

Northeast Traveler

Classical Music in the Berkshires

Tanglewood



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NYC's Tenement Museum
Grounds for Sculpture
Summertime in Rockport
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June 2023

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

Managing Editor
Paul Pence

Features
Linda Eagleson

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*Discover the captivating allure of
Tanglewood, where the Boston
Symphony Orchestra's melodies
intertwine with the serene beauty of
the Berkshires.*



Music and Nature Converge

Tanglewood

Feature
By Paul Pence



Photo Courtesy of BSO

As twilight descended upon the lush grounds of Tanglewood, my wife and I found ourselves immersed in a captivating world of contrasts. Here we were, surrounded by the natural beauty of the Berkshires, preparing to witness a performance of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. The icon of elegance and big city living relocates to the mountains each summer, a tradition that began in 1937, performing for the well-heeled who also escape the heat of the city during the summer.

The performance was in “the shed”, more properly the Koussevitzky Music Shed, providing overhead shelter from the sun and weather but open to the parklike grounds beyond, where patrons of the symphony would sit on lawn chairs and picnic blankets,

enjoying amazing music as they dine alfresco with a glass of wine carefully selected for the occasion.

The conductor entered, the crowd of over 5000 applauded, and soon the Boston Symphony Orchestra began to weave a sonic tapestry that transcended the boundaries between art and nature. The symphony's stirring melodies, crafted by the genius of composers both past and present, seemed to meld seamlessly with the rustling leaves and chirping crickets. It was a harmonious blend of human talent and the sublime symphony of the natural world.



I always enjoy classical music, but my thoughts kept drifting to the audience and the mingling of worlds within "the shed." Amidst the strains of music, I observed the audience. Some of the well-heeled attendees, dressed in their finest attire, exuded an air of refinement. They sat side by side with people who embraced the casualness of outdoor music. In the audience I'm sure that there were people for whom a concert, any concert at Tanglewood was their lifetime dream, an event for which they had

saved up and planned for years. And certainly there are people who live locally year around who come to Tanglewood because, well, that's what you do on the weekends when you grow in Lee, Massachusetts, building up a love of classical music through a lifetime of exposure.



Photo Courtesy of BSO

The music flowed past those of us in the shed and carried out onto the grassy lawn, swirling around the picnickers. Many had lighted candles, making little dots of light out beyond where the lights inside the shed didn't reach. There are some who swear that being out on the grass is a better way to experience the music than being seated inside the shed, especially since large digital displays on the outside of the shed show the action on the stage.

As the final notes of the symphony hung in the air, we felt a sense of gratitude for the experience we had just shared. Tanglewood had given us not only a remarkable evening of music but a chance to experience it live in the cool mountain air.

The following day we returned to Tanglewood to explore its parklike surroundings and carefully cultivated natural splendor.

Nestled within the picturesque Berkshires, the Tanglewood facility is a true gem that blends natural beauty with world-class music. Just stepping onto the



grounds creates a sense of serenity.

The centerpiece of Tanglewood is undoubtedly the Koussevitzky Music Shed. Its functional design open-air design allows the music to mingle with the gentle breeze, creating an enchanting atmosphere.

Outside the confines of the concert hall, Tanglewood reveals a wonderland of lawns and meticulously maintained lawn, which the previous night was adorned with flickering candles and lanterns, casting a soft glow on picnickers who had set up their own enchanting vignettes. Even during the day, when the symphony was ensconced in their practice hall, couples here and there reclined on blankets, sharing intimate conversations and enjoying the quiet green lawn and shading trees.



Charming pathways meander through the landscape, beckoning visitors to wander and discover hidden corners. Majestic trees provided shade and a sense of tranquility, while vibrant blooms added splashes of color, enhancing the parklike environment. The air was filled with the fragrant perfume of nature, intertwining with the memories of the previous night's symphonic strains.





Tanglewood boasts another performance venue, the Seiji Ozawa Hall, designed for chamber music and smaller ensembles. Seating 1200, this venue tucked away amidst the trees offers exceptional acoustics and a more personal setting for chamber music performances. It invites a deep connection between the musicians and the audience, fostering a sense of shared appreciation for the intricacies of classical compositions.



I couldn't help but marvel at the thoughtfulness put into every aspect of Tanglewood's design. The facility's layout not only accentuated the music but also provided spaces for visitors to immerse themselves in nature's splendor. Each corner offered a unique perspective on the harmonious coexistence of music and the natural world.

Tanglewood exemplifies the profound connection between art and nature.

Tanglewood exemplifies the profound connection between art and nature. It is a place where melodies transcend the boundaries of concert halls, intertwining with the gentle whispers of the wind and the rustling of leaves. This haven of symphonic delights and natural wonders captivated me, fostering a deep appreciation for the enchanting experience that is Tanglewood.



Tanglewood, serves a twofold purpose: to provide a summer home for the world-renowned Boston Symphony Orchestra and to offer a haven for music enthusiasts seeking solace amidst nature's embrace. Its storied history and commitment to musical excellence have firmly established Tanglewood as a revered



destination for both artists and audiences alike.

Tanglewood's origins can be traced back to 1937 when the visionary conductor Serge Koussevitzky, then the music director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, sought to create a summer music festival that would showcase the orchestra's talent in a distinctive setting. Koussevitzky's dream found a home on a sprawling 210-acre estate in Lenox, Massachusetts, generously donated by the Tappan family.

With the establishment of Tanglewood, Koussevitzky not only sought to provide a dedicated summer venue for the BSO but also aimed to foster the development of young musicians through educational programs and performance opportunities. This commitment to

nurturing emerging talent led to the formation of the Tanglewood Music Center in 1940, which continues to be a vital component of the Tanglewood experience.

Over the years, Tanglewood has played host to an illustrious roster of musicians, conductors, and composers, drawing international acclaim. Eminent figures such as

Leonard Bernstein, Seiji Ozawa, and James Levine have graced its stages, leaving an indelible mark on the festival's legacy. Tanglewood has become synonymous with musical excellence, providing a platform for innovative programming, world premieres, and collaborations with esteemed guest artists.



Beyond its commitment to artistic brilliance, Tanglewood offers a unique synthesis of music and nature. The facility's picturesque grounds, meticulously maintained gardens, and sweeping lawns invite patrons to revel in the beauty of their surroundings. From intimate chamber music recitals in Seiji Ozawa Hall to

grand symphonic performances within the open-air Koussevitzky Music Shed, Tanglewood's venues create an immersive experience where the melodies of the orchestra harmonize with the natural world.

Tanglewood's impact extends beyond the summer months, as the festival embraces educational initiatives



and outreach programs. The Tanglewood Learning Institute provides a platform for interdisciplinary exploration, hosting lectures, workshops, and masterclasses that foster dialogue between music, the arts, and society.

Additionally, Tanglewood's community engagement efforts aim to make music accessible to all, ensuring that the joy of classical music resonates beyond its hallowed grounds.

Today, Tanglewood stands as a testament to the enduring power of music and its ability to uplift, inspire, and unite. It remains an iconic destination for music enthusiasts and a pilgrimage site for those seeking to



witness the magic that unfolds when art and nature intertwine. As it continues to evolve and innovate, Tanglewood remains steadfast in its mission to cultivate a vibrant musical community while preserving its rich historical legacy.

One of the highlights of our daytime visit was the opportunity to explore the Tanglewood Music Center. This esteemed educational institution, nestled within the grounds, is a haven for young musicians seeking to refine

their craft. It was a joy to witness the students diligently honing their skills, their passion for music palpable in every note they played.

As we ventured deeper into the park, we discovered charming nooks and crannies that invited quiet contemplation. The shade of towering trees provided respite from the sun's rays, and we found ourselves pausing to listen to the gentle rustling of leaves. In these serene moments, it became clear that Tanglewood was not just a place for music; it was a sanctuary where nature and art coalesced, offering solace to weary souls.

As we reluctantly prepared to leave, our hearts were filled with gratitude for the opportunity to immerse ourselves in Tanglewood's parklike environment.

Tanglewood is located in Lenox, Massachusetts, easily accessible from both New York City and Boston. To make the most of your Tanglewood experience, aim to arrive at least an hour before the scheduled performance. This will give you ample time to park, explore the grounds, and find your seats.

