point, you'll be directly above the 2,100-foot span, over a steep gorge, where you can see more than 100 miles in any

civic leaders, champions of the arts and education and others. Only a few of the individuals were born in Maine, but each made a meaningful impact on the state.

Further afield, about forty minutes from Camden, is the Penobscot Narrows Bridge and Observatory. At 420 feet high (taller than the Statue of Liberty), this is the tallest public bridge observatory in





1844 to protect the area against a possible future British naval attack. Interestingly, it was neither finished nor ever used in battle. The vistas from this spot are also sublime.

direction, provided Mother Nature cooperates. The views range from Mount Desert Island, home of Acadia National Park, to Mount Katahdin, the state's tallest peak. The experience is truly breathtaking.

Nearby is Fort Knox, a well-preserved military fortification named for George Washington's first Secretary of War. The fort, which is now an historic site, was established in

After a day of exploring the sights, you'll want to relax at your digs in Camden. Though you have choices galore when it comes to accommodations, I highly recommend The Inn at Ocean's Edge. This luxe





property makes the perfect home-away-from home during your visit. Perched on the shores of the Penobscot Bay, minutes from town, the inn has all the amenities you'd expect and then some. Plus, a friendly and hospitable staff, who gladly attends to all your needs.

My second-floor lodge room had a comfy king size bed, gas fireplace, lounging area with lovely views of Penobscot Bay, spacious bathroom with spa therapy products, a soaking tub and a pair of cozy bathrobes. Hard to leave this cushy abode.





The Poolhouse Spa is perhaps the pièce de résistance of the inn, with its wood-burning sauna, outdoor fireplace, hot tub and outdoor infinity edge pool - the latter which appears to vanish magically into the bay. Relax and soak up the serene and tranquil setting. Add a massage with one of the inn's expert practitioners for the full rejuvenating experience.

In the morning, fuel up on a gourmet breakfast in the dining room. You'll feast on homemade pastries and breads, fresh fruits, local smoked salmon, eggs cooked

to order and pancakes with local maple syrup.

All set to explore Camden even more!

For More Information:

- Inn at Ocean's Edge: www.innatoceansedge.com
- Farnsworth Museum: www.farnsworthmuseum.org
- Penobscot Narrows Bridge and Observatory: www.maine.gov/mdot/pnbo/
- Cellardoor Winery: www.mainewine.com





**Old books are a great way to stay
Cozy in Connecticut**

*Old Fashioned Book Browsing is
the favorite winter sport of Western
Connecticut*



When the weather outside is frightful, book browsing is delightful in the inviting independent bookstores that are still alive and well in Connecticut's Fairfield County and Litchfield Hills. Personal and comfortable shops like these are an endangered species in the wake of giant stores and on-line shopping, yet these very special spots continue to survive and thrive, providing the kind of experience book lovers crave. Browsers will find a warm welcome, staffs that know books and owners who are often around to chat and recommend.

Best sellers are on view, but so are treasures selected by knowledgeable owners, titles that might have escaped notice in a superstore.

While they are old-fashioned in many ways, these stores do keep up with the times and offer a full array of e-books. A bookstore tour makes for a wonderful afternoon, plus a stack of reading pleasure to take home. Along with books, visitors will be discovering charming towns with other unique shops.

Bring the kids along—they will make discoveries, too.

In Litchfield Hills, the Hickory Stick Book Shop in Washington Depot is exactly the kind of shop book lovers appreciate. A community fixture for over 60 years, the store has owners and staff with over 100 years (collectively) in the book business. They are ready to help answer questions, find a particular title or suggest something unexpected.

Like many of these independent bookstores, the Hickory Stick promotes "indie next" choices culled from many independent booksellers, aimed at adults as well as children and reading groups. In

historic quarters on a street lined with intriguing shops, Kent's House of Books features quality literature and a vault filled with children's books

Befitting a town on the Appalachian Trail, they carry a good stock of maps; trail guides and books on the out-of-doors.

Bank Street Book Nook in New Milford is another small gem; full of finds and with a train set to keep kids happy while parents shop.