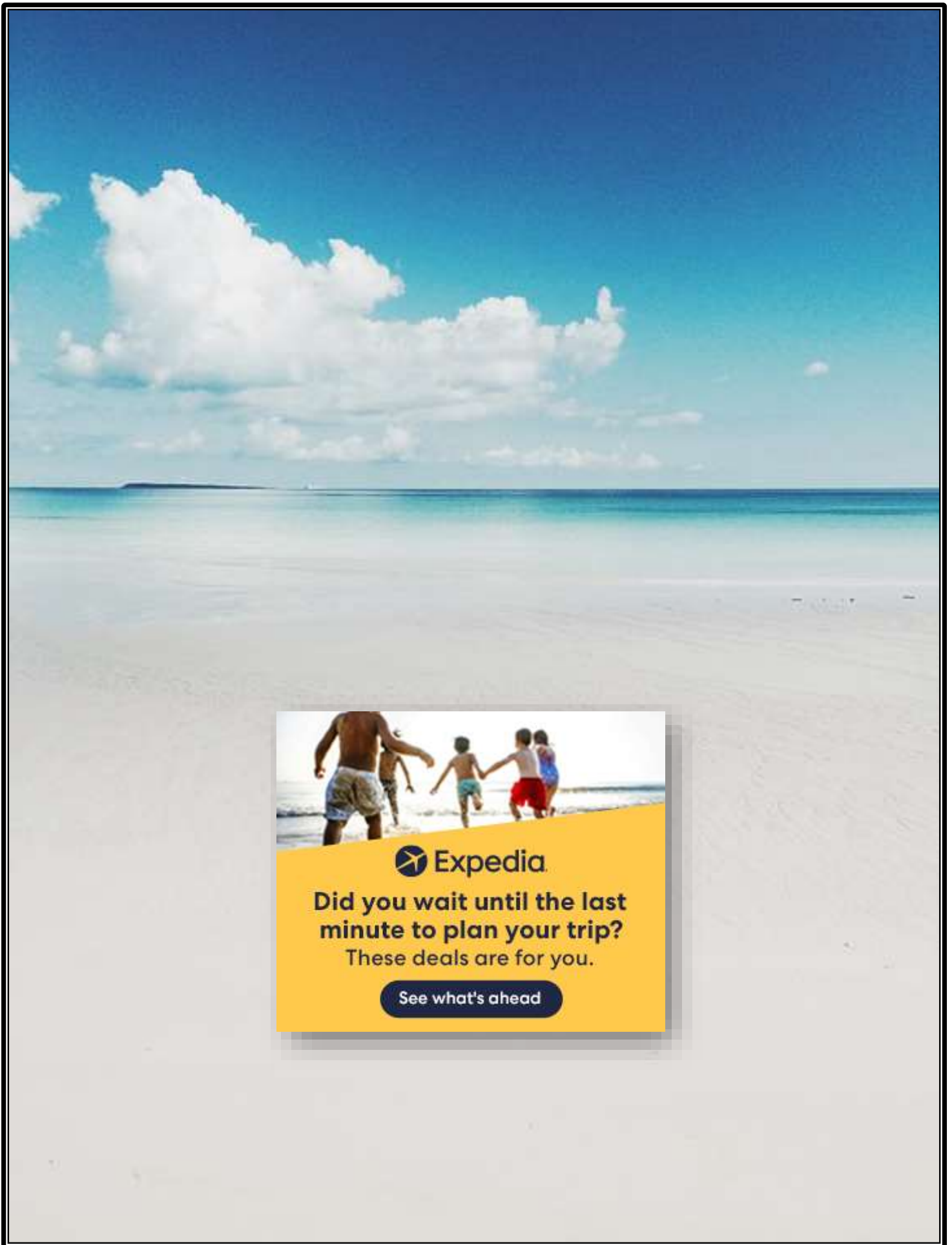
Tanglewood offers various dining options to satisfy





your culinary cravings, but many visitors choose to bring their own picnic baskets and blankets to enjoy a leisurely meal on the sprawling lawns before the performance. This tradition has become a cherished part of the Tanglewood experience, allowing you to savor a delightful feast while surrounded by the scenic beauty of the venue. Do keep in mind that alcoholic beverages are not available for purchase inside Tanglewood, but you are welcome to bring your own wine or champagne.

Here's wishing you a delightful journey to Tanglewood filled with enchanting melodies, serene landscapes, and cherished memories. May the symphony of music and the embrace of nature transport you to a realm of pure joy and inspiration. Embrace the magic that Tanglewood offers, and may your visit be a harmonious blend of musical brilliance and the beauty of the Berkshires. Enjoy your time at Tanglewood and savor every moment of this extraordinary experience.

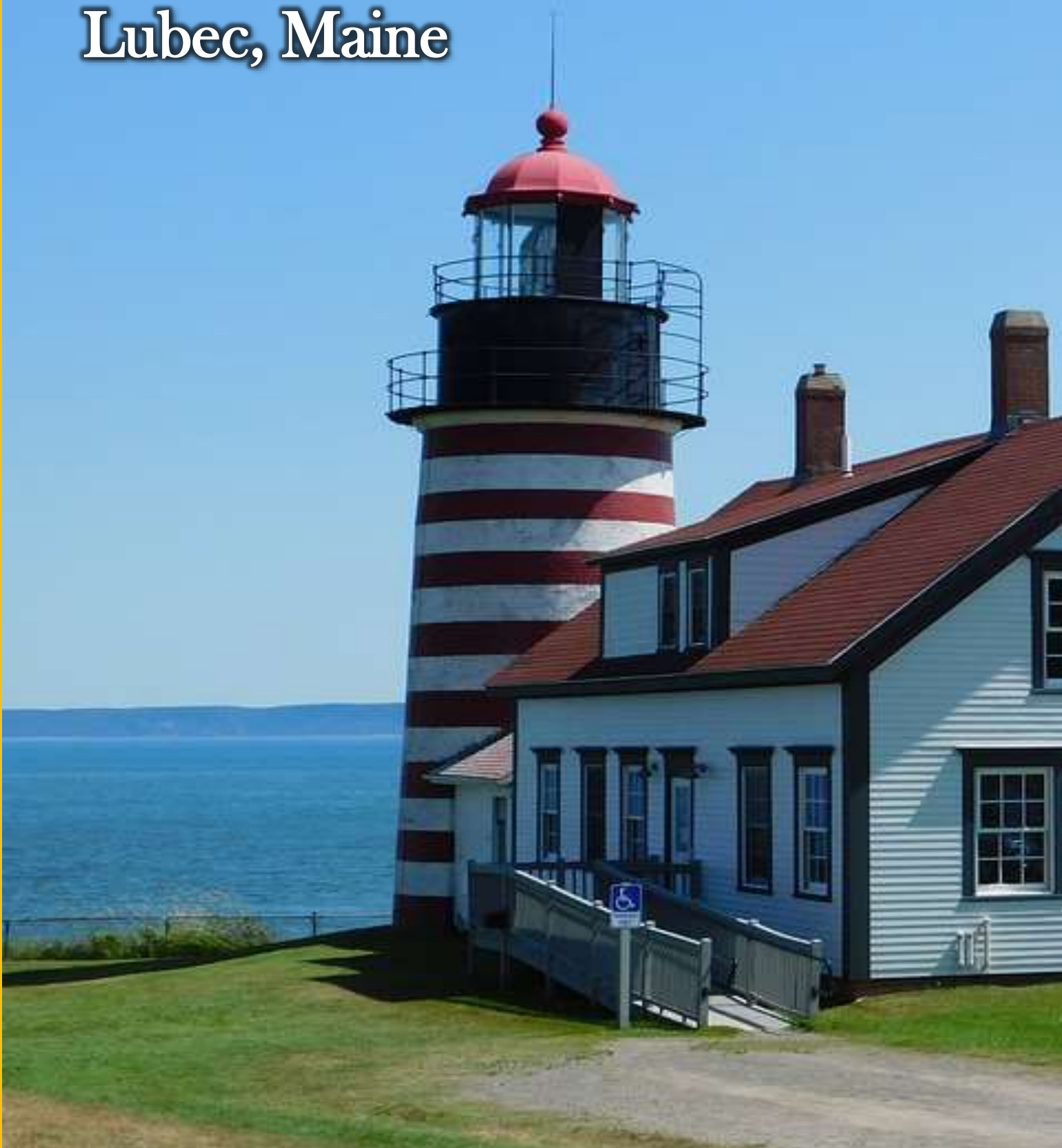


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West Quoddy Head Light, Lubec, Maine



It was built in 1808, making it one of the oldest lighthouses in Maine.

This lighthouse marks the easternmost point of the contiguous United States.

Visitors can tour the lighthouse and learn about its history.

Lighthouse stripes make their towers uniquely identifiable during the daytime.



The area is known for diverse wildlife including seabirds, seals, and occasionally whales.

*Step into a realm of mirth
and revelry, transporting
you to a world where
chivalry and honor reign
supreme.*





Vermont Renaissance Faire

*Merriment
and Delight*



Photo Courtesy of VRF

Hear ye, hear ye! Gather 'round, kind folk and noble lords and ladies, for tidings of the Vermont Renaissance Faire, a grand spectacle of mirth and revelry! Mark your calendars Vermont Renaissance Faire, held each year upon the hallowed grounds of the Events Fields in Stowe, Vermont.

Lo and behold, for over 100 artisans and crafters, true masters of their crafts, shall assemble to present their handmade wares. Let thine eyes feast upon their intricate jewelry, finely forged weaponry, and myriad treasures, all crafted with the utmost skill and care. Verily, the marketplace shall come alive with vibrant colors and the whispers of craftsmanship.

Prepare thyself for a cornucopia of entertainments! More than 30 shows shall grace the stages each day, promising a spectacle for every soul.

Hark! Prepare thine senses for a spectacle that shall stir the heart and quicken the pulse—a breathtaking jousting tournament that shall surely leave thee in awe! Witness gallant knights astride noble steeds, clad in gleaming armor, as they charge forth with lances couched in a display of unparalleled bravery.

In the grand tradition of Renaissance faires, the jousting tournaments at the Vermont Renaissance Faire are renowned for their thrilling exhibitions of skill and valor. These mighty warriors, paragons of chivalry, shall test their mettle in daring displays of horsemanship and combat, captivating the audience with every thunderous clash of lance upon shield.

As the thundering hooves resound upon the field, the crowd shall hold its breath, caught in the suspense of the in-

pending
clash.

The
jousters,
with un-
wavering
focus and
deter-
mination,
shall
charge
toward
one

another,

their lances aimed true. And with an explosive collision,



Photo Courtesy of VRF



the lance shatters upon impact, marking the valiant strike of victory.

Marvel at the precision and coordination between

horse and rider as they navigate the tilting field, striving to unseat their opponent. Cheers and cries of encouragement shall rise from the spectators, for in this moment, they are transported to a world where honor, skill, and courage reign supreme.

But beware, fair souls, for the joust is not without its

...partake in the grand revelry of the Vermont Renaissance Faire...

dangers. Shield thy eyes as the shards of shattered lance fly through the air, and hold thy breath as knights strive to maintain their balance amidst the tumultuous clash. Fear not, for these noble warriors are well-trained in the ways of combat and bear the weight of their armor with steadfast resolve.

The jousting tournaments at the Vermont Renaissance Faire are a testament to the enduring legacy of the knightly spirit. Witness the splendor of this ancient martial tradition as it unfolds before thee, transporting thee to a time when chivalry and honor were paramount.

Gather 'round, noble archers and admirers of the bow! The Vermont Renaissance Faire invites thee to partake in an exhilarating archery tournament, where marksmanship and focus



shall be put to the ultimate test. Set amidst the picturesque grounds, this tournament celebrates the ancient art of archery, drawing forth talented competitors from far and wide.

In this grand contest of skill, archers shall showcase their precision and mastery with bow in hand. With unwavering focus and a steady hand, they shall aim their arrows toward distant targets, seeking to strike true and claim victory. Watch as arrows soar through the air with graceful arcs, guided by the keen eyes and practiced technique of these skilled participants.



Photo Courtesy of VRF

The archery tournament at the Vermont Renaissance Faire is a spectacle that delights both participants and onlookers alike. Admire the skillful release of the bowstring, the swift flight of the arrow,

and the satisfying thud as it finds its mark. Marvel at the ability of these archers to hit their targets with unerring accuracy, displaying the culmination of years of practice and dedication.

As the competition unfolds, the tension shall rise, and the crowd shall hold its breath with anticipation. Applaud the archers as they demonstrate their prowess, their arrows threading through narrow gaps and striking at the heart of the target. Let the spirit of competition ignite thy own sense of adventure, and perhaps, thou too shall be inspired to take up the bow and test thy own skills in the art of archery.

Let the sweet melodies of minstrels and the nimble steps of dancers transport thee to a realm of merriment and delight. Marvel at the daring feats of aerialists, and



Photo Courtesy of VRF

witness the enchantments of magicians, whose tricks shall beguile thy senses.

But that is not all, good people! Se ek ye enlightenment in the demonstrations that bring ancient arts to life. Observe the skillful blacksmiths as they shape raw metal into works of art before thine very eyes. Learn the secrets of the weavers as they craft delicate textiles,



Photo Courtesy of VRF

and marvel at the bow makers as they fashion tools of archery. Journey to the encampments and immerse thyself in the customs and daily life of the Renaissance era.

And what is a faire without the sustenance to nourish thy body and quench thy thirst? Fear not, for over twenty food and beverage vendors shall be at thy service.



Photo Courtesy of VRF



Photo Courtesy of VRF

Partake in international delicacies, indulge in delectable sweets, and, should thou be of age, venture into the mead garden, where the elixir of the gods, along with cider and ale, shall sate thy thirst and invigorate thy spirit.

Come, wanderers of all ages, and traverse the realm of imagination! Join the company of Vikings, wizards, knights, fairies, jesters, and even a mythical unicorn, for the Vermont Renaissance Faire welcomes all who seek the wonders of yesteryear. Explore the enchanting grounds, converse with the costumed characters, and capture moments that shall forever dwell in thy memories. Let joy



Photo Courtesy of VRF

and mirth be thy companions throughout this extraordinary day.

Behold, fair denizens, for at the Vermont Renaissance Faire, an extraordinary opportunity awaits thee! Prepare thyself to walk in the presence of royalty, as the esteemed King and Queen graciously welcome all who venture to their grand realm.

Amidst the vibrant festivities and enchanting atmosphere, visitors to the faire shall have the honor of meeting the regal couple. Adorned in resplendent attire befitting their noble

station, the King and Queen shall hold court, extending their warm greetings to one and all. Approach with reverence and respect, for in their presence, thou shalt experience the true essence of Renaissance majesty.

A chance to converse with the King and Queen is a rare privilege indeed. Share thy admiration, seek their wisdom, or simply bask in their radiance as they regale thee with tales of their realm. Take a moment to capture this re-markable en-counter, for few shall be granted the



opportunity to stand before such regal magnificence.

The King and Queen, paragons of grace and dignity, embody the spirit of the Renaissance era. Their presence adds an air of authenticity and grandeur to the festivities, allowing visitors to truly immerse themselves in the enchanting ambiance of the faire. So, seize this chance to mingle with royalty, and let their noble presence leave an indelible mark upon thy heart and soul.



Photo Courtesy of VRF

When thou bid
fare well to the
Vermont
Renaissance Faire,
thou shall treasure
the memories of this
extraordinary

encounter. Reflect upon the honor bestowed upon thee, and may the meeting with the King and Queen inspire dreams of nobility, gallantry, and the enduring spirit of the Renaissance.

So, partake in the grand revelry of the Vermont Renaissance Faire, embrace the enchantment, and seize the fleeting moments. Let the meeting with the King and Queen be a cherished highlight of thy journey through this wondrous realm of the Renaissance. Witness the



valor of the gallant knights, feel the thunder of hooves, and let thy spirit soar as thou cheer for thy favored champion in this unforgettable display of medieval prowess. Partake in delectable offerings, shop the wares of our merchants, laugh at the jesters, and gawk in amazement at the conjuring of our wizards as you mingle with other denizens of the realm.