In Fairfield County, the Barnett Book Store has had many reincarnations since it opened for business in Stamford in 1939. The attractive present location in the Noroton Heights section of Darien stocks all manner of interesting books, fiction and non-fiction, and excellent children's books, as well.

Books on the Common in Ridgefield is another survivor. A fixture since 1984 in various locations, the store was reborn in 2009 in a 100-year old building right on the town's charming Main Street, maintaining the atmosphere and interesting stock that has kept customers loyal since the start.

Elm Street Books in New Canaan is another example of the kind of store avid readers crave,

small, personal and packed with treasures. The store features many readings and autograph sessions with authors. One of the most unusual stores is Diane's Books in Greenwich. When Diane Garrett opened 1990, some said she was crazy, given the negative trends and competition.

But Garrett proved them wrong with her concept, a "family bookstore" where she knows her customers and serves them from childhood to adulthood. All ages enjoy the informal atmosphere of the store where stacks of books are

piled on shelves, tables and the floor and notes and signatures from authors cover the walls.

Old and rare Western Connecticut also has treasure troves for those who love the finds hiding among stacks of used books, and collectors will find prizes among the region's rare book dealers.

At the Tattered Pages Book Shop in Monroe in Fairfield County, two big floors are chock-a-block with used books, some 30,000 of them.

A 1783 schoolhouse in



Litchfield County is home to Lavender Path Antiques and Books in Harwinton, another large dealer with a stock of 20,000 used and out-of-print titles.

Litchfield Hills offers you Barbara Farnsworth Booksellers in West Cornwall that with more than

45,000 books with large selections in a wide variety of categories and Salisbury's Johnnycake Books that sells rare and collectible titles in appropriately vintage quarters a nineteenth century cottage.

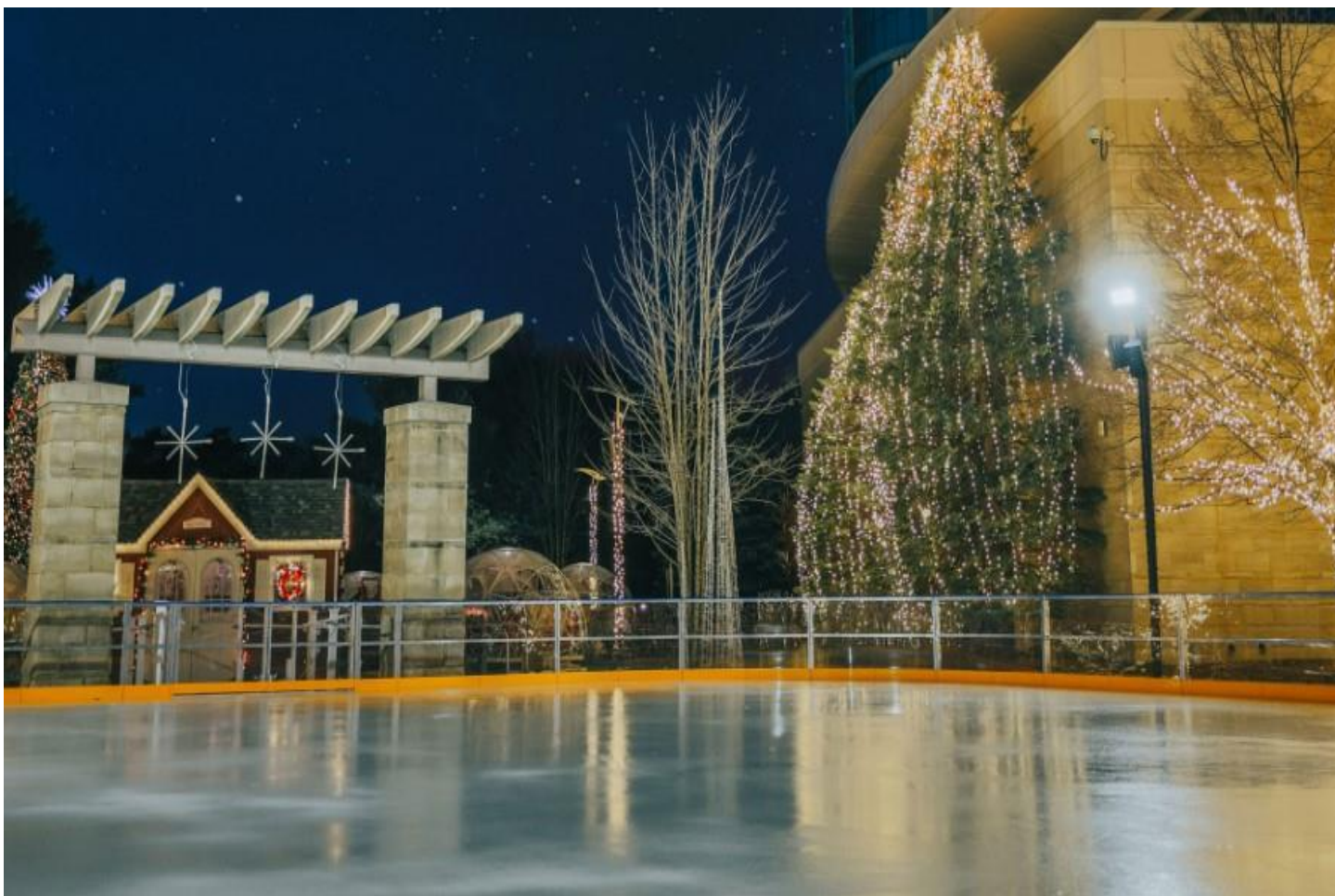
For more information:

- Western Connecticut Visitors Bureau, www.visitwesternct.com.
- Bank Street Book Nook, 50 Bank Street, New Milford, 860-354-3865, www.bankstbooknook.com
- Barbara Farnsworth Bookseller, 407 Route 128, West Cornwall, 860-672-6571, farnsworthbooks.com
- Barrett Bookstore, 314 Heights Road, Darien, 203-655-2712, barrettbookstore.com Books on the Common, 404 Main Street, Ridgefield, 203-431-9100, booksonthecommon.com
- Lavender Path Antiques and Books, 50 South Street, Harwinton, 860-689-8081, <http://www.lavenderpathantiques.com>
- Diane's Books, 8A Grigg St, Greenwich, 203-869-1515, dianesbooks.com
- Elm Street Books, 35 Elm Street, New Canaan, 203-966-4545, elmstreetbooks.com
- Hickory Stick Bookshop, 2 Greenhill Road, Washington Depot, 860-868-0525, hickorystickbookshop.com
- House of Books, 10 North Main Street, Kent, 860-927-4104, hobooks.com
- Johnnycake Books, 12 Academy Street, Salisbury, 860-435-6677, johnnycakebooks.com
- Tattered Pages Book Shop, 150 Main Street, Monroe, 203-261-6755, tatteredpagesbookshop.com

The image shows the interior of a geodesic dome tent. The structure is made of a white metal frame with clear plastic panels. Inside, there are several dark grey leather armchairs arranged in a circle. Each chair has a red and black plaid blanket or pillow. In the foreground, there is a large, patterned rug with a red, black, and white design. To the left, a small wooden sign on a stand reads "WELCOME to the CABIN" with a silhouette of a bear below it. A small potted evergreen tree sits on a wooden stump table. Through the tent's panels, a snowy outdoor area with trees and a person in winter gear is visible.

Foxwoods Resort Casino Winter Fun!

*Winter at Foxwoods includes
ice skating, dining, and shows,
not just gaming.*



Even with Christmas over, the festive spirit continues at Foxwoods throughout the winter, with dazzling decorations, entertaining shows, amazing dining, shopping, and – best of all – ice skating!

Even though Foxwoods is the world's largest casino with more than 5500 slot machines and 250 gaming tables, Foxwoods has always strived to be a resort – a place where you can not only stay in one of their thousands of hotel rooms, but do exciting activities well beyond trying your luck at the casino.

Year around, Foxwoods presents a calendar of entertainers, from comedians and cozy venue acoustic musicians to big name performers in the Premier Theater and the Great Cedar Showroom.

The calendar of events continues through the winter as does indoor

activities like the High Roller bowling lanes, the Monza Kart racing, and the virtual reality rides. but in the winter you can also enjoy ice skating!