Tickets to this grand event are available both online and at the gate on the appointed days. Know that children under 6 years of age shall enter without coin, ensuring a day of merriment for families. And fret not about thy carriage, for parking shall be bestowed upon thee free of charge, ensuring a seamless and joyous sojourn.

On the 24th and 25th days of June, in the year 2023, from the morn's first light at 10 o'clock to the setting of the sun at 6 o'clock, indulge thy senses in the wonders of yore and remember that the faire is child friendly and Odin approved.

A person wearing a safety harness and a red shirt is navigating a high-altitude tree-top adventure course. They are standing on a narrow wooden beam, with ropes and pulleys visible. The background is a dense forest of tall trees with green and yellowing leaves, set against a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The entire scene is framed by a thick yellow border.

Treetop Thrills

High Adventure

*An unforgettable adventure of
breathtaking challenges and
accomplishment*



Photo Courtesy of APS

The Adventure Park at Storrs, hidden in the woods in Connecticut’s “Quiet Corner”, offers an exhilarating experience that combines the excitement of zip lines, the challenge of a ropes course, and the beauty of nature into a day of thrills and a feeling of accomplishment.

Prepare for an unforgettable experience filled with thrills and fun for individuals, families, friends, and even corporate groups. From the moment you arrive, you'll feel the excitement building as you ponder whether you will be able to stand up to the challenges ahead of you.

It may seem dangerous to navigate a suspended, purposefully-wobbly bridge, tight rope walk a cable between trees, 30 feet above the ground, or whiz through the tree tops on a zipline, but safety is

paramount. Before embarking on your tree-to-tree obstacle course adventure, a thorough safety orientation ensures you are well-prepared. Skilled Monitors guide you through a comprehensive briefing, equipping you with state-of-the-art safety gear, including a double-connected climbing system. With these measures in place, you can focus on the exhilaration of the



Photo Courtesy of APS



Photo Courtesy of APS



experience, knowing you're securely attached to the safety lines.

With 28 ziplines and 128 total challenges, the Park offers a range of tree-to-tree obstacle courses, color-coded to indicate their level of difficulty. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced climber, there's a trail perfectly suited for you. The courses are designed to challenge and test your skills, instilling a sense of accomplishment and adventure. With trails like the purple trail for young adventurers, the black trail for seasoned climbers, and everything in between, there's an exciting challenge for everyone.

As you navigate the treetop courses, overcoming bridges, ropes, wires, and exhilarating ziplines, you'll



conquer physical and mental challenges. Each obstacle presents an opportunity to push your limits and build confidence. The Adventure Park encourages self-discovery, allowing you to face your fears head-on.

If you come with a group, whether a birthday party or a team-building course, the Adventure Park at Storrs fosters a sense of camaraderie and cooperation. As you tackle the obstacles, you'll have the chance to bond with fellow adventurers, supporting and encouraging each other throughout the experience. Whether you're a daredevil or a cautious climber, there will always be someone nearby to lend a helping hand or cheer you on. The shared adventure creates lasting memories and strengthens connections.



Photo Courtesy of APS

The excitement continues beyond the treetop courses. Test your skills and precision in the three dedicated outdoor axe throwing lanes, engaging in friendly competition or simply enjoying the thrill of hitting the target. If you prefer a more relaxed experience, gather around one of the campfires during Firepit Fridays, savoring the delights of s'mores and well-deserved relaxation. Take a leisurely stroll through the beautiful grounds or explore the park store for souvenirs and goodies to commemorate your adventure.

The Adventure Park at Storrs offers more than just an outdoor adventure destination; it's a place where thrill-seekers can immerse themselves in the beauty of nature while conquering their fears. With a variety of trails catering to different skill levels, a commitment to safety, and a supportive and friendly staff, The Adventure Park ensures an unforgettable experience for visitors of all ages. Whether you're planning a family outing, a team-building activity, or a day filled with adrenaline, The Adventure Park at Storrs is the perfect destination to embark on an unforgettable adventure.

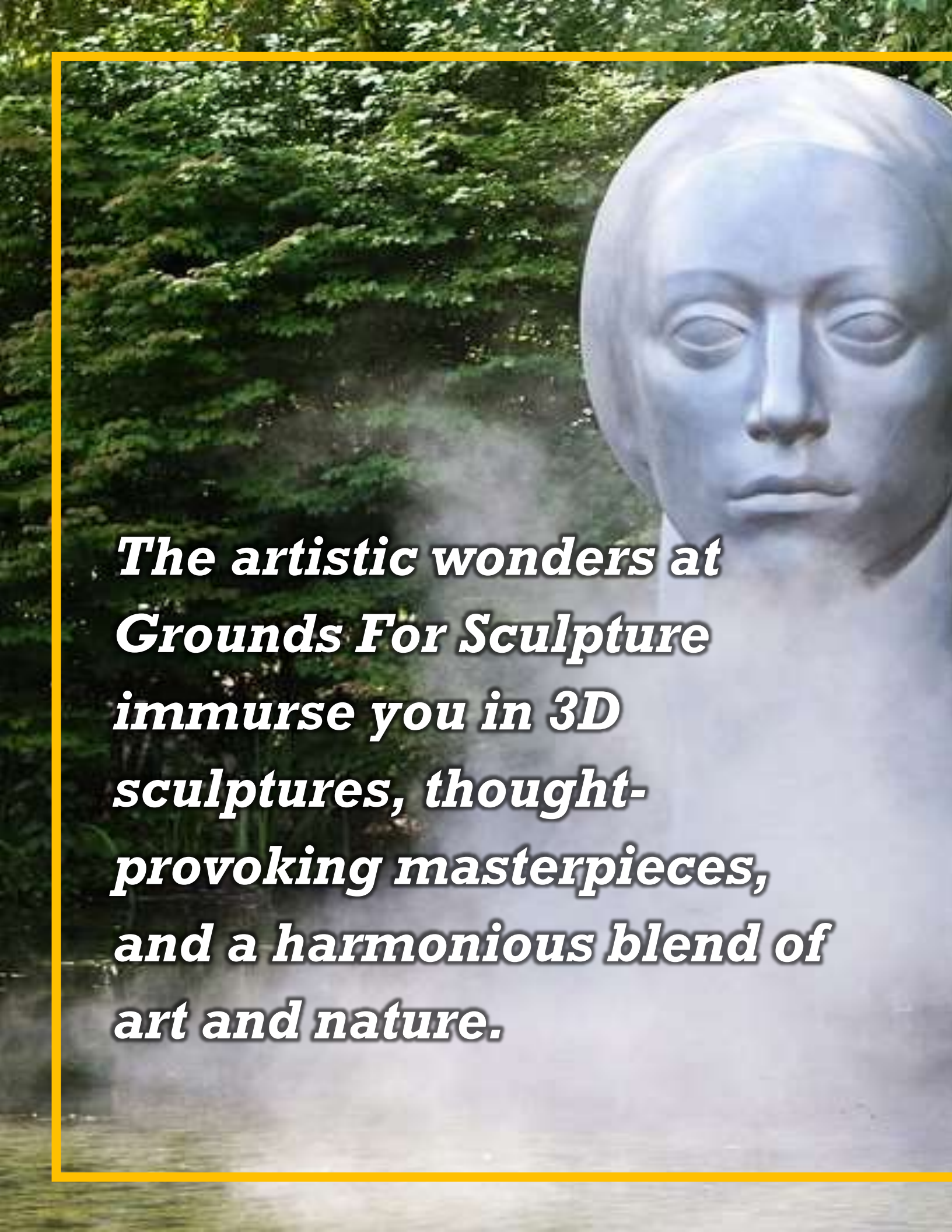


Photo Courtesy of APS

For More Information

- myadventurepark.com

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***The artistic wonders at
Grounds For Sculpture
immurse you in 3D
sculptures, thought-
provoking masterpieces,
and a harmonious blend of
art and nature.***



**Grounds For Sculpture:
Unveiling
Enchantment**

Feature by L,M,Brown



Nestled amidst the verdant landscapes of Hamilton Township, New Jersey, a realm of artistic wonders awaits within the enchanting Grounds For Sculpture. As you venture into this mesmerizing outdoor museum, prepare to be enthralled by a symphony of artistic expressions that captivate the senses and ignite the imagination.