Thursdays through Sundays, skaters can take to the ice, gliding and sliding from afternoon through the evening, and as the sky turns dark the sparkling lights turn the ice rink into a festively-decorated wonderland.

Skates are for rent if you need them, or bring your own.

Of course you might get chilled, so warm up by the fireplace, or book one of the private igloos



where you can relax, warm up, inside a snow globe. The igloos are booked for two-hour intervals and hold up to eight. Each igloo is decorated in a different theme, with a log cabin themed igloo, a Star Wars themed one, and even one decorated to remind you of Paris.

There you can order drinks and food before you scurry out again for more time on the ice.

Or you can go back inside to dine at one of the resort's many restaurants. The Cedars Steaks and Oysters restaurant, for instance had special menus for Christmas and New Year's in addition to



their usual menu of highly memorable steaks and seafood.

At Christmastime, they featured a cognac marinated pan seared filet of beef served with a truffle potato croquet and cardamon scented baby carrots they called “Santa’s Sleigh Steak”. At New Year’s they added a Southern New Year tradition – Chicken & Hoppin’ John, a dish that needs no description for southerners, that included crispy chicken alongside the black-eyed peas and rice dish Southerners eat for good luck and wealth in the coming year.

Between special menus, expect

fine steaks and seafood at the Cedars, from their prime rib to their Signature Surf and Turf for Two.

Of course there’s so much more to enjoy at Foxwoods, from escape rooms and ceramics, shopping and even more dining.

So plan on taking a break from the gaming tables and slot machines next time you go to Foxwoods and have a little fun in the beautiful winter outdoors (and a great meal indoors)!

For more information:

- www.foxwoods.com



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Airline approved kit of plant-based wipes, spray, and hand sanitizer to make your next trip even safer.

Want to experience the world but still worried about viruses and other germs? Here's a product to make you safer.

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a hygienic journey from Point A to B. \$28 from PlaneAire.com







**Enjoying the winter weather:
Ice Age In Rhode Island**

**Column
By Linda Eagleson**

*Rhode Island glistens in the
winter, and some of us rejoice!*



Sometimes, walking outside in Rhode Island's blistery cold winter weather can feel like we've entered another ice age, especially if you're not prepared for it.

Maybe putting on a hat and mittens might help, but even that doesn't inspire some people to take advantage of the cold weather in Rhode Island. And yes, I do mean what I say when I say "take advantage of the cold weather". No, I'm not crazy by any means. I just looooooove the cold weather!

So, what's so special about the cold weather in New England?

I always hear people saying, "Oh, it's so cold here in Rhode Island." Well, duh, what do you expect when you live in New England! If you don't like the cold weather, then head on south to sunny Florida where you have one season all year long: muggy and more muggy weather.

Not for me!

I just love the cold weather in

Rhode Island.

I can walk through the woods after a midnight shower of snow flakes and see the footprints of animals that live in the woods. Walking alongside a big hooved footprint makes me imagine a majestic buck had just walked there minutes before I did. Or, the tiny footprints of a hare, scurrying away from a fox, or maybe foraging for some food. It is just so magical to see this happen, and you couldn't, if we didn't have cold, which give us this snow!

Or, how about a newly frozen pond, where the ice glistens in the

sunlight, just waiting for skaters to enjoy this magical time?

I can remember skating every day as a kid, where the boys would chase me around the ponds, stealing my ski cap, which was actually their way of telling me that they liked me. Then, I would go home where my mom always had waiting for me a steaming cup of hot chocolate topped with a mound of marshmallow floating on top.

Then, to top it off, my dad would have a huge bonfire in our back yard, (we had a very large back yard), roasting chestnuts for my entire family.





homes or cars.

If you ask me, they are losing out on one of the most magical times of the year.

Just imagine what it would be like, if you tried a walk in the forest; maybe even try snow shoeing, and witness the magic of the

It was just so special.

We also liked to go sledding any place we could find. Our special place was a golf course, which had a heaping of hills for us to sled.

We didn't care if we got soaked, or our fingers and toes felt like they were falling off; we just loved the cold weather. We'd stay out there for hours until my dad would come and get us, and we would only leave if he went down the hill with us one more time.