One of the most captivating spectacles that greets you is a giant head, shrouded in a mystical mist that adds an air of intrigue and ethereal beauty to the surroundings. This enigmatic sculpture, as well as the myriad other installations that lie within, beckon visitors to embark on

a journey where famous works of art are transformed into immersive 3D sculptures, realistic portrayals of both renowned and ordinary individuals come to life, and thought-provoking masterpieces invite contemplation and introspection.

Escaping the concrete and asphalt of New York City to the verdant park of GFS involves catching a train from NYC, a scenic half-hour ride, then catching a 10 minute Uber trip from the Trenton Transit Center. For lovers of art, the short ride from Trenton to GFS is filled with anticipation -- anticipation that is well rewarded by the art-filled oasis where we can immerse ourselves in a realm where sculptures, gardens, and installations blend harmoniously, offering a captivating and transformative experience.

After a brief stop at the ticket booth, arrival is at the Seward Johnson Center for the arts with multiple galleries', a café, and the GFS offices.



With timed entrance and strict limits on the number of visitors, the 42 acres of meticulously landscaped gardens feel like your own private park. Wear comfortable shoes since you will be walking a lot to encounter a diverse array of more than 270 sculptures and installations that, make you think, sometimes laugh, and always be filled with amazement at what talented sculptors can do. The tranquil atmosphere allows visitors to explore at their own pace, fostering a sense of serenity and contemplation amidst the art-filled surroundings





Embarking on an enchanted journey through the park, visitors are greeted by a captivating ensemble of sculptures by renowned artists such as Seward Johnson, Kiki Smith, Magdalena Abakanowicz, and Anthony Caro, among others. These artistic masterpieces blend seamlessly with the natural surroundings, enticing visitors to explore the interplay of art and nature within GFS. As visitors meander along the pathways, a tapestry of form and texture unfolds before their eyes, evoking contemplation and curiosity.

Some artworks echo familiar shapes, while others take bold departures from the expected, provoking questions



and inviting interpretation. Perhaps it's the sight of a melted Japanese torii gate that piques curiosity, sparking thoughts about the artist's intended message and the emotions it elicits. And what about that polished stainless steel sculpture? Its reflective surface invites introspection, prompting visitors to ponder their own reflections within the artwork.

In the realm of modern art, it is the questions rather than the answers that resonate, allowing each visitor to craft their own personal narrative and connect with the artworks in

unique ways.

Even for those who may not consider themselves connoisseurs of modern art, Grounds For Sculpture holds a delightful surprise around every corner, ensuring a joyful journey of discovery. Among the myriad sculptures that adorn the park, two notable works never fail to captivate visitors. One such sculpture is "Forever Marilyn" by Seward Johnson, an iconic depiction of the legendary Marilyn Monroe, capturing her radiant glamour frozen in time. As you encounter this larger-than-life sculpture, the sheer presence and nostalgia it evokes invite contemplation and spark conversations about beauty, fame, and the allure of Hollywood's golden era. Even those unfamiliar with modern art will be drawn into the captivating narratives and profound expressions that await them at every twist and turn, making each step a joyous exploration of the artistic wonders that lie ahead.

Seward Johnson, renowned for his innovative approach to sculpture, has captivated audiences with his unique exploration of bringing paintings into the three-dimensional realm. Johnson's artistic vision transcends





traditional boundaries as he reimagines famous paintings and translates them into immersive sculptural experiences.

Just as we all know Marilyn Monroe, we all know Edvard Munch's iconic "The Scream". We all were teens peeking with titillation at Manet's "The Luncheon on the Grass". With meticulous attention to detail and a deep understanding of

the original artworks, Johnson breathes new life into iconic paintings, allowing viewers to engage with them in a tangible and interactive way, a way that our non-art-loving brethren can embrace by making the familiar new again.

As visitors encounter Johnson's sculptures inspired by famous paintings, they are enveloped in a dynamic fusion of art and reality, witnessing the brushstrokes come to life in three dimensions. Johnson's remarkable ability to capture the essence of the original artwork while infusing it with a tangible presence invites viewers to experience these timeless masterpieces in a whole new

light, forging a profound connection between the viewer, the sculpture, and the original painting itself.

The collection at GFS extends far beyond the remarkable works of Seward Johnson, encompassing a vast and diverse array of sculptures that span various styles, themes, and artistic visions. Every step within the park reveals a tapestry of creativity, inviting visitors on an immersive journey through the world of sculpture.

From the evocative and introspective sculptures by Kiki Smith to the monumental and thought-provoking installations by Magdalena Abakanowicz, the collection embraces a wide spectrum of artistic expressions. Each artwork tells its own story, whether through abstract forms that challenge conventional perceptions or realistic representations that celebrate the human spirit.

Throughout the park, visitors will encounter sculptures crafted from a range of materials, from the



polished stainless steel pieces that reflect their surroundings to the textured and weathered sculptures that celebrate the passage of time. With every turn of the path, the collection unveils a new chapter in the art world, engaging viewers in a dialogue that transcends boundaries and sparks their imagination. It is a testament to the power of art to provoke, inspire, and invite contemplation, ensuring that each visit to GFS is an extraordinary and enriching experience.

Johnson envisioned a unique space that would celebrate sculpture in all its forms, so he acquired the former New Jersey State Fairgrounds in Hamilton Township, New Jersey, and transformed it into a haven for art lovers and enthusiasts. Officially opened to the public in 1992, Grounds For Sculpture has since evolved into a world-class sculpture park and museum. It has expanded and diversified its collection, featuring works by both established and emerging artists, showcasing a broad range of styles and materials. Today, Grounds For Sculpture stands as a testament to Johnson's vision, providing a captivating space where art can be appreciated, contemplated, and celebrated by visitors from all walks of life. It serves as a cultural hub, offering exhibitions, educational programs, and events that foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of the sculptural arts, leaving a lasting impact on the art



community and beyond.

After a morning brimming with artistic inspiration or a leisurely afternoon immersed in the captivating world of art, it's eventually time to bid farewell to the enchanting Grounds For Sculpture and return home.

With rejuvenated artistic batteries and a heart filled with creative energy, visitors can reflect on the profound experiences and cherished memories forged within the park's embrace. As the day draws to a close, one can embark on the journey back to the bustling city, carrying with them the indelible impressions of sculptures that stirred emotions, gardens that provided solace, and installations that sparked thought-provoking conversations.

While leaving the tranquil haven of Grounds For Sculpture may feel bittersweet, the journey home serves as a reflection of the transformative power of art and the lasting impact it can have on our lives. With newfound inspiration and a renewed appreciation for the artistic expressions that surround us, the return trip becomes an opportunity to integrate the beauty and insights gained from this art-filled escape into our daily lives, ready to continue the creative journey until we return again.

For More Information:
www.groundsforsculpture.org



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*Learning about life in New
York's immigration era*



Immigrant History Comes
Alive

The Tenement Museum

Feature By Debbie Stone
Photos by Ryan Lahiff



I had always wanted to tour the Tenement Museum in New York City, having had a number of my relatives immigrate to the U.S. from Europe; a number who came through Ellis Island and spent time in New York before heading elsewhere. On my recent trip to the Big Apple, I finally got my wish.

Founded in 1988 by historian Ruth Abram and social activist Anita Jacobson, the Lower East Side Tenement Museum delves into the American story of migration and its effects on the fabric of our society. Immigrants played and continue to play an important role in shaping our country's evolving national identity.

It all began when Abram and Jacobson came upon 97

Orchard Street, a rundown tenement building that had been closed for over fifty years. Though the building was dilapidated, the women discovered personal belongings and other evidence of the families that called these apartments home between the 1860s and 1930s. Over 7,000 residents lived here during this period. The items and the families who owned them became the basis for the museum and its belief that we as a society are “best understood and appreciated through the stories of real families whose lives have shaped our shared history.”

Today, visitors can hear these stories through guided tours of two historic buildings at 97 and 103 Orchard Street and the surrounding Lower East Side neighborhood. Such tours are essentially a time capsule that sheds light on aspects of identity, urban development, public policy, architecture and other



themes. They're also a reminder of the challenges and hurdles faced by new migrants and refugees to America, not only then, but now. And finally, they are strong threads that connect us to one another, with the realization that as human beings, we share many commonalities.

The museum offers several different tours, including



“Hard Times: 1880s,” where you’ll step into the community of Little Germany and visit the tenement apartment of Natalie Gumpertz and her daughters, and the saloon run downstairs by John and Caroline Schneider; “Tenement Women: 1902,” an examination of two sides of the Koshers Meat Boycott that thousands of Jewish women participated in when the price of

kosher meat rose in price; “At Home in 1869,” a look at the life of an Irish immigrant couple, Joseph and Bridget Moore, and how they maintained their Irish identity in the face of discrimination within a mostly German neighborhood; and “At Home in 1933,” which takes visitors into the recreated 1930s apartment of Adolpho and Rosaria Baldizzi, Italian immigrants raising their two children (Josephine and John) during the Great Depression. The family lived in the 97 Orchard Street dwelling for five years.

I chose the latter tour because I was most interested in the time period. Prior to entering the Baldizzi’s apartment, our guide gave the group a brief history of the building, which



had eighteen units, and was built in 1863 by a German immigrant. There was a need in the area for housing for working class and middle-class families. The neighborhood was called “Little German Land,” due to the number of German immigrants who settled there. By 1910, the neighborhood was transformed by Jewish

... she and her brother would play cards with their father at the kitchen table.

immigrants and then later, by Italians.

The building was occupied until 1935 when the landlord closed it. A city code regarding fire safety necessitated the replacement of staircases from wood to metal. Rather than making the legally mandated improvements, the landlord refused and shut it down, evicting everyone living there at the time.

As for the Baldizzis, both Adolpho and Rosario hailed from Palermo, Sicily. It was an arranged marriage for the couple. She was sixteen, he was twenty-six. Adolpho came to the U.S. in 1923, following in the footsteps of his brother, who told him he could make more money as a carpenter in America than in Palermo. Due to new immigration laws, Rosario wasn't able to join Adolpho until two years later and used “doctored papers” to enter.

Walking inside, our guide pointed out the building's original tin-plated ceilings and staircase. In the Baldizzi's three-room apartment (bedroom, kitchen and parlor), you could see different layers of wallpaper – twenty in total - that were covered with paint, now chipping away. The linoleum flooring in the kitchen had a design that



made it look like a rug. On the shelves was a container of Bon Ami, a common household cleanser, and a box of Linit, laundry starch. Underneath was the kitchen sink, which served a multitude of purposes. It was not only where dishes and clothes were washed, but where the kids took cold-water sponge baths each morning and had their weekly tepid baths. A coin operated gas meter was mounted on the wall. An apartment such as this one typically rented for \$20-25 a month.

During our tour, we saw a video that was made when the Baldizzi daughter, Josephine, visited the apartment for the first time since she had lived there as a child. She remembered the place as being dimly lit, barely furnished and cold. But she noted that her mother decorated it with curtains, coverlets for the beds and skirts across the shelving that her father built into the walls. They also grew flowers at the window.

Italian music and soap operas played on the radio day

and night, and she and her brother would play cards with their father at the kitchen table. She and her best friend down the hall would play at being movie stars - Claudette Colbert being one of their favorites. They would also go roller skating and take walks in the neighborhood. On Sundays, the family would have a special meal consisting of a fried egg and roll with butter and catsup. And once in a while they would go to Coney Island for the day.

The family experienced serious economic hardships due to the Great Depression. The unemployment rate in New York City was a steep sixty percent. Adolpho, who had resorted to being a handyman, was often jobless and depressed. Rosario worked in a garment factory and took over head of household duties. She was at constant risk of being let go from her job, though, because she was essentially an “illegal.”

The Baldizzis needed to rely on social programs and their church to help them get through these rough times. President Roosevelt’s Home Relief Program for immigrants and noncitizens provided some assistance and in the Baldizzi household the President was regarded as “Saint Roosevelt.” Our guide also emphasized that the community was close knit and looked out for one other.

After they were evicted, the family moved a few blocks west and then eventually to Brooklyn, where Adolpho began working at a shipyard. Both parents earned their citizenship and life improved for the couple and their children.

Josephine, the last of the Baldizzis, passed away in 1998.

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Hallowed Grounds

The image shows the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The monument is a large, ornate stone structure with a central archway. It features a dome on top with a statue of an eagle. The archway is flanked by two columns, each with a statue of a soldier. The monument is surrounded by a low wall. In the foreground, a large, black, cast-iron cannon is positioned on a wooden carriage. The sky is blue with some clouds.

*A town remembers Abraham
Lincoln's short, monumental
visit!*



Many towns across America stake their claim to President Abraham Lincoln's legacy - Hodgenville, Kentucky; Springfield, Illinois; and of course, Washington, DC. But it's in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, where Lincoln spent the least amount of time, but is celebrated in a big way.

Lincoln only spent 25 hours in Gettysburg - making the day-long trek on train from the White House - to, as he was asked, deliver just “a few appropriate remarks” at the dedication of a cemetery where Union soldiers were being buried. This, of course, is just less than five months after the most tragic battle of the American Civil War swept through this small community, forever changing the life of the nation, and the town itself. In just three

days, the armies collectively suffered 51,000 casualties.

Today, more than a century and a half after that visit, Lincoln is remembered as a man that turned

Gettysburg from a place of tragedy into a symbol of hope. And while the 16th President accomplished many achievements in his life, we in Gettysburg believe it was here that Lincoln secured his legacy and place in American history.

This town of just 8,000 people has eight Lincoln statues - ranging from life-size monuments to busts of the president where millions of visitors

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract.

The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.

It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.



have touched the face of history. Visitors enjoy Lincoln walking tours, Lincoln leadership programs, and of course several Lincoln related historical sites such as the Historic Lincoln Railroad Station, David Wills House and the Soldiers' National Cemetery where Lincoln





delivered his famous Gettysburg Address on November 19, 1863.

Every November, visitors from around the country bundle up and solemnly celebrate that 272-word speech - marked with poignant words of devotion and



reflection, and of course a reciting of the address itself.

A few yards behind the podium in the national cemetery is a small, but powerful monument to the

Gettysburg Address, the only such monument to a speech in the entire world.

The ceremony closes with a naturalization ceremony for 16 new American citizens, sworn in to a country that Lincoln reminds us was “conceived in Liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.”

It's “altogether fitting and

proper” that Gettysburg is located along the iconic Lincoln Highway, a 3,000-plus-mile stretch of road that once took travelers cross-country from Times Square in New York City to the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.

Gettysburg is a place where visitors from around the





world trace Lincoln's footsteps, from the train station where he arrived, up to the town square where he stayed overnight and put the finishing touches on his remarks, and the Gettysburg Presbyterian Church where the 16th president attended a rally after the cemetery ceremony. The "Lincoln Pew" still sits reserved all these years later.

The Battle of Gettysburg stands as one of most significant events in nation's history, but Lincoln – through his 272-word address – captured the essence of what that battle meant, that Gettysburg is remembered “as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live.”

Lincoln was wrong about one thing though when he said, “the world will little note, nor long remember what we say here.” Indeed, we do remember what Lincoln said that day in Gettysburg. In fact, his short speech is remembered, recited and reflected upon by not only American's but those around the world.

For more information:

- www.DestinationGettysburg.com



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*The pipes are calling you to the
Rhode Island Highland Games!*



A bagpiper in a kilt playing bagpipes at a Highland Games event. The piper is wearing a dark jacket, a kilt, and a sporran. He is standing on a grassy field with a red barn and a green tractor in the background. Other bagpipers are visible to the left.

Rhode Island's Highland
Games

Scotland Forever

Feature
By Linda Eagleson



Once upon a time in the midst of warring battles between the clans, a mighty figure emerged for all to see. He stood 6 feet tall with dark, wavy hair, massive muscular arms, a beard as long as a horse's tail, and wearing a ... skirt?