It just seems like now; people are always complaining about the cold weather rather than enjoy it. They are always bundled up with tons of clothing, sipping their lattes from Dunkin Donuts and afraid to come out of their heated

woods open up right before your very eyes. Or, try taking your kids sledding to the many hills that we have in Rhode Island and just be a kid yourself. After your hands and feet feel like falling off, go home (instead of your favorite coffee place) and make some hot chocolate with your family.

And, better yet, try walking on the beach with your bestest furry

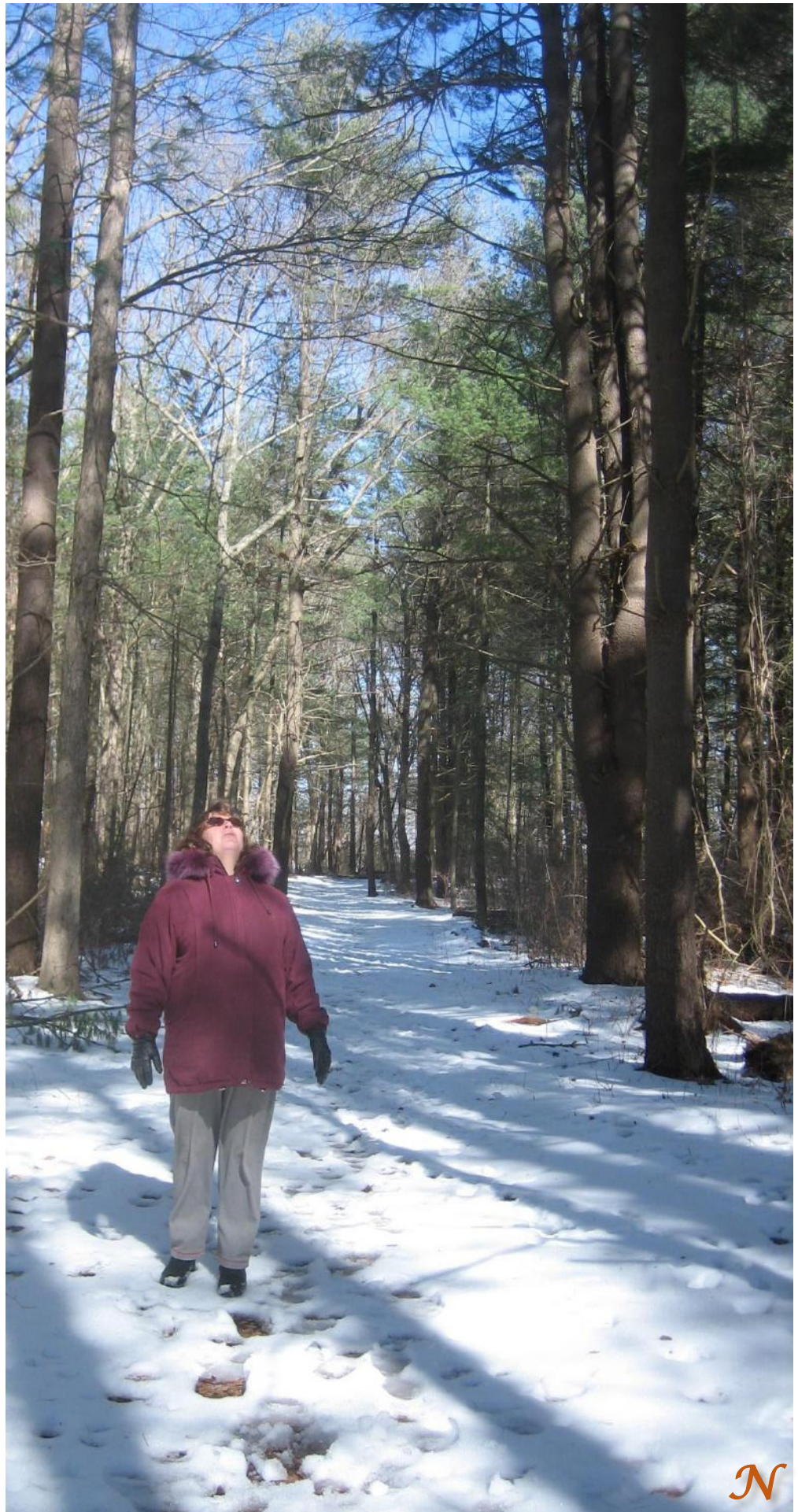


friends in the world and just watch them run through the snow-piled dunes, playing leap frog as they go along, while you watch the quietness of the ocean without any boats to distract you.