Ok, I was taken by the description of a mighty warrior, right up to the part where it states that he was wearing a skirt. Well, here we call it a kilt. But, that is what the mighty warriors of Scotland wore years ago while waging battle between the many clans and the English, and that is exactly what the clans wear at the Rhode Island Highland Games.

The Highland Games are events held throughout the year in Scotland as a way of celebrating Scottish and Celtic culture and heritage. Certain aspects of the games

are so well known that they have become a symbol of Scotland, such as the bagpipes and drums, wearing of the kilts, and the heavy events, especially the caber and hammer toss.

While the games mainly centered on competitions in piping and drumming, dancing, and Scottish heavy athletics, the games also included entertainment and exhibits related to other aspects of Celtic culture.

My dad, who grew up in a little town called Inchinnan right outside of Glasgow, remembered attending the games with his mom, dad and three sisters. Even though he was a “wee bit small” at the time, he still recalled most of the events that took place.

Every clan that you could imagine would come to them





still holding grudges from clan feuds of long ago. They would argue over who stole whose property, women, money or just plain didn't like each other. In other words, these games

allowed the clans to compete, hoping to “seal the deal” of finally laying to rest their family feuds.

With a medieval theme surrounding the games, some were clad in armor with massive swords at their sides and the ladies would dance to the Celtic tunes. Many would participate in the caber toss, hammer throw, Wellington boot toss, or anything else, which would require the men to display their muscular strength. My dad whose



nickname was Scottie as a wee lad, wore his sporran, (a pouch worn around the waist), socks and kilt bearing the Campbells of Argyle tartan to the events. He wished that someday he might be one

of those muscular men participating in the caber toss or the hammer throw.

Ah, to his woe, his strength was in playing soccer and unfortunately that wasn't one of the events that were held at the Highland games.

During Rhode Island's Highland Games at the Washington County Fairgrounds, it was common to see bagpipers sounding out the Celtic melodies, as people would dance the Highland jigs.

And just as common was the tasting of





the foods
from
Scot-land;
some not
so delect-
able as
many
who

thought they would be. Haggis was in big demand at the Highland games, as everyone just had to taste the dreaded substance so they could tell their friends. Shortbread was abundant, yet it wasn't the home baked kind; packages that you could find in your local grocery store made my taste buds yearn for the real thing, like my Aunt Jessie's short-bread; the buttery sweetness that literally melts in your mouth. Mmmmm.



Starting with the sheep herding, Celtic harp, Rathkeltair, Scottish country dance and followed by the opening ceremonies, the event made everyone feel welcomed, even those that weren't Scottish.

The Master of Ceremonies was very impressive in his black velvet, regaled hat and a red plaid kilt, leading the clans through a series of synchronized steps and tunes. A beautiful parade of vivid reds, blues, greens, yellows, blacks and whites that were interwoven into their treasured kilts, assembled with bagpipes and drums

sounding out their Scottish ballads.

After the opening ceremonies, people were allowed to visit the different tents of the clans, gathering knowledge of their ancestors and listening to tales as tall as the Empire State building.

My clan, the Campbells of Argyle, was not, to say the least, one of the favorites. Maybe because they stole land, sheep, and women, massacred the McDonalds, and sided with the British? That's the tale that I was told anyways. Even though some clans still backed away from me when I told them about my heritage, I made it perfectly clear that I was proud to be a Campbell, and hey, it wasn't me that did all of that bad stuff anyways. Right?

Well, I have to say that the





events of strength had to be the highlight of the games. At least for me they were. Massive muscles peeking out from under their T-shirts, while kilts twisted around them as they whirled the hammer as far as they could, these athletes showed me what brute strength was all





about. Or, when they threw a 12-foot pole into the air, balancing it just right so it would land on the perfect spot.

To me, that was beyond remarkable to witness the awesome power of these athletes, competing with dignity and respect for their fellow athletes. And no feuding, except with the judges. Now, that's a Highland Game. The rest of the day was spent watching Border Collies do their job by herding show, listening to the soothing sounds of the pipes and watching young people kick up their heels to the Scottish jigs. Sounds from harps, flutes, guitars and drums could be heard everywhere, somehow bringing me back to my father's childhood in Scotland.

Listening to him tell the stories of mighty athletes competing, haggis and rolling pin hurls or the making of kilts, I never could feel the emotions of being at such an





event, until I visited these games.

Now, I can actually say that by being at these games, I know what it's like to feel being Scottish. And, I am proud to say, that when someone asks me what my heritage is, I say that I am a Scottish Lassie.

“Le Mor Gradh!”

For more information

- www.riscot.org

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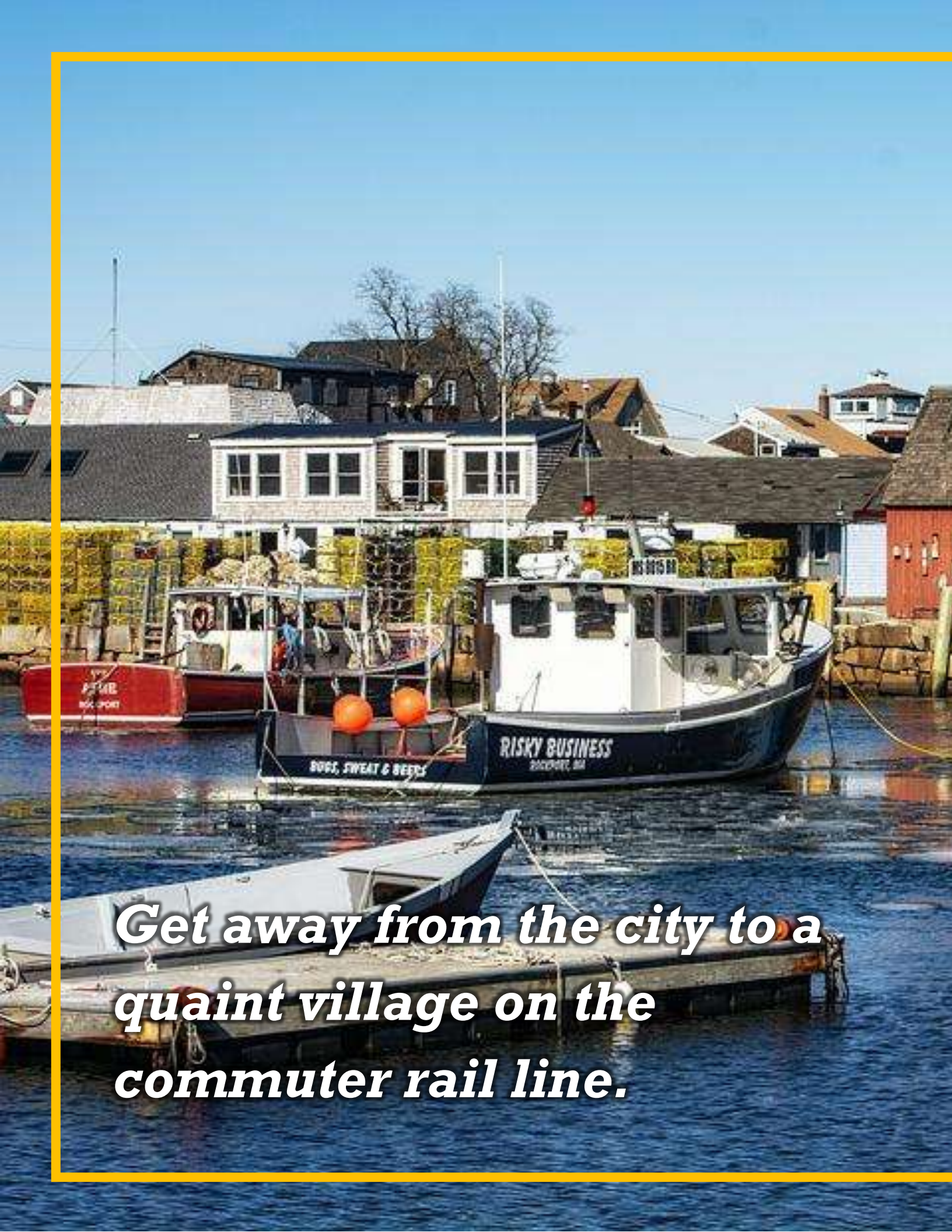




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**The Classic New England
Village**

**Summertime
in Rockport**

**Feature
By Paul Pence**



The commuter train from Boston takes you away from the hustle and congestion of the city and well into the suburbs. If you catch the right train, you'll scurry past the suburbs and find your own place of rest and relaxation at the end of the line in Rockport. The Newburyport / Rockport line's last stop puts you within strolling distance of cozy B&B's, shopping, galleries, excellent restaurants, and some of the most relaxing hiking and seaside views you could ask for.