Winter, well, is just so "wicked cool" in Rhode Island and I wouldn't live anywhere else. The heck with heading south for the winter because you can't stand the cold.

Rhode Island is the best place to be in the winter, so stay and enjoy it, before another Ice Age comes along and takes it all away from us (kidding).

Hey, I'd survive it, that's for sure!





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New Hampshire's Amazing Ice Castles

Photo Gallery
By Paul Pence

*A mystical winter experience of
walls, towers, and spires of ice in
Lincoln, New Hampshire*













Ice Skating: Boston's Favorite Winter Sport

Article

By Susan Vik

*Three great places to slide across
the ice with grace... or simply to try
to not fall down*



When you visit Boston or nearby Cambridge during the winter months, you can have a lot of fun by chasing away the cold with a few spins on the ice. Here are my recommendations for three super-convenient public rinks where you can enjoy this sport from late November through mid-March.

Two of these rinks are in the middle of the city, and the third is only 5 minutes away in Cambridge, just across the Charles River.

Best of all, you don't have to have your own skates with you

because they all offer inexpensive rentals.

You don't know how to skate? No problem--you can arrange for lessons at all of these rinks. Boston Common's Frog Pond, a 6" deep



mansions of Beacon Hill to the east, the sleek mirrored glass sides of the John Hancock Towers designed by I.M. Pei to the west, and the bare branches of the Common's many trees in all directions.

Best of all, if you need something hot to drink or tasty to eat, you can head into the adjacent Frog Pond Pavilion snack bar.

pool right in the middle of the city, is a favorite children's splashing pool during the summer. In November, a refrigeration system magically turns it into a glassy surface kept smooth by the resident Zamboni.



Pavilion snack bar.

The indoor Steriti Ice Rink, located in the nearby North End area of Boston, is a great alternative when the outdoor

As you twirl around the ice of this outdoor rink, you'll enjoy the views surrounding Boston Common, established in 1634 and America's oldest park. You'll see the stately





weather is, shall we say, less than ideal--in other words, rain, sleet, strong winds, heavy snow. The waterfront rink is located on the Charles River, right before it widens into the Boston Harbor, so you can enjoy the spectacular views from the ice.

The Steriti is run by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, and admission is free. Public skating hours at this rink are limited, so be sure to verify ice availability by calling the number at the end of this article before you go.

Afterwards, stop by one of the

terrific bakery/expresso bars or Italian restaurants on nearby Hanover Street.

Across the Charles River in Cambridge, only 5 minutes away by subway, you'll find Kendall Square Community Ice Skating, near MIT. This seasonal outdoor rink is in the middle of a busy commercial area surrounded by hotels, stores, and restaurants. It has its own snack bar, plus you'll find many other dining options nearby, as well as a movie theater. You can easily plan a whole day of fun here--ice skating, dinner, and a movie.

For More Informaion:

- Frog Pond - Boston Common, Downtown Boston; closest subway (called the "T" in Boston) stop: Green Line/Park Station; bostoncommonfrogpond.org
- Steriti Ice Rink - 561 Commercial Street, North End, Boston; closest T stop: Orange and Green Lines/North Station; 617-523-9327
- Kendall Square Community Ice Skating - 300 Athenaeum St; Kendall Square, Cambridge, MA; closest T stop: Red Line/Kendall-MIT; 617-492-0941

About the Author:

Susan writes about favorite Boston attractions, restaurants, city neighborhoods, and fun things to do in www.Boston-Discovery-Guide.com, where she shares more suggestions for ice skating - Boston's best places. Article courtesy EzineArticles.com/1864298



ABOUT THE AUTHOR PAUL PENCE

Paul 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.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR DEBBIE STONE

Debbie 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.





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