Rockport lies on the tip of Cape Ann, almost surrounded by the Atlantic. In fact, with the Annisquam River and Canal, the tip of the cape that includes nearby Gloucester is completely surrounded by water -- the longtime residents call the area "The Island", considering

their part of Cape Ann self-sufficient. Rockport stayed small, attracting a small artist's colony who made the old red fishing shack in the middle of the harbor such an iconic fixture in their paintings that it has become known as "Motif Number 1".

Catching the commuter train to Rockport, the first place to visit is Studio Crepe, right next door to the station

Entirely gluten-free, the crepes form pizzas, dipping chips made of crispy crepes, sandwiches wrapped in warm tender crepes, and delicious desserts, all served in an environment to get you in the mood for art.

David, the outgoing owner of the cafe has created an environment to go with his creative re-imagining of the classic French dish to





get you in the mood for an art-filled weekend, with an art-filled dining room overlooking the open kitchen that preparing tasty treats and filling meals.

Raring to go after a nice meal, Rockport is right outside the door, all within walking distance. Galleries and shops abound on Main Street and along Bearskin Neck. Jewelry, clothing, knickknacks, and treasures from around the world will tempt you as you stroll through the business district.

Be sure to take time to look at Motif Number 1, the building painted more often than any other. Then go inside the Rockport Art Association and see how the traditions of creating and presenting art has survived and thrived since the 1800's.

Before dinner, check in at your weekend's lodgings. An excellent example is the Sally Webster Inn bed and

breakfast, also a short stroll away. Built in 1832, the inn's six rooms have been appointed by the innkeeper Chef Sawsan Galal with antiques and cozy touches throughout, making the Inn the perfect refuge from the worries left behind in the city.

The common areas may encourage you to curl up with a book or board game, but it's still early enough to see more of Rockport before that cozy bed calls you.

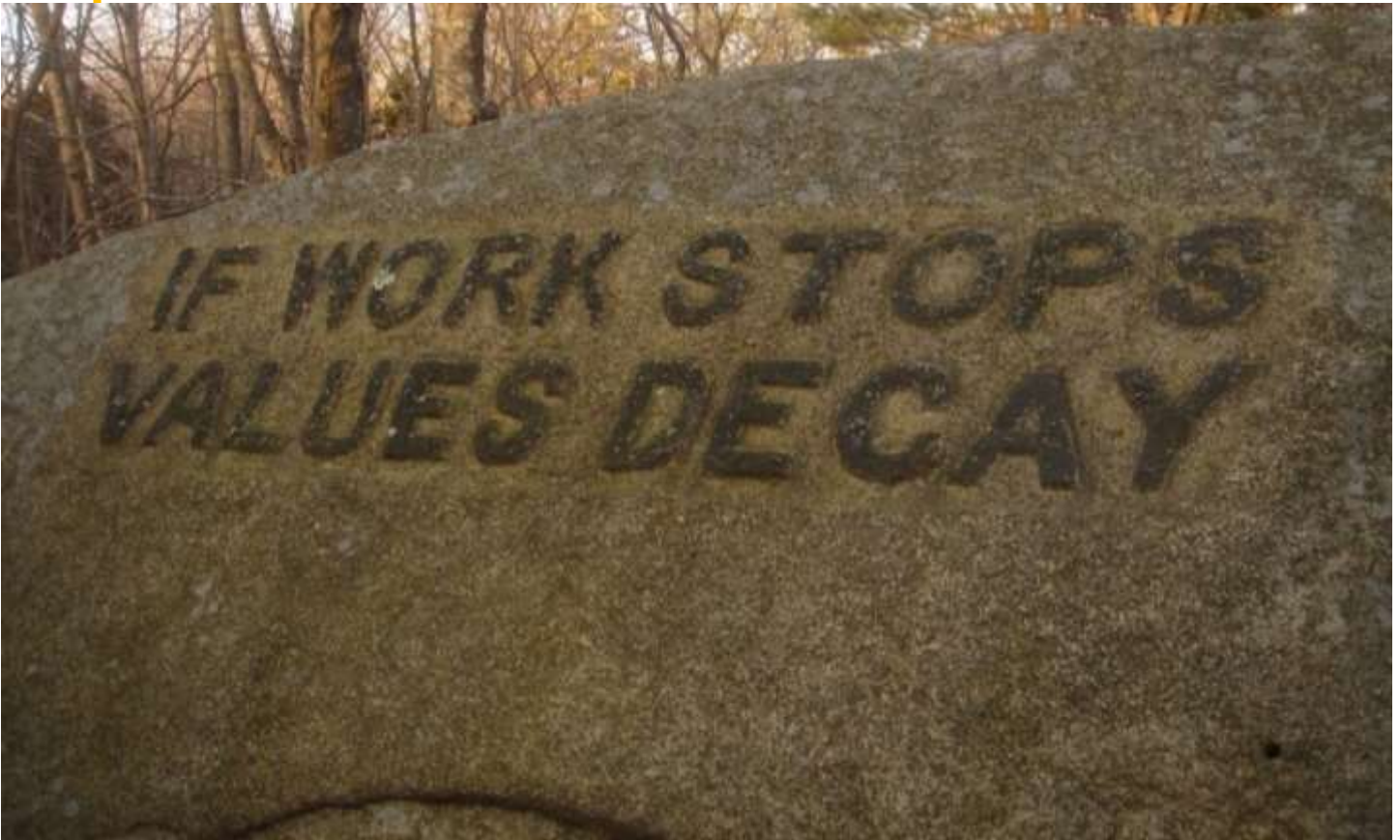
Rockport is full of entertainment. Festivals, performances, and activities occur all year round. A quick visit to the Rockport USA events calendar might lead you back to Studio Crepe for a local artist or an evening karaoke, accompanied by more of those creative crepes and a glass of wine or beer. Maybe you'll find chamber music at the Shalin Liu Performance Center on Main Street, a venue designed for music performances in front of a glass wall overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Or, if music isn't for you, perhaps a stroll in the cool evening ocean breezes can take you to a bonfire on the beach.

Then bedtime, sleeping soundly in one of the four-poster beds at the Sally Webster Inn, waking up of course for breakfast.

Breakfast at the Inn is a special experience, with a full



breakfast served buffet style in the summer, perhaps with homemade granola or preserves. There's a reason that



Sawsan Galal prefers to be called Chef -- she's a gourmet chef with an international flair and a mission to use local, fresh, simple ingredients. When Sawsan serves breakfast, it feels like you're eating with family.

After breakfast, a bit more physical outing is on hand -- kayaking in the harbor for the adventurous, or maybe fishing from the jetty or from a charter boat. Hiking on the cliffs gives exhilarating views and cool breezes, while longer hikes under the trees are on store for those who go hunting the motto- emblazoned inspirational Babson Stones in the ghost town called "Dogtown". Then, for lunch, there are still plenty of restaurants to try out. A local favorite is Brother's Coffee for coffee and a sandwich, or even a hot donut if you arrive early enough.

Then take it slow... a weekend getaway doesn't have to be activity every second until you get back on the train ... that book by the fireplace is calling.



For More Information:

- Metropolitan Boston Transit Authority (MTBA)
www.mbta.com
- Studio Crepe www.studiocrepe.com
- Rockport Artists' Association
www.rockportartassn.org
- Sally Webster Inn www.sallywebster.com
- Rockport USA Events Calendar
www.rockportusa.com/events-festivals
- Shalin Liu Performance Center --
www.rockportmusic.org
- Brother's Brew Coffee Shop --
www.facebook.com/BrothersBrew

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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 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.





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